Early Childhood Development & Health Symposium: The Intersection of Science, Policy, & Practice

Salus Populi Suprema Lex Estō

April 23-24, 2015 - Jamal Martin, MPH, PhD
Past Public Health Practice & Epidemiology

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- Research Associate - Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Pediatrics, Kapiolani Women's and Children Hospital, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
- Published doctoral research on brain-behavioral relationships in childhood trauma and violence prevention
Current Public Health Praxis

- Primary Prevention of Psychopathology
- Forensic Epidemiology and Public Health Law Research
- Social Neurosciences
- Political Psychology
- Transdisciplinary approaches to scholarship and activism
- Utilizing Critical Race Theory and Critical Race Studies Frameworks
  - Critical examination of oppression and resistance to it
  - Context of shifting social, historical, cultural and political realities within the United States and globally.
- Health in All Policies and Human Rights Based Approaches
Focus on decolonizing minds via:

1. Eliminating oppression, injustices, and structural violence
2. Building literacy and praxis in both critical and divergent thinking
3. "Ways of knowing" about maintaining reflectivity for sustainability and capabilities approaches for justice
4. Preparing students for life-long learning related to local, national and global citizenship
5. Preparing student-learners in transformative education to support equity, diversity, and inclusion
6. Nurturing higher forms of consciousness and conscious awareness for prevention and precautionary principles to reduce unintended consequences of bad policy decisions and
7. Critical leadership training for early childhood education and human development
Root-cause analysis of structural violence (justice and systemic ways unequal and unfair distribution of public goods are constrained by economic and political structures)

Promoting systems thinking and offering integrative solutions for dismantling fragmentation and 'administrative evil' in developing ECDH policies

Moving beyond palliative practices that rarely address structural-institutionalized/racialized policies that maintain systems of difference and injustices

Systems thinking about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the realm of maternal and early childhood policy demands we analyze and comment on organizational and institutional behavioral responses to social and political issues

Social influences become embodied, durable and transgenerational, thus a critical review of epigenetic mechanisms remains necessary
'Interest Convergence,' and the Future of Maternal and Early Childhood Policy

- Argues that issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are enhanced with the proper application of social neurosciences at the intersections of science, policy, and practice

- These associations state that the future of maternal and early childhood policy begins with re-examining current knowledge or lack of knowledge about
  - "Civilized oppression"
  - "Structural violence"
“One cannot be on the side of social justice without questioning the practices, epistemologies, methods, frameworks that contribute to the structures and norms of injustice and oppression.”

Sandler, 2007
Ensuring Policies and Programs Address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Background—Prenatal factors, early childhood and parent-child interactions are compelling pieces of evidence from neurosciences about human brain-behavior relations.

Theory and research in social neurosciences and political psychology promote innovative thinking about perception, memory, learning, decision-making and acting.
Addressing unfair and unjust policies means interrogating, process, outcomes, and opportunities (equity)

System differences in the allocation of public goods

Justice obligations, obligations for responsibility, beneficence obligations and/or justice judgements

Analytical and prescriptive responses tells how metatheoretical approaches and fresh thinking supports innovations in ECDH

Using the gaze of social neurosciences to reorient America's moral dilemmas under an individualized and racialized culture - reexamine mindfulness and intentionality