



Compilation: One page reflections: University Sin Fronteras build community power and keep power in the community?

Collectively in community, we are stronger

Step by step. The process-not the product is where power is built and sustained. We lost power because of sustained attacks that have kept us off balance. We have been destabilized and have not yet found our way. We understand community through a nostalgic lens. Much of what this is that we long for a past or future without wrapping ourselves around where we are now. We are isolated and alienated from each other without community. The group collective is powerful-this gathering today of UNSIF in Atlanta, wonderful thinkers-who are committed to change and building power. The community people-activists who came to the class are rich in thought, word, depth. The process is very promising and helpful. Looking forward to the Detroit project.

Document knowledge to name it clearly, record it through time to compare to new knowledge/analysis, preserve and protect and hold valid space for knowledge or experience that is threatened/contested/at risk of being lost or disconnected from current movement gives us something to show for our work, our lives, the lives of those before us, around us, to the lives of those after us, in the journeys with us. Learning deeply to anchor/ pivot our work with/against a stronger base. To know and align with each other, to trade, share-build more comprehensive, more grounded, more specific, more mature strategies and responses. To enhance our work through learning from other struggles/ histories/ people/ movements/ communities, and to shore each other up not just through the knowledge we share, but also the body of University community.

Staying connected (with follow up and check in)
Building power by supporting one another
Outreach in the communities (door knocking)- events, churches,
Reaching out to the youth (Teach them about community & organizing) creating change
Building leadership
Providing resources to one another
learning about the history of our community

Common unity seems to be both a characteristic and a goal of UNSIF. We learn together and unlearn together. In doing so, we build relationships & this process will give us a higher chance of having each others' back. So together, we are stronger. We learn who has the experience doing sheetrock, who has the (tire) fire, provided the person who knows now can teach. Who has space. Land and bread. They seem so simple. But like my dad loves to tell

me, simple doesn't mean easy. So when, at what point do we commit to UNSIF---and at what level? Because understanding this will create a deeper sense of what we are world with. And the other piece is about resources. How do we resource this University so it can reach its potential?

UNSIF can build community of power by integrating and synthesizing the responses and thoughts shared as foundation values and principles of authentic contribution from all the University Sin Fronteras community. Having the space on every class to keep the history tied to the present and the vision of the future in front. We can also incorporate leadership development by sharing resources, research, learning and teachings throughout the semester. Have places that are seeking to have campuses participate in the classes to foster support and connection to the expanded campus, concise and consistent communications is critical. Have class participants develop measurements of growth and learning spurts with constant celebration of this growth and advancement of the movements.

University to keep the 4 core areas and OLE which are essential in educating and building power. That UNSIF building community power comes through collective decision making and shared knowledge through coordinated actions and developing our leaders with knowledge of our past history of struggles to have a continuum of struggle with strategies that advance our liberation.

I think about that UNSIF Atlanta campus will help build power in our community because it will be a space for us to consider how to decolonize our movement building. Work for training while providing a de-colonial response to what colonialism did to our previously existing knowledge production and severing cultural and political infrastructure. We need the University Sin Fronteras Atlanta campus because the movement needs a movement educational practice for the 21st century. As we land this movement need, we are also landing an entry point for people to join the movement.

I wonder if the major motif of our quest as the UNSIF is power. Clearly a certain kind of political power, would allow the possibility for social transformation. Another kind of power if not vigilante, reproduces the forces we're trying to dismantle. So we must be ever vigilant in what we want and how we achieve power. Certainly it must be power with than power over.

The UNSIF builds power in communities and allows communities to hold that power through making knowledge accessible. Further, this knowledge that is prioritized in the UNSIF is emancipatory in that it lifts up the ways in which we/our communities have resisted and been resilient and transformative in our histories, and also that it liberates knowledge from dominant forces. Also, it liberates communities from the oppressive histories and knowledges that are privileged in mainstream education. Doing this also builds leadership and shared understanding amongst community members. It erases the hierarchies created by the educational system and creates spaces for developing knowledge that is indigenous and communal.

I think that we build and keep our community power when we develop a strong connection to what the community is and represents. Once this happens, the 'cornerstone' is set and the strategic organizing for emancipation takes flight. Not always necessarily with one particular person in charge, no matter how charismatic, but with a collective voice that allows for individuality and dissent. This way, no one is muted, but instead forced to communicate in a

way that community needs, in a larger sense can be met. Also there needs to be a level of constant interaction that coincides with the message. People coming together to empower and exchange ideas of work through changes in a positive way. My final thought is for the community to remain vigilant around sabotage from oppressors, thus meaning community members should be edified and versed in all levels of what needs to be done and what the message is exactly.

Community can be a very diverse place based upon numerous connections that tie its peoples to a common struggle, issue, and movement. Keeping power in the community is based upon unity and cohesiveness that presents opportunities in what we have. Social, political and economic change can create distortions in the community such as stratification for example wage earning in a capitalist mode of production can take away from the unity of the community by creating populations of those who have and those who don't have the same accumulated wealth. The community education and empowerment makes the community realize these distortions. As educators as we teach community organizing and empowerment we have to keep the disunity and distortions that change our communities from one of unity to one of distortion and disunity. Using the de-colonial model addressed in our workshop helps reorganize the necessity to make this a key component of our curriculum and educational planning. With a unified approach to the curriculum and University development we can meet our vision and provide a vision and empower our students especially youth to understand the importance of community globally and locally.

I think that we can think of this process of building and keeping power in two ways: First there is power with any of those directly connected and committed to the University and its development. Second, there is the 'larger' communities the local campuses engage too. It's seasons (liberation spring, freedom summer, emancipation autumn). To the first point I think we will continue to build power within our community by holding integrated board within localities- ultimately the physical convergence is priceless but more than that we work the mechanisms that allow the community to claim the UNSIF as its community. The more we build and expand per states/ UNSIF the stronger it will become and remain. To the second point the above applies as well, however, the University will have to provide spaces of connection, collective articulation, it's knowledge production within the specific fronts of struggle those local communities are engaged within. In other words the mere success of the UNSIF is operating as a movement space facility. OLE for local struggles-speaking- to those struggles with specificity/ the stronger will be the local communities of struggles because we are powerful. In short the UNSIF has to continue to support the process of 'Collective Articulation'.

UNSIF builds community from the responsibility that emerges from the people creating new knowledge together. Community is to bring up front the common analysis that makes us equal--Integral views. University Sin Fronteras is trying to prove out a fresh new space where the new knowledge takes place. The community maybe never saw that geographical context before, but it has to grow from it. It has to integrate that many notions that enriches the concept.

The University creates cohesion by the sharing & learning we do together. Something that fractions us and keeps us separated is lack of a shared language, common name for our power, a common gesture and love & agreement to support and carry on. We build that deep rooted infrastructure by learning together by sharing our own histories by diving into deep

historical context and by sharing our new knowledges with humility and with an eye toward collective action. The UNSIF is a foundation, a space, and a process that the vital components of an organized community can emerge.

Community is common unity and it can hold the power when we agree to be/stay together. Community as common unity means common purpose or goals, values and a convergence in organization.

Common unity is community because we stand together as an injury to one is an injury to all. Collective common unity organizes, informs, articulates and creates power. Self determination (govern) for a common unity-community to hold, defend and advance the power. ALL power to the PEOLPLE.

Growing up my community was my immediate family, school friends, friends from the neighborhood, and Church as my spiritual community. Later part in life and again defined my community locally, nationally, regionally and globally amongst people who care for each other. But I had always resisted being defined by the eyes and understanding of some other person. To this end my real community has remained the oppressed poor majority in the society with common unity and shared value. One that would stand with me to challenge the powers that be to transform our society into a better place. That brings me to the conclusion that as a Woman I have no country the whole world is my country.

P.T.O.

Getting to know more about each other through exchanging stories as well as working on tasks in small group sessions especially central when forming a community of people who do not yet have a long history of being and working together. My life is divided into different segments, involving different people and I also enjoy some solitude, both to work and for other reasons. This means I need to think about how people can trust each other as members in a common community. Without as full commitment as in a family. I need to think and communicate about possible visions of liberated communities in a **post-capitalist world**. I am not certain what this can involve.