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March 15 2012

### Response to Rudkin's Chapter 5

One of the key components of community psychology is representing disenfranchised – in a leadership class I took last semester, we did an entire project on just the idea of difference; how do we look at it? When does 'labeling' become hurtful or helpful? I enjoyed how Rudkin thoughtfully explained diversity through the perspectives as a community and looking into pitfalls that we all run into – for example, just because we notice a person's color, does that make someone racist? By going through all the ways to appreciate difference and diversity, I believe it gave us a further glance of recognizing a person's culture, therefore one step closer to improving any given community.

Oppression was frequently brought up in our empowerment lesson – now that it comes up again while talking about diversity there is a slightly different implication; oppression tends to point out those whom are actually subordinated (the "target" group vs. the "dominant" group). Throughout the entire chapter, Rudkin points out how we reinforce differences, without really appreciating a person's diversity. For example, the tourist approach, by only examining a different culture through its external qualities such as foods and dress; the power of labeling is also discussed, and how labels play severely into how society will stereotype others, prejudicing against whole groups of people. Rudkin also talks about how since, as individuals, we all play into many different levels of society and how these may either conflict or we may see conflicts in other people; how important are these social categories? I believe Rudkin does a good job of displaying *how* our different social contexts can be balanced and managed in a healthy way – giving examples of how the oppressed have felt about being judged for being powerless for just being a part of a group that they cannot control (for example, the feminists that believe language as a whole is completely sexist).

Using all of this and applying it to community psychology is tricky; the boundaries are still the same: extremely ambiguous. As community psychologist, it is our job to be aware of these diversities, dealing with the oppressed, but most importantly dealing with the dominant group's attitudes towards the oppressed (for example, the "zero-sum perspective". While diversity doesn't have much to do with our project on time management, it is still a huge college concern – diversity on a campus is extremely important so not only those who are minorities feel comfortable and appreciated but the majority is open-minded and willing to appreciate the difference. College is a place for the upmost tolerance, but of course, with that diversity of students that means a lot of different cultures living together – which can be a wonderful thing or horrible; not everyone may be as tolerant and openminded. But of course as community psychologists, we are all about helping the little guy and planning change, including on helping those that are prejudiced against based on culture.