Unfinished Business

From the Great Migration to Black Lives Matter

Introductions

Musical Documentary   Stephanie C. Boddie, PhD, MSW

Over My Head   Arranged by Evelyn Simpson Cureton
M*y Lord What a Mornin'*   *Arranged by Harry T. Burleigh*
Angel's Hovrin' Round   Arranged by Uzee Brown
Oh What a Beautiful City   Arranged by Edward Boatner

Q&A

1. What is <u>*your personal*</u> "unfinished business" related to racial identity?

2. What is <u>*your community's*</u> "unfinished business" related to race relation?

3. What is <u>*our nation's*</u> "unfinished business" related to systemic racism?

Stephanie Clintonia Boddie, PhD
Stephanie Boddie is an assistant professor of church and community ministries at the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, the George W. Truett Theological Seminary and the School of Education. She is also a Fox Leadership Alumni Fellow and a Program for Research on Religion & Urban Civil Society Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania as well as a Faculty Associate at the Washington University's Center for Social Development. Her research explores 20th and 21st century black community and faith-based organizations, African American urban life, religion, social policy, and entrepreneurship. Her work has appeared in four books, numerous book chapters, journal articles, other short films as well as op-eds featured in Time, Jet and Ebony.

Unfinished Business: Storytelling Research
Stephanie C. Boddie, PhD, MSW

What is storytelling research?
It is a process of <u>gathering and making stories.</u>
Storytelling research helps researchers, clients and other stakeholders make sense of complex situations, particularly understanding and interpreting the world (Harrington & Mickelson, 2009). It is primarily used before quantitative methods like surveys to gain a better understanding of the issues or to analyze and synthesize data (Sanders, 2000; Wilkins, 2004). Stories are engaging, memorable, and powerful communication tools.

Why storytelling research?
It helps explore complicated issues and possible solutions, generate feedback, develop empathy, establish common ground, elicit participation, define solutions, experience something new, and provide inspiration for future work (Gruen, 2000; Parrish, 2006).

What are the challenges of storytelling research?
There is limited ability to generalize or lack of acceptance in some settings due to the level of subjectivity.

What is a story building process?
Adapted from Wilkins, the steps are as follows:
1. *Share individual stories on a defined topic*
2. *Connect stories to other sources shared by the storyteller (e.g., photos, letters, journals, maps) or other primary or secondary sources (e.g., news articles, books).*
3. *Re-tell stories publicly modified by others input including the storytellers.*
4. *Analyze and recast stories exploring themes and patterns (content analysis), reviewing the language used (discourse analysis), and assessing the arc of the stories as it relates to the participants experiences (structural analysis).*
5. *Contextualize stories based on previous steps and all information gathered including a literature review.*
6. *Verify the interpretation of the story is accurate.*
7. *Create a group story in which participants can see their collective story.*

What are the types of storytelling techniques?

Digital storytelling	*Visual storytelling*	*Storyboards*	*Talk & Image*
Scenario generation	*Skits/plays*	*Animation*	*Text & Image*

Stories matter. *Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people but stories can also repair that broken dignity… When we reject the story. When we realize that there is never a single story, we regain a kind of paradise.*
Chimananda Ngozi Adichie, award-winning author