



Community Identity and Political Behavior

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9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

Social scientists are motivated to understand how various facets of society influence all sorts of behavior. Individual's perceptions about their significance in a given community can have meaningful effects on the way in which we look to communities to develop and foster democratic values and promote civic engagement.

In her workshop, Dr. Anderson will take participants through her interdisciplinary approach to studying communities and political behavior, blending the fields of community psychology, sociology, and political science. She will draw on her research into community identity, focusing specifically on how community comes to influence political behavior and engagement. She will discuss civic engagement from the perspective of being an informed consumer of information.

We know from previous research that the context in which an individual interacts influences his/her political behaviors and attitudes. With this in mind, Dr. Anderson will explore the following:

- 1) How does sense of community influence political behavior and attitudes? And what impact—if any—does involvement in multiple contexts have on political behavior and attitudes?
- 2) How does the information environment influence political behavior specifically civic engagement?

Outline

- I. Defining concepts:
 - a. What do we mean by political behavior and attitudes?
 - b. What is a sense of community?
- II. Approaches to measuring sense of community or community connectedness.
- III. How or why does sense of community matter?
 - a. Sense of community and the impact on political behavior and attitudes
 - b. Community involvement in multiple contexts
 - c. The effects of the information environment on civic engagement
- IV. Fostering a sense of community.





Required Readings*

- McMillan, David W., and David M. Chavis. "Sense of Community: A Definition and Theory." *Journal of Community Psychology* 14, no. 1 (1986): 6–23. [https://doi-org.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/10.1002/1520-6629\(198601\)14:1%3C6::AID-JCOP2290140103%3E3.0.CO;2-I](https://doi-org.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:1%3C6::AID-JCOP2290140103%3E3.0.CO;2-I)
- Anderson, Mary R. "Community Psychology, Political Efficacy, and Trust." *Political Psychology* 31, no. 1 (February 2010): 59–84. <https://lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/login?url=https://0-search-ebscohost-com.mercury.concordia.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=poh&AN=47657367&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Pavlova, Maria K., and Rainer K. Silbereisen. "Supportive Social Contexts and Intentions for Civic and Political Participation: An Application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour." *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology* 25, no. 5 (October 9, 2015): 432–46. <https://lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/login?url=https://0-search-ebscohost-com.mercury.concordia.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=109227371&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca

