

Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network (CSIN)

Learning Event #19: Cultural Indicators Atelier d'apprentissage 19 sur le RCID: Les indicateurs culturels

June 8, 2006

Presenter and Participant Bios

Presenters

Nancy Duxbury, PhD

Nancy is the Director of Research (and co-founder) of the Creative City Network of Canada, a national non-profit organization that operates as a knowledge sharing, research, public education, and professional development hub for municipal cultural staff across Canada. She is also the Director of the Creative City Network's recently launched Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities, and an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University.

She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the Canadian Cultural Observatory and the GVRD Regional Cultural Planning Task Force, and a recent member of Statistics Canada's National Advisory Committee on Culture Statistics (2001-2006). From 1995 to 2003 she was Cultural Planning Analyst at the City of Vancouver's Office of Cultural Affairs, and was Assistant Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Communication* from 1993 to 2001.

She holds a doctorate in Communication and a master's in Publishing from Simon Fraser University, and a bachelor of Commerce degree in management from Saint Mary's University. Her research has focused on Canadian book publishing, cultural policy, cultural indicators, and the involvement of municipalities in cultural development. In 2001, she was awarded the Dean of Graduate Studies Medal for research excellence for the Faculty of Applied Science at Simon Fraser University.

Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities

A project of the Creative City Network of Canada, supported by Infrastructure Canada, Canadian Heritage, and Simon Fraser University

The Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities is a three-year initiative that builds on the Creative City Network of Canada's demonstrated strengths in research, knowledge exchange, and public awareness. The Centre's activities include three interlinked components: *knowledge generation* (research), *outreach and networking*, and *awareness/knowledge exchange*.

A comprehensive research framework guides the Centre's own research efforts as well as coordinate those of various partners, and is organized into three research streams:

1. Culture as the fourth pillar of sustainability: Understanding cultural dynamics, systems and support frameworks
2. The state of cultural infrastructure in cities and communities
3. The impacts of cultural infrastructure on cities and communities

The third research stream includes questions relating to the measurability of impacts and the development of cultural indicators.

For further information: www.creativecity.ca/cecc

Luisa Maffi, Ph.D.

Luisa Maffi, Ph.D. is a linguist, anthropologist, and ethnobiologist. She is co-founder and president of Terralingua and one of the developers and proponents of the concept of biocultural diversity. She conducted linguistic fieldwork in Somalia (1979-85), leading to the co-authoring of a dictionary of the Somali language, and anthropological fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico (1988-93), leading to her doctoral dissertation on Tzeltal Maya concepts of health and illness. In 1996, her interest in the relationships between language, knowledge, and the environment, and between linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity prompted her to co-found Terralingua and to launch its activities with the interdisciplinary conference Endangered Languages, Endangered Knowledge, Endangered Environments (Berkeley, California, U.S.A.). She has published extensively on Somali and Mayan linguistics, color categorization, ethnomedicine, traditional ecological knowledge, language maintenance and revitalization, indigenous peoples' linguistic and cultural rights, and the relationships between linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity. Among her most recent publications are: the edited book *On Biocultural Diversity: Linking Language, Knowledge, and the Environment* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001), the coauthored booklet *Sharing a World of Difference: The Earth's Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity* (UNESCO, WWF, and Terralingua, 2003), the coedited volume *Ethnobotany and Conservation of Biocultural Diversity* (New York Botanical Garden Press, 2004), the coedited issue no. 13 of IUCN's journal *Policy Matters* devoted to culture and conservation (2004), and the review essay *Linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity* (*Annual Review of Anthropology*, 2005).

Terralingua (TL) is a non-profit, international organization founded in 1996 by a group of professionals working in the fields of anthropology, linguistics, biodiversity conservation, and human rights who shared a fundamental belief: that the challenge of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the diversity of life on earth is the challenge of supporting and promoting diversity in nature and culture. <http://www.terralingua.org/>

Selection of Participants

Robin Armistead

Culture Office, City of London

Robin Armistead, worked for the City of London since 1987 and has specialized in Municipal Policy and cultural allocations. Currently I am initiating a Culture Office for the City of London in the CAO's Office with the responsibility to ensure that the 85 recommendations of the Creative City Task Force are implemented and I oversee the granting to arts and heritage organizations. I am interested in Cultural Measures and am a member of the Canadian Evaluation Society. I am also a member of the Creative City Network and am interested in the work of Nancy Duxbury and the Creative City Network.

I am the London contact for the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative which has developed the following input measures:

- o Gross Culture Cost Per Capita
- o Gross Culture Cost – Arts Grants Per Capita
- o Gross Culture Cost – Heritage Grants per Capita
- o Gross Culture Cost – Festival Grants per Capita
- o Gross Culture Cost – Municipally Operated special events and Festivals per capita (London does not have)
- o Gross Culture Cost – Municipally Owned Facilities but operated by others per Capita
- o Gross Culture Cost – Other Municipal Programs and Operating Costs per Capita (salaries)
- o Gross Culture Cost per Visitor/Participant – Municipal Owned and Operated Facilities – Gated Admission

Output Measure

Municipal Arts Grants as a percentage of Recipients Gross Revenue (London does not have this yet but has amended its contract with the London Arts Council to gather for 2006 grant recipients)

Interests

My interest is in developing output indicators that are ultimately attributable to work in Culture such as immigration and migration rates, attraction and retention of university graduates, audience development for culture (in the broadest definition to include diversity, students, science, architecture/urban design, public art, culture districts, percentage of tree cover)

Robin Armistead

Culture Office – City of London

CAO's Office

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Lindsay Cole

Director, Sustainability Solutions Group

Lindsay is currently a Director with Sustainability Solutions Group, working on sustainability assessments and green building and sustainable community development projects. Lindsay has worked on sustainability management systems for campuses and other organizations, including the development of a sustainability assessment reporting framework for university campuses, green operations planning for a sustainable community development, and sustainability reporting for several organizations.

Lindsay has played a leading or support role on over 20 different Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) projects and has a great deal of expertise on the application of LEED to many different project types, climates, and sites. She is an experienced facilitator of integrated design processes, and works with owners, design and construction teams to build their capacity to integrate sustainability issues into development projects. She has five years of experience working on green building and LEED consulting projects for a wide range of clients, including the Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Project, Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympics (VANOC) and Dockside Green.

Lindsay is an active contributor to non-profit and community organizations, and spends a great deal of her time volunteering with various local, provincial, national and international organizations. Lindsay completed her Masters in Environment and Management, and is a LEED Accredited Professional. She is based in BC.

Israel Dumande

Sustainable Remediation Technologies Initiative (SRTI), Mount Royal College

The project involves the articulation of criteria and indicators for evaluating the sustainability of remediation technologies, database development and Case studies. The aim is to ensure that the technologies being used for remediation are environmentally-, economically- and socially sustainable. Stakeholders involving consultants, cleaning up companies, government officials (policy makers) and land owners are being involved in establishing criteria for evaluating the progress of remediation industry towards sustainability.

Further information can be obtained from the website:

http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_771_203_0_43/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Living/The+Environment/Initiatives+and+Events/Environmental+Assessment+and+Liabilities/Sustainable+Remediation+Technologies+Initiative/Sustainable+Remediation+Technologies+Initiative.htm

Steven Friedenthal

Community Services Department, City of Edmonton

Steven Friedenthal, a Strategic Planning Officer with the Community Services Department for over 30 years, has been Edmonton's representative on the FCM Quality of Life Reporting System Technical Team since 1997. Working closely with Councilor Michael Phair, Steven has coordinated community consultation processes to identify indicators and priority actions to improve Edmonton's quality of life. Steven has participated in or led a number of indicator projects including "Community Outcome Indicators for Performance Measurement", "Community Outcomes for the City of Edmonton Business Plan" and Edmonton Life: Local Indicators for Excellence. Steven has developed and manages the "Edmonton Social Plan" a social, demographic and economic information base for planning and funding allocations. Steven's recent endeavors include a new environmental scanning process for annual strategic planning and he is initiating risk management processes into the Community Services Department to enhance abilities to meet overall objectives. Steven has an eclectic educational background in social policy, social work, anthropology and archeology.

Will Garrett-Petts

www.smallcities.ca

Will is Principal Investigator and Director of the "Mapping Quality of Life and the Culture of Small Cities" research program, a new five-year Community-University Research Alliance Grant (funded by SSHRC and administered through Thompson Rivers University). Using Kamloops as a baseline, Will and his team of 26 university researchers and over 30 community researchers and partners will study and compare the cultural and social aspects of other small cities in four areas of B.C.—the Comox Valley (Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland); Nanaimo; Port Moody; and Prince George—cities at various stages of making the transition from a reliance on industry and resource extraction to a reliance on cultural, environmental and historical resources.

With the exception of Port Moody, each city selected for study exhibits the following characteristics: (1) a discernable downtown core; (2) an authentic, locally celebrated history in a place physically separate from major metropolitan centres; (3) a measurable level of cultural participation, including a tradition of volunteerism, growth coalitions, and leadership; and (4) a creative cultural policy that links the city's centre and heritage to its outlying areas and communities. Port Moody presents an especially interesting case study, offering our research team an important point of comparison: while the city aspires to all of the above--and has even designated itself officially "the City of the Arts"--Port Moody is generally regarded as a suburb of Greater Vancouver, complicating questions of community cohesion and identity.

With the aid of national and international partners, the research group will extend its research and findings into a national dialogue on quality of life and the cultural future of smaller cities. Research on quality of life measures and cultural indicators particular to small cities is of critical

interest to urban planners, social policy makers, cultural organizers; to academics in urban studies, cultural studies, social work, the social sciences, environmental studies, and the arts; and to the general public.

The research program involves collaboration with faculty from the University of Northern British Columbia; University of New Brunswick, Saint John; and, University of Waterloo. Our major community partners include: Cities of Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Port Moody, and the cities of the Comox Valley; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Creative City Network, and the Working Group on Museums and Sustainable Communities.

According to SSHRC guidelines, each CURA's activities will include: a research component (short-term and long-term projects, action research, etc.); an education and training component (in the context of research projects, apprenticeships, activities credited as part of coursework, etc.); and a knowledge-mobilization component (workshops, seminars, colloquia, policy manuals and other publications, public lectures, etc.) that meets the needs of both academic and community partners. The CURA's activities will include the development and testing of quality of life indicators sensitive to the culture of small cities; three major conferences, one in the Comox Valley (2007), one at the Banff Centre (a 7-week residency featuring our artist-as-researcher initiative, and a 2-day international conference, 2008), and a culminating national conference at TRU/Kamloops (2010); thirty community workshops and seminars, and extensive publication plans, including conference presentations, books, catalogues, exhibitions, and video productions (a unique feature of the CURA will be the development of a traveling research exhibition that will be added to and featured in each of the five participating communities).

Additional information on the research group's work on quality of life and cultural indicators can be found on the Strategic Research Cluster learning community site, organized and sponsored by the CURA (and hosted by BC Campus and LearningTimes):

<http://community.bccampus.ca/smallcities>

Kate Hagerman

Cultural Heritage Planner, Region of Waterloo

I have been working as Cultural Heritage Planner at the Region for close to two years. I had worked previous to this as a planner on the Region's Strategic Initiatives Team during the development of the Region's Arts, Culture, and Heritage Master Plan and the Regional Growth Management Strategy. Current undertakings include Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessments, updating the Archaeological Master Plan and providing staff support to the Region's Heritage Planning Advisory Committee. Prior to working for the Region, I managed a non-profit children's education centre that provided 'hands-on' agricultural, historical and environmental learning opportunities at an 1833 farmstead in the City of Kitchener.

Discerning effective, measurable indicators of accomplishment/value was integral to securing

ongoing funding and community support for the non-profit organization, and continues to have a central role in much of the work the Region is currently undertaking.

Wendy Kowalski

Strategic Planning & Policy, Office of the CAO Halton Region

First, through my involvement with the FCM Quality of Life Reporting Series, specifically, developing new definitions and measures for social inclusion and social infrastructure.

Secondly, Halton Region is looking at developing outcome measures for strategic plan goals of the incoming Regional Council. While we are used to using efficiency measures, community outcomes are becoming increasingly important in evaluating the effectiveness of services and programs.

Wendy Lysak

Kamloops Art Gallery

My name is Wendy Lysak and I have been working in the cultural field for approximately four years. Prior to entering this field, I spent ten years in public practice accounting, and have earned my Certified General Accountant designation. My experience in these two diverse environments has taught me the importance of measurable goals and outcomes. Statistics and indicators play an important part in this. In the cultural field, I believe it is becoming increasingly important that there be uniform indicators that measure success - not only financial success, but also the overall positive impact we have in our communities and to society in general.

David MacLennan

Thompson Rivers University

A sociologist at Thompson Rivers University, David MacLennan studies the impact of social and cultural factors on human development. He has conducted research on sociocultural approaches to learning and the social determinants of academic achievement. Dr. MacLennan is a member of a team of researchers at Thompson Rivers University who have developed an innovative approach to research on sense of place and quality of life. The "story mapping" technique combines group sessions with one-on-one interviews to generate rich, densely-textured qualitative data. This qualitative data offers insights into the "lived experience" of the quality of life and is a valuable complement to quantitative research on the topic. Dr. MacLennan is currently exploring options to narrowly economic approaches to the quality of life. He believes that the idea of culture provides a necessary corrective to economic reductionism. However, culture should be defined broadly to include the range of activities, including amateur sport, that allow for the expression of creative, playful aspects of the self.

Alex C. Michalos

Professor Emeritus in Political Science, University of Northern British Columbia

Alex is Professor Emeritus in Political Science at the University of Northern British Columbia. He has published 22 books and over 90 refereed articles, and founded or co-founded 6 scholarly journals. He is the President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO's Sectoral Commission on Natural, Social and Human Sciences, and a past President of Academy II (Humanities and Social Sciences) of the Royal Society of Canada, and of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies. He has won several awards of distinction, including the:

Gold Medal for Achievement in Research (2004) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (the Council's highest honour),
Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition (2003) from the International Society for Quality of Life Studies,
Vincenzian Ethics Scholar Award (2002) by the Vincenzian Universities of the USA
Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Quality of Life Research (1996) from the International Society for Quality of Life Studies, and
Secretary of State's Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research in Canadian Studies (1984).
British Columbia Political Science Association Lifetime Achievement Award (2005)
Honorary Doctor of Letters from Thompson Rivers University, B.C. (2005)

Katherine Reed

Learning and Development Team, Shell Canada

With a keen passion for sustainable development and design, Katherine Read is involved and interested in a variety of Calgary initiatives; as an Advisor for City of Calgary's imagineCALGARY 'Shaping our city's future', the Alberta College of Art and Design Stirring Culture speaker series, and University of Calgary Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy (ISEEE) distinguished speaker series. Katherine recently joined the Shell Canada Learning & Development team after graduating from the University of Calgary. With a major in World & European History and a minor in Museum & Heritage Studies, her education has additional emphasis in Communications and Culture. Currently she is working towards a Management Certificate in Public Relations.

Kim Sare

Sustainable Communities Coordinator, City of Regina

At the City of Regina I am involved with developing a plan for community sustainability. As well, over the last few years I have also been working to develop Community Sustainability Indicators. We have divided sustainability into four dimensions: environment, social, economic and cultural. So, the discussion of cultural indicators related to sustainability is of tremendous interest.

Glenn Sutter

Curator of Ornithology and Human Ecology, Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Adjunct professor of biology, University of Regina

Dr. Glenn Sutter is Curator of Ornithology and Human Ecology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and an adjunct professor of biology at the University of Regina. His interest in sustainable development began in the late 1980s, when he worked for the Royal Society of Canada as coordinator of the Canadian Global Change Program. He is a founding member of the Canadian Working Group on Museums and Sustainable Communities (WGMSC) and currently teaches about sustainability through the University of Regina Geography Department. His goal as a researcher is to foster sustainable forms of community and regional development by enhancing what we know about the resilience of social and ecological systems. His areas of interest include understanding how linked eco-social systems respond to stress, and the development of cultural indicators that provide individuals, institutions and communities with reliable feedback about the sustainability of their choices and actions. His recent studies have focused on the educational value of The Human Factor, a series of permanent museum displays that examine regional and global problems from an ecocentric perspective (see virtual tour at www.royalsaskmuseum.ca). Through the WGMSC, he is also developing a framework of assessment criteria and other tools for sustainability projects in the Canadian museum community.

Shirley Thompson

Professor, University of Manitoba

Shirley Thompson is an assistant professor at the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba. Her focus of writing includes environmental justice, aboriginal peoples in Canada and gender analysis.

Douglas Worts

Planner, Art Gallery of Ontario

Douglas Worts is an interpretive Planner at the Art Gallery of Ontario, in Toronto. For the past 25 years, he has been involved in many parts of the museum community - as a founding member of the Visitor Studies Association, as a consultant to the American Association of Museums on the topic of 'museums and communities', as co-Chair of Museum's Alberta's 'Museum Excellence Program', as a teacher of Museum Education in the Masters of Museum Studies Program at University of Toronto, and as a researcher into interpretive strategies and visitor experiences in exhibits - especially related to creativity. Over the past 9 years, Doug has focused his research energy on understanding the relationship between cultural organizations and fostering a 'culture of sustainability'. He was a founding member of the Working Group on Museums and Sustainable Communities and has published numerous chapters and articles on

the topic of the 'culture of sustainability'. He has new articles in both the Canadian Journal of Communication and the Journal of Museum Education that examines the issues related to how we understand what 'culture' means and how we can approach the challenge of developing cultural indicators