

The Cambridge Handbook of Community Empowerment

Power and empowerment are critical topics for social change. This handbook maps out ways that people can collectively engage with, influence, and change systems that affect their lives, particularly the systems that maintain inequality and oppression. It includes in-depth examinations of a variety of approaches to building and exercising community power in local organizations, institutions, and settings. Each chapter examines a particular approach, critically engaging with contemporary research on how and when collective action can be most effective at producing change within communities and societal systems. By examining a range of approaches in diverse contexts, this book provides new insights for scholars, practitioners, and engaged resident-leaders aiming to be more precise, strategic, and innovative in their efforts to build and sustain community power. It is the ideal resource for those working with community groups to build more just and equitable systems.

BRIAN D. CHRISTENS is Professor of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University, USA, where he directs the PhD program in Community Research and Action. His research is focused on how different organizational approaches to collective action – and different interorganizational network dynamics – can lead to changes in systems that benefit communities. His research also seeks to understand sociopolitical development processes among participants in these types of change efforts. He is the author of *Community Power and Empowerment* (Oxford University Press, 2019).

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The Cambridge Handbook of Community Empowerment

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