

## **Shaindl Lin Diamond - What Makes Us a Community? Reflecting on Alliances Among the Antipsychiatry, Psychiatric Survivor and Mad Movements**

Activists often wish they could build stronger alliances with others in the community who seem to have overlapping interests and goals. Yet attempts to define large-scale community goals and strategies have often ended with divisions and disagreements among community members. In this paper, the author explored questions of what makes “us” a community, what draws psychiatric survivors, mad people and antipsychiatry activists together and what community dynamics push some psychiatrized people away, while considering how racism, sexism, ableism, classism and other oppressions intersect with these questions. The author conceptualized our community as made-up of three overlapping constituencies (antipsychiatry, psychiatric survivor and mad) and discussed the types of goals and strategies that tend to be associated with each part. This analysis hopefully led to a deeper understanding of why sometimes we fail in our coalition building attempts, but also how we are/can be successful in fostering community and a broad-based movement working towards transformative change using different strategies in various spheres at particular moments in time.