

Model of Civic Community: Conceptualizing Community for Democratic Practice

Yong Jun Shin¹

Community has been recognized as necessary unit for democracy. The contemporary configuration of our communities requires us to develop a comprehensive model of community, through which we can assess its internal and external dynamics. Moreover, the community model should embrace potential to enhance civic engagement and democratic practices in order to improve local communities' strategies for addressing many emerging issues. For this, I develop a *model of civic community* based on a critical review and synthesis of three influential modern social thinkers' theories: Talcott Parsons's system theory, Pierre Bourdieu's field theory and Jürgen Habermas's theories of communicative action. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2008 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

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Although community is a morally charged type of human collective life, we must notice that its deepest driving force is derived from human beings' essential needs of survival and growth. Community serves for people by protecting its members from external threats and allowing them to efficiently obtain and manage resources, while human morality evolves, as some moral philosophers and evolutionary biologists have

¹ **Yong Jun Shin** (M.A., Communication-Urban Studies, Michigan State University, 2004) is a doctoral candidate in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is currently working on his dissertation research about urban politics and communication ecology, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and also supported by the James W. Carey Urban Communication Award from the International Communication Association. Address correspondence to: Yong Jun Shin, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 5115 Vilas Hall, 821 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706; tel:608-209-5407; e-mail: yjshin@wisc.edu.