

Preface

Community psychology studies the individuals' contexts within communities and the wider society and the relationships of the individual to communities and society. Community psychologists seek to understand the quality of life of individuals within groups, organizations and institutions, communities, and society. Their aim is to enhance quality of life through collaborative research and action. Community psychology employs various perspectives within and outside psychology to address issues of communities, the relationships within them, and related people's attitudes and behavior. Rappaport (1977) discusses the perspective of community psychology as an ecological perspective on the person–environment fit (this is often related to work environments) being the focus of study and action instead of attempting to change the personality of individual or the environment when an individual is seen as having a problem. Community psychology grew out of the community mental health movement, but evolved dramatically as early practitioners incorporated their understandings of political structures and other community contexts into perspectives on client services.¹

In the present book, fifteen typical literatures about community psychology published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on ecological psychology, environmental psychology, cross-cultural psychology, social psychology, political science, social work, applied anthropology, and community development, *ect.* We hope this book can demonstrate advances in community psychology as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

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¹ From Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_psychology