



@advancingresrch #AR2023  
27 March 2023



# The Politics of Radical Research: From Extraction to Collective Liberation

SAHIBZADA MAYED

Liberatory, Emancipatory, and Visionary Experience Designer

REFLECT ON HARM REDUCTION and TRAUMA-CENTERED PRACTICES

THIS IS A CRITICAL CONVERSATION, AS WE CAN BENEFIT FROM and BE HARMED BY the SAME SYSTEMS

## Welcome

In this portal of the pluriverse, we engage in collective sense-making. We are not here to learn answers, rather we seek to explore the complexities and messy entanglements that emerge from our shared visions of moving toward less extractive, decolonial, and liberating outcomes for research.

### EMPATHY

is a baseline not an END GOAL

"If you walk in someone else's shoes, then you've taken their shoes."

-WENDY HUI KYONG CHUN



The true focus of revolutionary change is never merely the oppressive situations which we seek to escape, but that piece of the oppressor that lives in all of us. — AUDRE LORDE

## Deconstructing the Money Pipeline

Compensation CRITICAL TO RESEARCH

YET

We often feel ENTITLED to people's insights for that specific time

- WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXTRACT A PERSON'S LIVED EXPERIENCE
- WHAT THEY SHARE SHOULD BE SEEN AS A GIFT

What does FAIR, GENEROUS RESEARCH look like?... in terms of RECIPROCITY?

Clients/customers/Employers (FUNDING SOURCES)  
Align with those who reflect your own values

PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN REPRODUCING SYSTEMIC HARM & INEQUITIES

What role does TIME play as a FORM of CURRENCY in contributing to extractive methods?



This is not a MINING OPERATION  
Research feels extractive Don't engage in insight mining

CAN BE USED AS SOCIAL CONTROL & DOMINATION

WE USE TIME PRESSURE AS AN EXCUSE TO NOT CHANGE OUR METHODS and TO RESIST BROADER CHANGES



AT WHAT and WHOSE COST DO WE ENGAGE in RESEARCH?

WE RARELY EXAMINE THE HUMAN COST OF THE WORK

WHAT RIGHT DO WE HAVE?

- DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN A RIGHT and AN ENTITLEMENT  
Parse the feelings that arise
- UNDERSTAND ACCESS and PRIVILEGE Who gets to engage in research and who is taken seriously as a researcher
- BALANCE THE SCALE BETWEEN RIGHT and RESPONSIBILITY  
Whether you have the right or not, you have the RESPONSIBILITY

What if I refuse to participate?

- You have a choice AGENCY & CONTROL  
- Remaining silent is a choice

Who has the tools and resources... Usually has access to decision making and large-scale community impact

Systemic biases and inequities; the 'right' to engage in the work

OTHERS LAND WE INHABIT THE PLANET

NOTE: The talk goes deeper into rights and engagement scenarios

## Situating Ourselves

Everything has MULTIPLICITY

So we need to grasp complexity Move away from simplistic, binary forms of thinking



HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE AS RESEARCHERS and DESIGNERS and CONSIDER THE IMPACT of OUR WORK?



IN WHAT WAYS ARE WE COMPLICIT IN REPRODUCING HARM and SOCIAL INEQUITIES? How to position our role in participation in harmful/oppressive systems?



WHAT ARE WE PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW? (attributed to Toni Cade Bambara)  
What are we neglecting that's right in front of us?

This whole talk topic is a lot! Let's take a moment to pause and reflect.

- WHAT EMOTIONS ARE COMING UP FOR YOU?
- WHERE ARE THOSE EMOTIONS IN YOUR BODY?
- HOW ARE YOU RESPONDING TO THEM?

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING bit.ly/radicalresearch2023