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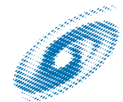{ Content Open.Michigan has used under a Fair Use determination. }

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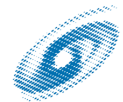
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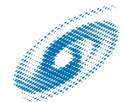
Wk 8: Methods and Evaluation

General Notes:

- Today STPP talk
- Info policy student paper deadline: March 22nd
- Proponents and skeptics debate notes
- Policy assessment papers (paper / Ctools drop box)
- Updated syllabus (April 12th & 19th classes)
- IIAD project pre-proposals
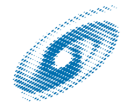
Participatory Action Research
(Participatory Rural Assessment, Participatory Learning and Action, etc.)

■ **Enters development practice in 1970s, inspired by:**

  * popular education and local empowerment movements (Paolo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed)

  * civil rights and social movement activism of the 1960s in U.S. and Europe

  * alternative development / resistance movements in developing countries

  * political and practical failures of top-down development models (cf. Ferguson, Li, Escobar)
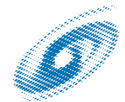
Participatory Action Research (cont'd)

■ Key questions: who participates? when and in what form does participation take place? outcomes of participation?

■ Functions of local participation in development decision-making:
- making known local wishes;
- generating development ideas;
- providing local knowledge;
- testing feasibility and improving proposals;
- community capability enhancement;
- demonstrating support for a regime;
- doing what government requires;
- extracting and investing local resources;
- building cooperative relationships (locally and trans-locally)
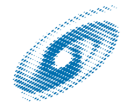(source: Chambers, 2005)

Ethnographic Field Methods

- Interviews / surveys
- Participant observation
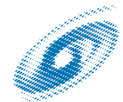- Field notes
- Coding and analysis

Heeks: Impact Assessment for ICT4D projects

- Types of assessment over time (see figure 3)

- Timing of assessments

- Involvement in assessment

- Discipline-specific, issue-specific, application-specific, method-specific, sector-specific IA…
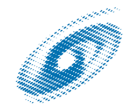
Heeks: Impact Assessment for ICT4D projects

- Cost-benefit analysis
- Project goals
- Communications-for-development
- Capabilities framework
- Livelihoods framework
- Information economics
- Information needs
- Cultural-institutional framework
- Enterprise (variables, relations, value chain)
- Gender
- Telecentres

Group work (country groups)

- Identify (at least) two separate evaluation frameworks described by Heeks and Molla, and explain how they might be deployed to assess the impact of your proposed IIAD project. Why are these the most appropriate methods to deploy? How would you implement these in practice?
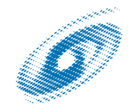
Group work (country groups)

- Working in your country groups, outline:
a) an **interview schedule**; and
b) a **field observation strategy** designed to answer a research and/or evaluation question central to your proposed project.
e.g. "What are existing practices and norms around phone sharing in region X?"
"How effective has telecentre project X been at meeting the needs of minority, low-income, etc. community members?"

What are the ethical responsibilities of ICT4D researchers vis-a-vis the partners and broader communities they work with? Are there distinctive ethical dangers or pitfalls associated with ethnographic and/or design-based ICT4D work? Appropriate strategies for addressing these?