



CHANGE RESEARCH

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Changing Research/Researching Change

Change research has two related components

- Research that is designed to make meaningful change
- Changing our conception of what constitutes good academic research

Social Science Research

- Historical roots in producing knowledge that describes and analyzes social realities
- Solid understanding can lead to identifying and solving social problems
- Relevance Matters

Selective Insights

- Max Weber: a desire/belief that it is possible to separate knowledge from politics
- Emile Durkheim: a connection between personal actions/behaviors and the larger social world
- Jane Addams: the importance of perspective in identifying/identifying problems and shaping solutions

Renewed Interest in Change Research

- Scientific reasons
 - Broader variety of questions and perspectives (Yanow, Naples)
 - Enhanced potential for critical thinking (Brewer)
- Ethical reasons
 - People potentially impacted by research should be consulted (Fine)
 - Scientists have a public duty (Burawoy, Aronowitz)

Across disciplines (sociology, political science, urban studies/geography, social work)

Core Elements

- Relevant
- Engaged/participatory
 - Communication
 - Respect
- Contextual
- Recognizes researcher role and responsibility



**What is the role of social scientists
in a post-fact or post-truth society?**

Suggested Stances

(or lessons from longtime advocates)

- Be clear about our motivations
- Work for but do not expect outcomes
- Broad vision of what = success
- Surveillance and accountability
- Research as a form of bearing witness
 - Testimony/Record
 - Solidarity

City of Philadelphia



(Bill No. 050059)

AN ORDINANCE

Adding Chapter 21-1600 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Housing Trust Fund,” to create the Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund and establish the purposes for which monies in the Fund may be used; creating ongoing funding for the Fund by amending Section 10-1001 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Fees of Commissioner of Records,” by increasing certain fees for the recording of deeds and mortgages and related documents; and calling for the Creation of the Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board; all under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings.

Council finds that:

- (1) There is a critical shortage of affordable and accessible housing in the City of Philadelphia.
- (2) Many of Philadelphia’s communities need assistance in order to begin or continue the process of neighborhood revitalization.
- (3) Much of the City’s housing stock is in need of repair.
- (4) City programs that assist homeowners to repair their homes have a proven effect of reducing housing abandonment and homelessness. Programs that target home repairs to a specific area, or reinforce other investment, can be particularly effective.
- (5) Approximately half of the housing units in Philadelphia were built prior to 1956, and are inaccessible to people with disabilities who use wheelchairs.
- (6) Additional housing production and preservation resources will support and strengthen the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.
- (7) There are more than 275 other cities, counties and states around the country that have created Housing Trust Funds to promote affordable housing.
- (8) Therefore, creating a Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund is sound public policy that will provide needed resources to support affordable housing development, housing preservation, and neighborhood revitalization and strengthen the Neighborhood

§21-1603. Creation, Distribution and Use of the Trust Fund's Assets.

.....

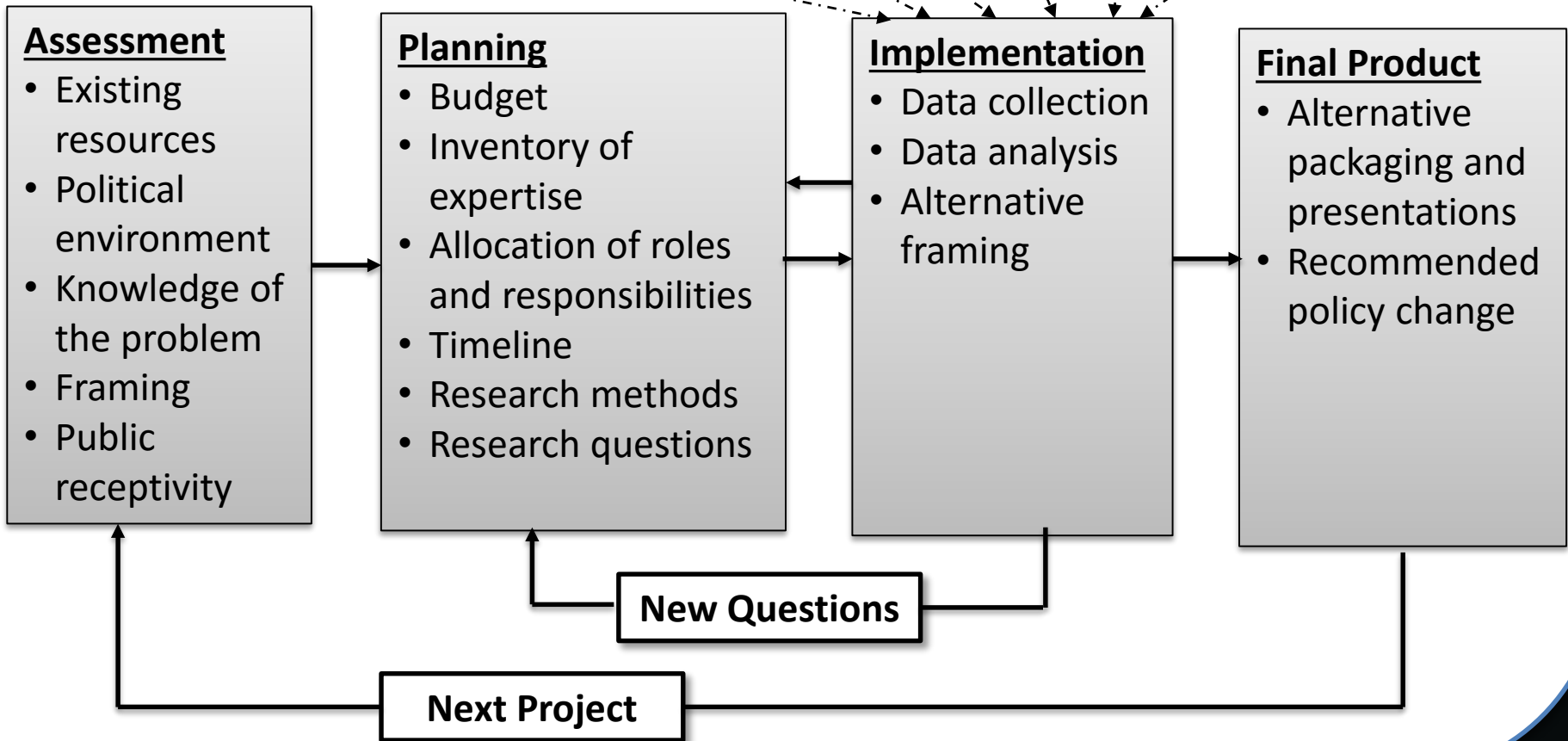
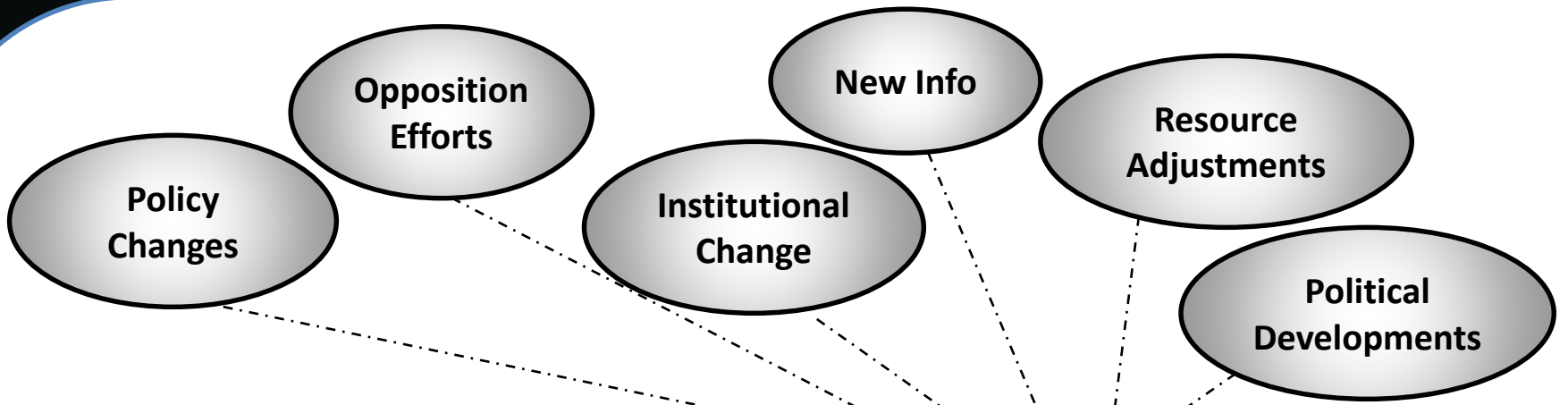
(2) Funds appropriated from the Housing Trust Fund shall be used to fund programs and projects for the benefit of households whose annual income, adjusted for size, is less than 115% of the median income of the Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, that:

...

*(c) **Preserve affordable housing**, including but not limited to grants for **basic systems repair or improvement of owner-occupied homes**, adaptive modification, or for the targeted improvement of facades; and*

Different Kinds of Change Research

- Context
 - Political
 - Social
- Topic
 - Stage of recognition
 - Level of controversy
- Population
 - Perception
 - Resources (political, financial, social)



Change Research Barriers

- General Political climate
- Stage of problem recognition
- Resources
- Collaborative partnerships
 - Availability
 - Feasibility

Powerful <--> Marginalized

- Allocation and balance of roles and responsibilities
- Governance
 - Process
 - Outcomes
- Ability to communicate
 - Internally
 - To external audiences

Equal Collaboration

- Conscious effort to delineate and balance
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Power (checks and balances)
- Regular and ad hoc work processes
 - Communication
 - Decision making
- Mutual respect and trust

Compromised Change Research

To do or not do?

- What are the alternatives?
- What adaptive modifications can be made?
 - Collaboration
 - Change proposals
 - Change venues

Making Change as Researchers

Audiences	Venues
Academic peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conferences• Journals• Peer review• Hiring and tenure processes
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching/lectures• Mentoring• Modelling
Practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing education• Lectures/enrichment• Consultation• Newsletters
Policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White papers• Legislative testimony• Boards/steering committees
General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Popular press (radio, newspaper, TV)• Social media

Considerations for Change Venues

- Language and translation
- Audience level of knowledge
- Length and attention span
- What information is relevant to whom
- Considerations of credibility
 - Credentials
 - Type of data

Change Research Sustainability

- Research relationships
- Academic careers (yours)
- Resources



**CHANGE RESEARCH
SUSTAINABILITY**

Research Relationships

- Built over time
- Should be mutually beneficial
- Rely on trust and transparency
- Are informed by knowledge of your red lines

Resources

(or: working with what you have)

- Funding
 - Outside
 - Internal
- In-kind support
- Get creative
- Modest can be meaningful

Academic Careers (Yours)

Change researchers can get:

- Funded
- Hired
- Published
- Tenured

How can change researchers succeed?

- Goodness of fit
 - Workplace
 - Career goals
 - What research is supported and rewarded
 - What tradeoffs are you willing to make
 - Publication and grant-making opportunities
- Find peers, mentors, and networks inside and outside of your institution
- Articulate what you do and what it matters