Leadership and Organization for Community Prevention and Intervention in Venezuela

Edited by Maritza Montero, PhD
Professor, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela

Improve decision-making skills for community organizations and their leaders—from a participatory perspective!

This book will show you how (and why) participatory communities come into being and what they can accomplish, regardless of the current political climate. You’ll find ethnographic and psychosocial perspectives on the relationship between families and community organizations, leadership interventions designed to facilitate more effective decision-making, and more—all from organizations making a very real difference in a country that has had a strong community work tradition since the 1960s.

This book presents an essential overview of the dynamics of urban low-income communities in Venezuela. With examples drawn from organizations designed to help a population that has been neglected by its government, Leadership and Organization for Community Prevention and Intervention in Venezuela is a unique source of inspiration and practical know-how. The intensive training workshops and restructuring projects documented in this book have proven to be positive and effective tools, strengthening Venezuelan communities despite the political unrest that has plagued the country.

With this book, you’ll examine the interaction between community organization and leadership—using the liberating, dialogic, reflective, and conscientization approach developed by Latin American community psychology. The book’s approach is grounded and realistic. It highlights the outcomes of the authors’ participatory research and action in urban Venezuelan communities, focusing on organization, participation, modes of leadership, decision-making and meta-decision-making, the moral development—and moral dilemmas—of community leaders, and the interrelationship between family systems and community in Venezuela.


In Leadership and Organization for Community Prevention and Intervention in Venezuela, you’ll learn how community organizations are:
• providing shelter for people displaced by natural disasters
• providing essential services when the government can’t—or won’t
• establishing community leadership roles—and helping community leaders to work more effectively
• transforming the perspectives of community leaders—from narcissistic to altruistic
• and much more!

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- Presentation (Maritza Montero)
- Organization and Leadership in the Participatory Community (Euclides Sánchez)
- Moral Dilemmas of Community Leaders and Sense of Community (Levy Farias and Gloria Perdomo)
- Community Leaders: Beyond Duty and Above Self-Contendedness (Maritza Montero)
- Metadecision: Training Community Leaders for Effective Decision-Making (Eneiza Hernández)
- Community and Families: Social Organization and Interaction Patterns (Maria Luisa Lodo-Patone)
- Index
- Reference Notes Included

About the Editor
Maritza Montero, PhD, is Professor and Coordinator of Psychology Doctorate Studies at Universidad Central de Venezuela. She received her MSc in Psychology from Universidad “Simón Bolívar,” in Venezuela and her PhD in Sociology from Université de Paris in France. Dr. Montero is the co-founder of the Venezuelan Social Psychology Association and founder of “Constelacion Venezolana,” a community program that incorporates art and reflection and is designed to empower children from low-income and urban poverty zones. She has published several books and papers on community psychology and is an associate editor of the American Journal of Community Psychology and member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Community Psychology and Community Work and Family among others. In 2000 Dr. Montero received the Venezuelan National Social Science Award, and in 1995 she received the Interamerican Society of Psychology Award.

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