Toward Understanding Civic Engagement in Health Professions' Education:
Perspectives of Students; Staff; and Public

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INTRODUCTION: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Universities, since their foundation, have been inextricably linked to society and have played a key role within it.

- Producing socially accountable graduates is a recognised aim of modern health professions education.

- This has led to increased emphasis on 'civic engagement (CE)'.

- Despite its popularity, CE is an ambiguous concept, poorly understood by its stakeholders.

AIM

- To explore key stakeholders' perception of CE and its current practice across the CMNHS, NUI Galway

- Inter – stakeholder groups:
  - Students
  - Academics and administrative staff
  - Public members

RESEARCH DESIGN

Recruitment	Methodology	Data Generation Method	Analysis
Purposeful and snowballing techniques	Qualitative approach	World Cafe	Braun & Clark Thematic Analysis
Online and paper advertisement Gatekeepers	Participatory Action Research	Students Staff Community CE committee	NVIVO11

4 QUESTIONS EXPLORED

Beyond academic and technical definitions, what does civic engagement mean to you?

What principles/qualities underpin civic engagement?

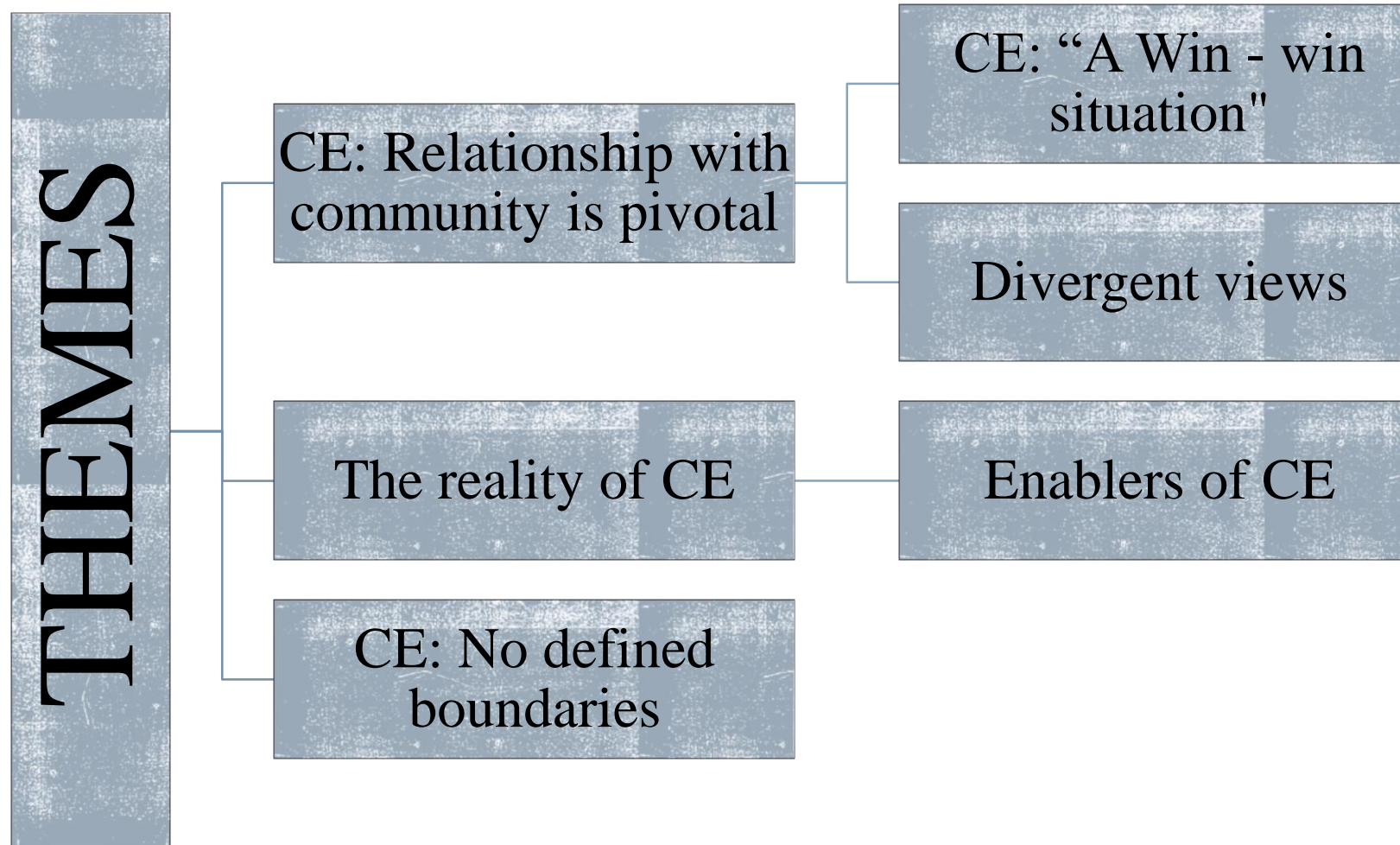How are you supported by NUIG / your department in your civic engagement efforts as an individual?

How do you hope to see civic engagement practice evolve in the future?

PARTICIPANTS DEMOGRAPHIC

World Café	N	Male	Female	Distribution	World Café Group
Student	11	3	8	Medicine: 9 Speech & Language Therapy: 1 Nursing: 1	2
Staff	12	2	10	Academics: 4 Administrative staff: 8	3
Community members	6	1	5		2
CE Committee members	6	1	5	Community representative: 1 Academics: 5	1
Total	35	7	28		

RESULT: THEMES

THEMES

- CE: Relationship with community is pivotal
  - CE: "A Win - win situation"
  - Divergent views
- The reality of CE
  - Enablers of CE
- CE: No defined boundaries

CE: RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY IS PIVOTAL

A WIN – WIN SITUATION

- Leave the ivory tower

- Respect and inclusivity

- GAINS OF CE
  - Students/ individuals
  - Community members
  - Reciprocity

DIVERGENT VIEW

- Exploitative / extractive relationship

QUOTES

- *"It's so much you don't find yourself in an ivory tower and hold on to your knowledge that you've gained. It's actually getting share in a form that's easily digestible for everybody..." (J, WC staff)*

- *"For me, civic engagement is very much underpinned by a principle of inclusivity...I mean societal inclusivity" (M, WC community)*

- *"The idea of extractive actually flies completely in the face of engagement..." (M, WC staff)*
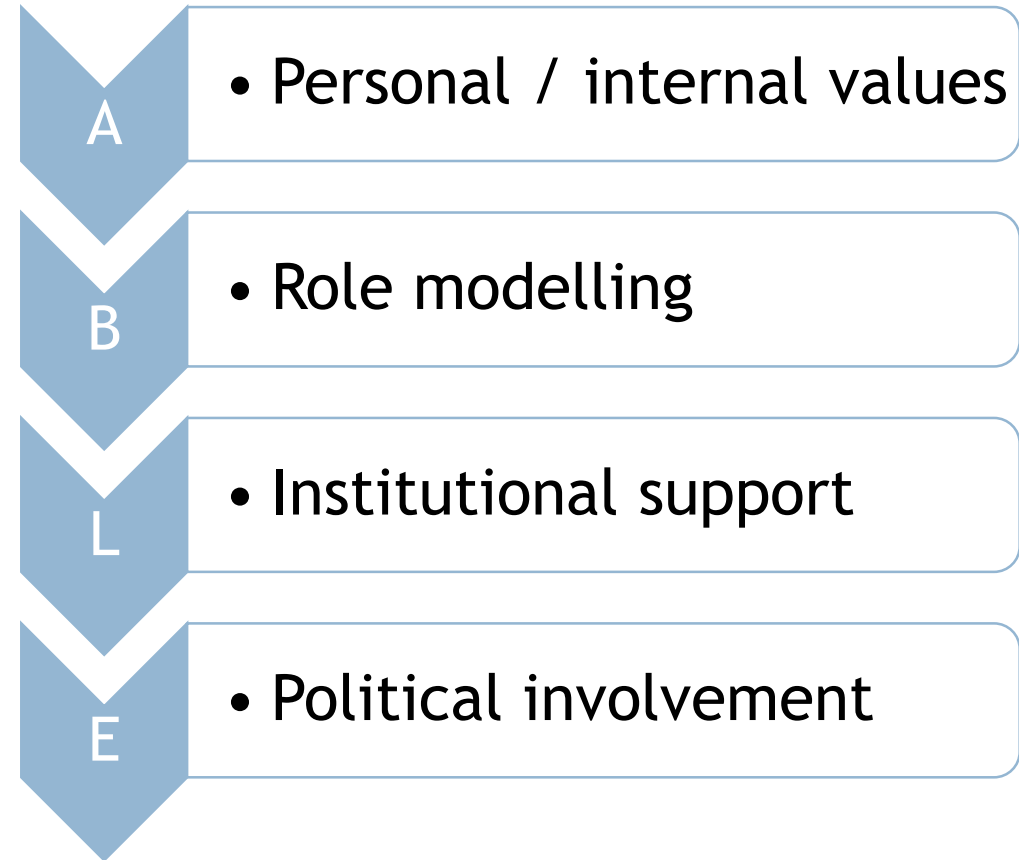
THE REALITY OF CE

Issues and challenges

- Lack of support and encouragement from the institution

- Banking on the goodwill of people

- Opportunities are not obvious

- Lack of awareness

Enablers of CE

A • Personal / internal values

B • Role modelling

L • Institutional support

E • Political involvement

QUOTES

- *"I don't think we incentivise civic engagement enough. We're banking on the good will of everyone to participate of their own free will"   (Ru, WC staff)*

- *"I do think that role modelling and the ethos -- the values and the ethos. If it is evident in the institution that you are in, it's hard for it not to rub off on you some place." (M, WC staff)*

- *"...let the political sphere get involved I mean there is a lot to be gained from it..." (L, WC Community)*

CE: NO DEFINED BOUNDARIES

- CE could be anything…
  - Collaboration with community
  - Governance of life
  - Attitudes & beliefs
  - Advocacy

- Myriad of activities

- What constitutes…
  - Community?
  - Engagement?
  - Virtual versus physical

QUOTES

- *"I have a lot of ways, it means that civic engagement is not an objective thing, we have no specific way of doing it...as long as you contribute to society and committee" (K, WC Student)*

- *"To me it is about how I live my life. and then all-encompassing like so whoever is involved in that so it is my engagement and my behaviour in relation to my life" (S, WC staff)*

- *R: We have to make sure then that it doesn't just become tokenistic.*

- *E: Exactly.*

- *R: People are just-Filling in a box...but metrics and the value is lost. (WC staff)*

CONCLUSION

- Relationship with community is vital
  - Transactional
  - Transformation
  - Exploitative

- Despite the lack of consensus of what it means, CE was held with great value by all the stakeholders.

- Although goodwill is huge, success and sustainability of the CE agenda require encouragement and support from the leaders and the institution.