

Understanding transformative change: designing an evaluation framework for a social participation intervention

Presented by

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There is now considerable evidence that civic engagement (defined as participation in group associations and activities) is good for an individual's health and some evidence that it may also contribute to community wellbeing. At the same time there is increasing interest in the role of the arts in contributing to individual and community health. However, research into the relationship between arts participation and health is patchy, contested and inconclusive. As a result, VicHealth has launched an ambitious project aimed at increasing participation in arts activities. LEAP stands for Localities Enhancing Arts Participation. LEAP is designed to increase participation in arts by strengthening arts infrastructure at a local level. This 'infrastructure' consists of networks of people, organisations, activities, events, resources and facilities. Designing an evaluation framework for such an intervention poses many challenges. How is participation in the arts defined? What does it mean to intervene at an infrastructure level? Who or what may be displaced by the intervention and how will we know? Can the transformative potential of the arts be realised and measured at an individual as well as a community level? This seminar will explore all of these questions in the context of recent debates surrounding complex interventions in public health.

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Room 410, Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street,

University of Melbourne

1pm

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