New Strategies for Community Development and Democratic Participation Among Arab-Americans

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This paper examines the questions of community development and identity formation among Arab Americans, in order to synthesize the literature in the field of Arab-American studies. Using Qualitative Meta synthesis, I offer a mid-range theory of the strategies that Arab Americans – both individual and organizations- have used for sustainable community development and democratic participation, using their Arab-identity as a starting point. Using three book-length ethnographic studies of Arab-Americans, this paper develops a mid-range theory to explain and analyze the strategies that these groups have deployed.

Keywords: Democracy, community development, Arab-Americans, Qualitative metasynthesis, ethnography