

Reflections on the Transdisciplinary Research Process: Integrating Biology, Society, and the Environment (BSE) in the Food, Culture, and Health Study



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Food, Culture, and Health Study

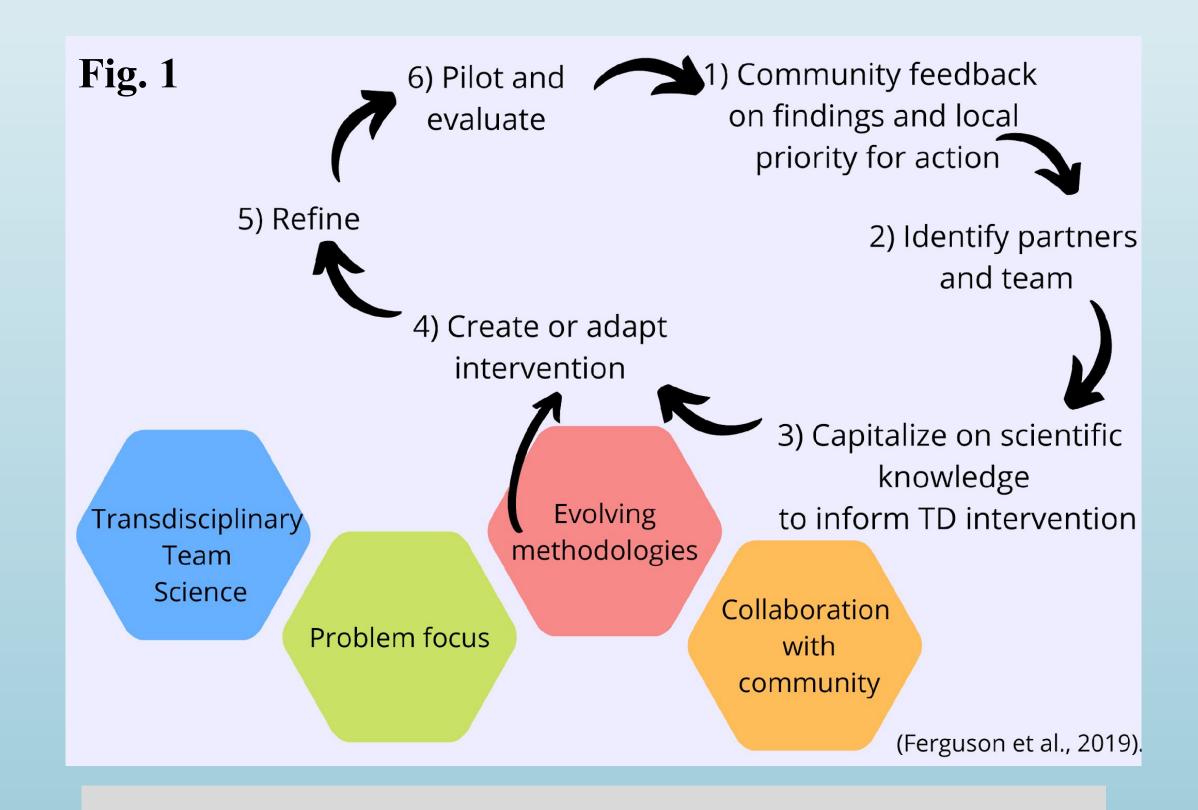
- Aimed to explore associations among acculturation, advertising and media use, and nutrition and health in the Black immigrant/refugee communities
- Transdisciplinary study with experts from areas of developmental and cross-cultural psychology, advertising and media, and nutrition and health, along with cultural experts (Fig. 1)
- Incorporated community-based participatory research (Fig. 2) and representational ethics (Fig. 3)
- Collected mixed methods data through an online survey taken by adolescent participants in zoom rooms; subsample of families also participated in zoom interviews

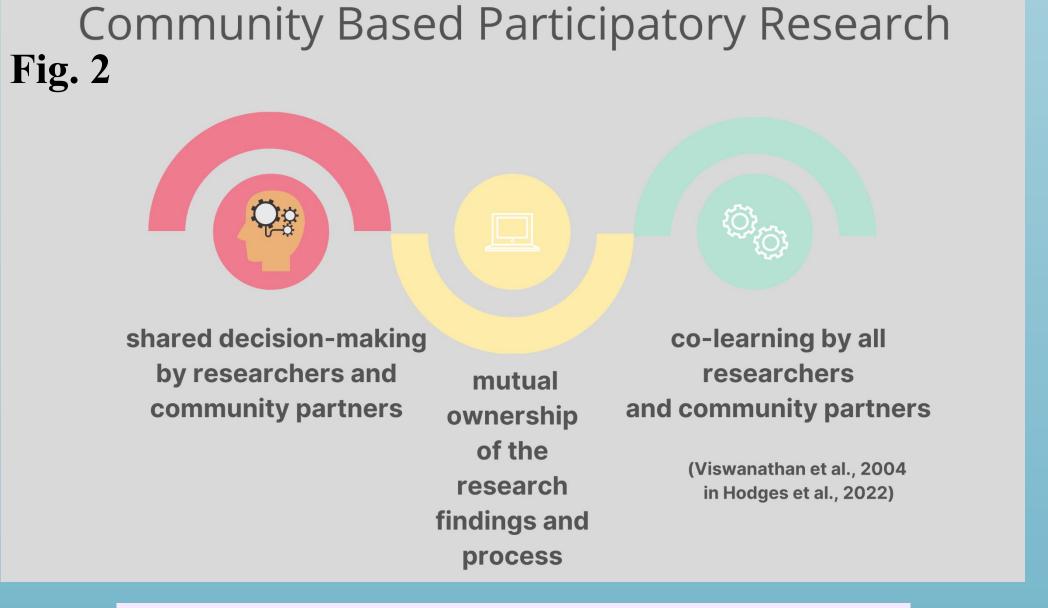
Biology, Society & the Environment

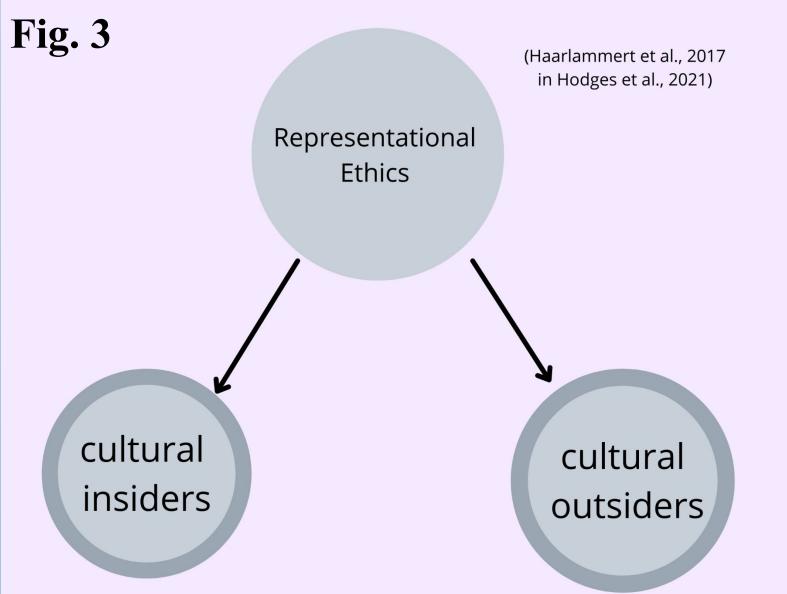
- BSE is a transdisciplinary major and all three components were considered
- ✓ Investigation of culture-specific risk factors for **nutrition**
- ✓ Took a larger **societal** issue and applied it to individual lives by investigating of the impact of dual pandemics on the sampled communities
- Adjusted study design to fit community environment and needs

Reflections on Transdisciplinarity

- Team members from different disciplines worked together to address a real-world challenge of nutritional resilience during dual pandemics
- PI Dr. Gail Ferguson communicated with Dr. Saida Abdi regarding the Somali community's interest in nutrition learning







Selected References

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Fig 4. Observations and Learnings

Zoom Room Data Collector

- Learning: Cultural Humility
- *Observation:* Participants showed appreciation for the time and work that researchers put into this project
- Learning: the setting of data collection can influence participant responses

Scheduling Coordinator

- Observation: Frequent need to pivot and adapt based on participant needs
 - Learning: Stay flexible, give feedback, remember core research methodologies

Data Coder

- Observation: Working as a cross-cultural team of cultural insiders & outsiders allowed more accurate coding and interpretation of data
 - Learning: Ask questions
 - Learning: Think cally

Manuscript Co-author

- Co-authored Paper 1: Methodological (Hodges...Gibson et al., in preparation)
- Co-authored Paper 2: Empirical (Gillespie...Gibson et al., under review)
- Observation: Working in a team led to research being completed in a timely way, with the benefit of mutual support.
 - Learning: Communication
 - is vital