

Research and Action
A Social/Cultural Perspective

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Children, Culture and Our Community
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We have a shared Interest -

Building Research/Action links that benefit others

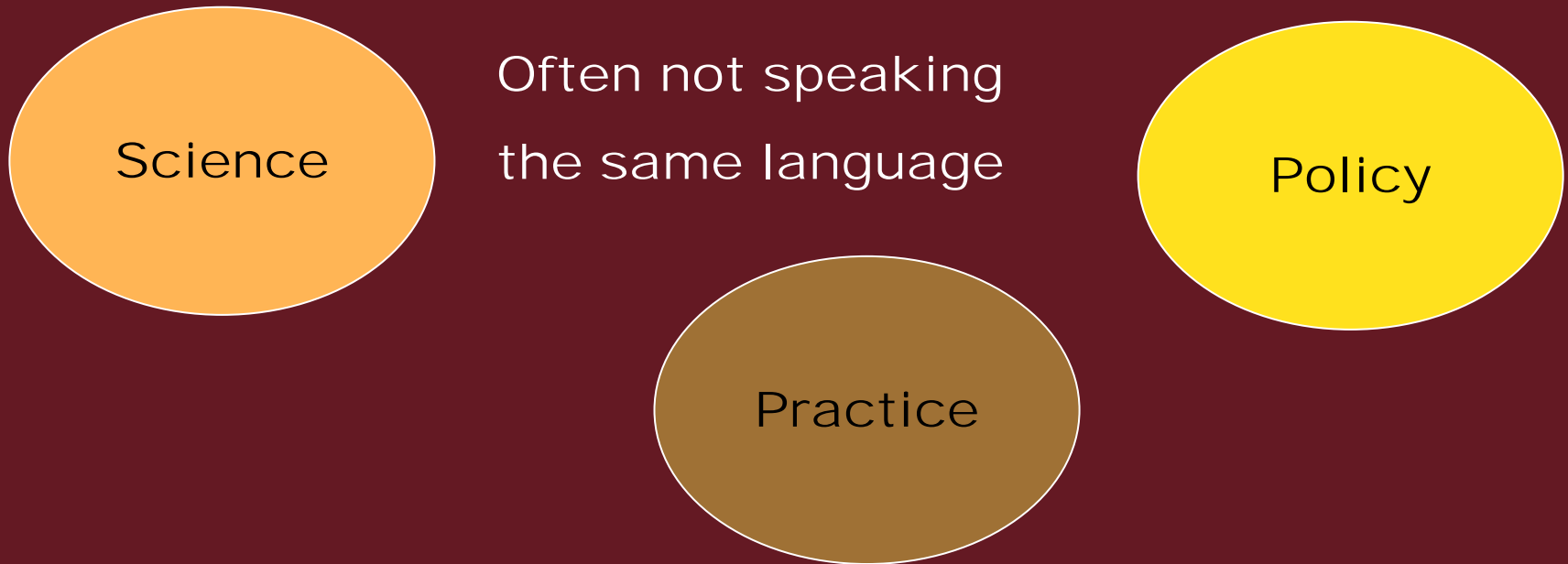
Proposed: A social/cultural perspective

- In essence? Here are groups of people
- they often see each other as
"different" as "not us"

A starting point - Shonkoff on

Research and Action as "3 Cultures"

"Three Cultures in Search of a Shared Mission" (Shonkoff)



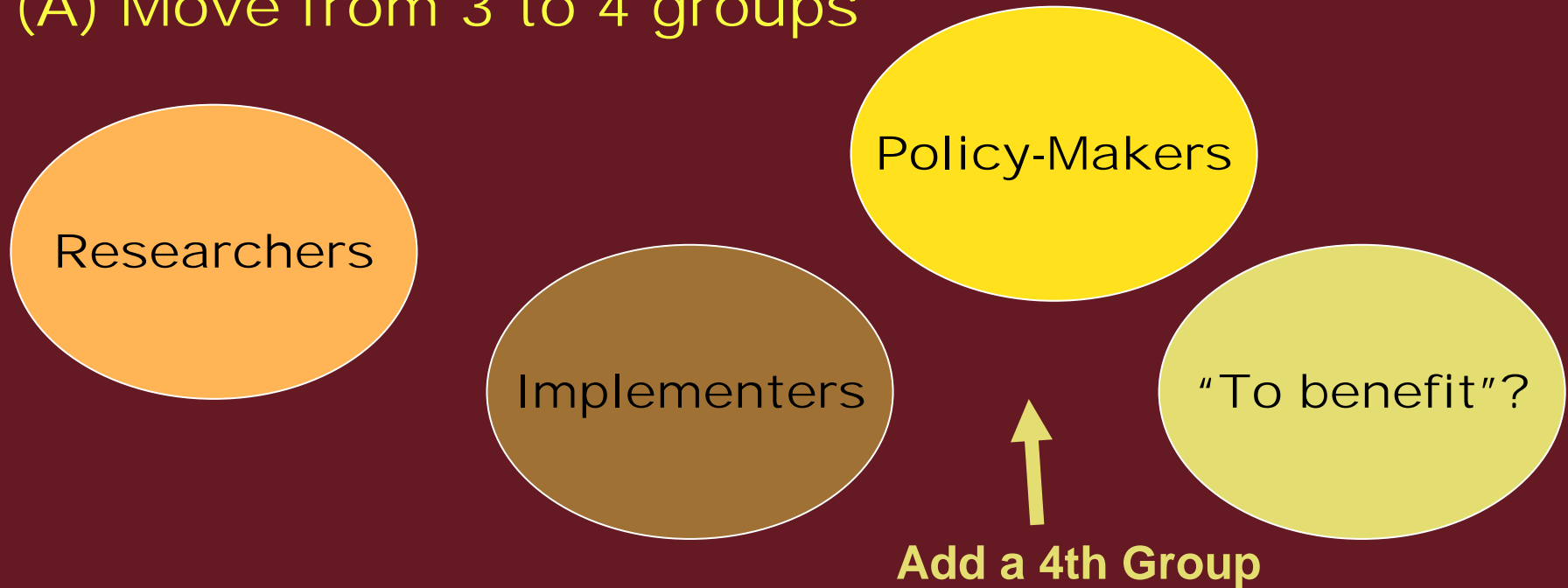
3 Expansions:

(A) 4 groups of people

(B) In Search of a Shared mission - Meanings?

(C) Different Cultures/ different languages - Meanings?

(A) Move from 3 to 4 groups



- First move:** Add #3 – Why?
- Next move:** Add #4, as “participants”?
(Even if they are children or....?)
- Next - Ask:** Why add them?
How?
Why often ignored?

(B) In Search of a Shared Mission"

Assumes similar goals? Just need a path?

But: "Multiplicity and contest" is most likely state

- **So? Expect - - negotiation, resistance, persuasion, compromise**
- **Ask: What forms of these are used? Seen as acceptable?**

Assumes unidirectionality? e.g., from 1 on

But: Can be the reverse e.g. from 2 to 1 - -

- **Policy says "fix problems"**
- **Researchers find problems, not strengths?**

➤ **So? Watch for other directions**

➤ **Ask: Who expects what directions?**

(C) Different Cultures / Different Languages -

Can we make this more specific?

- e.g. policy-makers on researchers' language
- e.g., group variations in question/answer patterns

More broadly: How do cultures differ?

Consider some contributions from -

- **Social psychology**
- **Anthropology**
- **Developmental psychology**

From Social Psychology

NB: Shortcuts/Blind spots in group perceptions

- Your "boxes" for people are the same as mine: Surprise!

➤ **So? To correct: Work from their categories**

➤ **Ask: What's the worst "category error"?**

- You are all alike ("outgroup homogeneity")

➤ **Ask again: Worst error?**

- Our ways are of course better

➤ **So? Remember: Applies also in reverse**

➤ **Remember history - "non verbal" African-Americans**

From Anthropology

NB: Proposals for differences relevant to intervention

- ***In cultural capital* - (knowing the system)**

➤ **Useful for intervention? (Cooper et al, 2005)**

- ***In “frames”* -
e.g., “this is “risk”, “your possible future”**

➤ **Intervention?
Aim at reframing - e.g. “possible selves”**

- ***In cultural models and cultural practices***

➤ **Intervention?
Remember practices
(more than adding information - e.g., parent education**

From Developmental Psychology

NB: Not one model or theory to a group

- **Our own theories may be “multiple and contested”**
- **“as the twig is bent”: it’s “fixed”**
- **“Life is not a rocket launch” (Shonkoff & Phillips)**

- **Relevant to intervention? - Model 2 says ...**
 - **Remember later years: later transitions and challenges**
 - **Remember recovery routes: Not all “prevention”**
 - **Ask: How to sustain? Not all just getting started**

Last Suggestions

Look to other content areas

- **For “cultural intreractions” - see Marcia Langton
On film and TV with and by Aboriginal Groups**
- **For negotiations / resistance / compromises etc.
Plus views of participation**
- **Look also for shared features
Not all differences**