Dissertation Foundations

Tamar M. Shaw

Omega Graduate School

Date (May 26, 2023)

Professor

Dr. Joshua Reichard, Ph.D.

Assignment

### *60 Day Developmental Readings*

Review 100-day assignment, course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

Each OGS program and Core has specific grading criteria for Developmental Readings. Follow the **Developmental Reading Rubrics** for the **required number of sources, comments, and quality criteria**.

See the **General Helps** in **AA-101 The Gathering Place in DIAL**for the following resources:

* Refer to the “NEW Student Guide to Developmental Readings” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.
* Download the “NEW Developmental Reading Assignment Template” Word document to begin writing your developmental reading assignment.
* For **grading criteria**, go to the “NEW Developmental Reading Rubrics” document.
* Document all sources in APA style, 7th edition ([APA 7 Reference Example](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MOW2xmjS9fBRboojA-ADFQBlpahm2iFM/view?usp=sharing), [APA 7 Quick Guide](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/documents/APA%20Poster%2010.22.12.png)) for in-text citations and for Works Cited. Include page numbers.
* Include a separate **Works Cited** page, formatted according to APA style, 7th edition.
* Submit through **DIAL** to the professor.

**Source One:** Arbaci, S., Bricocoli, M., & Salento, A. (2021). The value of the city. rent extraction, right to housing and conflicts for the use of urban space.*Partecipazione e Conflitto, 14*(2), 774-787. https://doi.org/10.1285/i20356609v14i2p774

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Finally, broader political-moral justifications underpin the constitutional arrangements of many European democratic states, whereby housing is conceived as a basic need, and therefore as a social right” (p. 776).

**Essential Element:**

Understand what a research topic is

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The concept of political-moral justifications in the context of affordable housing is an addition to my knowledge.

**Contextualization:**

As challenging as the task may be, housing is a basic right and I do believe the government should be judged on its intentions and commitment to providing such a basic right to its citizens. Agreeing on the fact that housing is a social right, I believe it is also the governments and society’s responsibility to provide not only housing but also a type of housing that transforms and elevates. Hosing must be an interdisciplinary effort. Having worked in affordable housing for so long, I’ve been privy to partnerships between the government, social workers, health professionals and nonprofit driven development companies.

It is all our moral duty, not just the government, to assure that this crucial infrastructure is stable and effective. It is my desire to transition from a hands-on housing management professional to a social scientist and academic in further contributing to the improvement of such a moral phenomenon.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Although it has largely retained the characteristics of 'one-class solidarity' as financed mainly through payroll taxes, public housing has been an essential part of the infrastructure of basic goods that have underpinned welfare and social cohesion in Europe (p. 76)

**Essential Element:**

Identify key dissertation elements

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The correlation between public housing and social cohesion in the broader schemes of society is an extends my knowledge and understanding of social cohesion in general.

**Contextualization:**

If I understand what the author has stated, public housing is instrumental in developing and sustaining social cohesion not just inside the public housing complex but in the surrounding neighborhood as well. Public housing provides an infrastructure that not only contributes to the well-being of the person housed but to society at large. For those not living in public housing, such as myself, it is mentally comforting to know that the homeless population is kept at minimal levels. It is my opinion that public housing or affordable housing helps keep the social order. One of my cousins in Pittsburgh, PA is slightly mentally challenged. At a fairly young age (she is a few years older than myself), she began having babies one after the other, by different men, and no husband.

A few of her children have been in and out of the foster care system. Although she is not fully well psychology, she is a caring and sensitive mother. She does, however, need social support and affordable housing to take care of all her children. As a family member, it is comforting to know that there is infrastructure available to undergird her and her children. The housing crisis in San Francisco has uprooted and threatens the social cohesion of the city. The strength of neighborhoods, cities, and states (even if said neighbor wishes not to be close) thrives on the fact that the underprivileged and marginalized sector of society is safe and not a harm to the rest of the population.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“the Italian disaster – is the special de-legitimation that the political class has earned since the 1990s and, conversely, the growing legitimation of technocracy as a way out of the impasse of the country's 'ungovernability' (p. 782).

**Essential Element**:

Identify key dissertation elements

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The term technocracy is an addition to my vocabulary

**Contextualization:**

As a biblical institute facilitator, I homed in on the reign of a monarchy, autocracy, theocracy, and democracy. It was important for the students to compare the different types of governances and how they differed from God’s original intention of a theocracy. A theocracy allowed freedom from the bondage of a narcissistic ruler and allowed for the blessings of God to flow freely. The idea of technocracy is a whole new phenomenon. As the anti-Christ eventually rears its ugly head, I believe his reign and rule will be a demonically enforced technocracy.

Although technology is fascinating and connects goods, services and consumers as well as connects people from across the world, it still limits human interaction. It will be a way for Satan to rule unseen. A technocracy must be considered as a threat to genuine human connection and considered for the end time events.

**Source Two:** Parker, S., Dark, F., Newman, E., Hanley, D., McKinlay, W., & Meurk, C. (2019). Consumers' understanding and expectations of a community-based recovery-oriented mental health rehabilitation unit: A pragmatic grounded theory analysis.*Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences, 28*(4), 408-417. https://doi.org/10.1017/S2045796017000749

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“A transitional environment is anxiety provoking” (p. 414)

**Essential Element:**

Identify key dissertation elements

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The psychological impact on an individual while transitioning to a better quality of life is an addition to my knowledge of mental health barriers.

**Contextualization:**

Many times, we just want to help people. We want them to be ok, settled, and stable. Those of us who do not suffer from mental illness may not understand how challenging it is to transition from one state of life to the next, even though it may be a positive transition. The above quote is the title of a section of an article and is a terse and profound statement. The quote makes me think of my time managing affordable housing. In one of my buildings, there was a resident who was older, blind and had no family support. All the support she received was from myself and my staff, social workers, and elder advocates. She desperately needed to be in assisted living. She was delusional and senile.

On occasion, she swore up and down that Denzel Williams would visit her in her apartment. To keep a long story short, I had to seek an eviction writ on this tenant, but I did so ethically. I made sure to arrange for her to transition to a nice, well reputable assisted living facility in the city. She was so anxious and fearful of leaving her familiar surrounds, even though she would be going to a place where she did not have to cook, would have people to talk to and would have daily physical care and support. It was the unknown that was scary. Unfortunately, she had to be pushed towards a better future and better living accommodations. Mentally she went through turmoil but in the end, it was for the better.

**Source Three:** Kraatz, J. A., Reid, S., Rowlinson, L., & Caldera, S. (2022). Housing as critical social and economic infrastructure: A decision-making framework.*IOP Conference Series.Earth and Environmental Science, 1101*(4), 042023. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/1101/4/042023>

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Social housing is now becoming recognized as infrastructure, evidenced by inclusion in both national and state infrastructure plans (p. 2).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Social housing as an integral framework for housing policy is an addition to my understanding of transformational housing.

**Contextualization:**

Social housing adds an extra component to affordable or subsidized housing. The framework provides for and leads to the development of transitional housing structures. In my mind, social housing is not just the walls that provide the structure but the social interactions that occur inside to help foster a better quality of life and transition to independence. People need positive social interaction. We need social cohesion and social capital. We thrive off each other. Sociability aides in good mental health and positive life experiences. Although I have a good relationship with the owners in my condominium building, I do wish we interacted more on a social level outside of board meetings. For affordable housing, how to create safe, meaningful, social housing is a crucial question.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“To further consolidate the view of housing as social and economic infrastructure, an understanding of the breadth of the housing network is required” (p. 8)

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Housing as social infrastructure is an addition to my knowledge.

**Contextualization:**

Affordable housing not only impacts the economic health of a community or of our nation, but it also provides social stability and social cohesion as stated earlier. It is indeed a social infrastructure. It is support, it is the basic, fundamental need of the operations of society. One of the buildings I managed as a property manager, was an apartment building for the elderly outside of DC. The building was comprised of ninety -seven percent Korean residents.

This building was more than affordability for them It provided a structure in which they could live out their cultural traditions and norms freely without judgment. This building, which they all stood in line overnight to apply for, provided socialization, Christian followship, and occasional social events that fostered communal eating outside of their apartments. As elderly people, they were able to thrive and support each other during phases of health challenges, widow(er)hood and milestone celebrations. Affordable housing sets up an atmosphere of accountability and helps a large portion of society who would otherwise be on the street.

**Source Four:** Anderson, I., Finnerty, J., & McCall, V. (2020). Home, housing and communities: Foundations for inclusive society.*Social Inclusion, 8*(3), 1-4. https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v8i3.3508

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Co-production developed new structures for participation, building confidence in the social landlord and greater sense of a safe home and inclusive community for residents (p. 2).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

A social landlord is a new term and concept and is variant to my understanding of the role of a housing manager or owner.

**Contextualization:**

As a property manager, my title for years was a community manager. Although I was averse to this title, I had no choice but to accept it. When scrolling through job opportunities, I noticed that some companies title the position community manager and some title the position property manager. There were some buildings that operated under the supervision of residential manager. When asked if my title could be changed, it was explained to me that they prefer the label community manager.

The concept was that a community manager managed not only the asset but managed the social dynamic and interactions of the people inside the physical asset. The residents did not just rent an apartment there, but it was their own community within the neighborhood. They had their own private activities, their own set of rules and their own culture within the building. Later on, when working for another property management company, I was able to attain the title “property manager”. Although my title changed, my perception, responsibilities and outlook did not change.

The buildings I manage have always been their own community. The concept of social landlord is new to me but intriguing. Without knowing the author’s intent, it may mean a landlord over a social structure that fosters safe, affordable, and socially inclusive housing. A landlord is different than the manager that works on site, but outsiders do not really see it that way. Social landlord in my opinion does not fully capture the role of a housing complex owner or even manager. We do manage the social component, but we also manage the financial health of the asset.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Methodologically, this research incorporated ‘walking interviews’ and discussions with people living with dementia, as well as other stakeholders in a national programme of dementia friendly walking groups” (p. 3).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

A walking interview as a method to gather data from a sample group is an addition to my knowledge of social research.

**Contextualization:**

Perhaps when interviewing those in public or subsidized housing, sensibilities come into play. The study has to not only be professional, ethical, and confidential but comforting to the interviewee. Living in subsidized housing may be a sensitive subject for some. This method of gathering data, a way to make the participant feel at ease, is a crucial consideration to breaking the ice and lowering defenses during future interviews at the later stage of my research. A walking interview allows the participant to share their social milieu. It allows for casual conversation and information sharing

**Source Five:** Holman, D., & Walker, A. (2018). Social quality and health: Examining individual and neighbourhood contextual effects using a multilevel modelling approach.*Social Indicators Research, 138*(1), 245-270. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-017-1640-2

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

The definition of social quality reflects these various assumptions: ‘the extent to which people are able to participate in the social, economic and cultural lives of their communities under conditions which enhance their well-being and individual potential’ (p. 247).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The elaborated definition of social quality enhances my knowledge of socialization.

**Contextualization:**

What stands out to me in the quote is the ability for people to participate in the various aspects of their own community and the words individual potential. Social capital, social cohesion and social quality all hinges on a person’s ability to participate in the cultural components and economic benefits of their community. This participation therefore is the driving force or catapult for them to live out their God-given potential. A person’s God-given potential is for them to thrive, and live an abundant life (see Kings James Bible, 1769/2023, John 10:10).

As a property manager, I can observe people in their own habitat. Working in the community day after day, including the occasions to sit with them and connect, gives me an idea of which persons are living a productive life and which persons are letting life pass them by. Based on a resident’s social life, extracurricular activities, faith integration and desire to improve their socioeconomic status, I can discern who will live out their full potential. Living in a thriving city such as Washington, DC, there are many cultural celebrations to participate in. Each neighborhood has its own dessert. Some neighborhoods are a cultural desert. When developing affordable housing, it is important to partner with stakeholders and business owners to make sure the community is rich with cultural resources and that it offers economic sustainability.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“We find that ultimately, individual-level experience of social quality is generally more important for individual-level health than neighbourhood-level social quality” (p. 260).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The distinguishing between individual-level social quality and neighborhood-level social quality is an addition to my knowledge and understanding of social quality as a concept and its potential meaning for residents in low-income housing.

**Contextualization:**

The author reiterates how important it is to attain self-confidence, self-awareness, and wholeness before looking to outside sources as a means of self-attainment or happiness. It does make sense that how one rates their on physical and mental health as well as how they rate their own competency to fulfill life goals has a significant impact on their overall condition. For myself, because of my education, wisdom from God, and my own tenacious spirit, if I find that I am lacking in a particular area or if I am in need of certain outside resources, I have the wherewithal to go out and get what I need. There are some individuals, however, who do not possess these qualities and need more external influence or support.

**Source Six:** Versey, H. S. (2018). A tale of two Harlem’s: Gentrification, social capital, and implications for aging in place.*Social Science & Medicine, 214*, 1. Retrieved from https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/tale-two-harlems-gentrification-social-capital/docview/2138608910/se-2

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Results Major themes included shifting racial dynamics of the neighborhood, disruption of social ties, lack of intergenerational social cohesion and lack of social spaces for older adults, revealing a complex narrative of the network consequences of neighborhood change” (p.1).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The importance of intergenerational social cohesion is an addition to my knowledge of social cohesion concepts.

**Contextualization:**

Social cohesion amongst neighbors in a community or amongst neighbors of the same demographic within a housing complex is one aspect of social quality. Intergenerational social cohesion adds another dimension to social quality. Many time when activities are planned between the elderly and young kids, the quality of life for the elderly is the main focus. The elderly needs interaction with the younger generation to keep their minds sharp, keep them physically active and provide necessary socialization for their mental health.

Young people can also lend their energies towards assisting the elderly in various chores. What is important to also consider is the social quality gained for the younger generation. The kids learn respect, altruism, shivery, and gain information shared between the two generations.

**Source Seven:** Srivarathan, A., Lund, R., Christensen, U., & Kristiansen, M. (2020). Social relations, community engagement and potentials: A qualitative study exploring resident engagement in a community-based health promotion intervention in a deprived social housing area.*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 17*(7), 2341. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17072341

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Political decisions such as this reflect territorial stigmatization, which had a negative effect on the engagement in future interventions among all residents, regardless of their country of origin” (p. 10)

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Territorial stigmatization is a new concept and an addition to my knowledge.

**Contextualization:**

Stigma or stigmatization is a familiar term. Territorial stigmatization is an extension of stigmatizing an individual or community. For years before I purchased my condominium, I rented an apartment in a somewhat affluent neighborhood in walking to distance to the famous southwest waterfront. My apartment building was comprised of mostly African American men, women, and families although there were other ethnicities such as Ethiopian, African and some Caucasian. It was a conventional rent-based apartment. The garden style building I lived in was a part of a three-building complex within a half mile radius. Located between and around each garden apartment were three-level townhomes that had been in the neighborhood about as long as the apartment buildings.

The equity of the townhomes was consistently increasing in value and comprised of mostly older Caucasian married couples had rented out their homes or would soon sell to downsize. We all know that any real estate within remote distance to water is a great investment. One day, I had the opportunity to converse with one of the townhome owners. How the conversation started, I do not remember but with nervous apprehension, she asked me if the apartment I rented was section 8.

My apartment was old and not aesthetically pleasing to the eye. Again, it was also comprised of mostly black people. This was an opportunity for information sharing and bridge building between her world and mines. Those who owned and those who did not. I was happy to explain to her that although the management company most undoubtedly accepted section 8 vouchers, most of the tenants paid conventional market rent. Her questions let me know that our building, our territory was stigmatized based solely on the color of its residents. To root out stereotypes of any sort, dialogue, conversation, and information sharing must take place. There must be a willingness to not only answer what could potentially be offensive questions but to also ask them with guanine sincerity to know and understand.

**Comment 13:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“However, a number of barriers related to cultural and language diversity, and challenges regarding contextual factors, have been pointed out, potentially affecting engagement in future health promotion interventions” (p. 15).

**Essential Element:**

Describe the stages and steps of the dissertation process.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The effect of contextualization factors in enhancing resident participation in health promotion intervention programs or other activities is an addition to my knowledge.

**Contextualization:**

The use of contextualization in order to partner with a low-income population subset is crucial in order to connect, share information and gain trust. This can be difficult to do if the cultures, language and customs are not the same. One building I managed, was comprised of mostly African American and Ethiopian residents. This was my first time interacting with Ethiopians on a consistent and close-knit basis. In my engagement with the families in the building, I found the men to be aggressive and domineering and the women to be quite docile. Furthermore, the African American residents complained about their Ethiopian neighbors as far as the food they cooked and the noise coming from their apartments. The food they Ethiopians cooked was very pungent and aromatic but their custom of eating on the floor and eating with their hands caused some housekeeping issues.

The children also seemed to be able to run amuck and cause noise disturbances. As a property manager, it was difficult to manage the complaints and maintain social cohesion within the building. When it came time to plan events or even market the activities for participant awareness, I made sure to engage a few of the Ethiopian residents so that some of my flyers had a limited amount of Arabic. It was difficult for the two groups to engage. With more time and resources, it would have been a pleasure to plan cross cultural activities that would foster cultural awareness and understanding between two groups.

**Source Eight:** Lechuga-Peña, S., Becerra, D., Mitchell, F. M., Lopez, K., & Sangalang, C. C. (2019). Subsidized housing and low-income Mother’s school-based parent involvement: Findings from the fragile families and child wellbeing study wave five.*Child & Youth Care Forum, 48*(3), 323-338. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-018-9481-y>

**Comment 14:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

Parents may also experience undertones of racism from teachers and other parents at the school that can lead to social exclusion (p. 327).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The effects of social exclusion and the necessity to conduct further research is an addition to my understanding of research in general.

**Contextualization:**

Social exclusion leads to socialization deficiency and a deficiency in social capital. One arena in which social capital can be gained for parents is where their child goes to school. This will be difficult to achieve if those possessing the resources for sharing distance themselves from the ones needing information sharing. School leadership had an integral part to play in planning activities that foster interaction between the different socioeconomic members. My parents mostly interacted with parents of the same socio-economic status of the same ethnicity. They encouraged me to foster relationships with those outside of my race and had only a few Caucasian friends.

Any type of social engagement with other ethnicities was on the job. The African American parents they socialized with were mostly middle class. It was within this social milieu, both in their personal networks and on the job, that they gained social capital and shared information. At my elementary school, the teachers were black. There was not much racism to be incurred. As gentrification sets in, teachers at the local school comprise of a mix of Hispanic, black and white faculty members that engage with the children on a daily basis.

**Comment 15:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

Therefore, the school’s control of time and “appropriate” communication retains its power in parental involvement practices p. 328) (Freeman 2010).

**Essential Element:**

Compare the differences between quantitative and qualitative dissertation research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The definition of appropriate communication and power balance in attraction more parent involvement of the low-income population enhances my knowledge.

**Contextualization:**

When seeking to connect with a group from a different socio-economic background, it is important to balance the dynamics of the relationship. This is also in the context of parent-teacher. If a parent living in subsidized housing is over burdened, feels stigmatized and discriminated against, it is necessary to accommodate the parent as much as possible. Appropriate communication for parents and teachers is defined by the school with no input from the parent. A outside of the box strategy may be necessary to make the parent feel comfortable communicating about the needs of the child and to accommodate a single working mother or father. This reminds me of andragogical teaching curricula. Allowing the student to have a voice and control the agenda based on his or her needs leads to a more productive learning experience.

**Source Nine:** Richardson, J., Postmes, T., & Stroebe, K. (2022). Social capital, identification and support: Scope for integration.*PLoS One, 17*(4) https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0266499

**Comment 16:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“The fourth mechanism suggests that social identity itself can also be a coping

Resource” (p. 4).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The benefit of social identity is an addition to my knowledge of the various social quality components.

**Contextualization:**

To identify with a particular group, even if that group is a stigmatized group or a group that collectively suffers, is to at least have a social group to belong with. It is a group that understands you and shares your pain. For myself personally, I tend to distance ties from any group that would further exacerbate my perceive suffering or stigmatization. In the last few years, several people belonging to what is considered a marginalized group have been shot by the police. When George Floyed was murdered, I was proud to go and march on his behalf and all the others gunned down like dogs because they are considered of no value or importance. The one thing I could not do was to wear a t-shirt that stated, “ I cannot breath”.

My refusal to wear such a shirt is because “I can breathe”.

Although I have experienced racism and rejection because of the color of my skin, my outcome has been and always will be victory. I do not wear the stigma as a label, and I identify with my people only in the context of empathy and support. The bible tells me, I am the head and not tail, I am above and not beneath. I would not be opposed to wearing a t-shirt with the face of George Floyd, because he is in fact my brother. He is my brother because of historical and systematical racism. He is my brother because of my love for humanity and the black man. There are many who cannot breathe and I stand with them in solidarity and love. My desire is to somehow pass on the oxygen God has given to me so others can “breathe”.

**Comment 17:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Social Identity Approach (SIA) specifically highlights the importance of group membership for the individual’s sense of self. SIA, in contrast to social support, also does not presuppose that any physical exchange takes place or even that physical co-presence is required” (p. 18).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The theory of SIA extends my knowledge within the social sciences, especially as it relates to living in subsidized housing.

**Contextualization:**

All of us want to belong. It is to what we belong, I believe defines our success. My identity is wrapped up in God and scripture. The kingdom of God is real family and the membership that I enjoy most. The kingdom of God is also what supplies my needs. Too many people associate their identity with their circumstances. If one belongs to a social group or associates their identity with a particular milieu that does not buoy their success in life, my theory would be then to belong but not belong. Sometimes dissociation may be healthier than association. It is true that emotional support from one’s neighbors contributes to mental health.

The question is does that identification with the group and the emotional support sustain your circumstances or assist you in making a better life for yourself. If someone says to me, we are all dogs trying to get the crumbs from the masters table, I will refute that. No, we are all not dogs trying to get scraps. You may be but I’m blessed and highly favored, I am successful and prosperous as the bible tells me.

“Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (King James Bible, 1769/2023, Proverbs 18:21)

**Comment 18:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

Social capital has the scope to encapsulate both social support and social identification (and does so in a way, in its operationalisation). It is therefore quite ironic and surprising that the measure, or specifically the operationalisation thereof, of social capital we included in our research turned out to be the least strongly correlated with other measures of social relations (p. 19).

**Essential Element:**

Introduce tools and resources for effective research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The operationalization of social capital extends my knowledge of the social concept.

**Contextualization:**

If I am going to focus on the benefits of social capital for residents living within affordable housing as my final research project, it will be necessary to somehow measure the samples amount and use of social capital. How does one evaluate the operationalization of social capital?

It is surprising to me that how a sample group puts social capital into action or the tangible and social benefits they received from it were not correlated with other social interaction measures. The other measures of social relations will have to be explored further. My task will be to understand other social relations in detail.

**Source Ten:** Freeman, Amy L,PhD., M.P.H., Li, T., M.S., Kaplan, S. A., J.D., Ellen, I. G., PhD., Gourevitch, Marc,M.D., M.P.H., Young, A., L.C.S.W., & Doran, Kelly M,M.D., M.H.S. (2020). Community health worker intervention in subsidized housing: New York city, 2016–2017.*American Journal of Public Health, 110*(5), 689-692. https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305544

**Comment 19:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“CHWs deployed in housing meet residents in their homes and community spaces, where they have access to a more complete picture of the range of factors affecting residents’ health” (p. 689)

**Essential Element:**

Identify key dissertation elements

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The interaction between a community health worker and the client inside of the clients’ home environment is an addition to my understanding of health based intervention methods.

**Contextualization:**

Home life tells everything. The idea of a health worker consistently partnering with the client inside of their personal space provides convenience and enables the client to be more vulnerable. The health worker can identify what factors will contribute to a persons’ health positively and negatively. One would be surprised how often a resident will invite a property manager to come up to their apartment for tea and when receiving a knock on the door from the property manager, how often the tenant invites the manager in to sit down instead of conducting business at the doorway. Outside of inspections, it has always been my preference to speak with the tenant at the doorway of their apartment.

It is preferable to keep the familiarity to a limited level. There may be a time when I need a document signed, or I may volunteer to pick up a rent check because the tenant is elderly or is watching their sleeping baby. It is important, however, to witness home life to a certain extent. Through routine inspections, although intrusive, a manager can observe housekeeping practices or the lack thereof. A property can do wellness checks on the resident as well as offer guidance on a particular life issue. A property manager can identify if domestic violence exists and if the tenant needs intervention from a health or social worker. It is a bit more personal than I’d like to get with a tenant, but it’s necessary.

**Source Eleven:** Ellen, I. G., Dragan, K. L., & Glied, S. (2020). Renovating subsidized housing: The impact on tenants' health.*Health Affairs, 39*(2), 224-232,232A-232E. https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00767

**Comment 20:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Property managers have a significant impact on day-to-day conditions and quality of life in multifamily buildings. Researchers rarely have access to data on building management and typically ignore those data when studying the effects of housing on health” (p. 225).

**Essential Element:**

Introduce tools and resources for effective research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The correlation between a property manager’s responsibilities and the tenant’s health as well as the data unavailable to researchers is an addition to my knowledge of the necessity of research in this area.

**Contextualization:**

The responsibilities of my job as a property manager are numerous and the impacts on the tenant’s quality of life are significant. The building I currently manage is small and the financial health of the asset is poor. As a property manager, it is my duty to manage the health of the physical structure itself as well as mitigate any health risks to my tenants. Unfortunately, if resources are low, the upkeep of a building is hard to maintain. Currently it takes my accounting department around two months to pay many of the recurring bills for the property. Utilities and taxes are prioritized while many vendors have to beg for their money. Once I upload an invoice, it is up to accounting to cut the check. My hands are tied.

It is very frustrating to not be able to take care of a maintenance issue in someone’s unit. This past winter, there were at least four apartments that needed a whole new HVAC unit. The corporate office just would not sign off on it. Each time I asked, I was told, “okay I’ll sign it today”. Weeks would go by, and I received nothing. We improvised with heaters, or the ancient heating system built into the walls that none of the residents wanted to use. Finally for two of the vacant units, contracts were signed so that the new tenants could move in.

The two new tenants have a section 8 voucher, and the units would not have passed inspection without the AC or heat working. Two other contracts have yet to be signed. When a resident is anxious or unsatisfied, the property manager takes the brunt of the anger. There is a dearth in research as far as the resources afforded to the property manager and it deserves more attention so that the lives of subsidized housing residents can be improved.

**Comment 21:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“The indices aggregated the five health conditions that research identified as sensitive to housing improvements (asthma, anxiety or depression, acute respiratory infections, hypertension, and injuries) to provide a composite indicator of housing renovation effects” (p. 228).

**Essential Element:**

Introduce tools and resources for effective research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The use of aggregate data versus individual specific data and its effectiveness for a particular outcome is an addition to my knowledge of how to conduct research.

**Contextualization:**

How renovations impact the tenant’s health is very intriguing. The data here was summarized to give an overall account for each health issue. Each of the specific health conditions is treated differently and for depression, there is not necessarily a tangible treatment but a mental health intervention. The question then begs whether individual specific data collection would be more useful or would this not be feasible. Depression also effects men differently than how it affects women so it would be beneficial to break the statistics down further.

When owning your home, one is responsible for one’s health management as it relates to the condition of their physical environment. Many homeowners may be suffering from one of the above health conditions and not even know why. A property manager, however, has to have knowledge of various capital improvement and maintenance issues in a building and how they may affect their tenants. The above research would help greatly in budgeting certain capital improvement items for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Comment 22:**

**Quote/paraphrase:**

First, we could not account for many potential differences between the housing developments, such as the social ties among residents and special programs that could influence the health status of either group (for example, community building activities or fitness classes) (p. 228)

**Essential Elements:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The extent to how socialization programs can affect specific health conditions would be an addition to my knowledge as a property manager.

**Contextualization:**

There are many stories I could share as far as the impact of social activities on tenants mental and physical wellbeing. The property manager is the face of the building and management company. Any rules implemented or services added or removed are always the property manager’s fault. During the height of the coronavirus, the fitness center of one of the tax credit affordable buildings I managed was shutdown per company executives and of course the CDC. Residents initially understood the decision. As the months went on, residents were extremely concerned with their physical conditions and their mental health was declining.

It was disheartening to constantly take their complaints and bear their woes. Upper management was incredibly nervous about opening up the gym and refused to do so despite residents’ complaints. For myself, being a member of planet fitness and having a car meant I could continue to maintain my physical health. Social activities and exercise play a huge role in good mental and physical health. The coronavirus showed just how limited tenants in low-income housing are in regulating certain factors that impact their overall wellbeing.

**Source Twelve:** Barton, S. E. (1996). Social housing versus housing allowances.*American Planning Association.Journal of the American Planning Association, 62*(1), 108. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/social-housing-versus-allowances/docview/229639669/se-2>

**Comment 23:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Nonprofit housing organizations are private, charitable corporations run by a governing board that may or may not include residents”(p. 110).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The concept of a nonprofit charitable organization that owns and runs an affordable housing complex is somewhat variant to my understanding of nonprofits.

**Contextualization:**

It is true that some organizations are non-profits, run on charity and do not seek profits as a financial goal. There are however some nonprofit organizations that have too large of a profit margin, affecting the resident’s quality of housing. The building I managed from March 2019 to January 2021 initially set the rents too low after construction. Residents moved on with false expectations. After the first year, the company could not raise the rent due to Covid. On the third year of the buildings existence the company decided to raise the rent five percent.

It was a shock to tenants and an impossible financial burden to overcome. The budget must have the capacity to make building improvements, pay salaries and increase taxes but the percentage of profit going into the owner’s profits is suspect. The owners of this development had to face the consequential outcome of a mass move-out of residents and a desperate attempt to increase profits.

**Comment 24:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

While immediate termination of housing allowances to current recipients would result in obvious and immediate hardships, there are now serious proposals at the federal level to phase the assistance out by simply not providing assistance to new applicants, by reducing subsidy levels and by setting time limits on assistance (p. 116).

**Essential Element:**

Apply key research design elements to a dissertation topic

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

A hardship due to time limits on assistance may be somewhat variant to my understanding of low-income assistance and improvement of quality of life.

**Contextualization:**

One goal of subsidized housing should be to transition the tenant from subsidized housing to financial independence. A time limit on assistance may be the provoking factor to accomplishing this goal. A certain portion of the demographic should of course be excluded from this strategy. Th elderly and disabled are two groups. This strategy would have to be coupled with job location programs, goal setting and financial literacy programs. One area of research is tracking long term, generational families in low-income housing and why they chose to stay in low-income housing.

Another question to ask is what would have inspired and assisted them to leave subsidized housing. A young lady in one of my buildings was a participant of the RAD program which was supposed to only be for a year. Perhaps because of Covid, it was extended but I do believe that the incentive of de-assistance sparked a fire under her to better plan for her future and secure herself financially.

**Source Thirteen:** Junnilainen, L. (2020). Place narratives and the experience of class: Comparing collective destigmatization strategies in two social housing neighborhoods.*Social Inclusion, 8*(1), 44-54. https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v8i1.2310

**Comment 25:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Especially in nations where homeownership is the norm and a strong marker of social and moral status, social housing is associated with social pathologies” (p. 45).

**Essential Elements:**

Introduce tools and resources for effective research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Social pathologies is a term and addition to my vocabulary repertoire.

**Contextualization:**

In learning how to research, an extensive repertoire of vocabulary is crucial. As discovered my competence in the social sciences is much lower than my competence in theology and I am certainly not as well versed in social theory as I am in property management. In attempt to merge the three disciplines, increasing my vocabulary serves me well. Social pathologies may be the cause of many of the mental pressures and health problems of low-income residents. Eventually, in my final research phase, I will want to identify certain social pathologies that may bound low-income residents to living in affordable or public housing. In the above article, the housing milieu itself is a danger to the resident.

In the District of Columbia, one program that fuses market rate housing with affordable housing decreases the amount of stigmatization associated with living in the projects. These buildings and their locations also provide certain social benefits that would not be in line with the theory that social housing is a social pathology. Moving away from public housing to housing choice vouchers or affordable housing for low to moderate income earners provides a better quality of life in not all but many cases. Many of the affordable housing apartments in the city are near a variety of grocery stores, cultural activities and amenities that people from different social economic backgrounds enjoy, which also increases the opportunity for social or cultural capital.

It has been my observation that the traditional public housing complexes sustain social pathologies such as crime, and physical and mental deterioration.

**Source Fourteen:** Cook, K. (2022). *Advanced intro to social capital*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

**Comment 26:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“He also makes clear the extent to which social capital can be used for nefarious purposes as well as the more positive provision of social goods (individual or collective)” (p, 6).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The negative side of social capital is an addition to my knowledge and understanding of the theory of social capital.

**Contextualization:**

Recently, having learned of the theory of social capital, I immediately began to assess the benefits of the social quality and what I have personally reaped from it. My other assessment was the lack of social capital for persons in low-income. Just like any other benefit or resource in life, people can and will take advantage of it, but it does not negate the fact that social capital is a social connection between humans that usually and should bring out the best of virtues. Neighbors should have conversations with each other and share information.

Neighbors should assist each other in finding the best markets with the best prices or give referrals to the best doctors. Without usury or force, neighbors should borrow from each other and give to one another or babysit for one another. My parents’ friends found myself and the other friends in our teenage group free tutoring at a local church. One of my mom’s friends taught how to type and a neighbor corn-rolled my hair at a cheap price. Job references, inside information on available real estate, stock tips many times come from establishing rapport with others. Currently I am in the process of working on a will. One of the estate lawyers at my church, a fellow Elder, is well known, professional and very personable.

After I explained to her that I am only interested in an initial consultation and may have to wait a year to actually have a will drawn up, she let me know that cost will not be an issue. Although I do not have the desire to receive free legal services, it’s good to know that I’ll be taken care of regardless of my financial situation. Her willingness for altruism is because of my reputation, our positive rapport and her respect towards me. At any level of society, our fellow neighbor, co-worker, local politician or family member can succumb to greed, misuse and ill-well. Social capital in general is a positive benefit received and given.

**Comment 27:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Others have added “linking” as a separate type of tie, one that links actors to those in power or higher status, to those with political influence and financial resources” (p. 30).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The author’s definition of “Linking” is somewhat variant to my understanding of various social connections.

**Contextualization:**

Considering the author’s definition of linking, I imagine that linking is only available to those of a particular socioeconomic status and may or may not be available for those in public housing. My personal definition of linking would be for a person we are familiar with or know very well to connect or link us with someone who can offer a particular fringe benefit, perk or advantage that we might not otherwise have access to. Linking, however, does not have to connect us to benefits of the highest degree. To be honest, the concept of linking is just a form of social capital and not a distinct interpersonal quality.

Just the other day, I talked to an acquaintance from church whom I really do not know personally. Because I know she is a professor at my alma mater, I asked would it be difficult to get an adjunct teaching position at the school. Without me asking, she suggested I do some research and then send her an email on what I would like to teach and the department details. Because of her personal connections at the school, she can circulate my name amongst the right people. Our connection in my opinion, would be linking. We are not friends, and she does not have the power to hire me but she can link me to the right people who may hire me.

**Source Fifteen:** Tsenkova, S. (2022*). Cities and affordable housing: planning, design and policy nexus.* Taylor and Francis. New York and London, Routledge, 2*022?*

**Comment 28:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“The imperative for more inclusive mixed-income communities includes recognition of the value of people of color and the value of people who are economically constrained with a recognition that greater opportunity for marginalized people can actually generate increased and sustained opportunities for all people” (p. 93).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The author’s assessment of the benefits of investing in the welfare of the marginalized and low-income is an addition to my knowledge of the positive aspects of mixed-income communities.

**Contextualization:**

Recognizing the value of persons living in low-income or affordable housing is a key to social cohesion, societal harmony and economic growth. As someone who has established personal connections in the affordable housing communities I have managed, I have personal knowledge of the many talents, skills and gifts the residents have to offer. Many do not have degrees, but they have administration, beautician, mechanical and other skills that would enhance the lives of others. It is astonishing how many immigrants who live in affordable housing, have higher education degrees from other countries.

These, now US residents, once had prestigious careers in their country of origin but were not able to transfer their licenses or certifications over to America. Amid conducting a housing recertification for one of my residents, she kindly explained to me the billing system at the hospital that I receive services and at which she works. Her job experience provided her knowledge which she was able to bestow upon me so I could navigate through the complexity of my medical bills. This same information transaction can be shared between persons of different socioeconomic status in a mixed income apartment building.

**Comment 29:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Theo Miller branded the initiative as a “reparations effort” to indicate its commitment to acknowledging and re dressing the marginalized of low-income African American residents and other residents of color in San Francisco” (p. 95).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The branding of a municipal affordable housing project in California as “reparations” is an addition to my knowledge of reparations and the societal effects of investing in housing for the low-income.

**Contextualization:**

Just the other day, my mother asked me if I support reparations for all black people in U.S. Absolutely, I do but I do not believe it would be feasible to cut all of us a check and how would we determine a fair amount. Reparations just as described above can be in the form of returning land, giving land grants, scholarships, forgiving loans, building affordable community developments and assisting in the acquisition of real estate. The aforementioned reparations would alleviate debt and help to create long-term wealth for African American families. A few of my acquaintances have had their student loans forgiven, which has been a source of hope for myself.

**Comment 30:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Khare invokes racial capitalism as the co-production of capitalist exploitation and racial domination” (p. 98).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Racial capitalism is a new addition to my vocabulary and extends my understanding of capitalism and structural racism in general.

**Contextualization:**

Capitalism in theory is not a bad system. It is only the biased infrastructure of capitalism that is the problem. Social capital plays a part in capitalism. Those we are connected to may have the ability to connect us with capital investments, give us loans, become our business partners, invest in our creativity to start businesses or appoint us to various boards or executive positions and sell us goods and services at fair or exorbitant prices. Unfortunately, people of color, especially low-income have less interaction with those who have the resources and education to help us start businesses or acquire necessary goods and services at fair market value. Racial capitalism is in theory worth exploring further.

**Source Sixteen:** Llorente, Maria, D. Editor. (2019). Culture, heritage, and diversity in older adult mental health care. APA Council on Geriatric Psychiatry.

**Comment 31:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“The literature suggests that African American older adults do not believe mainstream mental health services will be effective, delay professional help seeking, and use culturally endorsed coping strategies for dealing with depression” (p. 136).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Specific culturally endorsed coping strategies are an addition to my knowledge as they relate to mental health treatments or cultural ethos al together.

**Contextualization:**

In my career as a property manager, I have managed both multi-family and senior citizen affordable housing communities. African American seniors are stubborn and have a complex past when it comes to medical treatments and health management. It is hard for some of them to trust even the most experienced doctors unless a relationship has been in place for a significant amount of time. Researching various culturally endorsed coping strategies is an intriguing idea and, addition to my research.

Some of the culturally endorsed strategies may be church attendance where stress can be relieved during worship expression. Another may be informal counseling sessions with Pastors or family members. For myself, engaging in intimate worship with God, and journaling puts me in a comfortable mental space. A worship experience can include crying and in the Pentecostal church, releasing toxic feelings can be done through dancing, yelling out and corporate singing. Culturally endorsed mental health strategies for younger adults is an interesting avenue to explore.

**Source Seventeen:** Dyson, M.E. (2021). *Entertaining race: performing blackness in America*. St. Martin’s Press.

**Comment 32:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

In both theology and sociology, the problem of evil is addressed in the issue of theodicy. For theologians, theodicy occurs when there is a rupture in the relationship between God and human beings, when evil challenges claims about God’s goodness and complete power. In sociology, Max Webber, according to social ethicist Jon Gunnemann, contended that theodicy occurs when there is an “incongruity between destiny and merit”. In other words, when there is a disjuncture between what you get in life and what you think you deserve. In both interpretations, theodicy is operating in the lyrics of some rappers, a strong and sharp protest against the limits of Judeo-Christianity morality and the American Dream” (p. 509).

**Essential Element:**

Formal writing style and Academic Voice

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The use of theodicy in the discipline of sociology to explain the disfunctions and disparities in society is variant to my understanding of the social sciences.

**Contextualization:**

In fusing disciplines such as theology and sociology, I never want to assume that a sociologist’s research and theories from a theist perspective. Unless a sociologist makes known their faith in their writings or incorporates a faith-based research methodology, in my opinion, it assumed that they do not see God active in society either as retributory presence, savior or avenger. It is in my admitted dearth of research that I have noticed the sociologists dependence on the human spirit and intellect alone to combat inequality, hatred and evil, with no divine intervention.

While some Christian or religious sociologist do exist, I have most read literature in the social sciences that address human frailty void of God. This is one reason why I joined the OGS program. It is faith in God and the advantage of divine revelation conjoined with scholarly research that Christian sociologist can attempt to combat evil and solve the world’s most complex social issue.

**Works Cited**

Anderson, I., Finnerty, J., & McCall, V. (2020). Home, housing and communities: Foundations for inclusive society.*Social Inclusion, 8*(3), 1-4. https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v8i3.3508

Arbaci, S., Bricocoli, M., & Salento, A. (2021). The value of the city. rent extraction, right to housing and conflicts for the use of urban space.*Partecipazione e Conflitto, 14*(2), 774-787. <https://doi.org/10.1285/i20356609v14i2p774>

Barton, S. E. (1996). Social housing versus housing allowances.*American Planning Association. Journal of the American Planning Association, 62*(1), 108. https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/social-housing-versus-allowances/docview/229639669/se-2

Cook, K. (2022). *Advanced intro to social capital*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dyson, M.E. (2021). *Entertaining race: performing blackness in America*. St. Martin’s Press.

Ellen, I. G., Dragan, K. L., & Glied, S. (2020). Renovating subsidized housing: The impact on tenants' health.*Health Affairs, 39*(2), 224-232,232A-232E. https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00767

Freeman, Amy L, PhD., M.P.H., Li, T., M.S., Kaplan, S. A., J.D., Ellen, I. G., PhD., Gourevitch, Marc, M.D., M.P.H., Young, A., L.C.S.W., & Doran, Kelly M,M.D., M.H.S. (2020). Community health worker intervention in subsidized housing: New York city, 2016–2017.*American Journal of Public Health, 110*(5), 689-692. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305544>

Holman, D., & Walker, A. (2018). Social quality and health: Examining individual and neighbourhood contextual effects using a multilevel modelling approach.*Social Indicators Research, 138*(1), 245-270. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-017-1640-2>

Junnilainen, L. (2020). Place narratives and the experience of class: Comparing collective destigmatization strategies in two social housing neighborhoods.*Social Inclusion, 8*(1), 44-54. https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v8i1.2310

King James Bible, (2023). Kings James Bible Online. <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/> (Original work published 1769)

Kraatz, J. A., Reid, S., Rowlinson, L., & Caldera, S. (2022). Housing as critical social and economic infrastructure: A decision-making framework.*IOP Conference Series.Earth and Environmental Science, 1101*(4), 042023. https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/1101/4/042023

Lechuga-Peña, S., Becerra, D., Mitchell, F. M., Lopez, K., & Sangalang, C. C. (2019). Subsidized housing and low-income Mother’s school-based parent involvement: Findings from the fragile families and child wellbeing study wave five.*Child & Youth Care Forum, 48*(3), 323-338. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-018-9481-y>

Llorente, Maria, D. Editor. (2019). *Culture, heritage, and diversity in older adult mental health care.* APA Council on Geriatric Psychiatry.

Parker, S., Dark, F., Newman, E., Hanley, D., McKinlay, W., & Meurk, C. (2019). Consumers' understanding and expectations of a community-based recovery-oriented mental health rehabilitation unit: A pragmatic grounded theory analysis.*Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences, 28*(4), 408-417. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2045796017000749>

Richardson, J., Postmes, T., & Stroebe, K. (2022). Social capital, identification and support: Scope for integration.*PLoS One, 17*(4) https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0266499

Srivarathan, A., Lund, R., Christensen, U., & Kristiansen, M. (2020). Social relations, community engagement and potentials: A qualitative study exploring resident engagement in a community-based health promotion intervention in a deprived social housing area.*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 17*(7), 2341. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17072341>

Tsenkova, S. (2022*). Cities and affordable housing: planning, design and policy nexus.* Taylor and Francis. New York and London, Routledge*.*

Versey, H. S. (2018). A tale of two Harlems: Gentrification, social capital, and implications for aging in place.*Social Science & Medicine, 214*, 1. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/tale-two-harlems-gentrification-social-capital/docview/2138608910/se-2>