SPECIAL ISSUE

IACD the first 65 years

WCDC 2018
About IACD

IACD is the only global network for professional community development practitioners. We support development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities to realise greater social and economic equality, environmental protection and political democracy.

What do we do?

IACD links people to each other. We facilitate learning and practice exchange, both virtually and face-to-face. We work with partners to deliver regional, national and international events, study visits and conferences. We document the work that our members are doing around the world by collecting case studies, tools and materials on community development, and sharing these through our website, publications and ebulletins. We carry out research projects, drawing on international experience.

IACD aims to give its members a voice at the global level, advocating for community development principles and practice in international forums and consultations. IACD has consultative status with the UN and its agencies.

Contributing articles

Our international Practice Insights publications are issued three times a year, each one focusing on a particular theme of relevance to community development. If you would like further information or to contribute to future editions, please contact charlie.mcconnell@iacdglobal.org. Alternatively, IACD members are welcome at any time to contribute news items, research, case studies or other materials to our members’ Facebook site and to the IACD website.

Join us

For full details and to join, go to www.iacdglobal.org/join-us.

Benefits of membership include:

- Daily Facebook News posts about community and international development;
- Access to the Global Community Development Exchange resource bank on the IACD website;
- Opportunities to participate in Practice Exchange study visits;
- Discounted rates at IACD conferences;
- Discounted subscriptions to the Community Development Journal;
- Opportunities to share your work and experiences with a global audience, through our website, Facebook sites and other publications;
- Members also have the opportunity to nominate to serve on the IACD Board of Directors.

Our next Annual General Meeting will take place in June 2018.

The views expressed in this publication are primarily those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of IACD.
“Participation, Power and Progress”

As I reflect back on the year just passed, and anticipate the opportunities in the coming year, I am struck again and reminded of the incredible work that takes place across the globe related to the practice and study of community development. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for in the IACD regarding our accomplishments this last year and much to look forward to in the year ahead.

We are actively preparing for our upcoming World Community Development Conference in Kildare, Ireland, June 24-27, 2018. This conference will be the highlight of our 65th Anniversary. Coming together as a community of community developers is not only an opportunity for networking and the sharing of critical information and resources in the field, but is also an act of solidarity that reinforces our work in communities and our commitment and responsibility to each other to make the fruits of our labour all the more impactful.

Through European Board member and conference chair, Anastasia Crickley, we are working with the local host partners, Community Work Ireland (CWI) and Maynooth University, to ensure that every opportunity is available for quality engagement including using social media and information and communications technology for those who are not able to attend in person. We hope to make available a live video conference feed of our activities to ensure that all members have the ability to participate.

We are also planning a new IACD Declaration to come out of the WCDC, that will build on previous Declarations we have published in the past (for example, the Brisbane Declaration in 2009, the Hong Kong Declaration in 2007, the Yaoundé Declaration 2005, and the Budapest Declaration in 2004) as a statement of how IACD members and conference participants see the current challenges and opportunities for community development work, encouraging dialogue on critical issues, policy and practice and driving the convergence of collaboration on planning and action. These Declarations provide an important opportunity for all of us in the field of community development to reflect, deliberate and work together on issues that are of common concern. Board member and Middle East Director Maryam Ahmadian and I are leading on this, together with our WCDC host partner Community Work Ireland. We shall be contacting members soon about this.

In preparation for the WCDC and to take full advantage of our time preparing for the meetings and participating in the events and activities, I want to encourage all IACD members to engage with your Regional Representative regarding your work and ideas on how to build our association and indeed our field. Each elected IACD Board member has a global regional responsibility and you can find out who your Regional Director is on the website www.iacdglobal.org/regions/

As the conference theme is “Participation, Power and Progress,” we view inclusion and participation as the cornerstone of not only democratic practice and good governance, but also as a fundamental tenet of community development practice. As such, we will be sharing conference updates if you are unable to attend. But I very much hope that you will be able to join us in Ireland and places are still available at the conference website www.wcdc2018.ie/registration/

We have many other exciting projects and events planned for members in 2018. We are planning a Practice Exchange field visits programme to Bali in October of 2018, partnering with Five Pillar Foundation and Real Indonesia, to bring to our members another opportunity for learning and sharing with community development practitioners in this field setting by exploring among other topics, sustainable tourism, entrepreneurship for women, and indigenous rights. We are also hoping to offer a second Practice Exchange in Ireland following the WCDC, spending a week meeting community developers working around peace building and looking at sustainable development projects. We are always looking to form constructive partnerships with new organizations and IACD’s Practice Exchange programme presents opportunities to engage in positive cross-cultural learning and networking.

Work also continues with the development of the Global Community Development Exchange (GCDEX) that is a member-only opportunity to share and download valuable information, teaching and learning materials about community development practice and research. This project, in part funded by the Scottish Government, is being led by New Zealand members. Our draft international community development standards project with the Community Learning and Development Standards Council in Scotland - Towards common international standards for community development practice - is currently out for member consultation and we welcome and encourage your feedback and participation. We plan to launch this important guidance document at the WCDC and are hugely grateful for the support that the staff at the Standards Council have given, and to Board member lead on the project Anna Clarke.

We are now establishing an IACD Youth Representative programme at the United Nations, under the supervision of Board member, Tony Kimbowa who works at the UN and shall be posting information about that soon. We are actively planning the next few issues of Practice Insights magazine and look forward to sharing stories and articles from the Americas in the next issue (currently being edited by
The International Association for Community Development (IACD) is the only global network for community development workers, researchers and activists. We support development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities, to realise greater social and economic equality, environmental protection and political democracy. We are a non-governmental organisation accredited with the UN.

There are many ways that you can become involved in IACD. If you are a development agency manager, funder, fieldwork practitioner, academic, student or volunteer community activist, IACD can help you through our international practice exchanges, events and publications. If you have a passion for effective community development, then please make contact with us – we welcome your participation!

Join today and become a part of this dynamic network!

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North American Board member Greg Wise, followed by a Special Issue on Africa and after that, papers from the WCDC. I’m delighted with the feedback from members about the new website, which continues to be a popular resource for members as well as our Facebook. We appreciate all of the input and sharing that has taken place on our website and our Facebook News (A big thank you here to Board members Dee Brooks and Connie Loden). Since 2017, we have been increasing the number of daily news items on community and international development on the official IACD Facebook site www.facebook.com/IACDglobal/ and we currently we have around 4000 followers. IACD members can also join the IACD members’ Facebook site and directly post news about what you’re doing and would like to share with our international membership. There are now over 2000 members www.facebook.com/groups/IACDglobal/.

As I reflect back on the past year and our activities, I am reminded of the impressive dedication and continual support of our Board and members. We had a great year of activities and events in 2017. We held a very successful conference in Auckland, New Zealand in partnership with the Aotearoa Community Development Association (ACDA). There we hosted delegates from Oceania and around the world and engaged in thoughtful sessions and field-based activities. We are grateful to IACD Oceania Board member and conference chair, John Stansfield and the ACDA for this opportunity and partnership and we appreciate their inclusive approach and central role in conference planning. Our African Board member Muhammad Bello Shitu organised a well attended conference for IACD members in Nigeria. And South East Asia Board member, Wowiee Dollente was involved in organising a regional conference in the Philippines that unfortunately had to be rescheduled at the last minute for 2018.

Our 2017 Practice Exchange in Chile provided an exciting opportunity for our members to engage in this field-based experience focusing on agriculture, water and sustainable development. Huge thanks to South America Board member Ursula Harman for her time and effort with organizing this event and to Anita Paul, South Asia Board member for setting up the partnership with Redar Perú and Condesan. The 2017 issues of the Practice Insights magazine, with special focus upon the sustainable development goals and on work in East Asia, have all been well-received and I’d like to express huge thanks to magazine editor Charlie McConnell, guest editor East Asia Director Kwok Kin Fung and all contributors.

We are now preparing our workplans for fiscal year 2018/2019 and are excited about what lies ahead. We look to you, our members, to provide us with input and guidance on our strategy for the future. All of our activities are organized by IACD members and none could have been realized had we not received subscription income from you to allow us to do this work along with the valued support from the Scottish Government. Your membership subscription to IACD is not expensive, but is invaluable, in that it allows us to fund our administration and development activities. And I hope you’ll agree that it is huge value for money – helping us to help you to be part of the only global network of community developers.

I want to express particular appreciation here to Rob Gregory, Treasurer for the past three years who retired from the Board at the end of 2017 and to Clare Macgillivray, who has taken over that role. Rob played the central role in devising the association’s current business strategy. And thanks also to Board member, Colette Mcgarva who leads on all HR issues and supervises our Administrator Colette McClure at our Scottish Head Office. And I must end by thanking our two new Board members, Julius Mwanga from Uganda and Shahzad Ismail from Pakistan who joined us at the AGM in August 2017. Julius has already been involved in a meeting of IACD African Board members and Country Correspondents to prepare the association’s growth plans for the region.

As President, I plan to maintain my strategy to allow and encourage our Board and members to participate fully in any and all activities that we are engaged in. Inclusion, diversity and transparency continue to be the cornerstone of my management strategy as IACD President. Indeed, as the theme of the upcoming WCDC is “Participation, Power and Progress” my hope is that we all continue to provide for and practice these hallmark attributes of community development. Since if we do not actively exhibit and offer genuine opportunities for participation, allow for the empowerment of all stakeholders, and engage in sincere efforts to understand and accommodate the various conceptions of progress, how can we expect our constituents and partners to do the same?

Wishing you every blessing for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year as we continue our work towards a truly community-based development approach.

Paul Lachapelle
President of IACD
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GCDEX IS LIVE!

The Global Community Development Exchange is a place where community development teachers, practitioners and learners can share their teaching and learning approaches, tools and resources.

Visit https://globalcommunitydevelopmentexchange.org
Introduction

There is a saying that we spend our lives looking forward, but only understand it looking back.

As we celebrate our 65th anniversary year, we are going to put the spotlight on some of the people who shaped our community development profession and movement over the past 65 years. We invited IACD members to submit the names of people from around the world whom they felt had shaped our profession since 1953. The criterion was that the people proposed had shaped the profession through their practice, policy, research or writing upon the field nationally and internationally.

Over the past six decades tens of thousands of community development practitioners have dedicated their expertise to empowering communities to take action collectively to improve the lives of people and to care for the planet. Their work has supported some of the most vulnerable people across the world to have not simply a voice, but also the means to take action. Community development practitioners generally stay in the shadows. For years our professional mantra has been ‘to do yourself out of a job’, with community development practitioners rarely in the limelight. This has not always been the case of course. And a few have become well known internationally.

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Our starting point, 1953, is somewhat artificial in that clearly there were people working to educate and organise disadvantaged communities for centuries. But it was only after the Second World War, with the creation of the United Nations, that it and its member countries explicitly recognised the need for community development professionals. This context is helpful in appreciating influences that are with us today - the concept of developed and developing countries; the United States, Russia and China offering different paradigms for development alongside European countries as they sought closure on their overseas empires and forged the European Union; the indigenous liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America; the globalization of the world economy; the environmental crisis; and the recognition that community development programmes were as relevant to developed as developing countries.

The founding ‘fathers’ of the United Nations in 1945 (save Eleanor Roosevelt, America’s first representative to the UN) committed to the “principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples”. These were times when from both Keynesian and Communist perspectives, governments and the international bodies of the UN were proactively initiating and financing development programmes (often via non-governmental organisations), to assist in the post war reconstruction of Europe and East Asia and the transition to independence of what came to be called the ‘Third World’.

The financial cost of the challenges of reconstruction and development required “a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance upon the community’s initiative” (this was the UN in 1948 with its first statement on community development). In other words, there was recognition that whether it was the rebuilding of towns and cities destroyed during the War or the preparation for independence and creation of basic health or education services in the developing countries, local communities had to be active participants in the reconstruction
and development process, and needed to be assisted to do so.

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From the early 1950s the UN acknowledged that to realise the active participation of people required the employment of professionals with technical expertise able to support them. Thus the words ‘community development’ began to be used to describe this technical support. It is an English term, but we see similar approaches being adopted e.g. in francophone countries where they may have used the term ‘animateur’, or in China ‘barefoot’. Most early post war practitioner/writers on community development were from Anglophone countries - America, Britain and the Commonwealth and it is they who created IACD in 1953. And the extensive canon of literature about community development is predominantly in English.

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Until 1989 there was little networking and exchange of ideas between practitioners and scholars working in community development in the West and East. Although Chinese and later Cuban shades of communism did inspire development practitioners around the world. At times community development was caught up in the Cold War with Western countries using development projects to dilute the spread of communist ideas. Conversely China introduced its Barefoot programme to challenge the dominance of Western medicine and the mass literacy programmes promoted by Cuba and other countries were introduced as a way of challenging the culture of silence imposed on oppressed communities by right wing dictatorships.

**Since the 1950s many streams have run through community development thinking and practice. Through highlighting some of the people who have shaped our profession internationally, we see this clearly.**

Since the 1950s many streams have run through community development thinking and practice. Through highlighting some of the people who have shaped our profession internationally, we see this clearly. In the early years from social work, Jane Addams and Eileen Younghusband were hugely influential; from adult education William Biddle, Reg Batten and Moses Coady, from economic development José María Arizmendiarrrieta Madariaga. We include the indigenous Ujamaa movement emerging from within Africa, the Barefoot movement in China and Saemaul Undong in South Korea. From Latin America we include the critical pedagogy of Orlando Fals Borda, Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal who more than any brought a structural analysis of inequality and oppression of the poor to our praxis.
The animation movement in Italy and France is an example as was work around environmental action and concerns about sustainable development which emerged at this time.

The 1960s also brought a more radical edge to community development in North America and beyond with the arrival of the government’s War on Poverty and of the community organising approaches exemplified by Saul Alinsky, together with growing interest in participative democracy, noting the contribution of Sherry Arnstein. Several people from the Indian sub-continent inspired and shaped our profession from the 1960s onwards as practitioners, writers and policy advisers. We highlight here Akhter Hameed Khan, Ela Ramesh Bhatt, Verghese Kurien, Bunker Roy, Amartya Sen and Uma Lele.

Within Europe a number of people stand out with the rise in community development initiatives following the social upheavals of May 1968. The animation movement in Italy and France is an example as was work around environmental action and concerns about sustainable development which emerged at this time. We highlight here Mario Pollo, Ernst Schumacher, Tom Woolley and Elkhart Hahn. And just as the War on Poverty led the Democratic administration in America to apply community development approaches within the USA, so for the British Labour government a concern with tackling domestic poverty became a key government policy with leading practitioner/writers at this time including John Benington, Gary Craig, Marj Mayo, David Thomas and Paul Henderson. And in Scotland (where IACD has its HQ) we see from the mid 1970s the most sustained growth of support for community development of any country in Europe. We note here the contribution of Alan Barr, Stuart Hashagen and Charlie McConnell.

The 1980s saw the emergence of neo-liberalism in the West and a retreat of social democracy there and, from 1989, the fall of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the USSR. And China became part of a more globalised world economy. The initial post war enthusiasm for planning, Keynesianism and more interventionist governments, started to lose its momentum. This led to what would be a long period of cuts in public expenditure in many countries on community development programmes by national and local governments. We see non-governmental organisations and foundations trying to fill the gaps against evidence that inequality was increasing and a growing awareness that there was indeed an environmental crisis due to the industrialisation and urbanisation of more countries.

In response we see new ideas emerging in community development thinking and practice. Community development corporations, asset based community development and a focus upon community economic development and later on the need to strengthen social capital and to support environmental programmes come out of the USA. Mitchell Sviridoff, John McKnight, Jody Kretzmann, Glen Pulver, Ron Husteed, Rhonda Phillips, Robert Putnam and Cornelia Butler Flora are highlighted here. Whilst from the late 1980s with the end of the Cold War opportunities opened up for trans-European partnerships between community development practitioners and scholars. We highlight here the contribution of Hugh Frazer, Anastasia Crickley, Hans Andersson and Ilona Verceq.

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From the 1970s to the fall of the apartheid government in South Africa, people who influenced community development thinking and practice include Robert Chambers, Rudolf Rezsohazy, Wangari Muta Maathai, Akin Lawal Mabogunje and Vivienne Taylor. Elizabeth Te Wake Wark, David Cox, Jim Ife, Gavin Rennie and Peter Westoby helped shape the profession in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands at this time. While from East Asia we highlight the work of Joe Leung, Wong Keung-sang and Angelito Manaili.

The new millennium once again brought an international push on tackling global poverty with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and added to this the challenges of climate change with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda adopted by the U.N in 2016. Here the contribution of development economist Jeffrey Sachs, a critic of the neo liberal approaches to...
development adopted in the 1980s by the World Bank and IMF is recognised. Community capacity building and community driven development have since become central operational strategies for the U.N, World Bank and many national governments, putting resources and services in the direct control of community groups. And linked to this is a growing recognition that technical expertise is required to support grassroots efforts to build more resilient urban and rural communities, noting here the Transition movement led by Rob Hopkins.

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Many of the trends in community development practice between the 1980s and today reflect this wider neo liberal context. In the two or three decades immediately after World War Two central and local governments definitely made the running. Since then it has tended to be initiatives from the non-governmental sector, foundations and even the private sector that have informed a lot of community development practice and thinking, not least around being able to demonstrate measurement against objectives and value for money. It is difficult to predict the next decade, let alone the next sixty five years, but it appears that with the SDG 2030 agenda we might be at a point not dissimilar to the post War period, when state invested community development support will once again be seen as important by the UN and national governments, reversing thirty years of cutbacks in community development in many countries.

The purpose and methodologies of community development reflected in IACD’s understanding, as promoting participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, economic opportunity, equality, and social justice, through the organisation, education, and empowerment of people within their communities, were crafted during the past six and a half decades. Thousands of practitioners (paid and unpaid), employers, policy advisers, funders and researchers influenced our profession and movement. The people highlighted in this brief review shaped our craft and helped convinced governments of different persuasions and non-governmental organisations to invest in it. Some remained practitioners at various levels throughout their careers. Others were academics, senior policy advisers and policy makers and had little practical ‘on the ground’ experience. Some were prolific writers, others wrote little but inspired through their practice. Some created and led national and international community development networks to enhance the exchange of ideas about community development work and to create collaborative partnerships. Four of those listed became Nobel Prize winners.

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After sixty five years we are still a young field and perhaps the best is yet to come. The challenges have certainly grown. But there is massive evidence now from across the world as to what works and what doesn’t. And there is a huge canon of scholarship and research in our field and IACD, through such resources as the Global Community Development Exchange https://globalcommunitydevelopmentexchange.org/, is keen to make this as accessible as possible to a new generation of students, practitioners, agency managers, funders and policy advisers around the world.
Jane Addams

Jane Addams is known as the “mother” of social work in the USA. She was a pioneer community activist and reformer. She co-founded one of the early settlement houses in the United States in Chicago. Addams noted the connection between the workings of government and the household, stating that many departments of government, such as sanitation and the schooling of children could be traced back to traditional women’s roles arguing that these were matters of which women would have more knowledge than men. Addams was a role model for middle class women who volunteered to develop their communities. In 1931 she became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and is recognized as the founder of the social and community work profession in the United States.

Eileen Younghusband

Following the War, Eileen Younghusband was invited by the Carnegie foundation to chair a committee on the training of social workers in Britain. In her Carnegie Reports of 1947 and 1950 she advocated a set of core knowledge common to all social workers that included features of what we would now understand as community work. In 1954 she pioneered the teaching of a generic course that was to become the prototype of professional social work training in other universities in the UK and Commonwealth countries. In 1968 Younghusband chaired a working party for the Gulbenkian Foundation which led to the influential report, Community Work and Social Change and the 1973 report Current Issues in Community Work, which recommended that there be discrete professional training in community work.

William Biddle

William Biddle was a major contributor to the study and training of community development in the USA and was the founder of community development as a discrete discipline. In the early 1950’s Biddle introduced the notion of ‘participant-leaders’, based upon his belief that community leadership can emerge when ordinary people take responsibility for solving their own problems and not to rely on so called experts. His book The Community Development Process was translated into several languages.

Reg Batten

Reg Batten was a pioneer in African education and community development. He was also one of the founders of the international Community Development Journal. Working during the period of transition from colonial empires to independence in the 1950s and 60s, Batten was a strong proponent of the need for programmes of community development and “mass education”. He argued that education, not social work, should be the major professional influence that should shape the newly merging discipline of community development. For Batten both directive and non-directive approaches had their uses, but the practitioner should become increasingly less directive when working with local people. His seminal book (co-authored with his wife) was The Non-Directive Approach in Group and Community Work.
Moses Coady

Moses Coady was an adult educator best known for his instrumental role in setting up the Antigonish Movement in Canada. This blended adult education and community development to help small, resource-based rural communities around eastern Canada. The Coady International Institute set up in 1959 has been instrumental in developing asset-based community development initiatives in developing countries and is a world-renowned centre of excellence in community-based development and leadership education, equipping community leaders and their organizations with the knowledge and practical tools needed to bring about the change they want for themselves.

José María Arizmendiarieta Madariaga

José María Arizmendiarieta Madariaga created the Mondragon movement in the Basque Region of Spain from the mid 1950s and could be seen as the ‘father’ of community economic development. He had a strong commitment to community engagement, employee/community participation in decision making and of harnessing local assets and resources to improve opportunities and conditions in poorer communities. His approach can be seen as an alternative to conventional ‘top down’ economic development. Today the Mondragon co-ops employ over 75,000 people in over 250 companies and have been an inspiration internationally.

Julius Nyerere

In 1967, President Nyerere of newly independent Tanzania published his development blueprint, which was titled the Arusha Declaration, in which he pointed out the need for an African model of development which he termed Ujamaa, the Swahili word meaning ‘extended family’, asserting that a person becomes a person through the people or community. The Ujamaa development model included the villagization and collectivizing of production and self-reliance through the transformation of economic and cultural attitudes. Everyone would work for both the group and for him/herself; culturally, Tanzanians must learn to free themselves from dependence on European powers. Ujamaa attracted international interest with its emphasis upon ethical principles as the basis of practical development policies. It made great strides in many vital areas of social development, for example the adult literacy.

The Barefoot movement

The Barefoot movement was instigated by Mao Zedong and the Communist government in China in the mid 1960s. Mao had been critical of an urban and expensive Western based bias in the medical system of the time, and called for a system with greater focus on the wellbeing of the rural population. In 1968, the barefoot doctors programme became integrated into national policy. These health workers lived in the community they served, focused on prevention rather than cures while combining western and traditional medicines to educate people and provide basic treatment. China’s barefoot doctors were a major inspiration to the global primary health care movement post 1978 when the idea began to be promoted by the World Health Organisation.
Saemaul Undong

The Saemaul Undong New Community Movement was launched in 1970 in South Korea by the Park Chung-hee dictatorship to develop rural communities. The movement initially sought to also address and rectify the growing disparity between Korea’s urban centres, which were rapidly industrializing, and the small villages, which continued to be mired in poverty. The early stage of the movement focused on improving the basic living conditions and environments whereas later projects concentrated on building rural infrastructure and increasing income. It influenced rural community development work in South Korea, which introduced professional community development training. Saemaul Undong has been seen by the World Bank and others as a model for community-led development.

Orlando Fals Borda

Orlando Fals Borda was a Colombian researcher and sociologist and one of the founders of participatory action research which has become a key skillset for those working in community development. In 1959 he set up the first sociology faculty in Latin America at the National University. His approach was one of linking social science research to political activism amongst the poor. Fals Borda developed an ethical approach called “positive subversion” where the community action research commits to the empowerment of the disadvantaged. He came to believe that it was the duty of a sociologist not just to examine the social reality of the country, but to try to remedy the grave injustices that research uncovered.

Paulo Freire

Paulo Freire was a Brazilian adult educator and the founder of the notion of critical pedagogy. He is best known for his hugely influential book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, arguing for a more explicit engagement of the practitioner in political education of the poor. Freire believed education could not be divorced from politics; the act of education and learning are political acts in themselves. There is no such thing as a neutral education process. It either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate conformity or it becomes the ‘practice of freedom’, the means by which men and women deal critically with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their communities.

Augusto Boal

Augusto Boal was a theatre director, community educator and cultural activist. During the military dictatorship in Brazil, he was seen as a threat by the regime, tortured and exiled to Peru and Argentina. Here he wrote his much acclaimed *Theatre of the Oppressed*. Boal’s method has been implemented in various communities around the world, seeks to transform audiences into active participants in the theatrical experience. His conscientização (consciousness-raising) theatre work was a revolt against the elitist “top-down” approach to education and he advocated critical awareness based community education models. After living in Argentina, Boal travelled to other countries in South America where he worked with people in small and usually poor communities and influenced the community arts movement in many countries from the 1970s on.
The War on Poverty

The War on Poverty was a major social and economic policy programme in the USA that ran from the mid 1960s for over a decade, initiated by the Democratic Administration in response to growing levels of poverty and the civil rights movement. The War on Poverty saw a large growth in community development type programmes, especially in poor urban areas, together with the employment of large numbers of community development workers and out of this a significant canon of internationally influential US community development literature.

Saul Alinsky

Saul Alinsky is generally considered to be the founder of modern community organising approaches, which influenced many community development professionals and their training. His best known book was *Rules for Radicals* written for the Have-Nots. His organizing skills were focused on improving the living conditions of poor communities across America, particularly the conditions in the black ghettos. A collection of training and support organizations for national coalitions of community organizing groups were founded in the Alinsky tradition. The role of the organizer in these organizations was “professionalized” to some extent and community organizing approaches became a feature of community development training in many countries.

Sherry Arnstein

Sherry Arnstein was the author of the highly influential ‘Ladder of Citizen Participation’, through her work in Washington DC at the U.S. Department of Housing, Education, and Welfare as a special assistant to the assistant secretary. In 1969, she wrote and published several papers that dealt with public participation in decision making, in which she suggested different levels of public participation. This model was hugely influential in community development practice, professional training and research internationally. She became a senior research fellow at the National Center for Health Service Research and Vice President of the US National Health Council.

Akhter Hameed Khan

Akhter Hameed Khan was a Pakistani community development pioneer and social scientist. He promoted participatory rural community development and widely advocated community participation in development. His particular contribution was the establishment of a comprehensive project for rural development, the Comilla Model which focussed upon grassroots development practice and the training of villagers. He inspired bottom up community development as a model of participatory development from microcredit to self-finance and housing provision for poor rural and urban communities. Khan wrote widely, including his book *Orangi Pilot Project: Reminiscences and Reflections* which ran to several editions.
Ela Ramesh Bhatt

Ela Ramesh Bhatt was an Indian cooperative organiser, activist and Gandhian who founded the Self-Employed Women’s Association of India in 1972, and served as its general secretary to 1996. She was influenced by the fact that thousands of female textile workers worked elsewhere to supplement the family income, but there were state laws protecting only those who were solely industrial workers and not these self-employed women. Bhatt became involved in The Elders’ initiative on equality for women and girls, including on the issue of child marriage and non-violent struggle against injustice. Her books include Anubandh: Building Hundred Mile Communities.

Bunker Roy

Bunker Roy was the founder of the Social Work and Research Centre and Barefoot College in 1972. Its mission soon changed from a focus on water and irrigation for poor rural communities to empowerment and sustainability. These programs focused on training the local population to maintain local water systems without dependence on outside mechanics. In over four decades Barefoot College has trained more than 3 million of some of the poorest people in India in skills including solar engineers, teachers, community midwives, weavers, architects and paramedics. The college has become a model for the establishment of similar colleges offering opportunities for community education and training amongst poor communities in other countries.

Vergheese Kurien

Vergheese Kurien was a social entrepreneur and is regarded as one of the greatest proponents of the community and workers’ cooperative movement in India. He pioneered the “Anand pattern” of dairy cooperatives (today India’s largest food brand), where 70-80% of the price paid by consumers went as cash to local dairy farmers who controlled the marketing, the procurement and the processing of milk and milk products as the cooperative’s owners, while hiring professionals for their skills and inducting technology, in managing it.

Amartya Sen

Amartya Sen is a Nobel Prize winning economist from India. Sen’s work in the field of development economics has had considerable influence in the formulation of the “Human Development Report” published by the United Nations Development Programme. In his book Development as Freedom he argued that development should be viewed as an effort to advance the real freedoms that individuals enjoy, rather than simply focusing on metrics such as GDP or income-per-capita. He outlined five specific types of freedoms: political freedoms, economic facilities, social opportunities, transparency guarantees, and protective security. The first of these, refers to the ability of the people to have a voice in government and to be able to scrutinize the authorities. He is critical of top-down development as negating human rights.
Muhammad Yunus

Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur who founded the Grameen Bank (Village Bank) and pioneered micro-credit especially for women in poor communities. In 1976, during visits to the poorest households in the village of Jobra near Chittagong University, Yunus discovered that very small loans could make a disproportionate difference especially to women. Traditional banks did not want to make tiny loans at reasonable interest to the poor, but he believed that, given the chance, the poor will repay the money and hence microcredit was a viable business model. To ensure repayment, the bank uses a system of “solidarity groups”. These small informal groups applied together for loans and the members act as co-guarantors of repayment and support one another’s efforts at economic self-advancement. The success of the Grameen microfinance model inspired similar efforts in over a hundred developing countries, most retaining Grameen’s emphasis upon lending to women. In 2006, Yunus and the Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts through microcredit to create economic and social development from below.

Uma Lele

Uma Lele is an Indian development economist, who from the early 1970s has been an influential researcher and policy adviser to the World Bank, universities and international development organizations in Asia and Africa. Among her books is The Design of Rural Development: Lessons from Africa. As Senior Advisor in the World Bank’s Operations Evaluation Department she led evaluations of the World Bank’s approach to global development programmes.

Mario Pollo

The animateur movement took off in Italy as a form of social practice oriented towards the conscientization [presa di conscienza] and the development of the repressed or latent potential of individuals, small groups and communities’. Animateurs aim to help develop individual and group ability to participate in and to manage the social and political reality in which they live. One of the main proponents and writers on the work of radical animation is the Italian Mario Pollo. The French animateurs established themselves as a distinctive professional grouping running centres sociaux (social centres) and maisons de quartier (community centres). There was also a significant development in the integration of social policy around the prevention of exclusion and the promotion of integration of immigrants and others into French society.

Ernst Schumacher

Ernst Schumacher was a German economist who had to leave Germany during the Nazi period. He is best known for his proposals for human-scale, decentralised and appropriate technologies and was one of the earliest proponents of sustainable development. He was the founder of what is now called Practical Action and the use of appropriate technologies, following the publication of his 1973 book Small is Beautiful. He believed in putting people’s real needs at the heart of development and argued that development work needed not just to be people focused but also sensitive to the environment. Ownership, through participation and co-design by the people was central to his ethos.
Concerns with urban built environments, especially of neighbourhoods where poorer people live, have long shaped community development practice. This led in the late 1960s and 70s to the community architecture movement, which argued for the importance of user involvement in the design, construction and management of the urban built environment. Proponents of community architecture advocated for a new approach encompassing community planning, community technical aid and community landscaping. Professionals working within community architecture and planning were keen to apply community development methods in the built environment. One of the earliest advocates of this approach was Tom Woolley the founder of the community technical aid movement and the Association for Community Technical Aid Centres.

Ekhart Hahn was one of the pioneers of ecological urban planning. Hahn formulated the thesis that urban settlement development was one of the central causes of climate change and environmental degradation. He called for a fundamental ecological rethinking of the theory and practice of urban design and development as the prerequisite for sustainable development. Green cities and ecological urban redevelopment would become central challenges of the 21st century. He sought to transform the post war urban tower blocks through working with residents to introduce ecological architectural features and community gardens designed with and managed by them.

John Benington was Director of the Coventry Community Development Project (CDP) set up by the Labour government in a deprived part of the city. He was one of the authors of the many reports linked with the British CDP experiment. In the early 1980s he became Director of Economic Development for the City of Sheffield and was an early proponent in Britain of city-wide community economic development and regeneration strategies. He became a Professor at Warwick University, UK, where his teaching, research and publications focussed upon the role of local government in community and economic development. He chaired an independent national committee looking at the challenges facing community development. The committee concluded that in-depth knowledge of community development was too fragmented.

Gary Craig worked with the CDP programme in North East England and was also one of the main authors of the British Community Development Project (CDP) publications. While commentators have criticized CDPs for focussing more on political analyses than community development practice, they influenced greatly the thinking of a new generation of community development practitioners in Britain and beyond. He later moved into academia, becoming the world’s first Professor of Social Justice. Craig has been a prolific writer, writing and editing more community development books and articles than any of the people we have included. For twenty years he was the editor of the international Community Development Journal, where he encouraged those working in community development practice and scholarship across the world to share their work. From 1998-2007 he was President of IACD.
Marj Mayo
Mayo has been an enormously influential writer, researcher and community development educator in Britain for five decades. From an early career in development work in Africa in the late 1960s, Marj Mayo went on to work in local government with the Greater London Council on popular planning, and then taught community work at Ruskin College in Oxford and later as Professor in community development at Goldsmiths, University of London. Mayo has published many books on community development including work on women in community development, on learning for active citizenship, and she co-edited the influential *Community Work* series published by Routledge in the 1970s and later went on to co-edit *The Community Development Reader*. Mayo was a member of the IACD Board for ten years until 2014 and for over thirty years on the editorial Board of the *Community Development Journal*.

Alan Barr and Stuart Hashagen
Alan Barr and Stuart Hashagen were the founders and co-directors of the Scottish Community Development Centre. Barr began his career as a VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) worker in Borneo and worked for the Oldham Community Development CDP in the mid-1970s. Hashagen trained as a planner and worked as a community planner in Greenock, Scotland at this time. Both then became community work fieldwork teachers. Barr moved to work with Strathclyde Regional Council in the 1980s, where he became a principal community development officer. He wrote an influential book on Strathclyde’s approach – *Practicing Community Development*. Hashagen became the Scottish manager for the Community Development Foundation in the late 1980s. In 1992 they created the Scottish Community Development Centre, which has been influential in Scotland supporting research and training and helping to shape Scottish Government policies towards community empowerment. Hashagen went on to become the chair of the European Community Development Network.

David Thomas and Paul Henderson
David Thomas and Paul Henderson worked as community workers before they both moved to become lecturers in community work at the British National Institute of Social Work. They were influential trainers and writers on community work in Britain from the mid-1970s. They wrote extensively together and individually about community work in Britain and Europe, their important book was *Skills in Neighbourhood Work* ran to four editions and was translated into several languages. In the early 1980s Thomas was commissioned by the Gulbenkian Foundation, then the UK’s most influential foundation supporter of community development, to write a review of community work across the UK and from this came the proposal to establish a national institute for community development, modelled in part on NISW but also on NIMO, the national institute in the Netherlands. Thomas was appointed the first CEO of that body and Henderson the Northern Director (responsible for the North of England and Scotland), which came to be called the Community Development Foundation. They played a lead role in setting up the Combined European Bureau for Social Development, later renamed the European Community Development Network.

Charlie McConnell
Charlie McConnell came into community development as a community educator in the early 1970s. His 1982 book *Community Education and Community Development* was the first volume of texts about policy and practice in Scotland. His book *Community Learning and Development: The Making of an Empowering Profession* ran to three editions. McConnell was part of the team that created the Community Development Foundation becoming its European Director, where he worked with the Council of Europe promoting the first Europe-wide policy (1989) encouraging all municipal authorities to support community development. McConnell also advised the OECD on community development. While CEO of the Scottish Community Education Council, he played the lead role in re-establishing IACD serving first as its Secretary General and later President. He became the first chair of the British Government funded agency that for the first time set UK wide training standards for the CD profession. And as the first Head of Community Learning and Development with the Scottish Government he was a key architect of government policy in this area. As the CEO of the Carnegie foundation he established its Community Development Commission and grants programme. McConnell was the author of IACD’s global definition of community development.
The Ford Foundation

Since the 1960s philanthropic foundations have made a significant contribution towards funding not only community development projects, but also research, professional development and independent commissions of inquiry.

Ford funded community development corporations (CDC), helping to develop affordable housing and local economic development across the USA and similar community development work in rural and urban Africa and Mexico. Mitchell Sviridoff, Vice President of Ford, initiated many of these programmes, including the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to give loans, grants, and technical assistance to CDCs. As a result social investment gathered momentum from the 1970s. This approach led to equity-like investments in hundreds of community banks, credit unions, and a wide variety of loan funds directed at organizations working to help low income communities.

John McKnight and Jody Kretzmann

McKnight and his long-time colleague, Jody Kretzmann, created the Asset-Based Community Development strategy for community building and for increasing the economic productivity of neighbourhoods. The ABCD Institute they set up conducts research, produces materials and other support for community-based efforts to rediscover local capacities and to mobilize citizens’ resources to solve problems. Together, they co-authored the basic guide to asset based community development, Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Identifying and Mobilizing a Community’s Assets.

Glen Pulver

Glen Pulver was instrumental in developing community economics as a field of study. His 1979 article, A Theoretical Framework for the Analysis of Community Economic Development Policy Options, provided the framework for later community economic development work in the United States. He was a founding member, director and president of the Community Development Society of America and played a leading role in strengthening the profession there. He wrote or co-wrote a variety of publications on community development.

Robert Putnam

Robert Putnam is Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. His most famous book and contribution to community development is Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. In this he introduced the concept of social capital, seeing two forms - bonding capital and bridging capital.

Bonding occurs when you are socializing with people who are like you: same age, same race, same religion, and so on. But in order to create peaceful societies in a diverse multi-ethnic country, one needs to have a second kind of social capital: bridging. Putnam argued that those two kinds of social capital, bonding and bridging, strengthen communities. And conversely where there is a decline in bonding capital we see the decline of the bridging capital, leading to greater community tensions.
Ron Hustedde
Ron Hustedde has been an influential writer and trainer in the US on rural economic development, leadership development, and public conflict analysis and resolution, co-authoring many book chapters, articles and other publications about leadership and community development, community economic analysis, learning communities, and public conflict resolution. He is a past president of both the American Community Development Society and vice president of IACD. At CDS he created and leads the network for university community development educators in the US.

Rhonda Phillips
Rhonda Phillips is an influential American community development educator and the author or editor of over twenty books, including Introduction to Community Development, and Growing Livelihoods: Local Food Systems and Community Development. She was the editor of the US journal, Community Development, and the founding editor of the book series, Introduction to Community Development Research and Practice. Phillips became a professor in the School of Community Resources and Development at Arizona State University (ASU). Prior to joining ASU, she served nine years on the faculty at the University of Florida’s Urban and Regional Planning Department where she was founding director of the Center for Building Better Communities. In 2013 she became Dean of the Purdue Honors College. Her influential research and writing includes work on heritage and cultural based tourism as community and economic development strategies and, on community indicator and evaluation systems for monitoring progress in community development.

Cornelia Butler Flora
Cornelia Butler Flora is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Iowa State University and research professor at Kansas State University. She served as director of the Population Research Laboratory at Kansas State University and director of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. Together with her husband she developed the Community Capitals Framework, which has become one of the primary research approaches in community analysis and development. Her primary research interests are the intersections of human communities and agro-ecosystems and sustainable development in the context of climate change, with an emphasis on gender. She has taught courses on rural community development across the USA and in Uruguay, Argentina and Peru.

Hugh Frazer
Hugh Frazer worked in the late 1970s in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as a youth and community worker, then as editor of the social policy magazine, SCOPE which did much to highlight the importance of community work in Northern Ireland. From 1979 to 1987, he was the first director of Northern Ireland’s major charitable foundation, (now the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland). This was at the height of the Northern Ireland ‘Troubles’ between protestant and catholic communities. He became director of the Irish government agency, the Combat Poverty Agency, advising the Irish government on policies and programmes, including community development, to combat poverty. Frazer then worked as policy expert in the European Commission, and helped profile the importance of community development within its social inclusion policies and programmes.
Anastasia Crickley

Anastasia Crickley worked as a community worker with Irish emigrants in Britain and Travellers in Ireland, before becoming a lecturer in community work and subsequently Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth university. Crickley was actively involved in the establishment of the Community Workers’ Co-operative (CWC), now called Community Work Ireland, becoming its Chair. CWI has played a central role in enhancing professional standards in community work training and practice across Ireland. A specialist in community work with Travellers and around migrancy issues, Crickley became increasingly active in European wide and subsequently UN policies and programmes in this area. She is the current president of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Hans Andersson

Hans Andersson has been influential in promoting community development across the Nordic countries. In 1984, he worked with the county council, municipality and university of Örebro, Sweden, to find new methods for democracy development and to strengthen community development and empowerment in the region. This work subsequently led him to set up CESAM which became the Swedish national centre for community development. CESAM worked as consultants and project managers at over 300 locations in Sweden. Andersson and his team subsequently participated in projects in fifty-one cities in 30 countries in Europe (19 in the EU) and supported a network of community workers in Sweden and other Nordic countries. Andersson was also active in forming many European Networks such as the Combined European Bureau for Social Development (now known as the European Community Development Network EuCDN) becoming its Chair. He has written extensively on community development in Sweden and the Nordic countries.

Ilona Vercseg

Ilona Vercseg was one of the founders of the Hungarian Association for Community Development (HACD) in 1989 and has been a highly respected player in promoting community development across Eastern Europe for over three decades. By the 1970s Hungary had a more liberal communist government and church, civil society and environmental activists were engaging more openly in grassroots development work. With colleagues, some from the universities, Vercseg designed community education programmes across Hungary. Vercseg began writing about this work and engaging with Western European community developers at this time. She is the author of numerous publications and articles on Hungarian community development including Community development and civil society : making connections in the European context with Paul Henderson. In 2004 HACD co-organised with IACD and the European network a major pan-European conference on community development leading to the Budapest Declaration, which has become a significant manifesto in the field in Europe.

Robert Chambers

Robert Chambers has been one of the leading advocates for putting the poor at the centre of the processes of development policy. In particular he argued the poor should be taken into account when the development problem is identified, policy formulated and projects implemented. He popularised within development circles such phrases as “putting the last first” and stressed the now generally accepted need for development professionals to be critically self-aware. The widespread acceptance of a “participatory” approach in community development is in part due to his work. This includes the techniques of participatory rural appraisal. Chambers has written extensively.
Wangari Muta Maathai was an internationally renowned Kenyan environmental activist and Nobel laureate. Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya in 1977, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, women’s rights and sustainable development. An associate professor at University College Nairobi she became chair of The Environment Liaison Centre to promote the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose headquarters was established in Nairobi. Her influential book, Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual Values for Healing Ourselves and the World, stressed the importance of communities mobilizing and taking responsibility for local sustainable development.

Elizabeth Te Wake Wark

Elizabeth Te Wake Wark was born in a small settlement in the Hokianga region, Northland, New Zealand, of both Nga Puhi (Māori tribe) and Pākehā (European) descent. The increasing urban presence of Māori in the mid-1940s and early 1950s resulted in severe housing problems and many Māori congregated in cheaper, dilapidated and frequently overcrowded houses. She became aware of the housing crisis for young Maori moving to Auckland and the genesis of her community development was formed as she became involved in organising accommodation for the homeless. Her identity as Māori was very important to her and she is considered one of the pioneers of Māori community development, ensuring Māori identity and culture were sustained within the urban landscape.

Akin Lawal Mabogunje

Akin Lawal Mabogunje is a Nigerian geographer, popularly regarded as the ‘Father of Geography’ in Africa and was the first African president of the International Geographical Union. He has written widely, his 1968 book, Urbanization in Nigeria, contributed to giving urban and regional development and state formation ‘African visibility’ in the development field. Mabogunje’s contribution to community development has been in the area of both urban and rural development and community economic development. He called for a ‘political approach to the discipline of geography’ that focusses upon improving the circumstances of the mass of people. He argued that the period when western approaches to development influencing Africa should come to an end, with Africa having been seduced by Western paradigms and outside help. African countries needed to confront their local and national development challenges directly themselves adopting a greater plurality of development strategies to tackle their own problems. This required an approach that trained and supported enlightened leadership to mobilise people at local and state levels to challenge the ‘dead hand’ of bureaucracy and corruption.

Rudolf Rezsohazy

Rudolf Rezsohazy was a sociologist who from the early 1960s focussed upon the development of co-operatives and on community development particularly in Francophone countries in Africa. Rezsohazy was a prolific writer and educator. He initiated the first courses in community development at the University of Louvain, training practitioners to work in such countries as the Belgium Congo and Burundi as they moved towards and after independence. Rezsohazy also worked in New York with IACD and in the mid 1970s was instrumental in moving its HQ and secretariat to Belgium. From 1980 until 1997 he was IACD’s longest serving President. He wrote several books including Community Development.
David Cox

David Cox worked with immigrants in Australia arguing that social work should be based upon a community development model rather than the casework and psychoanalytic content then dominant in social work training programmes in the country in the 1960s and 70s. In 1975 he became Director of International Social Service, an agency that focuses on inter-country social work. In 1979 he joined the Social Work Department at the University of Melbourne to develop further courses on cross-cultural social work and community development, which he saw as a fundamental but a still overlooked aspect of the social work profession. Through his research, publications and teaching Cox had an influence upon highlighting the importance of community development in the professional training of social workers in Australia and internationally.

Jim Ife

Jim Ife was Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at The University of Western Australia and Curtin University, before being appointed the inaugural Professor of Human Rights Education at Curtin University, a position he held until his retirement in 2006. He taught community development for many years and is the author and editor of several books about community development in Australia and internationally, including Human Rights from Below: Achieving Rights through Community Development. Ife especially draws on the principles of social justice, ecological responsibility and indigenous perspectives to advance holistic approaches to community development.

Vivienne Taylor

The South African Development Education Programme (SADEP) at the University of the Western Cape, where Vivienne Taylor taught in the 1990s, was amongst the first in the country where professional qualifications in community development were available across the racial divide. Many of the early students at that time had been community activists in the struggles against apartheid and the lack of democracy in the country. SADEP’s courses trained hundreds of community workers to work as part of Nelson Mandela’s Reconstruction and Development Programme. Taylor worked at the UN with Professor Amartya Sen, as Deputy Director in a Global Commission on Human Security. She has written over 60 publications and played a central role in creating South Africa’s canon of community and social development literature.

Gavin Rennie

Gavin Rennie was the first community development worker employed in Waitamata city, New Zealand in 1977 and for eight years was Director of Friendship House Manukau City. He was appointed to lead the development of community development education at Unitec Institute of Technology, as Senior Lecturer, School of Community and Social Practice. He researched and taught community development for 26 years introducing community development as a central part of social work training and qualifications in New Zealand. He was a leading proponent of practitioner registration, a founder member of the Aotearoa Community Development Association and editor of Whanake, The Pacific Journal of Community Development.

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Peter Westoby

Peter Westoby spent 20 years in youth, community and organisation development practice prior to entering academia and is currently at the University of Queensland. He worked in Australia, India, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, South Africa and Uganda. His research and practice has focussed particularly upon what he terms community development dialogue theory and practice. He is particularly critical of what he calls the Euro-centric and neo-colonial approaches to community development, which he asserts believes in a universalist approach to development that can be exported anywhere across the world. He believes that community development interventions must be informed by local geographically shaped traditions. Westoby has written and edited several books on community development, including Dialogical Community Development and the Routledge Handbook of Community Development Research.

Angelito Manaili

Angelito Manaili is Professor Emeritus with the College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines, where for many years he taught community development. He began a career in the 1970s, and moved to become an influential policy consultant with a number of local and strategic community development programmes across the Philippines. He served as Provincial Development Coordinator of the Province of Bataan, where he promoted participatory development planning in the training of municipal development staff.

He is author of many articles and books including Community Organizing for People’s Empowerment.

Wong Keung-sang

Wong Keung-sang was a pioneer of community work within social work in Hong Kong. He started working as a community organiser in 1968, including assisting blind workers to organize industrial action advocating for a minimum wage. He then trained in community development in Coady International Institute in Canada. After his return to Hong Kong in 1973, he worked on promoting community work and youth social participation projects, including establishing a centre for grassroots workers, called the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers. Wong Keung-sang was actively involved in introducing community work training for social workers, social work students and for community leaders. He was awarded the Outstanding Social Worker’s Award in 1994. He assisted the United Front of Fighting for Social Welfare Service to organize social workers and became the Executive Director of Hong Kong Social Workers’ General Union.

Joe Leung

Joe Leung was a pioneer of professional community development training in Hong Kong China. He established the first course on Social Welfare in China in 1986, including community work approaches, organizational analysis and strategic issues in human services. He was the deputy convener of the Strategic Research Theme in Contemporary China Studies of the University of Hong Kong, and the coordinator of the group working on Poverty and Social Policy. Post 1997 he extended his work to mainland China. Leung was for over 35 years on the International Editorial Advisory Board, of the Community Development Journal and has written extensively about community development across the region.

www.facebook.com/IACDglobal/
Lana Abu-Hijleh

Lana Abu-Hijleh has been a long time expert in Palestinian development, particularly on supporting women to engage in grassroots development and has inspired practitioners in the Middle East and internationally. She has been working for the past 28 years with international development and humanitarian agencies in Palestine and the region and is currently the Country Director of Global Communities Palestine, leading a team of 200 Palestinian and international professionals in designing and implementing assistance programs focusing on economic revitalization, community and social infrastructure, democracy/governance, job creation, and food security in the West Bank and Gaza. Abu-Hijleh served as the Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People for over 17 years.

Avila Kilmurray

Avila Kilmurray was Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland from 1994 until 2015 and was a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition and part of the Coalition’s negotiating team for the Good Friday Agreement which led to peace in Northern Ireland in 1998. The Community Foundation managed EU PEACE Programme measures for the re-integration of politically motivated ex-prisoners as well as the victims/survivors of violence. She has written extensively on community development and peace building and conflict transformation. Kilmurray was a founder member of the Foundations for Peace Network, a peer network of independent indigenous funders working in contested societies. She is an Honorary Professor in the Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University.

Rob Hopkins

In the late 1990s, Rob Hopkins was a lecturer at Kinsale College, Ireland, where he taught practical sustainability courses and was actively involved in the eco-villages movement, establishing one in Kinsale. Eco villages use local participatory processes to holistically integrate ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of sustainability. Based upon the work he pioneered in Kinsale and later in Totnes, UK, in 2005 he founded the Transition Network. This has since grown to transition initiatives in over 50 countries around the world, involving over 1,400 communities. Transition has brought to community development a practical approach to applying deep ecology and sustainable development to mobilising local communities around carbon reduction and renewable energy. The aim is to increase self-sufficiency and localism. It is about communities stepping up to address global challenges by starting local in very practical ways. Hopkins has written four books including the hugely influential Transition Handbook and The Power of Just Doing Stuff.

Jeffrey Sachs

Jeffrey Sachs is an American economist and one of the world’s leading experts on sustainable development and the fight against poverty. He serves as special adviser to the U.N. Secretary General on the Sustainable Development Goals and was director of the UN’s work on the MDGs. A strong proponent of integrated rural development, Sachs was the founder of the Millennium Villages Project. He has written several books including The End of Poverty. In community-based development, Sachs has argued for the creation of cooperatives in poor rural communities and for extending access to information technology. He believes that Aid should be investment that leads communities out of poverty, not leaves them in poverty but with hand-outs.
World Community Development Conference 2018

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WCDC2018 provides a unique opportunity to celebrate IACD’s 65th anniversary.
It is impossible to look back over the years to the 1950s without commenting upon the importance and influence of two critical parts of the architecture of our profession - the networks and the journals. Although IACD was set up in 1953, it was not until the late 1960s that community development practitioners and scholars began to create national professional associations. In the 1950s and early 60s there were very few community development practitioners working in either the ‘developing’ or ‘developed’ countries. Those that were could be quite isolated, with barely a handful in a large city or working at the grassroots in Asia and Africa.

With the US War on Poverty and its equivalents in other developed countries, job opportunities began to open up for paid employment. Similarly as community development programmes expanded across the world, new posts were created by governments, foundations and NGOs. Job titles like community development worker, community worker, extension worker and community organiser appeared at this time. And within the social work, adult education and health disciplines (and others) there was a growing interest in community development as an approach that might be added to their tool kit.

By 1967 there were sufficient practitioners in the USA for them to create the Community Development Society (CDS). In 1968 the Association of Community Workers (ACW) was formed in the UK. And we soon saw the creation of national associations in Australia, Scotland, Philippines, Nigeria, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Thailand, the Caribbean, South Korea, New Zealand, Ireland and beyond. A few, like CDS and the Australian Association of Community Workers, have lasted nearly five decades. Others have disappeared, have been re-created or are newly emerging.

We have also seen the creation of global ‘regional’ networks such as the European Community Development Network. And along with more generic national membership associations, we have seen the formation of communities of practice, around community economic development, asset based community development, rural development and health work. There have been women’s and black CD networks and those supporting work with other communities of identity. Very many people played the leadership role in creating these associations and we honour them all for their work in creating our profession and movement worldwide.

Since 1966 the foremost international academic journal in our field has been the Community Development Journal, published by Oxford University Press. CDJ has covered an enormous range of topics, reviewing significant developments and providing a forum for cutting-edge debates about theory and practice. It has published critically focused articles which challenge received wisdom, discussed innovative practices, and work around social justice, diversity, local economic development, health issues and environmental sustainability and much, much more.

CDJ is IACD’s partner journal.

In 1970 the Community Development Society in the USA started to produce what is now called Community Development published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis. Over the years since many other journals have been produced either nationally/regionally or for a specialist field (with some no longer in print) - e.g. IACD’s Comm; the Scottish Journal of Community Work and Development; the Journal of Community Practice; International Journal of Community Development; the Radical Community Work Journal; the Journal of Community Education Practice Theory; the Journal of Rural and Community Development; the Journal of Housing and Community Development; the International Journal of Community and Co-operative Studies; The Pacific Journal of Community Development; the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development; and there are more!

These journals were set up by both practitioners and scholars and their range is testimony to the richness of this field. Their respective editors, editorial boards, publishers and above all contributors have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate the wealth of critical reflection in our field, always the sign of a healthy profession.

In June 2018, together with the Irish association (Community Work Ireland), we are holding the World Community Development Conference at Maynooth University, in part to celebrate our birthday milestone. As we have seen, 2018 is also the seventieth anniversary of the U.N’s first statement about community development, and around fifty years since the first national community development associations were formed and the Community Development Journal was first published.

Across the world there are now well over a thousand undergraduate and graduate programmes offering community development education and training, either as a specialist degree or as modules in the education and training of other disciplines. However in the past decade, since the financial crash, our field has experienced cuts in governments’ investment in community development training and in the employment of community development practitioners in many countries. And an anti ‘expert’ populism promulgated by right wing politicians has fuelled decreasing confidence in the role of government and of the ‘professional’. This is a challenge to our belief that vulnerable communities must be able to access free professional support to help them play an informed and active part in tackling the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals, structural inequalities and climate change. Over the coming years IACD will continue to advocate for investment in that support. What this Special Issue demonstrates is that a wide range of practitioners and activists with community development expertise can and do work alongside vulnerable people in genuinely empowering ways, and with an increasing number of those coming from vulnerable communities. Now that is worth celebrating.
A message to members

Towards Common International Standards for Community Development Practice

A draft consultation paper for IACD Members – December 2017

IACD DRAFT GUIDANCE: TOWARDS COMMON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

Foreword

This discussion paper has been prepared for IACD members and aims to provide guidance as to common international standards for community development practice. The paper presents the key themes that are fundamental to all standards for community development. The purpose of the paper is to support the IACD Training Committee and Standards Council Scotland of Standards Council Scotland, which has been working with the CLD Standards Council and Standards Scotland to develop common international standards for community development practice.

The discussion paper is intended as a framework for the design of professional community development practice. It provides a foundation for stakeholders to develop a common international standard for community development practice, which recognizes the key methods used by the practitioner. As a result, it aims to develop a common international standard for community development practice. The paper presents the key themes and areas of agreement to be addressed in the IACD DRAFT GUIDANCE: TOWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE.

The paper explains the background to this project and the key issues that are pertinent to the development of common standards for community development. The IACD Training Committee is keen to get your views on this draft Guidance. In light of your comments, the IACD Training Committee will then work to develop a common international standard for community development practice. The IACD Training Committee is keen to get your views on this draft Guidance. In light of your comments, the IACD Training Committee will then work to develop a common international standard for community development practice.

Following adoption of the IACD global definition of community development at the 2016 AGM, the IACD Training and Professional Development Committee established a joint project team in partnership with the Community Learning and Development Standards Council Scotland. This project team has now produced a Draft Guidance document that the Training Committee is putting out for member consultation.

Full IACD members have already been sent the document which can be downloaded here: IACD 2017 Draft Standards Guidance

The Training Committee wishes to have members’ feedback on the Draft Guidance over the next three months. Is this Guidance helpful for explaining your practice? Could it be used to inform community development posts job descriptions? Could it be used as a framework for the design of professional community development training?

Please send your comments marked Community Development Standards to Charlie McConnell at charliesmcconnell@gmail.com

Please send your comments by 31 March 2018

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IACD’s Practice Insights magazine, sharing practice and research about community development from around the world.