

# Creating Oppositional Knowledge as a Black Feminist

Richards explores how community-based participatory research (CBPR) can radically reform the idea of critical distance in sociology in favor of locating oneself "in community, opting for moments of distance instead of a lifetime of it" (p. 217). She discusses ten principles of CBPR and relates them to three of her community projects which allowed her to foster mutual relationships for social action and generate critical Black feminist scholarship.

## Principles for CPBR (p. 219)

1. **Focus on topics relevant to local communities**
2. Recognize, distinguish, and respect community as a unique and vital partner in the research process
3. **Facilitate collaborative, equitable partnership in all phases of the research**
4. Embrace the skills, strengths, resources, and assets of local individuals and organizations
5. **Openly address issues of race, ethnicity, racism and social class, and embody humility**
6. Balance between research and social action
7. **Promote co-learning and capacity building that attend to social inequalities**
8. Develop cyclical and interactive processes.
9. **Disseminate knowledge gained to the broader community and involve all partners in the wider dissemination process**
10. Offer a long-term commitment to all partners and support sustainability



Black feminist sociology (BFS) believes in Black women's creative power. CBPR engages Black women in communities to document their knowledge and develop new methods to distribute knowledge.

## Project 1: Walkability

**Goal:** Increase walking and biking in neighborhoods  
Richards discussed project plans and budgets with residents before submitting it to her faculty advisors. Black feminism values sharing resources like providing monetary compensation for participants and community researchers.



## Project 2: Student Health

**Goal:** Address health concerns of children in predominantly Black and Latino communities to facilitate academic success  
Richards involved the focus community to ensure families' concerns were addressed by the research process. Residents received training to help disseminate the study findings to school administration and staff.

## Project 3: Resisting Gentrification

**Goal:** Protect and revive a Black community experiencing gentrification  
Richards encouraged the self-determination of residents and stakeholders to address socio-political and economic issues facing the neighborhood. Equitable collaboration includes caring for oneself and others while dismantling hierarchal systems and norms promoted by academia.

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[www.blackfeministsociology.com](http://www.blackfeministsociology.com)

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