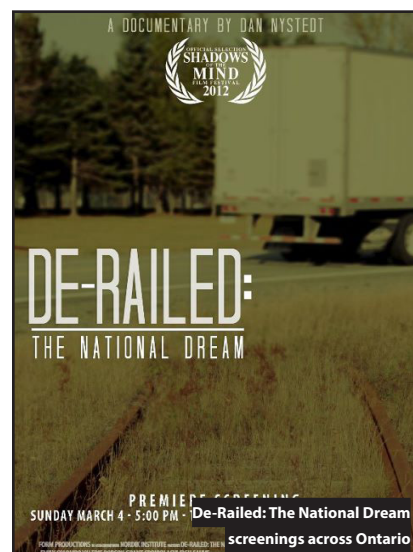


Research
Dialogue
Analysis
Reflection

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge

N·O·R·D·I·K
INSTITUTE



Building Northern Ontario's Research Capacity

Researchers at work, at study and at play!

Annual Report 2011-2012



NORDIK Board of Directors, 2011-12

Terry Ross - Chair
Shirley Horn
Connie Manitowabi
Dr. Arthur Perlini
Dr. David Schantz
Debbie Shubat
Steffanie Date

NORDIK Q&A

What is NORDIK?

The Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge Institute evolved from the CESD program at Algoma University and is a community-based research institute. NORDIK is committed to further developing Northern Ontario's capacity by working closely with its community partners and providing mentoring to new researchers.

NORDIK Vision

Promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis and reflection and dedication to the practice of holistic community development.

NORDIK Principles

- Collaborative community-university partnerships
- Builds community capacity to conduct its own research for sustainability
- Holistic - Economic, social, cultural, and legal/political development
- Inclusionary and participatory
- Strengths-based
- Sustainable

Undergraduate Programs

Algoma University offers degree programs in Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) and Community Development (CD). The CESD and CD programs promote the growth of sustainable communities - economically, ecologically, socially, and culturally. Apply today and start your studies on a full or part-time basis. The CESD Spring Institute will offer 5-day courses in June 2013.

For more, visit :

www.nordikinstitute.com
www.algomau.ca/cesd

Director's Report

In March 2012, NORDIK marked the conclusion of over 5 years' of research into the Social Economy of Northern Ontario, by showcasing our work in a public display at Sault Ste. Marie's Public Library. Guest speaker for the event, Wendy Bird from the Algoma Community Legal Clinic, a housing cooperative developer, raised awareness of the tremendous contribution that cooperatives make to the social and economic fabric of Canada.

The social economy research and its many partnerships culminated in several major events and publications over the past year, including a symposium in November on agricultural innovation, co-hosted by NORDIK and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. This collaboration has led to the organization of the Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN), a unique research network which will have just recently obtained funding to support the development and expansion of agriculture in the Algoma District. In the cultural sector, NORDIK worked with the Ontario Crafts' Council to host a juried craft exhibition and symposium, also in November 2011, which has had several spin-offs, including the formation of at least two new cooperatives. And the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT) launched a documentary film entitled "De-Railed: the National Dream" detailing the history and current status of short-line rail policy in Canada and the efforts of community groups across the country to preserve and enhance regional rail lines and service. CAPT also successfully organized five successful Group of Seven/Glenn Gould Train Events to

by Dr. Gayle Broad, Research Director

demonstrate the cultural, environmental, heritage, economic and social role that place-based tourism can play in the Algoma region.

The conclusion of the social economy research also caused NORDIK to say some farewells to some long-time research coordinators – David Thompson and José Reyes. David provided leadership to the development of the Algoma Food Network and the multiple agricultural-related research projects, while José led an international research project in Colombia. José's work has resulted in a collaboration between Algoma University and UNIMINUTO University to deliver a certificate in Community Economic and Social Development to rural communities in Colombia. We will miss both of you a great deal, and our best wishes to you in your future endeavours.

We have learned a great deal from this major research initiative, but endings are also beginnings, and we shall take this knowledge forward into another busy and exciting year. We have already begun a partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie PUC to explore city residents' attitudes towards water conservation, and how we might be able to encourage reducing consumption. We have also recently begun a research partnership with the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators' Association to explore promising practices in training and education supports for low-income First Nations' members. We expect these and other projects will continue to challenge and engage us in the practice of holistic community development!



Research Staff and Students

Director

Dr. Gayle Broad

Faculty

Dr. Nairne Cameron
Dr. Sheila Gruner
Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon

Research Coordinators

Jude Ortiz
José Reyes
David Thompson

Research Assistants:

Amy Boyer
Ian Brodie
David Craig
Sarah Marusyk
Cynthia Morisseau
Brittany Paat
Victoria Thomas

Student Researchers

Carly Breckenridge
Broderick Causley
Danika Emans
Danny Goedhard
Sabrina Jordan
Luther Konadu
Shannon Moan
Daryl Nelligan
Steve Piazza
Marisa Valois

Aging City Research

This spring NORDIK Institute and the Social Work department had the privilege of welcoming Lisa Kisch to their team, as she completed a placement for her Masters of Social Work from Dalhousie University. Lisa spent her time researching the World Health Organization's "Age-Friendly Cities" and worked with community organizations and the city in bringing forward an Age-Friendly Sault Ste. Marie. A strong focus of Lisa's work was ensuring that groups that normally don't have a voice were heard and she noted that the infrastructure in Sault Ste. Marie is in dire need of update and attention in order to become more age-friendly. A report was written and is available.

Research

Community-based research provides rich opportunities to dialogue, identify issues, and bring about action.

Building Northern Ontario's Research Capacity- NORDIK Researcher Graduates from MBA Program

A three year academic journey has recently come to a close for NORDIK Researcher David Thompson. Now a graduate from the Master of Business Administration program at Cape Breton University, David is looking forward to a career in economic development.



David began his studies at Algoma University, graduating from the CESD program in 2008. That same year he commenced his work with NORDIK Institute, hired initially as a communications coordinator, and then undertaking many research projects related to the social economy. His work at NORDIK naturally sparked an interest in pursuing post-graduate education. "The program at Cape Breton was a good opportunity because a lot of the research done within the MBA focused around community economic development. Since there was this specialization, it was a good fit with the work I was already doing at NORDIK."

David's master's research focused on expanding locally sourced beef through Northern Ontario using the cooperative model. The project engaged Northern businesses and co-operatives that sell products within a value chain. This research project encompassed surveys, consultations, an evaluation of business options and practical recommendations for businesses and farms.

A highlight for David was presenting his master's research at an international conference on cooperatives in Montreal this year. The Université de Québec à Montréal hosted the conference "Cooperating for Change in the International Year of the Cooperatives".

Another highlight was co-teaching "Food Security, Sovereignty & Globalization" with fellow NORDIK researcher José Reyes at Algoma University's "Spring Institute." This week long program provides education and professional development in Community Economic and Social Development.

As his work wraps up at NORDIK Institute he is continuing to work on many of the community projects he started. David is optimistic and hopeful about the future of economic development opportunities for youth in the North. "Northern Ontario is my home and I am excited to be a part of working toward continued sustainability and resilience."

Documentary About Railway Policy in Canada Brings Research to Life

Once used to connect people, cities, ports and industries, the railways across Canada are now being abandoned at an alarming rate.



Linda poses with other NORDIK staff members in front of the CAPT float in this year's Rotaryfest Parade

Linda Savory-Gordon has dedicated years of research to exploring how passenger rail service impacts and shapes communities. Her research investigates how rail is linked to aiding Northern communities to thrive economically, as well as increasing tourism opportunities. A major outcome of Dr. Savory-Gordon's research was the production of the documentary film "De-Railed: The National Dream."

Local filmmaker Dan Nystedt travelled across Canada, showcasing the details around the abandonment and dismantling of

Canada's short-line rail infrastructure. Nystedt also met with municipalities and First Nations across the country where community based organizations are rising up to own and operate the short rail lines that run through their communities.

The film premiered to a sold-out crowd at this year's Shadows of the Mind Film Festival in Sault Ste. Marie. Additional screenings took place across Ontario in Sudbury, Cochrane, Deep River and Ottawa throughout the summer. A special screening of the film took place aboard the Ontario Northlander train that travels from Cochrane to North Bay that was recently put up for sale by the provincial government.

Dialogue

Some of our Presentations

May 30/12: Economic Gardening: A webinar featuring Founder and President of Growing Local Economies, Christine Hamilton-Pennell

March 19/12 Guest Lecturers: Anne Dutlinger and Chief Dean Sayers:

The CESD and Social Work Departments partnered with NORDIK to present these two lecturers in a joint session focusing on "Map, Wayfinding and Identify" Restoring Anishinaabe Place Names On, Along, and Beyond the Upper Great Lakes" and "A look at the Past, Present and Future: The traditional Territory of Batchewana First Nation".

March 12-16/12: Exhibition: Building Community; Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: Exhibited at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

March 4/12: Film Screening: De-Railed: The National Dream

Sept 23/11: OSEA's Community Power Roadmap to Success Workshop: A hands-on experiential workshop focused on the tools required to start a community power project.

June 10/11 Film Screening: Paquataskamik is Home

Growing Ontario's Craft Community- The Creative Economy in the North

NORDIK coordinated the Ontario Craft Council's, Growing Ontario's Craft Community North project, a professional development initiative that brought artists together to increase their business skills, investigate ways of working collaboratively, and provide opportunities to showcase work, raising the level of awareness of the quality and vitality of craft in the north. Artists from a variety of disciplines and cultures participated in the CraftSmarts workshops held in Kenora, Wawa, Fort Frances, Hearst and Manitoulin. Events created space for sharing knowledge from different perspectives and developing local networks within the arts community and across sectors (economic, tourism), as well as linking to other regional resource people and organizations.

During the Fort Frances workshop, participants identified the need to work more closely in supporting each other, forming The Rainy River Arts Collective. Wawa area artists expressed interest in continuing investigating developing a regional artist cooperative and Manitoulin participants planned to meet again to discuss creating a map identifying where Island craft is sold.

The juried craft exhibition, CraftCurrents, contributed to developing new craft markets, travelling to six northern communities, providing artists, communities and tourists the opportunity to see fine craft firsthand. The exhibition catalogue is available in print and on-line.

Reflecting the North: Regional Realities in Art, Craft and Culture, the symposium held in Sault Ste. Marie in November, 2011 offered art-

ists, funders, economic developers and government representatives the opportunity to connect, share, and generate ideas around ways to make the arts in Northern Ontario a more sustainable livelihood. Over 50 people from a variety of cultures and locations contributed to the buzz of development ideas. A video highlighting Northern makers talking about their craft and the challenges and advantages of working in the region is available online.

Project lead, Jude Ortiz's, Craft and Resilience: Northern Ontario's Emerging Cultural Identity article published in *Cashiers métiers d'art- Craft Journal*, highlights the links between craft and identify and ways it is contributing to creating place based economies in the North. Themes emerged from this project and past culture sector research.



Dr. Nairne Cameron and Research Team Connect Local Producers with Consumers

Food security and food sovereignty has been a major focus of much of NORDIK's work- part of building a sustainable, healthy, local food system is connecting farmers to consumers. But how connected are local farmers to the consumers in the Algoma District? This question prompted the study.

Dr. Nairne Cameron of the Geography and Geology department, along with a team of NORDIK researchers- David Thompson, Daryl Nelligan (CESD

student in final year of the program) and Steve Piazza (completing a masters at Carleton University focusing on community food security organizations), conducted a study on the flow of local food into Sault Ste. Marie's marketplace.

The researchers sought to determine opportunities and barriers to sourcing local food in the Algoma District, specifically within Sault Ste. Marie.

They hit the streets to survey food businesses in Sault Ste. Marie on their local food buying habits.

Businesses surveyed include butcher shops, restaurants, food retailers, health food stores and caterers.

The result is a functional map that connects consumers to retailers in Sault Ste. Marie who are sourcing locally grown food. The map is available for download at www.nordikinstitute.com. Consumers can use this map to guide their purchasing habits, to support local growers and the local economy.

Analysis and Reflection

Research is done within a context of analysis and reflection: What have we learned from this work? How can we apply it in different situations? How does this change both what we do and how we do it?

Researchers and Community Members Working to Connect With the Land

by Dr. Sheila Gruner

Going out on the land or into “Paquataskamik” (the natural environment or broader territory) is like going home for people who feel otherwise confined to the reserve.

As elders, adults and youth travel by raft along the Kabinakagami, Kenogami, and Kistachowan

(Albany) Rivers to the mouth at James Bay, they begin to thrive and connect with the land as they relearn and recognize themselves.

The Paquataskamik Project is an ongoing community research initiative of the Mushkegowuk Inninowuk (Swampy Cree) people of Fort Albany First Nation, which NORDIK Institute, through Sheila Gruner as lead researcher, has been accompanying in its development since it began to take shape in 2007-2008. The project aims at developing spaces of learning among youth, adults and elders about traditional

territory, and relies on the guidance of local knowledge holders. A strong focus of this project is on Mushkegowuk Inninowuk learning and encouraging young people to become knowledgeable about the ancestral territory and ecological issues through community mapping projects and community based research. The Paquataskamik Project relies on an advisory committee in Fort Albany First Nation, employs a number of band members and has had five student/community interns as research assistants to the project.



Photo Credit: Karen Metatawabin

NORDIK's “Hip” Research Assistant

Shannon Moan travelled to Fort Albany First Nation to assist with the delivery of 2 workshops on Traditional Ecological Knowledge at the Great Moon Gathering educational conference. While there, she had the awesome experience of performing as the opening act for the Tragically Hip. Leading up to her performance she waited in the “green room” (school library) with the band, chatting and getting business advice for her recently released album “Oh July”.



Shannon Moan and Sheila Gruner pose with the Tragically Hip band members

NORDIK's In-House Environmentalist

NORDIK researcher Victoria Thomas lives and breathes all things environmental! She has recently completed her Masters of Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University. Her thesis examined various small businesses across Nova Scotia, and their use of chemicals and hazardous waste disposal. Closely related to her master's studies was research Victoria led at NORDIK: the PUC Water Conservation Study. The objective of the research was to establish a baseline understanding of how water is currently being used by Sault Ste. Marie residents, and to determine how to promote practical and effective water conservation measures. Also a highlight for Victoria this year was representing Canada at the 2012 G8/G20 Youth Summit in Washington, D.C.

RAIN Symposium

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and NORDIK Institute hosted an Agriculture and Agri-Food Symposium at Algoma University. The symposium aimed to create opportunities for collaboration between farmers in Northern Ontario and researchers in the agricultural sector. The symposium featured applicable workshops for local farmers and researchers alike; including Sustaining Soil and Crop Productivity, Specialty Foods and Value-Added Products, and Healthy Food for Sustainable Communities. This symposium offered space for the continued dialogue between researchers and farmers from Algoma District. Workshops on artisanal cheeses, cash crops and a blueberry cooperative sparked a great deal of interest among local farmers.

Building Research Capacity in Colombian Communities

Thirty-five eager Colombians are gearing up to take CESD courses in their own communities. After many years of collaboration and research, a memorandum was signed this past year between Algoma University, UNIMINUTO and ASOPRICOR (a community based organization representing co-operatives and communities in rural Colombia). NORDIK researchers José Reyes and Dr. Sheila Gruner travelled to Colombia to assist with the development of the curriculum, and worked closely with researchers of ASOPRICOR to adapt the CESD courses for the Colombian context. This mutually beneficial partnership has resulted in the upcoming delivery of these CESD courses in December of 2012. UNIMINUTO is a university with 46 branches across Colombia.

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge

NORDIK INSTITUTE



Congratulations!

In her 24 years of dedication to teaching and research, Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon has served as Chair of both her department and division, and earned a much deserved Distinguished Faculty award in 2010. This spring Linda's research was recognized by the Council of Ontario Universities. Linda is now retiring from teaching and focusing full time on her research with the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains.



This was an exciting year for Dr. Sheila Gruner with the completion of her PhD at OISE/University of Toronto. Sheila has worked with environmental, indigenous and rural organizations in Latin America and Canada in the areas of environmental policy, food sovereignty, organic agriculture, community-based forestry, development and displacement and the effects of globalization. She didn't waste any time in diving into a new role as Chair of the Community Development and Social Work department within weeks of receiving her Doctorate.



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