

## **Strange Bedfellows: A Transformative Community-Based Research Project Inspired by Hannah Arendt and Dorothy E. Smith**

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This article reveals the sociological and political origins of a community-based research project. I describe the project's grounding in the materialist sociology, institutional ethnography as well as in a philosophical exploration of politics and the 'public sphere.' I describe how these contradictory perspectives inspired a community-based research project that aims to make visible the organization of youth homelessness. My objective is to show how the project's activist goals have a theoretical (as well as material) orientation. I elucidate what I observe to be connections between Hannah Arendt's sense of action and appearance in the public sphere and Dorothy E. Smith's use of standpoint, as a means of highlighting the theoretical and political motivations underlying the research. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2009 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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