Rural Women's Strategies of Community Building, Self-Reliance, and Resistance: South Africa from Apartheid to the Social Grant

**UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project**

1. no poverty
2. zero hunger
3. health & well-being
4. gender equality
5. clean water & sanitation
6. affordable & clean energy
7. decent work & economic growth
8. industry, innovation & infrastructure
9. reduced inequality
10. gender equality
11. Sustainable cities & communities
12. affordable & clean energy
13. Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns
14. protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial
15. incorporate the promotion of peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development,

**UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project**

- International Development, Health and Education
- Science, technology and sustainability
- Arts, language, culture and history

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A collaborative telling of the history of rural marginalisation, rural-urban linkages, and women’s efforts to respond to the oppressions of apartheid and global neoliberalism in N’wamitwa, South Africa.

Faculty Lead: Dr. Elizabeth Vibert, History

Partners: Hleketani Community Garden, Valoyi Traditional Authority (VTA), and Xitsavi Youth Centre, South Africa. Halliburton Community Farm, Victoria.

Project timeframe: 2012-2019


Website: http://womensfarm.org
About

Across the global South women -- especially older women -- are among the most marginalised members of society. My research explores a counter-narrative generated by older women farmers. Drawing on the self-confident life histories of farmers in N’wamitwa, South Africa, the research examines household microeconomies and collaborative activities that provide a political forum for women and offer some buffer against the pressures of the global economy and national policy failures. At the same time the research uses women's stories to shed light on the particular structures that continue to militate against women's empowerment.

The principal partner organisation for this research is Hleketani Community Garden, a grassroots community organisation in Jopi village, South Africa. I have broader community contacts with the Valoyi Traditional Authority (VTA), the traditional government in the communal territory where Jopi is located. I work closely with the Xitsavi Youth Centre, a project of the VTA, assisting them with grant writing. The UVic Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa, which I designed and run, was closely connected with the Xitsavi Youth Centre and Hleketani Community Garden while in rural South Africa. In the Victoria area I have developed a partnership with Haliburton Community Farm, which helped with organisation of the 2015 Urban Food-Garden Tour -- a fundraiser and awareness raiser for local food sovereignty here and in the Global South. Funds raised by the food-garden tour (which took some 400 people into this region's backyard veggie gardens) were split by Haliburton Farm and Hleketani Garden. Funds to Haliburton purchased a summer's worth of vegetable boxes, which were delivered to low-income families connected to 1Up, the Single Parent Resource Centre -- a second local partnership. Although my research is based in South Africa, I am passionate about 'local' food sovereignty wherever 'local' may be.

Impact Summary

The women's farming project is locally conceived and managed; production, consumption, and distribution is local; women are empowered through work and community; soil and water resources are managed using agro-ecological methods that help to mitigate the intensifying effects of climate change; people marginalised by poverty and HIV/AIDS are supported with free, fresh produce.

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Description of Research Partnership

Hleketani farmers' notions of the story they want to tell has altered the focus of my research. The story of their farm -- what I call 'the biography of a farm' approach -- is their idea. The idea to make a film about the farm was also theirs. My research collaborator and interpreter, Basani Ngobeni, is very well situated in the village (as a result of our research there -- she's from a nearby village) and completely indispensable to the research. Basani helps guide research questions, and confers at every turn with the women about the best focus or next activity. Yet these are mostly non-literate women, and only a couple speak English. They live in a community with no internet access.

Decisions about when research is carried out, how to fund it, and so forth are made by me (with consultation with Basani). I do the analysis of data, often guided by Basani’s insights and Basani’s ongoing consultations with the women. I do the writing and often discuss ideas and portions of the writing with Basani. Basani and - principally - the farmers make all decisions about how funds raised for the farm are deployed. Basani and I recently co-wrote a cookbook as a fundraiser.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 81%
Motivations for starting the project

My main research interest has long been the historical construction and lived experience of poverty. Trained as an historian of Southern Africa and the British empire, I had been working on a project on late eighteenth-century Nova Scotia but was repeatedly stymied by a lack of sources that provided insight into the experiences of people who were poor. It was especially difficult to access the ‘voices’ of the marginalised groups of most interest to me – free people of African descent, women, and Indigenous people. On a 2011 sabbatical in South Africa (during which time, among other activities, I volunteered at a grassroots food-security project), I came to know the women of Hleketani Community Garden. By that time they had been growing food at their community farm for nearly twenty years. Here were women who by any indicators were very poor, but who had created a powerful community for themselves and provided crucial material support to the wider community. The two dozen Hleketani farmers agreed to work with me on a research project that I originally envisioned to be about rural women’s shifting relations to the state from apartheid to the present. It quickly became clear that what they really wanted to talk about and historicise is their farm. My research project has evolved into a ‘biography of a farm,’ a collaborative telling of the history of rural marginalisation, rural-urban migration, and women’s efforts to respond to the oppressions of apartheid and global neoliberalism.

Student role & Impact

12 UVic and one UBC students came to South Africa in 2014 on the Colonial Legacies Field School. Students were required to fundraise in advance for the many community groups that would be our hosts in the country. Community groups all received meaningful financial compensation for their hosting and participation in various activities with the students. Students spent a day in prenational election workshops with South African youth, volunteered their labour at the women’s farm and a youth farm, donated books to a school, donated to an urban housing organisation and other groups. We also created (short-term) local employment, employing a driver, security guard, interpreters, cooks, and room and board.

One student is now working as an intern for Global Affairs Canada; another is planning a Master’s in international development studies.

"Through close personal interactions and group encounters, students gained valuable insights (most for the first time) into rural and urban challenges in the Global South. Many found the examination of colonial legacies and ongoing colonial relations in a distant setting brought into sharp focus the ongoing colonialism in Canada"

Photo: Research collaborator Basani Ngobeni interviews farmer Mamayila M.  
Photo: Mhlava N with a spinach harvest
 Outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Refereed journal publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>in progress</td>
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<td>Non-refereed publications</td>
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<td>Press coverage</td>
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<td>Invited Presentations</td>
<td>20+</td>
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<td>Fully produced films or videos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social media buzz</td>
<td>active bloggs</td>
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 Outcomes

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<tr>
<td>Building community sector organization capacities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral history interview skills; website design and maintenance; social media outreach; bibliographic research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student won JCURA award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assisting Hleketani farmers and Xitsavi Youth Project with grant applications</td>
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<td>assisting Hleketani farmers to restore sustainable irrigation system</td>
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"Community-level projects like this have the potential to nourish communities, materially and emotionally, in a sustainable manner across the globe"

"Reviews from small community screenings of the 'Thinking Garden' around BC: 'This is a film for Africa – governments need to see this film’ - 'Beautiful and inspiring’"

Key References


'The Thinking Garden.' Christine Welsh, director; Elizabeth Vibert, co-writer/producer. Thinking Garden Productions with Prairie Girl Films 2017.
Mapping Our Common Ground: A community collaboratory for sustainable planning and engagement

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

2. Zero hunger
3. Good health & well-being
4. Quality education
6. Clean water/sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work/economic growth
9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities & communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- International Development, Health and Education
- Borders, trade, immigration, laws and government
- Science, technology and sustainability
- Arts, language, culture and history

Facilitating processes for community engagement, student learning, globally-relevant research, sustainable community development and planning through participatory community mapping

Led by: faculty: Peter Keller, Ian O’Connell, Rosaline Canessa (Geography), John Lutz (History), Brian Thom (Anthropology), Jon Corbett (UBC-O); staff: Ken Josephson (Geography), Maeve Lydon (ISICUE); research assistants: Logan Cochrane (UBC-O), Bruno de Oliveira Jayme (UVic)

Partners: SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, Vancity (Vancouver City Savings Credit Union), WSÁNEĆ School Board, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway), the City of Malmö Environment Department and University of Malmö (Sweden), Green Map System

Project timeframe: 2013-2016

Funding: Vancity, United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV)
About

“Mapping our Common Ground”: A community collaboratory for sustainable planning and engagement evolved out of a community-campus mapping contract in 1997. Peter Keller (Geography/Social Sciences) and John Lutz (History) worked with Maeve Lydon (OCBR/ISICUE) and Ken Josephson (Geography) to get a SSHRC Partnership Development and Connections grants (matched by other local funders) and many other local, national and global campus and community partners (including the City of Victoria and the CRD) to create community and green mapping projects, products and platforms and on-line and print learning resources, publications, impact analyses, student labs and local and global colabs and network communities of practice along with conference workshop and presentations in many venues.

Website: www.mapping.uvic.ca

"Using in person and virtual spaces, the wisdom of communities, the research of academics and the passion of educators and students, the Mapping Network is working toward a new kind of knowledge co-creation"

Impact Summary

The wide range of projects undertaken over the past 3-10 years between UVic and the local, national and global communities were extensive and - depending on the interest of the stakeholder or project proponent - the focus - themes were wide ranging. The Community Mapping Collaboratory (CMC) has become well known for also insisting on the inclusion of First Nations names and history in local projects with neighbourhoods and even nationally. In some mapping project cases, a funder or agency has been able to use the information gathered for advocacy; in neighborhoods the local citizens and funders have decided to create a new project or area for improvement; in the case of Fernwood and Oak Bay local citizens were empowered to create their own community associations and restoration projects (there are several other examples). A new area for focus is the inclusion and training of undergraduate and graduate students after a careful negotiation with local partners re: their priorities and interests.

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Motivations for starting the project

This project stemmed from the community based multi-sector initiative supported by LifeCycles and the Community Social Planning Council - the Common Ground Mapping Project - created by local education practitioners with local planners and indigenous groups who wanted to find a way to map the economic, environmental and social assets, places and trends in the CRD region informed by global sustainability needs and actions, the Green Map icon and global educational movement, bioregionalism and indigenous rights and placenames/decolonizing ways of knowing. They were established, developed- designed and through the Office of Community Based Research and the Institute for Studies and Innovation in CUE, who role was to co-create the overall partnerships locally, nationally and globally and align assets and opportunities. As a co-governed community-university body the credibility and reach of OCBR and ISICUE created an ideal and attractive platform for diverse investment.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle: 95%
**Student role & Impact**

The UVic CMC has done approx 13 neighborhood / local place mapping projects, created several region wide projects and a CRD Green Map platform (used widely by many campus and community groups) and it has also convened national and global level workshops, conferences and networks. There are many examples of community impact involving students: The United Way -MITACS funded graduate student program engaged 9 paid grad students over 3 years reaching out to over 1200 residents in 8 CRD communities/ neighbourhoods and 25 NGOs, local government, First Nations and service groups on a regional table level and the United Way staff and board as a lead funder in the region in the process over 3 years and helped the United Way prioritize its investments, understand the needs and interests of residents and to plan their programming. Students in 3 different community mapping courses were involved in supporting the ICA’s Newcomers Asset Mapping project and created a picture of the needs for new immigrants in this region which the ICA can now use for programming and policy; the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Roundtable engaged over 300 residents using asset and place mapping by students to create the Vision Sandown Strategy for the Municipality of Central Saanich and many others have helped with smaller projects. The CMC is co-governed by NGOs, First Nations and local government so that assures the reach and impact is strong and mainly directed BY and FOR the community.

In most of the recent 2013-2016 projects students were involved as: work study students, interns or graduate researchers doing independent research as part of a community-driven research project or masters methods training or internship program; as undergraduate students in classrooms and field programs; and as international students such as those in the CAPI Chinese youth leadership program where hundreds of students a year experience place-based education with NGOs and First Nations. Several went on to do specific graduate research and programs related to this; many created their own projects locally and globally and were hired by government and others because they had a skill to share.

“In total approximately 1500 students in classrooms, 12 graduate student researchers, 8 SSHRC interns, and 3 work-studies were involved in the CMC. All received first hand experience of how to engage with community, valuable research, facilitation and analysis skills and in many cases they used this to focus their ongoing research or work experience plans”

**Key findings**

Positive: Huge impact on students and community and national - global campus-community engagement, decolonizing and innovative methods, relationships and innovative connections with community. Excellent design, facilitation and class-community events and map products (print and online)

Negative: Campus - not enough faculty involvement. Hard to do without a planning school at UVIC! Community- Not enough follow up and ongoing training. No downtown space. Need ongoing nurturing. Core staff are spread too thin and (post OCBR/ISICUE) cannot meet demand.

**Key factors for a successful CER project**

a) The CMC is ongoing; it is not a one off project. We blend micro-meso to macro level functionality and programming

b) Co-Governance and Co-Design

c) Let the staff and researchers do their jobs (a clear diagram of who does what in Office of Research Services)

d) Make sure UVic learns from its past (what worked) and the lessons from cutting edge universities and campus-community enabling structures - e.g. non profits, seed funding, public spaces- supports, student-community engagement
### Outputs

| Refereed journal publications | 5+ |
| Refereed conference papers    | 5+ |
| Book chapters                 | 1  |
| Non-refereed publications     | 10+|
| Multimedia products           | multiple |
| Jointly prepared funding proposals | several |
| Invited Presentations         | 100+|
| Workshops                     | 200+|
| website platforms             | 4  |
| Social media buzz             | active bloggs |
| Consulting with government/NGOs| numerous |
| Co-authored publications      | 2+  |
| Press coverage                | multiple |

### Outcomes

- Student skills & knowledge development
- Development of new and improved theory
- Increased inter-university linkages
- Increased interdisciplinary linkages
- New innovations including social & technological
- Partnerships secured through MoUs
- Faculty awards and honours
- Student awards and honours
- Building community sector organization capacities
- Strengthened community-university networks
- New institutional/organizational structures

"The CMC is designed to match the training and mentoring needs (and passions) of students with the community need for research. Through our model, interns develop employable skills and competencies for economic and social development and the digital economy, while community groups and civic governments advance their planning and policy processes, increase citizen engagement, empowerment and capacity towards more sustainable, prosperous and thriving communities"

### Challenges encountered

Too may demands and lack of core funding for staff time. Recently abrupt change at UVic and lack of backbone from research centres or ISICUE for partnership and program development

### Select Key References

N/A
The 2060 Project: Low Carbon Energy Pathways for British Columbia and Canada

UN Sustainable Development Goals

3. Health & well-being
4. Quality education
7. Affordable & clean energy
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
11. Sustainable cities & communities
13. Take action to combat climate change and its impacts
16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development,
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

UVic’s International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- Science, technology and sustainability
- Borders, trade, immigration, laws and government

Optimizing the integration of Canada’s diverse energy economy (including hydro-power, wind, and carbon-based fuels) to meet our energy needs

Faculty Leads: Peter Wild, Andrew Rowe & Bryson Robertson, Institute of Integrated Energy Systems


Project timeframe: 2014-2018

Funding: Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

Website: www.uvic.ca/2060project
About

The future of the Canadian energy system depends on how it develops and adapts to the challenges of global growth, carbon policies, and the demand for efficient, environmentally sustainable power. One of the main challenges lies in optimizing the integration of Canada’s diverse energy economy (including hydro-power, wind, and carbon-based fuels) in order to meet our energy needs.

The 2060 project, supported by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and based within the Institute of Integrated Energy Systems at UVic, will play a key role by examining potential impacts of integration on large-scale energy systems in Canada under various carbon policies and global growth scenarios.

The project aims to produce knowledge that can be used effectively by policymakers, academics, industry and others to shape programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The results of the 2060 Project’s research in the Western Canada region (BC/AB) have been disseminated across the country and the project is in active discussions with the community of utilities and developers across the Canada about future research topics."

Impact Summary

An Institute of Integrated Energy Systems initiative, Megawatts and Marbles is an interactive educational tool developed to help identify the opportunities and challenges associated with developing affordable, renewable electricity for both sustainable cities and provinces. Driven by the negative impacts of climate change, the Megawatts and Marbles team collaborates with cities, municipalities, First Nations groups and the international community to better inform the debate around decarbonising our electrical system.

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Description of Research Partnership

The decarbonization of our energy system is both occurring and accelerating now, hence each of the partners need to develop the necessary knowledge and output to react and be proactive to these changes. This is generally beyond the scope of their day-to-day operations. The partnerships were easily developed through mutual benefit and were scoped during face-to-face meetings, conference calls and digital communication.

There is consistent collaboration between the students, researchers and collaborators throughout the project. Each new research avenue is explored in direct consultation with partners, project scope is investigated and regular ‘check in’ on research findings occur. Final outreach and finding dissemination is completed in conjunction with partners.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 81%
Motivations for starting the project

As Canada and the world begin the transition to low-carbon energy futures and the significant reduction in GHG emissions, it is imperative that long-term technology explicit models of this transition are created. These long-term visions provide the necessary quantitative and qualitative evidence to assist policy makers, electrical utilities and project developers with the necessary knowledge to ensure the timely and feasible development of energy systems.

The first steps of the project were the hiring of additional students to develop HQP and drive forward research efforts. Outreach and the development of an Advisory board helped scope and direct the research progression. Initiated by: The 2060 Project was initiated through funding provided by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS). This funding allows for the development of HQP, expansion of research goals and regular collaboration with all major players in the energy, electricity and environmental sectors.

Student role & Impact

One of the outputs of the 2060 Project is Megawatts and Marbles; a future electrical system game. Students have taken the game to various community groups (City of Victoria, BC Hydro, IdeasFest, Manitoba Hydro, Sierra Club, Renewable Cities, etc) to provide energy literacy workshops.

Student output has help provincial ministries and independent power producers to develop policy and projects which will enable BC and Canada to transition to a low-carbon future. Student were able to write and publish Op-Eds, Journal articles, website blogs, etc and follow up on their findings through print and voice media.

Students have been able to take internships and co-op positions with partnering organizations. Students are required to publish in academic journals, write website blogs and provide overview presentations to partnering organisations. As such, they develop an ability to professionally present their academic findings to the most impacted organisations.

"Given the direct connection between the partners and the 2060 Project findings, students have been able to present research directly and consistently to the major players in the energy and electrical space"

Key research findings

Positive: Research findings are being directly conveyed and utilized in the provincial discussions around long-term energy transitions. There is improved community awareness of the physics-based realities of proposed renewable energy systems 'solutions'.

Negative: Time frames associated with the publication of peer-reviewed journals is often too long to ensure produced results are regionally relevant.
## Outputs

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<tr>
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<td>Consulting with government &amp; non-govt bodies</td>
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<td>Annual report</td>
<td>Opinion editorial</td>
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## Outcomes

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<td>Building community sector organization capacities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of new and improved theory (Novel modelling code development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthened community-university networks (Directly working with government, utilities, private sector and municipalities)</td>
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## Key factors for a successful CER project

- Ensure the research is relevant to the community you are collaborating with.
- Be willing to take on additional research tasks which provide value to the community.
- Tailor the delivery of research findings to the specific sector of the community you are engaged with.

## Key References


Rainy Day Solutions: Enhancing Rain Gardens as Bioengineering Strategies in Municipal Stormwater Management

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

3. Health & well-being
4. Quality education
11. Sustainable cities & communities
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of territorial ecosystems.

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- Science, technology and sustainability

Connecting children & students with nature & cleaner water quality in streams

Faculty Lead: Valentin Schaefer, School of Environmental Studies

Partners: City of Victoria - Planning, Engineering, Parks; University of Victoria - Office of Research Services, Environmental Studies, Oak and Orca Regional School, Capital Regional District - Sustainability Office, Real Estate Foundation of BC. Mitacs, Murdoch de Greeff Inc.

Project timeframe: 2014

Funding: Real Estate Foundation of BC, RNS Program University of Victoria, Mitacs, City of Victoria

Website: http://www.urbanecology.ca/rain-gardens
About

This research had two main areas of focus: sustainable urban stormwater management and the improvement of school grounds to be more nurturing learning environments. The research looked specifically at stormwater management systems on school grounds for demonstrating sustainable water management and functioning natural systems in addition to the creation of outdoor learning environments where activated, experience based education and play can take place. Urban stormwater management is undergoing change on an international level as municipalities seek solutions to aging, under performing and expensive infrastructure.

Due to the large amount of impermeable surface in the urban environment, runoff is dramatically increased and water is not allowed to infiltrate locally - it is funnelled underground and large volumes of water are discharged into streams and other receiving water bodies. In large rain events, underground stormwater systems are susceptible to flooding and overflow, often mixing with grey and black water systems and spilling into roads, basements and waterways. In normal rain events, urban stormwater picks up pollutants, heat and volume and when discharged into local waterways causes erosion problems, destroys habitat for fish and wildlife and pollutes ground water while creeks outside of discharge areas often experience droughts due to lack of groundwater recharge. With current underground infrastructure aging and needing replacement, governments and researchers around the world are looking to ease the burden on stormwater systems with green infrastructure. We were evaluating the use of rain gardens for stormwater management in Greater Victoria and looking at the best options for moving forward.

"An alternative approach to dealing with increased stormwater runoff is to prevent the water from entering the pipes in the first place – to have it infiltrate into the ground instead. Rain gardens can accommodate some of the increased volumes of stormwater and can reduce loading in the stormdrain system"

Level of Impact:

| Individual | Community | Systems |

Description of Research Partnership

The partnership began with an initial meeting between the City of Victoria and the University of Victoria. The Engineer with the City of Victoria had previous contact with the REF. Val Schaefer also had previous experience with the REF. The Mitacs Coordinator on campus knew someone with Murdoch de Greeff. Cat Orr, one of the grad students, made a connection with Oak and Orca by contacting them. Cara Hrnould, the other grad student, got involved through Val Schaefer.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 77%

Motivations for starting the project

In June 2013 there was a meeting to discuss rain gardens in Victoria. Present were Brooke, R. - Victoria Planning; Demarzo, D. - Victoria Parks; Jedynak, M; Kyffin, J. - U Vic Community Liaison Officer, Mazumder, A, - U Vic Chemistry; Orr, C. - SES Grad Student; Schaefer, V - SES Faculty; Sturdy, J. Victoria Engineering. I was invited to the meeting by Jen Kyffin. A partnership between the university and the city was proposed. It was suggested the university apply for research grants for grad students. I initiated the project for this case study with an application to the Real Estate Foundation for funding. My grad student and I came up with the research outline.
Student role & Impact

1. A report that provided an analysis of rain gardens with best management practices.
2. A rain garden at Oak and Orca School done with staff, teachers and students.
3. A biophysical inventory of vegetation found in rain gardens in Victoria.
4. An annotated bibliography of rain gardens as a resource for government staff.
5. A guide to creating educational rain gardens to be used by schools.

One grad student received her M. Sc. based on the project. The other did not complete her degree but went to Ontario and successfully got a job in government in a related field.

Outputs

| Non-refereed publications | reports & handbook |
| Artistic performances or exhibits | rain garden at school |
| Press coverage | Times Colonist |
| Students employed | 2 |

Outcomes

Student skills, knowledge, attributes towards capacity building

Strengthened community-university networks (Victoria, Murdoch de Greeff, Oak and Orca Community School)

Key successes & challenges

Success: The partnerships worked well, we managed to build a rain garden with the engagement of the school.

Challenge: Could have used more funding, coordinating work between the City and the school in constructing the rain garden was a challenge with work schedules

Key factors for a successful CER project

Facilitating partnerships is of tremendous help.

Key References

Live Case for Our Place Society

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health & well-being
4. Quality education
11. Sustainable cities & community
16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all & build effective, accountable & inclusive institutions at all levels

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- International Development, Health and Education

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Improving the supply chain and storage of food supplies, recruiting and motivating volunteers, and marketing a fundraising program for Victoria's homeless shelter

Faculty Leads: Heather Ranson, Steve Tax & Enrico Secchi, Gustavson School of Business

Partners: Gustavson School of Business & Our Place Society

Project timeframe: 2014

Funding: The Gustavson School of Business funded a special breakfast at Our Place Society where the students served breakfast to the clients’ “family”.

Partnership website: N/A
About

Twenty students, broken into three groups conducted secondary research for the benefit of the management team of Our Place Society. Students looked at improving the supply chain and storage of food supplies, recruiting and motivating volunteers, and marketing a fundraising program. Results were shared with the client in reports and in presentations.

*This project was for a housing shelter and soup kitchen. As a result, the students gained greater understanding of poverty, hunger, nutrition, the impact of homeless shelters in the community. As well, they were given an opportunity to support Victoria’s homeless by feeding them breakfast and providing research to make the supporting institution a more efficient and self-sufficient place.*

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 88%

Every stage of this project was co-created with the client. They worked with us to define the questions, build the background and context for the students and answer questions throughout the research process.

Description of research partnership

Our Place Society initiated the project by getting in touch with the university. They eventually found their way to Heather Ranson who became the primary communication channel with the client.

Student role & Impact

The students wrote reports which were shared with the client. They also presented their findings to senior management. The client moved forward with the students' recommendations. Specifically, they hired a co-op student to implement some other suggestions and conduct further research on the others.

Key successes & challenges

Successes: Passing students and greater awareness of poverty and the homeless situation in Victoria. Also, more efficient systems in the client’s office.

Challenges: Timing. Aligning students’ classes with the client’s schedule.
Key findings

The findings were very positive. Students' reports were excellent and the client was very pleased.

Outputs

Non-refereed publications
Press coverage
Social media buzz

3+
Times Colonist
Facebook

Outcomes

Student skills, knowledge, attributes towards capacity building

Key factors for a successful CER project:

Start early. We use projects every semester, but we need lots of lead time to develop appropriate student questions.
Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

3. Health & well-being
8. Decent work & economic growth
9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure
11. Sustainable cities and communities
16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development,

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- International Development, Health and Education
- Science, Technology and Sustainability

Collaborating to support social innovation, social enterprise and social finance on Vancouver Island

Faculty Leads: Leslie Brown & Crystal Tremblay, Institute for the Studies & Innovation in Community University Engagement.

Partners: Camosun College, University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, Community Social Planning Council, Vancity Credit Union, seCatalyst, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Project timeframe: 2014-2016

Funding: McConnell Foundation, Vancity Credit Union, Camosun College co-op, UVic SLIP grants, Centre for Sustainability and Social Innovation (UVic)

Website: http://visocialinnovation.ca
About

In 2014, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation launched RECODE, an initiative providing social innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities for College and University students across Canada to become drivers of social change. Their aim is to support the development of social innovation and entrepreneurship within and in proximity to colleges and universities, along with business, community and public sector partners. In response to this opportunity, the Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone (VISIZ) was founded in 2015 as a partnership between seven institutions and community organizations with the aim to advance social innovation and entrepreneurship on Vancouver Island. The founding partners include three post-secondary institutions Royal Roads University, Camosun College and the University of Victoria, financial cooperative Vancity, and community organizations Community Social Planning Council, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, and Social Enterprise Catalyst.

VISIZ has produced a number of outputs including a website, and participating members have hosted a number of events, initiatives and training opportunities for students, post-secondary institutions and community organizations focused on social innovation, social enterprise and social finance. VISIZ has produced a series of research publications and reports, an ambitious strategic four year plan, and a successful Social Innovation cohort pilot, pairing co-op students and providing financial support to local social enterprises.

“One thing that VISIZ has done very well, as a collaborative community initiative, is really broaden the reach of social enterprise/social innovation conversations in the region. More people are involved in these conversations/action now, and also more “pockets” of interest in SE/SI are working together.”

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 100%

Impact Summary

An impact assessment of VISIZ was completed at the end of 2015 which documented a number of outcomes that are helping to strengthen the Social Innovation (SI), Social Enterprise (SE) and Social Finance (SF) sector on Vancouver Island, including greater understanding and knowledge of the sector and resources, cross-sector collaboration, and enhanced curriculum. Impact at the individual and organizational level was significant, and there has been some groundwork laid for eventual system level impact.

Description of research partnership

These partnerships were originally established through a community initiative called seCatalyst. From there, a select number of partners came together to develop the proposal for VISIZ. The Steering Committee was guided by an MOU and decision making process. The funds were administered by UVic.
Motivation for starting the project

The motivation for starting the project was a timely Request for Proposals that built upon recent community work around social enterprise and social innovation eco-system development for Vancouver Island. The first steps were to gather the partners into a steering group, write the proposal and then, once awarded, bring that group back together to act as the formal steering group for the initiative. Camosun College and UVic initiated the project.

Student role & impact

Students were involved in a number of ways: 1) research student from UVic did the mapping, 2) research student from Royal Roads conducted literature review and scans, 3) student from Camosun College was hired to manage events and communications, 4) student showcase demonstrated 10 student social venture initiatives, 5) students from each post-secondary sat on the Steering Committee, 6) 4 co-op students were hired as part of the Social Innovation Cohort pilot.

Students in the showcase received funds to support the development of their ideas. The majority of students (3 out of 4) in the social innovation cohort became employed by their community organizations.

"The Cohort pilot advanced Social Innovation in the region by aligning what already exists within Post Secondary Institutions (PSI), providing an immersive experience for students and delivering financial, tech assistance and capacity value to advance Social Innovation"

Project successes & challenges

The VISIZ initiative met all of our deliverables—research, mapping, events and student involvement. It also provided opportunities for key partners in the region to collaborate and build relationships. Each partner is advancing social innovation both collaboratively and within own organizations. More resources will assist in continuing to grow the initiative.

The challenges are maintaining momentum, moving from planning to doing, gaining adequate resources to make an impact, getting buy-in from key organizational and system decision makers, and administering funds in a timely basis.

Photo: Lisa Helps, City of Victoria Mayor & Sarah Rose McShane, VISIZ project coordinator
Outputs

| Book chapter | 1 |
| Non-refereed publications | 6+ |
| Multimedia products | website & social media |
| Students employed | 10+ |
| Invited Presentations | several |
| Consulting with government & non-government bodies | multiple |
| Jointly prepared funding proposals/new projects | 3 |
| Conferences | 6 |
| Community events | 9 |

Outcomes

Student skills, knowledge, attributes towards capacity building
Development of new courses/programs/curriculum
Development of new and improved theory
Increased inter-university linkages
Increased interdisciplinary linkages
Industry connections and spinoffs
New innovations including social or technological partnerships secured through MoUs
Student awards and honours
Building community sector organization capacities
Strengthened community-university networks

Key factors for a successful CER project

Transparent, collaborative communication and decision-making processes insured all partners visions and interests were valued.

"Once VISIZ gets the ball rolling on the strategic plan outcomes, there will be no doubt a great change-making happening on the Island. Through collaboration with partners and the various cities, VISIZ can create an island-wide impact that ties together a network of communities for increased exposure."

Key References


Non-refereed publications

Social finance report: http://visocialinnovation.ca/resources-2/reports-publications/
SI Working definitions: http://visocialinnovation.ca/working-definitions/
Removal, Transitions and Trauma: Retrospective Perspectives of Children and Youth, and International Best Practices on Transition Management

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

3. Health & well-being
16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development,

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

• International Development, Health and Education

Improving transitions for young people entering, moving through and exiting care

Faculty Leads: James Anglin & Angela Scott, School of Child & Youth Care

Partners: Several representatives in Nanaimo, Duncan and Victoria working for local Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD) offices or community agencies, as well as the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks.

Project timeframe: 2015-2017

Funding: MCFD Shared Research Agenda

Website: Not yet available
About

In response to the MCFD call for research proposals, we proposed a two-fold research project which involved a) interviews and focus groups with a sample of former youth in care, and b) a review of relevant Canadian, North American and international literature on best practices of transition management involving youth in care. The faculty member on this research team has undertaken research on group care programs in British Columbia in the past (Anglin, 2002, 2004, 2011, 2014), and interviewed youth in care and former youth in care as part of this research. Conversations with residents and former residents (informal and formal) provided important information on the quality of care experienced and the elements and processes of change that occurred for the young people while in care. In general, such data are infrequently accessed for research studies in child welfare, and yet potentially they can provide important information and insights into current practices and how such practices can be enhanced in the future. There are some notable exceptions in the international literature (e.g. Brown & Seita, 2009; Rodrigues, del Valle & Barbosa-Ducharme, in press), and within the Canadian context (Raychaba, 1988, 1993; Snow and Finlay, 1989).

The challenge of transitions for young people entering, moving through and exiting care is acknowledged in the child and youth care literature internationally, and there is recognition that this is an area needing significant improvement. Accounts of child welfare workers appearing on the doorstep of group or foster homes and announcing to the young person “pack your things, and come with me” are all too common. The current literature on trauma is increasingly identifying ways in which children’s psycho-emotional pain is triggered in ways that can retraumatize.

There is a significant need for all professionals involved in child care and child protection, as well as in the mental health and youth justice systems, to hear from the young people themselves about their experiences of transitions into, through and out of the care system. Policies and practices need to be informed by the stories of the young people living the realities of the impacts of these policies and practices (Brown & Seita, 2009; Raychaba, 1988, 1993). The collaboration and support of MCFD and the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks (FBCYICN) will be important in accessing former youth in care. The FBCYICN has agreed to actively support this study including consultation on interview and focus group questions and recruiting former youth in care for the study. Research ethics approval will be required.

"Impacts included recommendations for improved child welfare and child care policies, programs, training and practices that will enhance well-being of youth in care, as well as proposed new institutional practices in child welfare"

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 49%

Key successes & challenges

The key success was a report to the MCFD.

A challenge was finding participants was a challenge; there seems to be interview fatigue in this sector, and one must work through personal contacts. Emails, posters etc. do not work!
Student role & Impact

Master's student made contacts with the agencies and held interviews on-site at several of them.

Student impact was no less than transformative. The student developed sophisticated research skills and applied them in impressive manner. This student is now turned on to research, is doing a job in the community involving research, and is thinking about pursuing a PhD within next 2 years. Before this project, having a career in research or doing a PhD were unthinkable from her perspective.

"Student impact was no less than transformative. The student developed sophisticated research skills and applied them in impressive manner"

Key research findings

Youth in care suffer the loss of family and community love and support, and through their stories, we propose ways to respond more effectively to their psycho-emotional pain and feel loved.

Outputs

- Refereed journal publications
- Refereed conference papers
- Non-refereed publications
- Multimedia products
- Students employed
- Invited Presentations
- Consulting with government & non-government bodies

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<th>Outputs</th>
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<td>Refereed journal publications</td>
<td>Student skills, knowledge, attributes towards capacity building</td>
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<td>Refereed conference papers</td>
<td>Development of new and improved theory (ground theory framework)</td>
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<td>Non-refereed publications</td>
<td>Increased inter-university linkages</td>
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Key factors for a successful CER project

Careful planning, good consultation with UVic Research Services and Knowledge Mobilization.

Key References

MCFD report available in December 2016. Title: "Removal, Transitions and Trauma: Retrospective Perspectives of Children and Youth, and International Best Practices on Transition Management".
Volunteer Drivers in the Greater Victoria Area

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

3. Health & well-being  
10. Reduced inequalities

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

· International Development, Health and Education

Enhancing the quality of life for seniors requiring volunteer transportation in the local community.

Faculty Leads: Holly Tuokko & Vincenza Gruppuso, Institute on Aging & Lifelong Health

Partners: Kaye Kennish, James Bay Community Project and Capital City Volunteers; Lisa Gleinzer, James Bay Community Project; Susan Zerb, Saanich Volunteer Services Society

Project timeframe: 2013-2015

Funding: Work study program and international Science without Borders program

Website: http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/aging
About

Efforts are underway throughout British Columbia to create communities in which people of all ages and levels of ability can engage and access services to enhance their quality of life. In the Greater Victoria area, transportation has been identified as an issue, particularly with respect to older adults and persons with disabilities. While many older adults remain safe to drive well into later life, some will need to retire from driving, primarily for reasons of impaired health. People with significant health challenges may require “supportive transportation” that includes assistance outside the vehicle (e.g., escorting the person into their destination, waiting with the person at the destination). One way such support is offered within the Greater Victoria area is through service organizations that provide volunteer drivers. Volunteers from the James Bay Community Project, Saanich Volunteer Services Society, and Capital City Volunteers were interviewed in person or by telephone regarding their experiences as volunteer drivers as well as their perceptions of the positive and negative aspects of this involvement. Significant motivators for becoming volunteer drivers included beneficence (i.e., being able to help someone in need), a desire to engage in a pleasurable experience (i.e., driving) and possibly one that utilized skills (e.g., first aid qualification), and a desire to meet new people. Selected challenges that were raised included the difficult reality of assisting individuals with complex care issues, the physical demands of managing assistive devices (e.g., walkers and wheelchairs), scheduling issues, and time spent waiting for clients.

In terms of attracting new volunteer drivers and improving the experience, respondents recommended highlighting the many ways in which providing this service benefits those in need within the community and benefits the drivers. Being able to meet new people, to engage in something they find enjoyable (e.g., driving), and to make a palpable difference to the lives of others were some of the messages they wished to convey to others. The volunteer drivers felt appreciated by the service agencies and the ride recipients. Suggestions for recruitment and retention of drivers included a mentoring program to connect novice and senior volunteer drivers, and inviting people with driving and health care–related experience to become involved as they may wish to continue to exercise their skills in a new, very rewarding way.

"The potential impact of our research was to enhance the quality of life for seniors requiring volunteer transportation in the local community. By understanding the facilitators and barriers to the provision and use of the service, the community agency would be able to enhance opportunities for community members"

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 81%

Description of research partnership

We consulted with community partners about research question of interest to them, consulted on question formation and data collection strategies, recruited participants through partner agencies. Community partners provided feedback on draft analyses and reports to ensure alignment with their needs and goals.
**Student role & Impact**

Three students were involved with the project as interviewers and transcriptionists. One was from Brazil in the Science without Borders program, one was an undergraduate psychology student and one was a graduate student with an interest in aging.

All three students were able to meet the goals and objectives of their respective programs and develop core, professional and program competencies such as describing various facets involved in the conduct of research on aging (e.g., data collection, analysis, ethical issues), and engaging in knowledge mobilization activities connecting aging research to the local community.

**Key successes and challenges**

Successes: students were enthusiastic learners. We were able to recruit participants and address the questions posed by the community agency.

Challenges: the sample size was insufficient for publication in academic venues. Without additional resources (i.e., funding and human resources) we were limited in the scope of the project.

**Outputs**

- Non-refereed publications: 1
- Consulting with government & non-government bodies: 1
- Students employed: 3

**Outcomes**

Student skills, knowledge, attributes towards capacity building

**Key factors for a successful CER project**

Without adequate sample sizes it is difficult for researchers to go beyond providing a report. That is, to publish in academic venues, the sample size and research methods must be sufficiently rigorous. It is often difficult to achieve this level of rigor when working with small community groups.

**Key References**

Strengthening Community University Research Partnerships

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project
4. Quality education 10. Reduced inequalities

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project
- International Development, Health and Education

A global study of effective institutional arrangements for the facilitation and support of research partnership between community groups and universities

Faculty Leads: Budd Hall, School of Public Administration

Partners: Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinarios (CEBEM), Makerere University (Uganda), and a number of regional and global networking organisations including the Living Knowledge Network, Talloires Network, and PASCAL Observatories.

Project timeframe: 2013-2015

Funding: International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada with significant additional in-kind resources from the University of Victoria, Makerere University, the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), & Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada
About

The practices of community-based research (CBR) and all of its variations have developed and evolved over the past 35 years. With roots in the Global South the practices have spread throughout the international development community and supporting bodies such as IDRC. Over the past 15 years, CBR has been ‘discovered’ in the Global North as the Carnegie and WK Kellogg Foundations, the European Union, the Research Councils of the UK and Canada and the AUCC have been promoting research partnerships as key engagement strategies for higher education. A variety of institutional structures are being created to facilitate authentic and respectful research partnerships. Community-University research partnerships are therefore no longer a South or a North issue, but are an evolving global field of action with several global networks supporting them.

‘Strengthening Community University Research Partnerships’ is a global study of institutional arrangements for the facilitation and support of research partnership between community groups and universities. Our ability to benefit from the promises of drawing the resources of universities further into the solution of community problems on their terms depends in part on our answers to several questions: What are the institutional arrangements and processes that show the most promise in facilitating effective, respectful and impactful community university research partnerships? What are the institutional policies needed to mainstream CBR? and What are the most promising policies that national governments and funding bodies could implement to improve the quality of CBR and create effective structures and processes? To answer these questions we carried out five steps: A global survey, case studies, systematisation process, knowledge dissemination and policy dialogues. The deliverables include recommendations for the future development of the field shared on virtual platforms of the UNESCO Chair and through regional policy dialogues, development of targeted policy briefs, a practical e-handbook on best practices and an e-book on the theory and practices of facilitating community university partnerships.

"There has been system wide intervention in theory and practice. The project case studies led to first time documentation of practices of institutional structures, which achieved international visibility for these innovations. This also strengthened the network of people involved and which have remained in touch with each other and part of the movement"

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Impact Summary

There are a number of outcomes related to knowledge creation, capacity building and policy as a result of the project activities and process. A study of this nature which purports to provide a look into the state of institutionalization of community based research at a global level is hard to summarize, however we note a number of key insights and knowledge outcomes including those related to the impact of higher education administrative leadership and middle level management in the promotion of Community University Engagement and the vital importance of long-term commitment and resources to partnerships, among others.

The project has also resulted in awareness generation, sensitization and capacity building of individuals and institutions in the areas of community university engagement and participatory research. The Indian leg of the UNESCO Chair has been involved in extensive awareness generation and capacity building of Indian policy makers, NGOs and HEIs on community university engagement and social responsibility of higher education. The most important among these has been the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), who sought assistance from the Chair on ideas of CUE implementation. In response, the Chair prepared a training manual for universities, which was submitted to AIU, which in turn, distributed it among various interested universities.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 90%
Student role & Impact

Students played a major role in this project. In each of the country case studies local students were hired to conduct the research and co-author the chapters. In addition to these 12 international students, students, 10 UVic undergraduate and graduate students were involved in various activates including a communication team during the ‘knowledge democracy’ conference in 2013 and as research assistants.

The impact was substantial for the students involved to be exposed and engaged in international research and networking in the field of higher education, and community-based research. Students gained valuable experience in research and communication skills that are applied in a variety of contexts.

"In terms of system-level impact, there were numerous symposia organized around the world (GUNi, Canadian Bureau for International Education, International Association of Universities, the Indian Association of Universities, Talloires Network). There was direct impact on the European Commission on Research, when they created the call for proposals for the SWAFS (The role of Science Shop in Society), the UNESCO Chair was the only organization mentioned in the call. This is evidence that the book on structures has had impact."

Key successes & challenges

Successes: Proper and effective coordination between the two legs of the UNESCO Chair (PRIA & University of Victoria), situated at two ends of the globe, was a major lesson that was learnt while implementing the project and managing its activities. This being a global study, we also learnt to effectively manage the coordination between researchers and partners based in different time zones, belonging to institutions which differed in nature, and also, living in countries, which differed in culture aspects. All such variations, differences were some of the important points which were paid due attention to, while managing the project, and which proved to be a challenge and an opportunity both.

Challenges: There were a few challenges in the design of the survey stemming from a very diverse language and practice of CURP. Although this also provides interesting observation on the scope and culture of this practice globally, the dissemination was modestly delayed. Likewise, we received a low response rate from the Global South, despite continued efforts to target Community and University networks in these regions. This was the first open-source e-book published by the research team and we highly underestimated the lengthy process this entailed. At least twice the amount of time was needed then expected to go through the final editing process with the University of Victoria Press.

Key factors for a successful CER project

Clear communication, guidelines and adhering to deadlines enabled the successful completion of this project, given the number of partners involved at various stages of the research.

Photos: International Forum on University Social Responsibility, India (PRIA)
## Outputs

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<th>Open source book</th>
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## Outcomes

- Student skills & knowledge development
- Development of new and improved theory
- Increased inter-university linkages
- Increased interdisciplinary linkages
- New innovations including social & technological
- Partnerships secured through MoUs
- Building community sector organization capacities
- Strengthened community-university networks
- New institutional/organizational structures

## Select Key References


Global Trends in Support Structures for Community University Research Partnerships: Survey Results is a 40-page synthesis of the global survey “Strengthening institutional structure for Community University Research Partnerships”.


Community Engagement Practices in North Bengal University’ Siliguri, India - See more at: http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/unesco/resources/#stash.H6SM9f28.dpuf

Community Engagement Practices in Assam, India. See more at: http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/unesco/pdf/Assam_Study%20Note.pdf


Consultation on new UGC scheme on community engagement in India. See more at: http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/unesco/pdf/
Participatory Sustainable Waste Management

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

5. Gender equality

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- International Development, Health and Education

Increasing the effectiveness, safety, and income generation of organized waste recycling in the metropolitan region of São Paulo, Brazil.

Faculty Lead: Dr. Jutta Gutberlet, Geography

Partners: University of Sao Paulo, Fundacao Santo Andre, Recycling cooperatives (Cooperlimpa, Cooperma, Cooperpires, Coopcipla, Associacao Pacto Ambiental, Refazendo, Raio de Luz, Sempre Verde, Coopercral, Coopercose), Rede Mulher de Educacao, FUNDACENTRO, Movimento Nacional dos Catadores e Materiais Recicláveis, Consorcio Intermunicipal do ABC.

Project timeframe: 2005-2011

Funding: CIDA-AUCC Partnership Grant, IDRC, SSHRC

Website: www.pswm.uvic.ca
About

The overall purpose of the Participatory Sustainable Waste Management (PSWM) project was to increase the effectiveness, safety, and income generation of organized waste recycling in the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Capacity development was accomplished by strengthening the organizational structure and opening up new opportunities for dialogue and action between recyclers and Government. The initiative has increased the awareness about resource recovery and has thus also contributed to improving the urban environment in the region. Besides these outcomes, the project has made significant contributions, far beyond of what was predicted initially. These include, setting up a pilot project on micro-credit, advancing the practice of collective commercialization and networking, implementing new training programs for waste pickers on technical aspects of the collection of recyclables, health and risk factors, participative resource management, gender awareness and inclusion, small business and cooperative developments, micro-credit, group dynamics and participatory methodologies. After the conclusion of this project new initiatives gave continuity and advanced the work. A current project now shares and exchanges the co-created knowledge with waste picker groups and movements in other parts of the world.

Over six years, the PSWM has introduced participatory approaches into waste management. It has helped create a more inclusive culture amongst the local governments in this region, where empowered recyclers have now a voice in political meetings and decision making. Remunerating the service of waste pickers who recover resources is a pertinent and political issue; which the project members have brought up in the dialogue with Government.

"The voices of these participants have impacted decision making and policy design, particularly with respect to fair remuneration, decent work, poverty eradication, sustainable development, mobilizing against waste incineration and for zero waste, and many more"

Impact Summary

The project has transformed the lives of many individual waste pickers who have participated in the project or were benefited by a capacity building activity. Through these and the interactions between project members, many of us and particularly the waste pickers have become strongly empowered, helping these individuals to emancipate themselves from oppressive structures. Many waste pickers became leaders in the National Waste Pickers Movement and thus were able to influence policy on a much broader scale. The voices of these participants have impacted decision making and policy design. Some of their outreach has made a difference in local waste governance, generating public policies for inclusive waste management and obtaining funding for new projects.

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 100%

Photos: Participating members of PSWM, 2012
Motivations for starting the project
The commitment to address livelihood issues of underprivileged communities and the wish to empower the most excluded, the waste pickers was the motivation to initialize this project. The research praxis of our project team was driven by the aim to enhance the democratization process within the political circles related to solid waste management and education. Due to my previous long-term work experience in South America, I was able to rely on well grounded ‘bonding’ and ‘bridging’ social capital in my relations with local and academic communities throughout Brazil. This has resulted in steady and powerful connections, which are fundamental in providing the required research conditions for graduate students, my collaborators and for myself and which has allowed us to implement the Brazil-Canada project (PSWM project).

Student role & Impact
Students played a key role in this project, since their thesis research actively contributed to the knowledge generation and dissemination, moving the project forward. All interventions and research projects had to be approved by the project’s Management Committee, which legitimized the students' work, built trust in the community and contributed to the support by the community.

Key findings
Recycling cooperatives and associations in the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo have been engaged in a network to commercialize recycling and waste management. This work is improving incomes and the networking and organizational skills of some of the most marginalized populations in Brazil. Continuous capacity building training, particularly in participatory management, leadership development, business administration, digital inclusion and gender equality, has helped strengthen the recycling groups.

The project has participated in several local, national and international events, to promote participatory sustainable waste management and to contribute in the debate on waste governance and particularly policy making. The project has played an active role in strengthening the dialogue between recyclers and the government, providing background information and support. It has intensively promoted knowledge sharing and the building of partnerships with municipalities and other key stakeholders, beyond the original geographic region of intervention. It has created and strategically used award-winning videos, photography, newsletters, promotional material, books and articles and a web site to build a better understanding about the important role of information and organized recycling in solid waste management. The project has facilitated a great range of different capacity building interventions, workshops and courses which have contributed to the further emancipation of the waste pickers.

"... I think that the Brazil Canada project went beyond the issues related to work in our respective cooperatives. It gave us the leadership and the education that we are able to do great transformations"

Key factors for a successful CER project:
In our case it has worked extremely well to have a participatory governance structure with an Executive Committee and a Management Council with deliberative power, meeting regularly.

Transparency and participation were our key guiding principles. This meant decision making power of the Management Council, which gave a vote to every participant (recyclers, government, university and NGOs), constant sharing of the results, acknowledging the co-creation of knowledge, and continuous dissemination of the project findings.

We recognize that it is extremely important to be humble and respectful when working abroad and in a different cultural setting. It is particularly important to communicate well in the local language and to have in-depth understanding of the culture, geography, history, politics and colonial legacy of the other culture involved in any research project.
"The students were exposed to intensive, problem based and critical learning. They were involved in knowledge democratization. The students were empowered through their active and meaningful community outreach; reiterated by project participants."

Challenges encountered

We mostly encountered challenges of bureaucratic and administrative nature during the process of establishing the research partnership at the administrative level of the two universities. Language was one issue (all documents needed to be translated) and the lengthy formal procedures (documents needed to be signed off by several administrative levels) posed another time consuming hurdle in this process. These difficulties also reflected in delays in the disbursement of the funding.

There are still many political and cultural bottlenecks that prevent integrated, inclusive solid waste management programs from being economically and environmentally sustainable. Much more community based research is required.

"Key factors that helped us run the project were: to guarantee transparency, participation, flexibility, participatory and democratic deliberation...and, I think what finally really differentiated our project, was that we all cared about the lives involved and the wider societal and environmental questions and challenges we could address with our work"
Select Key References


Homelessness Through Different Lenses: Negotiating Multiple Meaning Systems in a Canadian Tri-Sector Social Partnership

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

3. Good health & well-being
10. Reduced inequalities
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all & build effective, accountable & inclusive institutions at all levels

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- Science, Technology and Sustainability
- Borders, Trade, Immigration, Laws and Government

Advancing processes of diverse partnership collaboration within complex organizational contexts through a case study of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Faculty Lead: Sarah Easter & Mary Yoko Brannen, Gustavson School of Business

Partners: Donald Elliott, Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. Board of Directors include: Lisa Helps, CRD-City of Victoria Ian Batey, Community Director, Steve Tribe, Community Director, Michael L, Community Director, Bruce Parisian, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness, Vicki Sanders, CRD-Saanich, Lynda Hundleby, CRD-Esquimalt, Shayne Ramsey, BC Housing, Sandra Richardson, Victoria Foundation, Patricia Jelinski, United Way, Cheryl Damstetter, Island Health, and Coalition Stakeholders.

Project timeframe: 2015-2016

Funding: The Coalition receives operational support from the City of Victoria, Capital Regional District and Island Health. In addition, the Coalition projects are supported by the United Way, Victoria Foundation and the Government of Canada.

Partnership website: http://victoriahomelessness.ca
About

The research explored how tri-sector partnerships (i.e., public, private and nonprofit players) tackling a complex social issue, such as homelessness, interact and work together over time. For partnerships that are highly interconnected in nature and managerially complex, working together over time can be particularly challenging as these types of alliances often bring together individuals and organizations that are diverse in terms of social issue scope and definition, goals, values, working expectations, etc. As such the purpose of this research was to seek to understand and document the processes by which such diverse partnerships collaborate over time with a central focus on players that act as boundary spanners within these complex organizational contexts.

The Coalition, founded in 2008, is a partnership involving all levels of government, service providers, business members, the faith community, post-secondary institutions, private citizens and the homeless themselves focused upon effectively ending homelessness in the Greater Victoria area by 2018. Their is a robust governance and operational framework in place that support approximately 41 distinct stakeholder organizations.

"The work significantly enhanced the Coalitions’ ability to engage in strategic planning and help facilitate a rethinking of the role of the organization at supporting stakeholders in providing housing and support services to those experiencing chronic homelessness." (Donald Elliott, Community Partner)

Impact Summary

One of the key overall findings that was helpful to the Coalition directly was: surfacing of different understandings of the Coalition’s identity (i.e., its focal purpose and goals) among involved players emanating from key contextual factors (e.g., organizations/stakeholder groups that individuals represented within the partnership). Making explicit these different perspectives helped the Coalition players to better see things from alternative viewpoints and to work to be inclusive and supportive of different notions feeding into the Coalition’s work.

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Several benefits to the Coalition were identified through participating in this project, including:

- in-depth research related to the operations priority of the organization; a better understanding of how the Coalition has developed and grown over time; and, an enhanced sense of the level of alignment between stakeholder organizations. In addition, this project had the potential to contribute to an enhanced understanding of cross-sector partnerships and critical factors for more effective collaboration on complex social issues.

- Good Health and Well-being - Impact through the development of a more robust ‘systems approach’ to providing better health and social support services in support of the needs of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

- Reduced Inequalities - Better collaboration between stakeholders on providing housing at shelter rate to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

- Promote Inclusive Societies - Significant re-imagining of the role of the Coalition in addressing homelessness. Evolved organization much more focused on action and functioning in the capacity of ‘system manager’ with community at the heart of all initiatives.
Motivations for starting the project

The project was initiated by Sarah Easter who engaged the Coalition Executive Director at the time, Andrew Wynn-Williams. Several benefits to the Coalition were identified through participating in this project, including: in-depth research related to the operations priority of the organization; a better understanding of how the Coalition has developed and grown over time; and, an enhanced sense of the level of alignment between stakeholder organizations. In addition, this project had the potential to contribute to an enhanced understanding of cross-sector partnerships and critical factors for more effective collaboration on complex social issues.

Student role & Impact

This project was carried out by me, a former student, as a part of my dissertation work at UVic. While I provided ongoing updates to the Coalition throughout the course of this study, at its conclusion I also provided a summary of the key findings as well as recommendations for the Coalition in moving forward.

"Engaging in this work showed me the value of taking up a community based approach in understanding a complex societal challenge and how this actually plays out in action. It also highlighted for me the power of collective action as well as the incredible challenges facing such a multi-faceted partnership that involves public, private and nonprofit actors in working to solve homelessness in the local community."

Key findings

1) Surfacing of different understandings of the Coalition’s identity (i.e., its focal purpose and goals) among involved players emanating from key contextual factors (e.g., organizations/stakeholder groups that individuals represented within the partnership);

2) A process model detailing how the Coalition’s identity is continually changing over time; and

3) Capabilities that individuals possess who are savvy at navigating across different perspectives within the Coalition.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 55%

In the beginning of the project, during the proposal development phase, I first met with the Executive Director to discuss the Coalition’s possible involvement in my dissertation research to ensure that this was a collaborative endeavor that would also be beneficial to the Coalition’s ongoing work.

Throughout this ethnographic study, I worked closely with the Coalition in order to ensure that my emergent sense making was reflective of their experiences working in the Coalition including regularly meeting with involved players to discuss ongoing findings, clarify issues and ask follow up questions. At the conclusion of the study, I also provided a draft summary of findings and recommendations and sought out additional feedback from participants before finalizing it.
Key factors for a successful CER project:

Engaging with the Coalition partners as much as possible throughout the duration of this study.

Capturing the variety of different perspectives involved in the Coalition and how they interacted over time in seeking to address a complex societal challenge.

"Ongoing transparent communications and a willingness to produce research that is of benefit to both the university and the community partners are key factors in the success of the partnership"

Challenges encountered

Faculty lead: As I was concerned with providing a holistic narrative of the Coalition’s work and accounting for a variety of different viewpoints, it was challenging to ensure that I appropriately gave voice to all of the different players involved -- governmental, nonprofit, business, faith, postsecondary, experiential community, etc.

Community partner: Lack of clarity of Coalition by stakeholders. Lack of communication between some within Coalition framework. Lack of resources to address identified needs. Politics surrounding issues of poverty and housing/homelessness.
Key References


Working papers:

Easter, S., Brannen, M.Y., & Thornton, P. The promise of integrating institutional logics and negotiated culture perspectives for cross sector partnership research. Targeted for Human Relations (December 2016)

Easter, S. & Murphy, M. Bridging across multiple meaning systems: Boundary spanning in a Canadian tri-sector social partnership. Status: Preparing draft for submission to 2017 Academy of Management Conference Target journal: Organization Studies

Traveling Together? Navigating the Practice of Collaborative Engagement in Coast Salish Communities

UN Sustainable Development Goals addressed by this project

3. Health & well-being 10. Reduced inequality

UVic's International Plan Goals addressed by this project

- International Development, Health and Education

Identifying community concerns and jurisdictional responsibility for transportation safety and health in an Indigenous context

Faculty Leads: Sarah Marie Wiebe, Leslie Brown, Kelly Aguirre, Amy Becker, Israyelle Claxton, Brent Angell; School of Public Administration

Partners: Tsawout First Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, Seabird Island First Nation, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Songhees First Nation

Project timeframe: 2013-2016

Funding: Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), Auto 21

Website: http://crdcommunitygreenmap.ca/story/travelling-togethertsawout-transportation-safety-project
About

Academics widely understand Participatory Action Research (PAR) to be relevant to communities, collaborative from project design to dissemination of results, equitable and participatory while also action-oriented in pursuit of social justice. This research examined the challenges and opportunities that researchers encounter when applying participatory tools within an Indigenous context. In September 2013, the University of Victoria Research Team began a transportation safety project in partnership with the University of Windsor and participating Indigenous communities across the country. This project entailed both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, including a national survey in addition to community conversations, to promote community health and injury prevention. Responsible for outreach to coastal communities in British Columbia, the interdisciplinary Research Team employed PAR methodologies to address local and national transportation safety concerns ranging from booster seat use to pedestrian safety.

This project asked: what can participatory approaches offer the study of community engaged research (CER) with Indigenous communities? The research team assessed the promises and perils of PAR for community-engaged research when working with Indigenous communities; second, we aimed to demystify the process of PAR based on our experience working with the Tshawout First Nation to “Light up the Night” through participatory video with Indigenous youth; third, we reflected on what we learned in this process and discuss avenues for further research. Our outputs entailed a written article and accompanying videos that illuminate the creative approach to collaborative engagement with Indigenous communities.

"Indigenous partners were involved in all stages of the process from design to dissemination of research findings. A partner from the Tshawout Nation was involved in the co-authorship of a journal article and community video"

Level of Impact: Individual Community Systems

Impact Summary

The transportation project identified community concerns around health and safety (i.e. lighting in the community, sidewalks, booster seat, seatbelt use, speedbumps, licensing, etc) focused on transportation. We also identified jurisdictional responsibility for addressing transportation safety concerns in an Indigenous context. By interviewing public officials with community partners, we entered into a dialogue about community health and safety.

Extent of community collaboration throughout the project cycle 100%

Motivations for starting the project

Dr. Brent Angell from the University of Windsor School of Social Work approached us to work on this project. He had a previous working relationship with Dr. Leslie Brown from the University of Victoria. Dr. Sarah Marie Wiebe led the research team as a post-doctoral fellow affiliated with the Institute for Studies and Innovation in Community University Engagement. To begin this work, we reached out to Dr. Robina Thomas and staff from the First People’s House then hosted potential community partners at the Songhees Nation Wellness Centre for an information session.
Student role & Impact

Graduate students at the MA and PhD level were involved in developing participatory workshops with youth as well as facilitating community conversations with community-members and policy-makers who share an interest in transportation safety.

"Students learned about Indigenous perspectives on transportation safety concerns as well as building skills in participatory research methods" 

Key successes & challenges

These projects take time, often must longer than the academic cycle. Project funding must always have a budget line for food and hospitality. Need to have support for materials and training, (i.e. camera gear, flip charts, food, etc).

Some challenges negotiating the expectations of community partners and principal investigator, we took care to try to adhere to local policies and protocols and provide updates to national partners on a frequent basis to enhance communication.

Outputs

Refereed journal publications 1+
Multimedia products
Workshops
students employed
multiple
5+

Outcomes

Student skills, knowledge, attributes towards capacity building
Development of new and improved theory
Increased interdisciplinary linkages
New innovations including social and technological Partnerships secured through MoUs
Strengthened community-university networks

Key References

Traveling Together? Navigating the Practice of Collaborative Engagement in Coast Salish Communities (Engaged Scholar Journal, forthcoming Fall 2016)