

A decorative title box with a gold background. At the top center is a red arch containing a gold star and two gold scrollwork flourishes. Below this is a dark red marquee border with a row of gold dots. The text is centered within a white rounded rectangle.

Public Health and the Law: The
Colorado Experience

Keeneland 2010 • Lee Thielen



Why study public health law?

Why would **YOU** want to do public health law research?

Colorado: Policy trumps program.

“Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.”

Humphrey Bogart, *Casablanca*, 1942



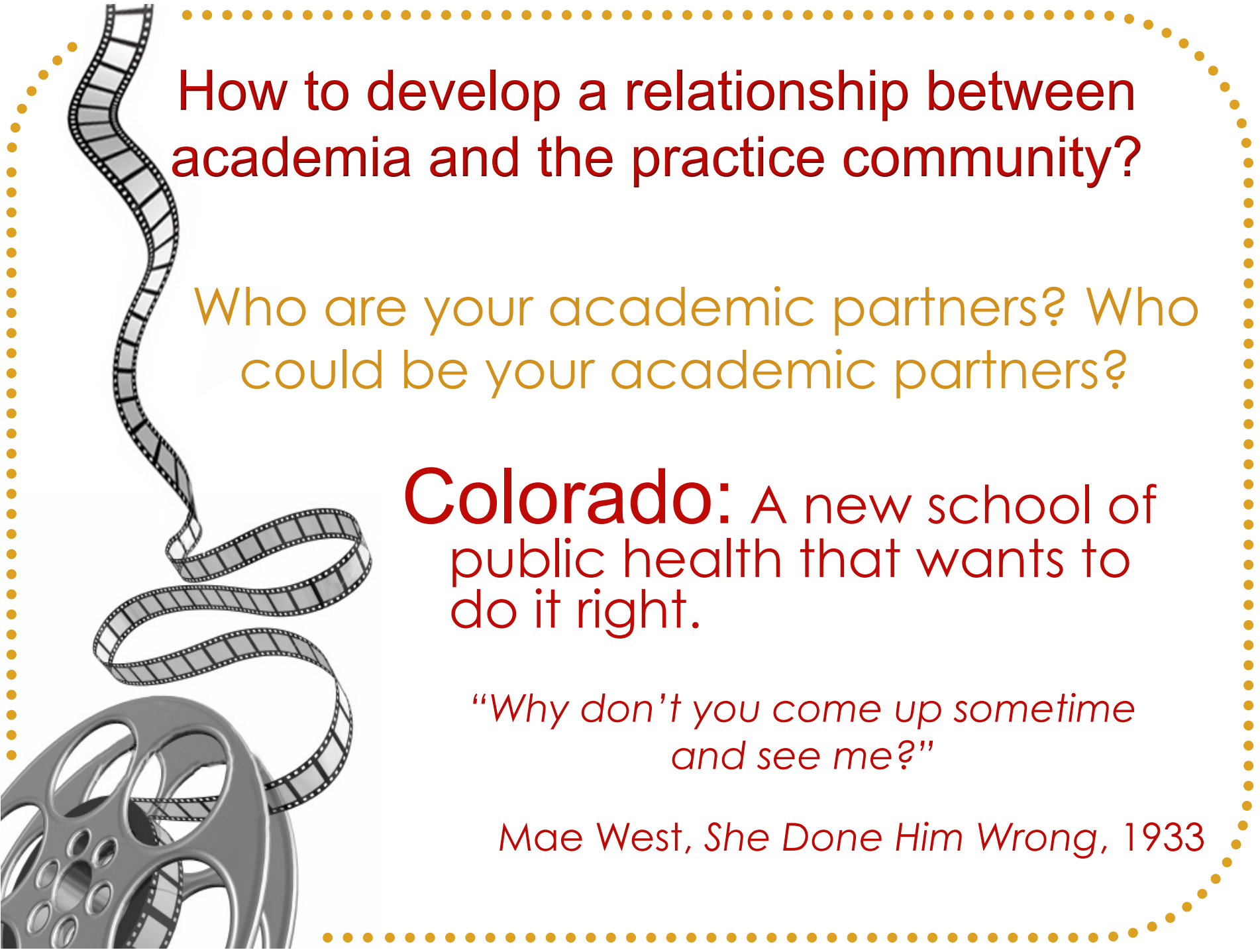
How do you pick a topic?

How would **YOU** go about deciding what is worth studying?

Colorado: What will really determine the ability of public health to be consistent around the state?

"The stuff that dreams are made of."

Humphrey Bogart, *The Maltese Falcon*, 1941



How to develop a relationship between
academia and the practice community?

Who are your academic partners? Who
could be your academic partners?

Colorado: A new school of
public health that wants to
do it right.

*“Why don’t you come up sometime
and see me?”*

Mae West, She Done Him Wrong, 1933



It takes the right team.

How would you find the right mix of players for a public health legal research project?

Colorado: Look in every cranny and you might find lawyers with MPHs from top schools and other stars.

"I am going to make him an offer he can't refuse."

Marlon Brando, The Godfather, 1972



What does not work for a team?

Can you think of mistakes you could make in pulling a team together?

Colorado: We looked to new partners and new partnerships.

What we didn't do:

"Round up the usual suspects."

Claude Rains, *Casablanca*, 1942



How do you get buy-in from the busy practitioners for research?

How would you engage the very busy practitioners in your state?

Colorado: Communication, communication, communication. Make it relevant.

“What we have here is a failure to communicate.”

Strother Martin, Cool Hand Luke, 1967.



What happens when you have offended?

Can you think of ways you could
inadvertently assume too much?

Colorado: Oh yes. Phone
agreements on data use are
worthless.

"I want to be alone."

Greta Garbo, Grand Hotel, 1932



Policy-makers need to be engaged.

How do you engage legislators?

County commissioners? Boards of Health? State officials? Who else?

Colorado: Multiple strategies. Engage the State Board of Health, Colorado Counties Inc., etc.

“Frankly, my dear. I don’t give a damn.”

Clark Gable, *Gone With the Wind*, 1939



Research needs to be used.

How would you translate your research to practice?

Colorado: Still untested, but we have plans.

“I’ll have what she’s having.”

Estelle Reiner, When Harry Met Sally, 1989

Now it is your turn.

“May the Force be with you.”

Alex McCrindle, *Star Wars*, 1977

