

MIZZOU

**Immigrant Integration &  
Sustainable Rural Development:  
Linking Receiving &  
Newcomer Communities**

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# Objectives

- 1) To develop acculturation profiles of receiving communities and Latino newcomers;**
- 2) To design, facilitate, and evaluate processes of community integration through action research;**
- 3) To develop quantitative tools to assess outcomes of the community integration process.**

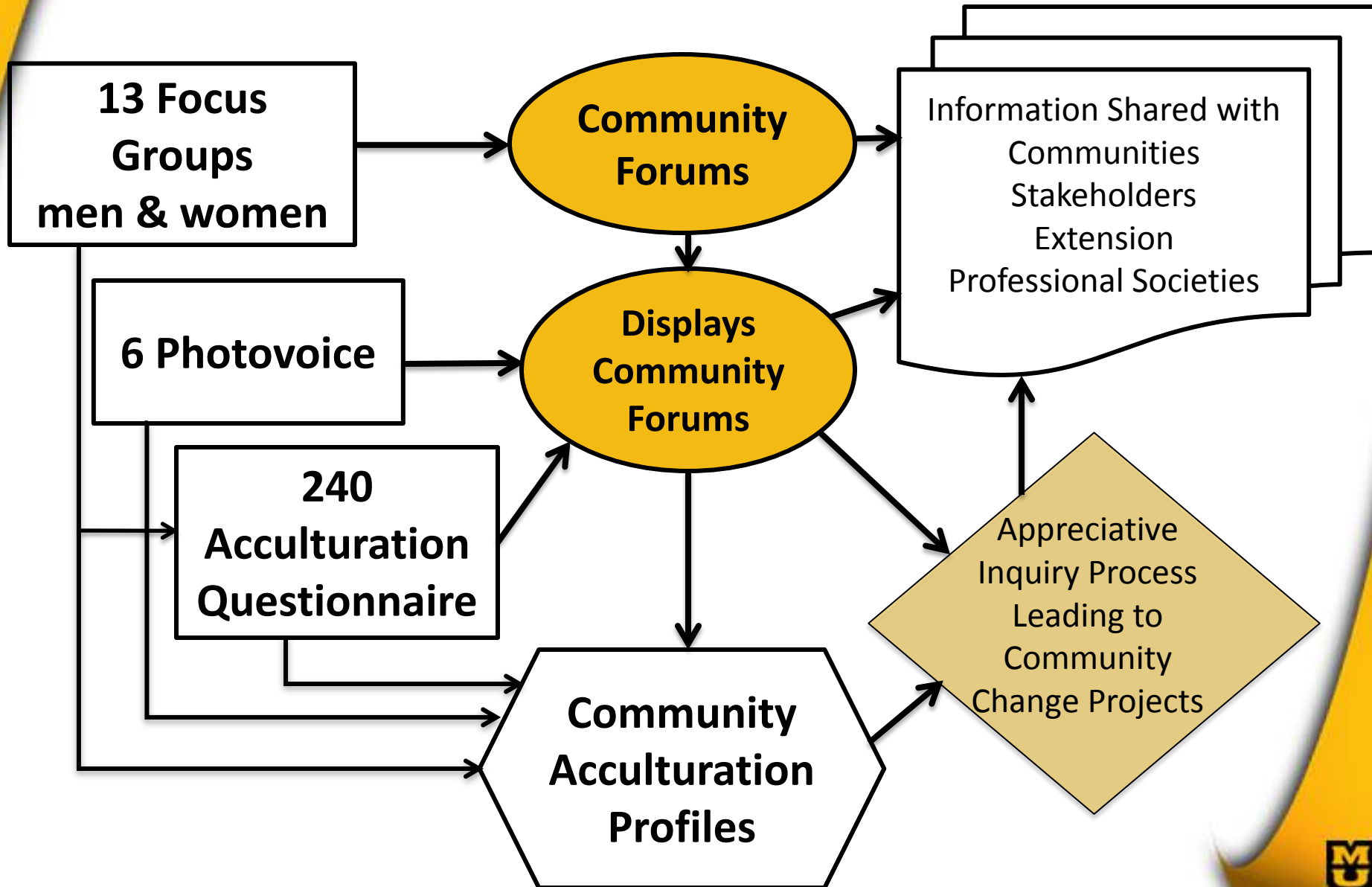
# Frameworks

- Assets – Livelihoods
- Ecological model - Context of Reception
- Human Agency – Acculturation
- [Interactive Acculturation Model](#)
- Theory of change – Appreciative Inquiry

Valdivia, C., & Flores, L.Y. (2012). Factors Affecting the Job Satisfaction of Latino/a Immigrants in the Midwest. *Journal of Career Development*, 39: 31-49.

Valdivia, C., Jeanetta, S., Flores, L.Y., Morales, A., & Martinez, D. (2012). Latino/a Wealth and Livelihood Strategies in Rural Midwestern Communities. *Choices*. The magazine of Food, Farm, and Resources Issues

# Activities Phases & Process



# Focus Group Interview Protocol

- **Community**

- *How did you end up in this community?*
- *What is it like to live in this community?*
- *What would you like us to know about your community?*

- **Relationships**

- *Where do you find support?*
- *How are these relationships helpful to you?*
- *Tell us of opportunities you have had to interact with members of the receiving/newcomer community.*
- *How would you like to see relationships develop between receiving and newcomer communities here?*

# Data Analyses

Read through transcripts by two independent coders  
(~2 hours/~25 pages each)

Divide the text into segments of information  
(~6-9 hours)

Label segments with codes based on theoretical  
frameworks (~10-12 hours)

Reduce redundancy of codes and compare between  
two coders (~4 hours)

Collapse codes into themes (~4 hours)

# Focus Group Themes Across the Three Communities

- Community Appeal
- Integration Attitudes
- Community Progress

## Community Appeal

## Integration Attitudes

## Community Progress

### Long-time Residents

- Economic opportunities
- Educational opportunities (#2, 3)
- Small town atmosphere
- Natural landscape
- Attachment to community

- Attitude toward Change
- Perceptions of Immigration/Immigration Policy
- Perceived supports & barriers to integration (#2, 3)
- Perceptions of “Other” Community

Ideas for integration

### Latino/a Newcomers

- Economic opportunities
- Educational opportunities
- Small town atmosphere
- Natural landscape (#1)
- Attachment to community

- Perceptions of Immigration/Immigration Policy
- Perceptions of “Other” Community

Ideas for integration



# Photovoice Questions & Process

- Photovoice Questions
  - *Where are those places in the community that promote interaction with people who do not look like you?*
  - *Where are those places in the community that represent barriers to interaction with people who do not look like you?*
- Six Photovoice panels of 8 people each (3 with receiving communities & 3 with newcomer communities)
- Each consists of three sessions
  - Session 1: Orientation & first question
  - Session 2: Review First question & second question
  - Session 3: Review third question
- Community forums to share results & launch appreciative Inquiry process

# Acculturation Profile Questionnaire

- Developed receiving community & Latino/a newcomer instruments (Spanish & English)
- Constructs assessed include acculturation, context of reception, capital measures
- Pilot tested
- IRB approved

Valdivia, C., et al, 2012. *Choices*; Valdivia & Flores. 2012. *JCD*; Valdivia, et al 2008 *AJAE*.

In preparation: Valdivia et al, Sustainable rural development: acculturation profiles and immigrant integration;

Flores et al, Immigrants' Perceptions of the Community: A Scale Development

Study. Morales, A. & Valdivia, C. (2013). A Multiple Case Study Analysis of Latino Immigrant Men Settling in the Rural Midwest. (revise & resubmit)



# Outcomes

- Focus group & forums in English and Spanish:
  - Differing perceptions of community; both communities experience language barriers; recognize difficulties, want to address these and learn from each other
  - Changes happening, desire to increase contact, need help with this; lack understanding of what it would take
  - Ideas revolve around youth, creating awareness, access
- Cambio de Colores Panel: exchange of experiences, building networks in the Midwest
- NCERA Webinar: outreach / methodologies

# Outcomes

## Sharing with Peers:

- Latino and Latina Immigrants in Rural Communities in the Midwest: Wellbeing and How Acculturation Strategies, Networks, and the Context of Reception Matter. *Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) 4th Biennial Conference*, New York, NY.
- Immigrants' perceptions of the community: A scale development study. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the National Latino/a Psychological Association, New Brunswick, NJ
- *To integrate or separate? Acculturation processes across diverse Latino populations and contexts*. Symposia. National Latino/a Psychological Association, New Brunswick, NJ.

## Sharing with Stakeholders:

- Community Forums on Focus Group Findings
- Advisory Board
- Cambio de Colores 2012. Community Voices and the Welcome Mat in Mid Missouri.

## Training:

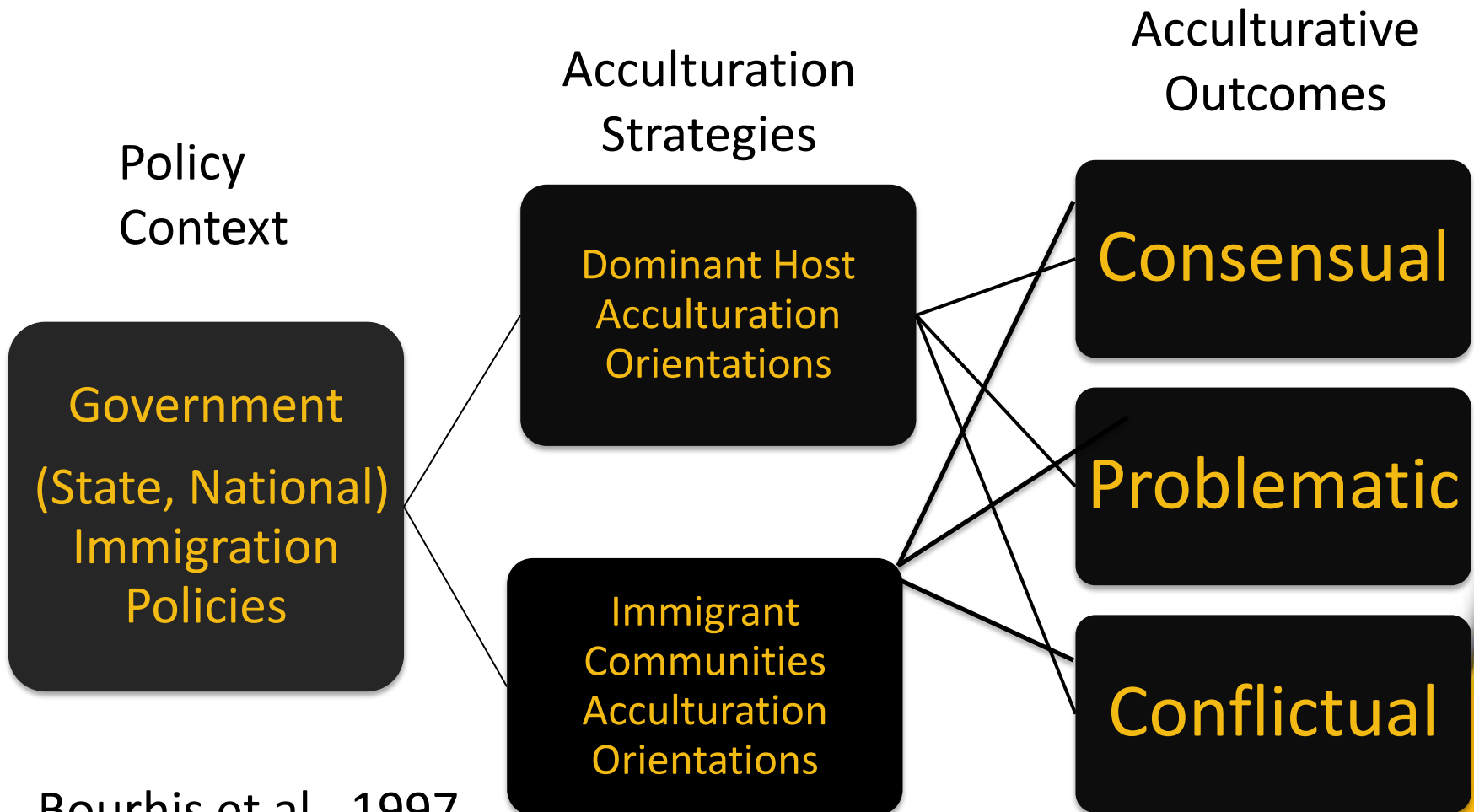
- Webinar, NCERA 216 North Central Education and Research Activity. Methodological Approaches and Considerations for Community Action Research With Latino Communities. December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- 3 graduate students; 4 faculty; content analysis methodologies



# Thank you!

- Acknowledgement: This project is supported by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture NIFA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Economics and Rural Development. Grant # 2011-67023-30105.
- Project's Website: The Integration Project: *Immigrant Integration & Sustainable Rural Development: Linking Receiving & Newcomer Communities*  
<http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Integration/>

# Interactive Acculturation Model



Bourhis et al., 1997