Research in Context: Social Science, CJTC, & Community-University Bridges

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The Social Science Mission at UCSC

Four major themes inform teaching, research, and service

- Meeting the challenges and opportunities of a multicultural society
- Understanding global economic and political change
- Conserving a sustainable environment
- Enhancing the quality of public education for all citizens
What is the CJTC?

Established in January 2000, the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community focuses on issues of social and economic justice.

We combine cutting-edge research with an emphasis on active engagement with affected communities and policy makers, and training of students to pursue change in effective ways.
Elements of Success: The New 3 R’s

- **Rigor** – producing high quality research that adds to the public debate

- **Relevance** – choosing issues and research topics that reflect important policy concerns

- **Reach** – establishing a significant public presence by working in collaboration with key leaders, decision makers, & communities
Activities of the Center

- Seminars and public lectures, often in the community
- Faculty research clusters & associates
- Major policy-relevant research projects, generally funded by foundations
- Strategic focus: first, California, then the world
Funding – January 2000-December 2004

Foundation support from:

- Ford
- Rockefeller
- Russell Sage
- California Endowment
- California Wellness
- Hewlett
- Packard
- Casey
- W.T. Grant
Funding – January 2000-December 2004

Public sector contracts with:

• Southern California Association of Governments
• California Environmental Protection Agency

Research relationships with:

• Pennsylvania State University
• Brown University
• New School, New York
• UCLA
Project Example: Environmental Justice

In collaboration with two universities, three foundations, and community leadership, a multi-year project:

- Demonstrating disparities
- Analyzing determinants of disparities
- Understanding evolution of contemporary pattern
- Documenting potential health risks
- Pointing to consequences for children and learning
Pattern of TRI Facilities in California by Ethnicity for 2000
Risks from Ambient Air Pollution in Southern California
Public School Academic Performance Index and Estimated Cumulative Respiratory Risk From Ambient Air Toxics Exposure - LAUSD
The Disparities Can Have Consequences for Academic Performance

Academic Performance Index

- Lowest respiratory risk
- Middle respiratory risk
- Highest respiratory risk

Academic Performance Index (API)
Project Outcomes:

- Major academic publications, including co-authored with UCSC undergrads
- Public education, presentations, and opinion pieces
- Advice to inter-agency group convened by Governor’s Office of Planning and Research to consider new guidelines
- Presentations to state’s Department of Toxic Substance Control and testimony to U.S. EPA
- Advice to California EPA as it considers new regulations, and work with CIWMB in public participation
Project Example: Communities & Regions

Working with three low-income neighborhoods undertaking Neighborhood Improvement Initiatives funded by Hewlett, CJTC has a multi-year program:

- Analyzing regional influences and opportunities
- Providing community-based research & education
Providing Regional Analysis

Unemployment rate

January 2000 to September 2003

- California
- San Francisco MSA
- Oakland MSA
- San Jose MSA
- Los Angeles MSA
- San Diego MSA
Providing Region-Neighborhood Comparisons

Poverty Levels and Types in the NIs

- % between 150% and 200% of poverty line
- % between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- % below poverty rate

San Mateo County:
- 5.2% % below poverty rate
- 4.8% between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- 5.8% between 150% and 200% of poverty line

One East Palo Alto:
- 14.0% % below poverty rate
- 13.4% between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- 16.2% between 150% and 200% of poverty line

Santa Clara County:
- 5.4% % below poverty rate
- 5.0% between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- 7.5% between 150% and 200% of poverty line

Mayfair:
- 11.8% % below poverty rate
- 11.2% between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- 16.8% between 150% and 200% of poverty line

Alameda County:
- 6.4% % below poverty rate
- 6.7% between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- 11.0% between 150% and 200% of poverty line

West Oakland:
- 8.7% % below poverty rate
- 15.9% between poverty line and 150% of poverty line
- 36.2% between 150% and 200% of poverty line
Map of Working Poor, San Francisco Bay Area

Working Poor, Definition 2
- <25% below 150% of pov. level
- >25% below 150% pov. & below avg. labor partic.
- >25% below 150% pov. & above avg. labor partic.
Map of Working Poor, San Francisco Bay Area

Not Populated
Working Poor, Definition 2
< 25% blw. 150% of pov. level
>25% blw. 150% pov. & blw. avg. labor partic.
>25% blw. 150% pov. & abv. avg. labor partic.
Providing Neighborhood-level Analysis

Helping to identify key changes in the initiative neighborhoods

East Palo Alto Demographics, 1990-2000

- Anglo
- African-American
- Latino
- Asian / Pacific Islander

- 1990
- 2000
Helping Identify Key Opportunities for Communities at Regional Tables

- Bridging the Bay: bringing low-income neighborhoods together to discuss commonalities and strategies
  - Highlighting New Realities: helping develop new workforce strategies for immigrant populations
  - Making the Case: connecting communities with business and regional leaders
What is the Future for CJTC?

The Center will continue to:

- Bring undergraduates and graduate students into the worlds of research, policy, and community
- Maintain a public presence through events, talks, and policy seminars
- Connect junior faculty to funding and policy opportunities
- Build a funding base for maintaining general capacity for research and outreach
- And contribute to the building of a great division and university
Restoring the California Promise

Public Institutions & Individual Progress

- Providing the platform for success
- Offering the vision, research, and training for a better state