

QUEL SORT POUR LA CAMPAGNE? NOUVELLES CONFIGURATIONS POLITIQUES ET LE RÔLE DES INITIATIVES LOCALES

LES MERCREDIS SCIENTIFIQUES
Département de sociologie
Université de Montréal

Mercredi 19 mars de 14h00 à 16h00
Salle C-5117 au Pavillon Lionel-Groulx
Bill Reimer, professeur
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Et
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- The fate of rural places? New political configurations and the role of local initiatives
- Presenters:
 - Bill Reimer – Département de sociologie et d'anthropologie, UNIVERSITÉ CONCORDIA
 - Sara Teitelbaum, professeure adjointe – Département de sociologie, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL
- Date, heure & lieu: Mercredi 19 mars 2014 de 14h00 à 16h00, à la salle C-5117
- Pavillon Lionel-Groulx – 3150, rue Jean-Brillant

New Regionalism

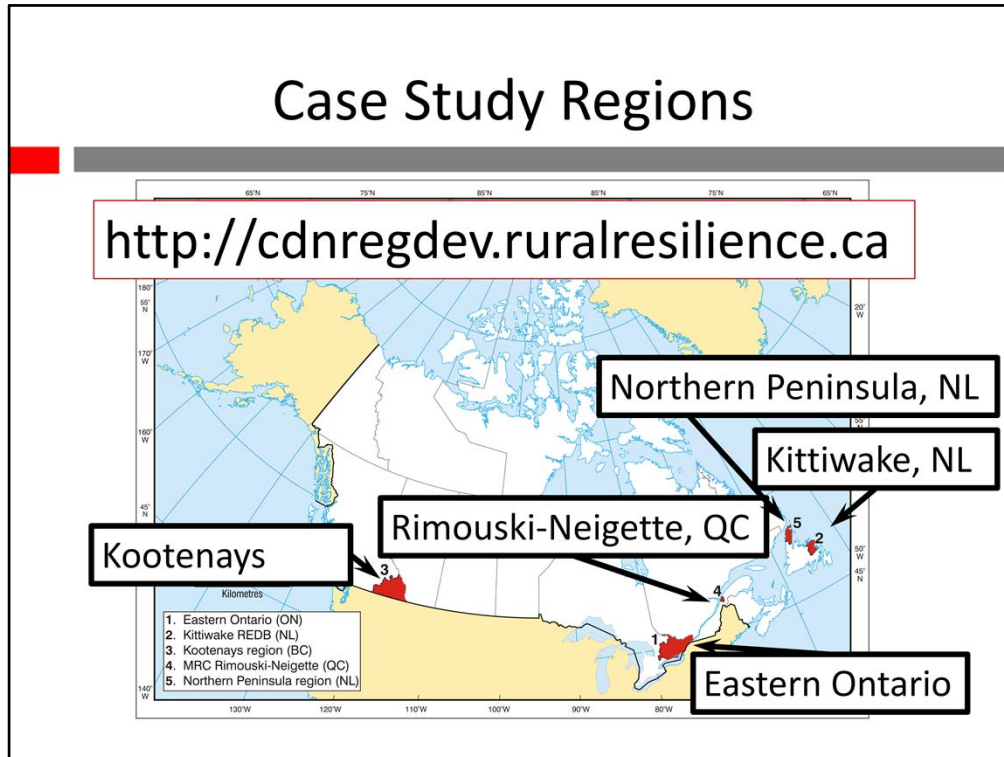
- Innovation and learning
- Integrated development
- Multi-level governance
- Place-based development
- Rural-urban interaction

- How are New Regionalism principles reflected in Canadian regional policy?
- What difference does it make to local regional development?

Introduce New Regionalism project (<http://cdnregdev.ruralresilience.ca/>) and New Regionalism

- Canadian regional policy since the post-war period has many shortcomings (Markey New Regionalism Primer II.doc)
 - Poor co-ordination of regional development policies and policy objectives
 - Reliance on weak theories of regional development (e.g. growth pole, limited public participation, focus on infrastructure, ignored diversification benefits)
 - Assumed a quasi-environmental determinism (ignored differences in economic and social attributes of communities and regions)
 - Took a deficiency-based approach (addressed “needs” rather than “assets”) [répondre à besoins plutôt que des actifs]
 - Reinforcement of dependency by state intervention
- New Regionalism emerged as a response to the failure of previous approaches.
- Not a coherent theoretical formulation, but a series of similar approaches based on:
 - Assumption that economic benefits of regionalist approaches
 - Emphasis on the importance of social processes for regional development
 - Preference for territorial development models over sectoral ones.
- Our national comparative project has identified 5 characteristics of the New Regionalism model
 - [Innovation and learning](#) (Innovation et l'apprentissage)
 - [Integrated development](#) (Développement intégré)
 - [Multi-level governance](#) (Gouvernance multi-niveaux)
 - [Place based development](#) (Développement qui se concentre sur le lieu)
 - [Rural-urban interaction](#) (Interdépendance rurale-urbaine)
- Ask:
 - To what extent are New Regionalism principles reflected in Canadian regional policy and practice at the federal, provincial, and regional levels?
 - How do various institutional arrangements affect the nature and extent of development at the regional level?

Case Study Regions



- Design:
- Compare provincial rhetoric and policy regimes with conditions at local level
 - NL: Kittiwake/Gander-New-Wes Valley and Northern Peninsula
 - QC: MRC of Rimouski-Neigette
 - ON: Eastern ON
 - BC: Kootenays
- Three Arenas:
 - Economic Development (Développement économique)
 - Recreation (Récréation)
 - Watershed Management
- Multi-level, mixed-method, comparative case study approach
- PI: Kelly Vodden (MUN-Sir Wilfred Grenfell)
- Researchers:
 - Sean Markey (Simon Fraser)
 - David Douglas (Guelph)
 - Bill Reimer (Concordia)
 - Multiple Graduate Students

Initial Findings

- Common rhetoric but different policy regimes
 - BC & ON:
 - Overlapping jurisdictions define multiple boundaries
 - Voluntary regional collaboration
 - Infrastructure & economy focus
 - NL:
 - Ambivalent history of voluntary territorial boards
 - Crisis-driven programs with accidental multi-sectoral collaboration
 - QC:
 - Long history of territorial collaboration
 - Rural Policy: multi-sectoral, collaborative
 - MRCs have resources and authority
 - Significant support for capacity-building

Some initial findings

- Common public rhetoric but differences in policy regimes (institutional histories)
 - Bottom-up development, collaborative approaches, regional responsibility
- After our examination of regional and provincial documents and more than 125 interviews with leaders at municipal, regional, and provincial levels we have found that the results at the local level are very different.
 - BC & ON:
 - Legacy of overlapping regional designations – sector and issue-driven
 - Programs and initiatives ad-hoc with few venues for collaboration
 - Multi-sectoral collaboration a by-product of issue foci
 - Require municipality initiative and competitive access to resources
 - Regional collaboration largely voluntary
 - Focus on infrastructure, economic, water issues
 - ON: dominance of Toronto region
 - NL:
 - Legacy of independent municipalities
 - Ambivalent history of voluntary regional boards
 - Economic focus of programs (crisis-driven) with some periods of multi-sectoral collaboration
 - Modest but insecure provincial support of capacity-building of municipalities and regional boards
 - QC:
 - Legacy of regional collaboration going back to Catholic Church – now MRCs
 - Only province with a rural policy: explicitly multi-sectoral, collaborative, regional focus
 - Municipality interests co-ordinated by regional collaboration (democratically elected)
 - Problem-focused funding available through Pactes ruraux and Pactes plus – negotiated by regional body.
 - Institutionalized integration of private and 3rd sector groups
 - Significant support for capacity-building of MRCs – and through them, Municipalities
- Wide variation in responsibility, authority, and resources for regions
- Regional governance capacities low
- Little Evidence-based input; networks of information limited (Reimer & Brett 2012)
- QC is not like the others

Implications for Action

- BC
 - Ad hoc responses to crises (Pine Beetle Coalition)
 - Work around regulations (Nelson)
- ON
 - Ad hoc responses to crises (Eastern, Northern ON)
 - Dominance of Metro Toronto agenda (greenbelt)
- NL
 - Uncertain future of boards
 - Industry can trump boards
- QC
 - Long term stability facilitates compromises
 - Municipal losers supported as potential assets

Implications for local action

- BC
 - Ad hoc responses to local crises (Pine Beetle Initiative)
 - Responses to local opportunities depend on regional capacities – with clever alternative action to regulations (Nelson)
 - Dominance of private sector over 3rd sector (centralization of Industrial forestry)
 - Municipal winners and losers reinforced
- ON
 - Similar to BC
 - Crises drive regional attention (Eastern ON, Northern ON)
 - Dominance of Metro Toronto agenda (Green belt with urban agenda)
 - 3rd sector involvement depends on lobby groups
 - Municipal winners and losers reinforced
- NL
 - Regional boards include gov't, private, and public sectors
 - Uncertain future of boards sustain tensions among municipalities and other partners
 - Industrial player can trump boards
 - Municipal winners and losers mitigated within regions
- QC
 - MRCs include gov't, private, public sectors with priority to municipalities
 - Long term stability facilitates compromises
 - Venue for negotiating diversity of objectives
 - Municipal losers supported as potential assets

Implications for Environmental Policy?

How do various government policies and programs affect the options and opportunities for environmental-focused initiatives?

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- We are now turning to examine how the different governance institutional structures affect the capacity of rural populations to respond appropriately to the challenges they face.
 - This is why we have chosen to look specifically at economic development, recreation, and watersheds as important themes for our research
- It's also why I am interested to hear what Sara has to say from her considerable experience with community based forestry
- It's at the root of the question I pose to her:
 - How do the various government policies and programs affect the options and opportunities for environmental-focused initiatives?