

SCRA Community Psychology Practice Council

Community Psychology Practitioner Profiles Project

Jim Emshoff, Ph. D.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Job Title	Co-President Director of Research
Workplace	EMSTAR Research Inc. Department of Psychology, Georgia State University
Location	Atlanta, Georgia
Email Address	jemshoff@gsu.edu jim@emstarresearch.com
Website	www.emstarresearch.com
Professional Affiliations	Society for Community Research and Action (APA Division 27)

Please describe the work you do, for pay, as a community psychologist, including the setting(s) where you work?

I have retired from my full-time career as a community psychologist in the Dept. of Psychology, Georgia State University. However, I still have a part-time research position there. In addition, I continue to do consultation and program evaluation at EMSTAR Research, which I helped to found 23 years ago.

What training/education do you have in community psychology?

Ph.D. - Michigan State U

Please describe how your training/education contributed to your work as a community psychologist. What do you view as the most important skills you learned in your training as a community psychologist.

You want me to remember my education from 30-35 years ago? I was lucky if I remembered it for a week for the next test! Seriously, I had great training and experience in program evaluation, and was turned on to the issues of dissemination and implementation research, which has been one of my areas of focus over the years. The concept of science as a road towards social justice was emphasized throughout my training.

What other experiences or training have contributed to or enhanced your ability to work as a community psychologist?

Diverse research settings, teaching, working in a variety of community settings.

Are there other ways you use your community psychology background and training, either unpaid or in paid roles other than your primary work?

I'd like to think it is part of how I view and respond to the world in general.

What advice might you give to students or people considering community psychology as a career?

Do it if it feels right. Don't do it if it doesn't. Don't worry (too much) about whether you will work or not. I don't know any unemployed community psychologists - we all seem to land on our feet in a variety of settings. Our training and skills prepare us for many valuable roles.