

Addiction: Community Empowerment & Engagement Through Ethnography and Storytelling

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Archival Autonomy & Community-Driven Ethnography

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AUTONOMY

*Archival autonomy is tentatively defined as the ability for individuals and communities to participate in societal memory, with their own voice, and to become participatory agents in recordkeeping and archiving for identity, memory and accountability purposes. The achievement of archival autonomy is identified as a grand societal challenge, with the need for **archival activism** [emphasis added] to become an integral part of social movements on a local and global scale.*

Joanne Evans, Sue McKemmish, Elizabeth Daniels, and Gavan McCarthy, "Self-determination and Archival Autonomy: Advocating Activism," *Archival Science* 15 (December 2015): 337.

Archivists & Community Must Be Activists

- Archivists must be active, perhaps even activists, in their efforts to include the voices from all the communities they are charged with representing in their repository.
- **The lack of an archival presence for many minorities or excluded communities in a repository mirrors what occurs in communities at large, where some groups are excluded and marginalized.**
- These silences or gaps are troubling, creating disquieting effects for future historical discourse and understanding. At USU, we are actively working to recover and preserve neglected – **excluded** – voices through social justice projects.

Whose Voice is Missing?



Jackson Hole Dude Ranching Tradition: Triangle X (2017); Voices: Eritrean Refugees in Cache Valley, Utah (2015);
Voices: Burmese Muslims in Cache Valley, Utah (2015); Voices: Karen Refugees in Cache Valley, Utah (2015); Latino/a
Voices (2014); St. Anne's Retreat (2014)

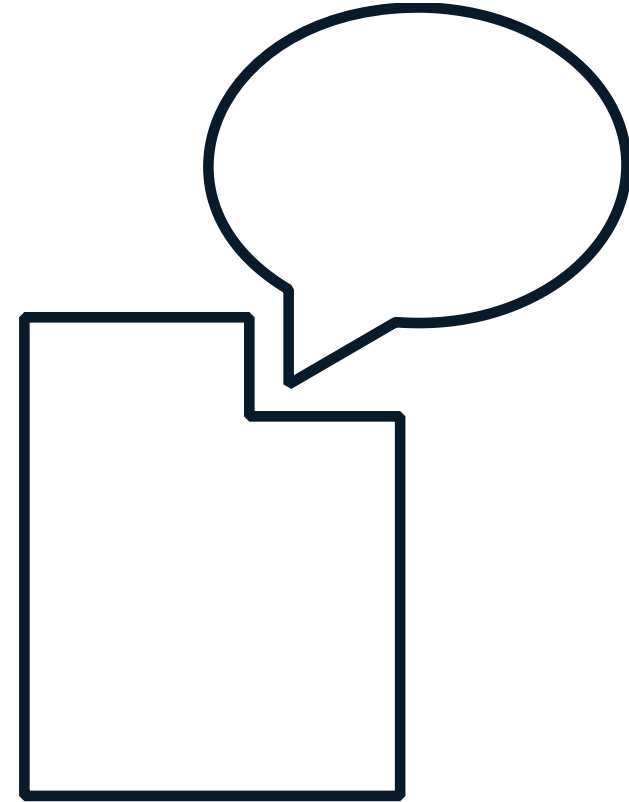
Collaborative Process: Partnerships

Building strong collections comes from building strong community connections.



Northern Utah Speaks

- **Partner** to identify and conduct community-driven oral history projects in areas critical to the people, environment, and history of Northern Utah and subject interests of Utah State University faculty and students
- Make voices available
- Teach ethnographic best practices



VOICES

FROM DRUG COURT

CACHE VALLEY DRUG COURT
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



Andrew: Project Idea



2016-17 effort to document the voices of the Cache Valley Drug Court: participants, family members, and professionals.

This was the idea of a community scholar and drug court graduate.

Informing the National Narrative: Stories of Utah's Opioid Crisis

EXTENSION
UtahStateUniversity.



UtahStateUniversity
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



Kinesiology and
Health Science

Informing the National Narrative: Stories of Utah's Opioid Crisis

We invite you to work with Utah State University's Health Extension: Advocacy, Research, & Teaching (HEART) team and the USU Libraries' Special Collections & Archives to collect and preserve stories of the Utah opioid epidemic to bring hope and healing to those affected by this epidemic. For this important project, we are seeking:

- Community members to share their stories
- Community members to help conduct interviews

If you are interested in partnering on the project please contact

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"It's time we talk about the opioid epidemic as a community issue instead of treating it like a family secret." – I. Perry

AIMS

PHASE I: Informing the National Narrative: Stories of Utah's Opioid Crisis

1. Oral History Training
2. **Ethically-gather**
3. Preserve (interviewee retains copyright)
4. Amplify voices
 1. Digital Collection
 2. Community Conversations, partnering with Utah Humanities

- **PHASE II: *Honoring Untellable Stories: Utah's Narratives of the National Opioid Crisis***

1. **Community-driven** working group
2. Identify themes and partner for chapters
 1. Possible additional interviews
3. Amplify voices
 1. Produce a peer-reviewed **community-positioned, collaborate volume** (USU Press)

Group Charter

Safe Space

Honor Stories

Privilege Privacy

Allow for Missteps

Questions Welcomed

Why is Community-driven
ethnography a viable tool to help
understand Utah's Opioid Crisis?



T RIBAL & **R** URAL
O P I O I D **I** N I T I A T I V E

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Reflect on an experience where you felt your input wasn't considered and then subsequently disengaged.



T R I B A L & **R** U R A L
O P I O I D **I** N I T I A T I V E

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Michelle: the gift

A video from the Digital Storytelling
Workshop



Reflection discussion

References

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- Goddman, E. (1963) *Stigma: Notes on the Management of a Spoiled Identity*. New York. A Touchstone Book: Simon & Schuster.
- Williams, R. (2018). *Voices from Drug Court: Community-Based Oral History at Utah State University*. *Utah Historical Quarterly*. Volume 86:2(2018):165-170.
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Questions

