

Social Cohesion in Rural Canada: Book Outline

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Social Cohesion in Rural Canada

- Introduction
- Theoretical Framework
- Governance and Social Cohesion
- Rural Services and Social Cohesion
- Communications and Social Cohesion
- Economic Performance and Social Cohesion
- Social Cohesion in the New Rural Economy

Introduction (Bill et al.)

- Why is social cohesion important?
- Why is rural special?
- NRE project as an opportunity
- Rural revitalization as point of departure

Theoretical Framework (Bill)

- Defining Social Cohesion (4 types)
- Social Cohesion, Social Capacity, and Social Capital
- Measuring Social Cohesion and Social Capital
- Exploring the Indicators for Social Cohesion

Consequences:

- The old function of rural communities has disappeared (services centres for commodity production)
- Technologies, markets, and policies mean that it is no longer necessary to have rural communities
- Few economic functions for communities have emerged:
 - Bedroom communities
 - Tourist communities
 - Amenity communities
 - Retirement communities

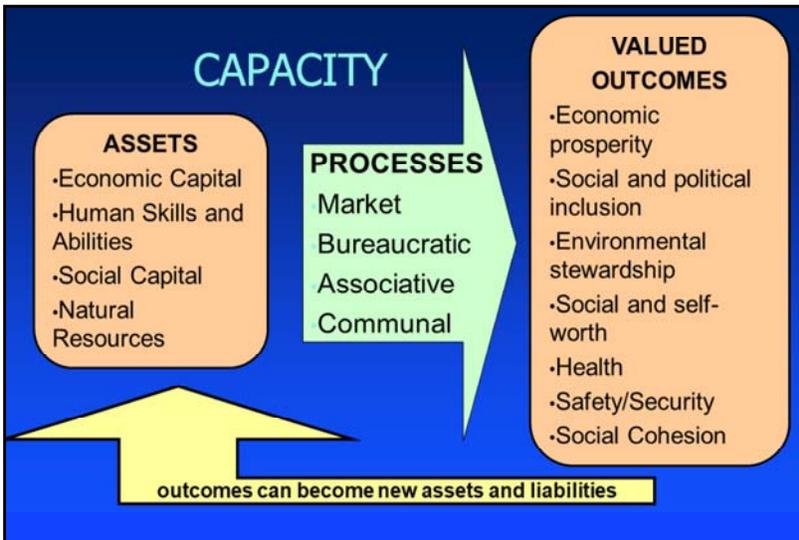
Social Cohesion

The extent to which people respond collectively to achieve their valued outcomes

- SoCo is temporal – specific to activities
- SoCo scales – specific to groups
- SoCo requires evaluation – may be positive for some, negative for others

Social cohesion may occur through 4 types of relations

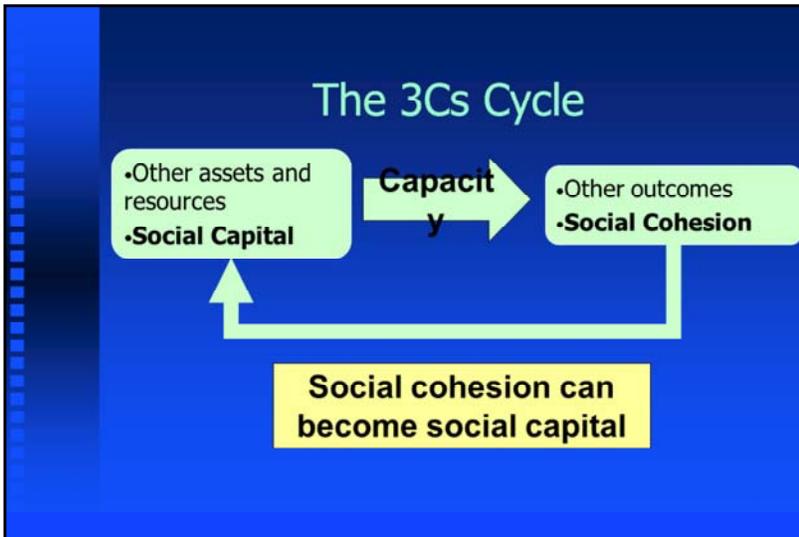
- Market
- Bureaucratic
- Associative
- Communal



(Re)vitalization occurs when capital and resources are (re)organized to produce desired outcomes. The ability of rural communities to do this in an appropriate and successful fashion is what we refer to as the community's capacity.

Capital

- Human-made assets used for productive purposes



Social cohesion and social capital

- Depending on how it is used, social cohesion may become social capital
 - if it is used for productive purposes

Social Cohesion as Perception

- Assessment of previous cohesion (Neighbouring activity)
- Anticipation of future cohesion (Cohesion)
- Expression of affective association (Commitment)

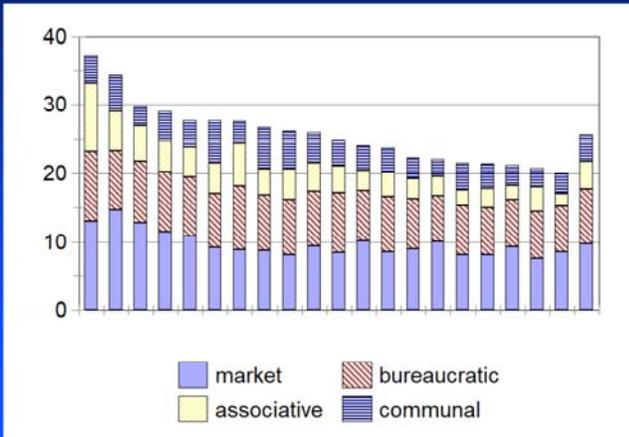
Social Cohesion as Perception

- Assessment of previous cohesion
 - Anticipation of future cohesion
 - Expression of affective association
-
- Raise it as an empirical question – is there a relationship between the two
 - Raise it as an issue of identity
-
- Derek's work:
 - Cohesion (anticipation of working together) – could be used as social capital
 - Commitment (expression of affective association) – personal identification with community
 - Neighbouring activity (assessment of previous cohesion)

Measuring Social Cohesion

- Household-level information
- Within 30 minutes where appropriate
- Identified with respect to 4 types
 - muse30, buse30, ause30, cuse30
- Index of variation in SoCo types

4 Types of SoCo by NRE Sites



Behavioural vs. Perceptual Indicators

Table 2: Correlations between perception and behavioural-based indicators of social cohesion (N=1995 household(s))

Perception-based SoCo	Behavioural-based Social Cohesion					Total	Variation
	Market	Bureaucratic	Associative	Communal	Total		
comch	.097	.105	.245	.181	.238	.221	
psycm	.093	.117	.249	.166	.238	.223	
attract	-.002*	.018*	.137	.076	.089	.102	
neigh	.125	.079	.151	.200	.205	.174	

*Not significant; all other correlations are significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

- Perception-based narrow?
- Perception more sensitive to identity?
- Perception less sensitive to incidents?

SoCo and the NRE Dimensions

	Market	Bureau	Assoc	Comm	Variety
Global	H	H	H	H	H
Stable	F	S			
Adjac	A	A	A		
Capac			H	L	L
Leading	Ld	Ld	Ld	Lg	Lg

- Mixed pattern
- Reinforces value of SoCo distinctions

SoCo and Household Characteristics

- Higher incomes
- Higher education
- Larger households
- Younger families
- Bureaucratic → young children and elderly
- Market → larger households

SoCo and Social Capital

Table 6: Correlation coefficients between social capital and social cohesion indexes (N=1349)

Social Cohesion	Social Capital (density)					Total	Variation
	market	bureaucratic	associative	communal			
comcob	-.051*	-.027	-.048*	-.041	-.081**	.090**	
psycom	-.101**	-.025	-.052*	-.058**	-.118**	.084**	
atract	.022	-.066**	-.054*	-.033	-.027	.084**	
neigh	.013	.005	-.018	-.010	-.017	.032	
market	-.075**	-.063**	-.077**	-.145**	-.133**	-.062**	
bureaucratic	-.133**	-.031*	-.056**	-.079**	-.147**	-.009	
associative	-.059*	.049*	.012	-.040	-.047*	.035	
communal	-.167**	.071**	.036	.051*	-.094**	.205**	
total	-.155**	.003	-.032	-.084**	-.153**	.055*	
variation	-.139**	.102**	.069**	.060**	-.075**	.190**	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

- Weak relationships
- Negative relationships in many cases

SoCo Framework

- Relationship to national cohesion?
- Relationship to stratification approaches?
- Relationship to social conflict issues?
- Relationship to rural development?
- Implications for rural policy?

Rural Services and SoCo

- When formal services decline, what do people do?
- What does/will services provision look like for bedroom communities?
- Policy proposals: note gov't departments, including finance and corporations
- Furuseth's framework re. functions and NRE sample frame dimensions

Communications and SoCo

- 6 types of communication: are some more conducive to SoCo?
- Communication/knowledge as power
- What data analysis possibilities are there with NRE data?

Economic Performance and SoCo

- What are the issues?
- Which can we address with our current resources?
- What resources/personnel do we need?
- How much will it cost?

Governance and SoCo

- Economic elite, municipal leaders, local civil society now must work together
- What are the primary styles of new governance?
- How have amalgamation processes affected these styles?
- How has this changed the nature of SoCo?
- How is this demonstrated in NRE data?

Final Chapter

- Summary and integration
- Theoretical, research, and policy implications