



Amherst Study Circles: Dialogues on Race and Class Records

2002-2016 (*Bulk:* 2002-2006)

1 box (.4 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 917

Collection overview

The Amherst Study Circles: Dialogues on Race and Class were a series of dialogue and project action groups begun in 2002 to discuss and enact social change in the school districts and communities around Amherst, MA. They arose as a response by the Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) Parent Center to a question to their group: What were they going to do about racism in the Amherst Schools? The ARHS Parent Center Board suggested the study circle model, and a round of facilitated pilot groups were run in February 2003. The successful pilots stirred the organizers to seek additional support, and with funding from the Amherst Education Foundation and the Amherst Drugs Free Partnership, additional groups were organized each year, building awareness, trust, and power amongst those striving to improve the community's schools for all students. Almost 200 people, including school administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members participated over the course of several years, and each group culminated in an action forum and set up action groups to propose and enact tangible steps towards specific goals. Action groups affected change in school climate, policies, and course offerings, and organized a standing committee of the ARHS Parent Center called RaDAR: Race and Discipline, Action, Rights.

This small collection consists of descriptive materials from the ARHS Parent Center; an organizer's binder with sections on the origin in 2002, participants, action groups, finances, curriculum, and evaluations; and additional materials such as evaluations for study circle sessions and facilitators, newspaper clippings of articles about the group and their work, and documents for student study circles, such as advertisements, curriculum, and certificates.

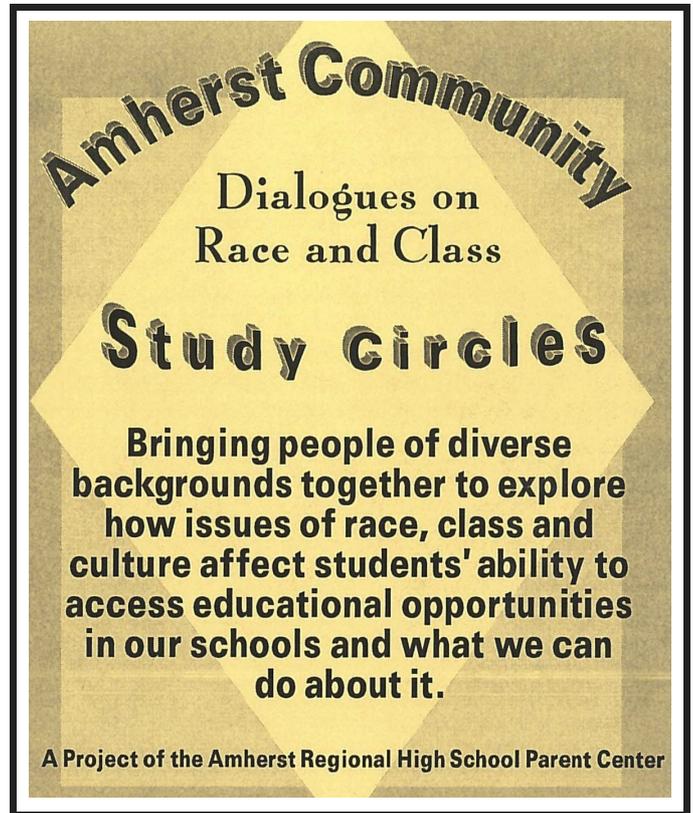
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Background on Amherst Study Circles: Dialogues on Race and Class

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They arose as a response by the Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) Parent Center to a question to their group: What were they going to do about racism in the Amherst Schools? The ARHS Parent Center Board suggested the study circle model, and a round of facilitated pilot groups were run in February 2003. The successful pilots stirred the organizers to seek additional support, and with funding from the Amherst Education Foundation and the Amherst Drugs Free Partnership, additional groups were organized each year, building awareness, trust, and power amongst those striving to improve the community's schools for all students. Almost 200 people, including school administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members participated over the course of several years, and each group culminated in an action forum and set up action groups to propose and enact tangible steps towards specific goals. Action groups affected change in school climate, policies, and course offerings, and organized a standing committee of the ARHS Parent Center called RaDAR: Race and Discipline, Action, Rights.



Amherst Study Circles: Dialogues on Race and Class flier.

Scope of collection

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Inventory

Action Group in Social Class and Education	2003-2004	Box 1: 1
ARHS Parent Center	ca.2003	Box 1: 2
ARHS Parent Center - website	2003	Box 1: 3
Binder - Getting Started; General Notes; White Allies	2002-2006	Box 1: 4
Binder - Finances; Action Groups; Curriculum; Grants	2003-2005	Box 1: 5
Binder - People; Evaluation	2002-2005	Box 1: 6
Binder - Forms	ca.2005	Box 1: 7
Evaluation forms	2003-2004	Box 1: 8-10
Newspaper clippings, articles	2003-2016	Box 1: 11
Participants	2005	Box 1: 12
Student Study Circle materials	ca.2003	Box 1: 13

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Jackie Wolf, June 2016.

Processing Information

Processed by Blake Spitz, July 2016.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use([More information](#))

Cite as: Amherst Study Circles: Dialogues on Race and Class Records (MS 917). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Amherst (Mass.)--History
- Classism--Massachusetts
- Education--Massachusetts
- Racism--Massachusetts

Contributors

- Amherst Study Circles: Dialogues on Race and Class **[main entry]**

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