Just Showing Up: Social and Cultural Capital in Everyday Life

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Accounting for Culture: Examining the Building Blocks of Cultural Citizenship
November 15, 2003
Outline of presentation

- What we know about social and cultural capital
- Knowledge gaps with regard to social and cultural capital and the construction of citizens
- Questions for policy and decision makers
Definitions

Social capital

- “Social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them” (Putnam)

- Three types:
  - Bonding
  - Bridging
  - Linking
Definitions

Cultural capital

- The “disposal of taste” or “consumption of specific cultural forms that mark people as members of specific classes” (Bourdieu)

- Three types:
  - Habitus
  - Means of cultural expression
  - Institutionalized
Why is this important for cultural citizenship?

- Four possible linkages between cultural capital and citizenship:
  - personal empowerment
  - cultural participation
  - cultural development and quality of life
  - cultural sustainability
Cultural capital and personal empowerment

Cultural capital improves:

- academic performance
- family-school relationships
- marital prospects
- physical fitness
- children’s psycho-social development
Cultural capital and participation

Cultural capital may:

- Promote partnerships, cooperation and intercultural understanding
- Build community connections, local networks and "bridging" social capital
- Promote voluntarism
Cultural capital, cultural development and quality of life in communities

Cultural capital may:

- attract creative talent and knowledge workers
- attract investment and redevelopment
- promote the health and well-being of citizens
- enhance community identity and social cohesion
Cultural capital and cultural sustainability

Cultural capital may play a role in:

- maintaining the vitality of human societies
- sustaining the economic and social well-being of communities
Policy questions

- What is the role of culture in the creation of citizens?
- What is the role of culture in the creation of social spaces?
- What research and tools are required to understand how individuals and communities build social and cultural capital?