



Exploring how community based organizations tackle the issue of gentrification



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LOCATION: London, United Kingdom

Population: 66 million (2017)
Capital: London

One of the most developed countries in the world, the UK has a diverse community within its capital London. Including housing a large Latin-American population.

Latino(a)(x)/Hispanic=Latin American

- Those that identify as someone from a Latin American country identify themselves as Latin American.

History of Latin Americans in UK

According to a 2011 census, Latin Americans were reported to have a population of around 186,000 in the UK of which nearly 145,000 reside in London.

Latin-Americans have become a significant part of the population in London and has only recently been added as a category for monitoring community participation in 2016.

- However, not all the boroughs in London have continued to include Latin American as a category.

Placement/Project Information

The purpose of the Global Independent Study was to understand how Latin-American migrants have been dealing with a variety of issues that have emerged from the decision of the UK to leave the European Union. This would evolve into working with community organizations on how Latin American communities have been dealing with the issue of “urban regeneration” otherwise known as gentrification.

Agency/Community Partner

Save Latin Village

- Organization that has been working with a variety of different entities to ensure the existence of the Seven Sisters Indoor Market
- Has over 40 different stores of various different Latin American countries
- Is part of a network that includes traders, the Tottenham city council, as well as a think tank working to support a community plan to keep the market active.

Outcomes

During my time with Latin Village, I was able to conduct survey work alongside with the traders of the market to provide further evidence of the market’s cultural significance.

Learned through key informant interviews their perspective on the current “urban regeneration” that is happening in Tottenham and how a community based organization has been able to work alongside other agencies to keep the market from being shut down.

Skills Utilized while in London

As a future macro-practitioner, I was able to begin improving my skills in the following areas:

1. Conducting survey and key informant interviews with stakeholders in the community
2. Working on community proposals and involving the community members
3. Research
4. Communication with members of community in order to make sure I was able to gain their trust as I am an outsider who came in to volunteer with Save Latin Village.

Classroom Connections

The class I can think of that has been pivotal in my learning experience while I was abroad in London was SW 560. I was able to conduct a community assessment in which I spoke with stakeholders of the organization through key informant interviews which would later be presented to the organization. I learned how to engage with a client as well as ensuring I had the permission to speak with them and collect data relevant to the work I was doing.

Lessons Learned

I felt that this experience was what I needed to confirm the type of work I want to do-community practice on both a domestic and global level. As a macro practitioner, I want to engage in a way that combines my passion for policy advocacy, research, and community integration. I learned to begin adapting these ideas through survey work and through meetings with members of the market] and I realized how much I enjoy doing so with a global lens aspect.

Career Connections

As a macro practitioner, I want to engage in a way that combines my passion for policy advocacy, research, and community integration. I learned to begin adapting these ideas through survey work and through meetings with members of the market] and I realized how much I enjoy doing so with a global lens aspect.

Advice

For those planning on conducting a Global independent Study, my advice is to not be afraid when choosing the place to go. I was afraid going somewhere unknown, but if helps build your passion for social work, I say do it. Also make sure that the site you go to will see you as an outsider and it’s your job to make sure you work on their time not yours-their perspectives will help you so much along the way.

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