“Why sit ye here and die...If we sit here, we shall die. Come let us plead our cause before [society].”

-- Maria W. Miller Stewart, 1832 (An African American domestic servant who became a teacher, journalist, lecturer, abolitionist, and women's rights activist.)
Operational Definitions

Research is defined as the systematic, controlled, empirical and critical investigation of hypothetical propositions about presumed relations among natural phenomena.

Practice aims to serve the needs of others, either directly or indirectly.

Policy seeks to solve, reduce and prevent problems.
Social Change Process

**Knowledge**
What is known about Black girls?

**Policies**
What plans and systems have been in place to address the needs of Black girls?

**Attitudes**
What do people think and feel about Black girls?

**Action**
What actions have been performed to address the needs of Black girls?

**Capacity**
What can people do to address the needs of Black girls?

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“Many of the students in the course explain how their discomfort is a result of race being a taboo topic for them. They express concerns such as not wanting their comments to appear racially insensitive, racist, prejudiced, or politically incorrect. Yet, facilitators guiding race-related discussions cannot allow individuals’ discomfort or ignorance about race to become an escape for not addressing and analyzing their own beliefs about race. Teacher educators should be willing to push students into the uncomfortable spaces where race is being discussed on an in-depth level. Students can be asked to think about why race was not a part of their upbringing, or challenged to think about why students of color believe that race and racism are real issues in their lives.”

-Tyrone Howard, Ph.D. http://www.nea.org/tools/48838.htm

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My APPROACH

- Black Feminist-Womanist Research (Collins, 2010; Lindsay-Dennis, 2015; Phillips, 2006)
  - Strength focused
  - Recognizes how intersectionality influences the researcher and participants
  - Bricolage
  - Engagement of the Self and Spirit
    - Participatory Witnessing
  - Embraces Mixed Methodology
    - Seeks to tell the whole story with both qualitative and quantitative data
  - Transformative
    - Need to talk back to/for/with participants
    - Commitment to data-driven social change
#BlackLivesMatter was created in 2012 after Trayvon Martin’s murderer, George Zimmerman, was acquitted for his crime, and dead 17-year old Trayvon was posthumously placed on trial for his own murder.
Evans-Winters and Esposito (2010) state “girls of African descent are at the bottom of the social totem pole in society; thus, there is an urgent need for a theoretical framework that serves to expose, confront and eradicate race, class and gender oppression in our families, communities and schools (p. 22).”
“The colored woman of today occupies, one might say, a unique position in this country...She is confronted by a woman question and a race problem, and is as yet an unknown or unacknowledged factor in both.” (Anna Julia Cooper, 1892)

Mary Church Terrell (1904) proposed that black girls are not only “handicapped on account of their sex, but they are almost everywhere baffled and mocked because of their race. Not only because they are women, but because they are colored women” (as cited in King, 1982, p. 265).
SAY HER NAME
RESISTING POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST BLACK WOMEN

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“Black [GIRLS] are in need of a secure sense of personal identity, self-confidence and racial pride. As racial minority in a society with deals harshly with them, they are too often unable to articulate satisfactory answers to the questions: Who Am I? What is my group identity? What is my racial heritage?”

I. A. Newby
BLACK HOLOCAUST
OVER 100,000,000 STOLEN

So we're all Black people, so-called negroes, evildoers. You don't like to be told that. But what is, you are? You didn't come on the Mayflower; you came on slave ships, in chains, like a horse, or a chicken. And you were brought here by the Muslims and so-called founding fathers. They are the ones who brought you here!

Malcolm X

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Headlines & Turbulent Times 1960s - 1990s

SAN KOFIA
(Go back to fetch it)
Symbol of the Wisdom in Learning from the Past in Building the Future.

BLACK HISTORY

FOR COLORED ONLY

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Domestic Violence Fact:
Nearly 1 in 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
Black girls are perceived as...

- At-risk (Henry, 1998)
- Resilient (Cogburn & Chavous, 2007)
- Unmotivated
- Loud (Evans, 1988; Fordham, 1996)
- Independent (Grant, 1988)
- Mature (Grant, 1998)
- Hypersexual
- Victims (Tonnesen, 2013)
- Obese
- Influenced by the media

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Anti-Social and Pro-Social Behavior

- Anti-Social Behavior
  - Social confrontation, aggressiveness, and defiance of authority figures. 
    - Those Loud Black Girls (Evans, 1989)
    - Teacher expressed intimidation (Rosen et al., 2010)

- Pro-social behavior
  - Caretaking, independence, and strengths (Grant, 1998)
  - Little Mammies and Managers to nurture and police classrooms
  - Studies have also shown that teachers’ emphasis on the maturity of their African American female students may pose a significant threat to girls’ immediate and future achievement (Grant, 1984, Evans-Winters, 2005).
“If I didn’t define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people’s fantasies for me and eaten alive.” – Audre Lorde
How do Black girls see themselves?

- "Like a lot about themselves (Frazier et al, 2011)
  - Their bodies
  - Skin complexion
  - Ability to stick up for themselves
  - Their independence

- Influences on their lives
  - Family (i.e. mother)
  - Close friends
  - Spirituality/religious practices
Project PUSH: Mentoring for African American Girls

What does P.U.S.H. stand for?
- Purposeful
- Unique
- Services for
- Healthy girls.

This program seeks to prepare young women to become leaders in their schools, communities, and larger society.

Funded by the CSRA Community Foundation 2012-2013
BLACK GIRLS MATTER: SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY PROJECT

- Active Facebook Page with over 1,000 followers
  - Posts about current events that influence Black Girls’ lives
  - Posts about notable Black girls and women
  - Posts about programs, policies, and relevant research about/on/for Black girls
WHAT I AM DOING NEXT?

- Culturally Responsive STEM program for Black Girls
- Digital fabrication, graphic design and FASHION
Closing Thoughts

- A need for an integrated perspective to address diverse needs of Black girls.