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Difference can make a change: A literature review of heterogeneity in non-hierarchical organizational systems

Publication Number AAT 1473606

Thurtle, Mary Charlotte, M.A., Prescott College (U.S.A.), 2010, 282 pages; Advisor: June Covington

Abstract (Summary)

Some organizational scholars believe viability in non-hierarchical organizations is encouraged by a homogeneous membership. From a systems thinking perspective, heterogeneity may provide the needed tension for organizations to self-organize, change, and adapt to both internal and external environments. This thesis explores these differing perspectives by critically analyzing the literature on heterogeneity in non-hierarchical organizations using qualitative and quantitative methods and a situated systems theory lens. This study is significant in that it seeks out literature in all disciplines that address the issue of heterogeneity in non-hierarchical organization emergence and sustainability. In doing so, it provides a foundation for interdisciplinary research on the topic. The literature on heterogeneity in non-hierarchical organizations indicates that homogeneous groups have less tension and therefore need fewer organizational structures and mechanisms to balance variety. However, homogeneous non-hierarchical organizations may not be viable in the long term because they do not reflect the larger socio-economic environment in which they operate. Within the socio-economic environment are dominant, or hegemonic, beliefs about people based on their gender, class, and ethnicity. Heterogeneity in non-hierarchical organizations can reveal hegemonic beliefs, which have organizational consequences particular to the organization and its surrounding socio-economic environment. Innovatively structured heterogeneous non-hierarchical organizations may have the potential to overcome hegemonic

beliefs and be an avenue for organizational viability that challenges existing power structures and creates real change.

Income diversification among fishing communities in western Kenya

Publication Number AAT NR58280

Olale, Edward, Ph.D., University of Guelph (Canada), 2010, 275 pages; Advisor: unknown

Abstract (Summary)

Fisheries represent an important component of the renewable natural resources sector in many developing countries. Regardless of the key role played by fisheries, fishing communities in developing countries remain among the poorest communities. Two reasons may explain the high rate of poverty among the fishing communities: declining fish resources; and lack of access to alternative income-generating opportunities. It may be contended that in practice, it is the lack of access to alternative income-generating opportunities which is the principal cause of poverty among the fishing communities, rather than the declining fish resources per se. As a result, this study investigates the degree, determinants and welfare impacts of income diversification among the fishing communities, with a focus on those living on the Kenyan shores of Lake Victoria.

The study finds that around 26 percent of fish workers diversify income into farm work or non-agricultural work. In addition, individual characteristics, fish work characteristics, locational factors, barriers to income diversification and variability of fish income explain income diversification behaviour of fish workers. The results also show that income diversification improves the welfare of the fish workers, through higher incomes. There is, therefore, need to encourage income diversification by improving accessibility to credit, promoting membership in associations such as cooperative societies and women groups, and providing adult education to fish workers.

The academic and research contribution of this study is four-fold. First, the study contributes to the literature on income diversification by evaluating the determinants and welfare impacts of income diversification among fishing communities. Secondly, the study develops a theoretical model that explains income diversification behaviour of fish workers. Thirdly, the study applies propensity score matching to evaluate the impact of income diversification on the welfare of fishing communities, which is a deviation from past studies on income diversification. In addition to other advantages, propensity score matching gives

more consistent and realistic estimates compared to other methods used to undertake impact analysis. Finally, information generated from this study contributes to the literature on the potential strategies that can be used to improve the welfare of fishing communities in developing countries.

A case study of community participation in primary education in three rural village schools in Ethiopia

Publication Number AAT 3338887

Ternieden, Marie DeLucia, Ed.D., The George Washington University (U.S.A.), 2009 , 182 pages; Advisor: James H. Williams.

Abstract (Summary)

This study examines community participation in education in the rural Ethiopia villages of Khisha, Triab, and Shinkah by an NGO, Improvement for Ethiopian Education and Development (IEED). This study used a case study methodology to address a problem that current literature does not adequately cover; mainly, community participation in rural communities or by NGOs in Ethiopia in the area of education.

The study's results demonstrated that community participation occurred in the schools of the three villages of Khisha, Triab and Shinkah in several different ways. The NGO, IEED, integrated the concept of community participation into their mission, which resulted in the community directing the priorities of the school project. The NGO also built a trusting relationship with the community, which also positively influenced community participation in the villages. Interviews with the community's parents and teachers in Khisha, Triab, and Shinkah showed that geography and history influence the level of community participation, as seen particularly in the village of Khisha. Parents also indicated they were motivated to participate in school improvement because of child health and safety. The community was represented by the active participation of local school improvement committees and farmer's cooperatives. Finally, the study found that most often community participation was influenced by the positive interaction between IEED and the Ethiopian government sub-district official.

An important finding of the case study was that the concept of community participation includes more than just a particular community (or village) and how the community participates. In this case community participation included the government and the NGO, IEED. Each stakeholder took an interest in how community participation in education occurred in the three villages. The

implication from these research findings is that understanding the perceptions of stakeholders expands the dialogue at the local level and can be used to inform larger policy goals, such as increased access to education

Essays in development economics

Publication Number AAT 3365447

Sukhtankar, Sandip Rajeev, Ph.D., Harvard University (U.S.A.), 2009, 135 pages;
Advisor: Sendhill Mullainathan

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation consists of three essays on the economics and politics of developing countries.

The first essay examines the effect of political connections on firm outcomes. Political control of firms is prevalent across the world. While there is evidence that firms benefit from political connections, we know less about whether politicians profit from control over firms. I investigate whether and how politicians use firms to further their electoral goals, examining sugar mills in India--many of which have chairmen who are politicians. I find evidence of embezzlement in politically controlled mills during election years, which is reflected in lower reported output and/or lower input prices paid to farmers for cane. Misappropriation of mill resources might represent either pure theft, or indirect campaign contributions for which farmers receive compensation in later years. To distinguish between these interpretations, I examine whether farmers are recompensed after elections. I find that farmers receive higher cane prices after mill chairmen win elections, as well as when the mill chairman's party controls the state government. This result suggests that at least some of the theft is returned in the form of higher prices and may help explain why farmers would be willing to continue supporting politicians who engage in embezzlement.

The second essay studies dynamic incentives for corruption in one of the world's largest public transfer programs, India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. We uncover large-scale embezzlement along multiple margins: theft from beneficiaries and theft from taxpayers. Using exogenous changes in statutory wages, we then test a simple, dynamic model of rent extraction. We find evidence for a "golden goose" effect: when expected future opportunities for rent extraction are high, officials extract less rent today in order to preserve tomorrow's opportunities. This behavioral response tends to stabilize levels of corruption in the face of external shocks.

The third essay examines the effect of ownership structure on farmer outcomes. The promotion of agricultural cooperatives has been an integral part of developing country governments' efforts to develop rural areas, yet whether governments should subsidize and promote cooperatives is an empirical question that has yet to be convincingly answered. This paper seeks to answer part of this question by examining the effect that different ownership structures have on the outcomes of sugarcane farmers in India. It exploits the zoning system--whereby farmers living within a zone are forced to sell sugar to the mill designated to that zone--to estimate this effect, by surveying farmers at the boundaries of the zones. I find that private mills encourage sugarcane production, but also draw in marginally poorer farmers. Farmers on the private mill side of the borders appear to invest less in cane development and have lower cane yields. Whether this is due to the composition of farmers or cooperative mill cane development efforts is unclear.

Essays on the effects of coffee market reforms, supply chains, and income improvement in Rwanda

Publication Number AAT 3396002

Murekezi, Abdoul Karim, Ph.D., Michigan State University (U.S.A.), 2009, 128 pages; Advisor: Scott Loveridge

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation assesses the effects of policy reforms on farmers. These reforms were started by the Government of Rwanda (GOR) in the early 2000s. The first essay is based on a national agricultural household cross sectional survey of 498 coffee growers and 4,376 non-coffee farmers. The first essay identifies determinants of rural household income in Rwanda and elucidates differences between farmers growing coffee and non-coffee farmers. Results from quantile regressions showed that growing a large number of staple crops was positively associated with household expenditures for both coffee growers and non-coffee farmers. Moreover, the results also found that increasing farm size per capita, off-farm income opportunities and formal wage were associated with increasing household income. Similarly, sales of livestock products, such as milk or eggs, as well as the production and sale of fruit contribute significantly to improving household income. The analysis also highlights the high return of education for both coffee and non-coffee growers.

The second essay of this dissertation determines the effects of coffee sector reforms on coffee-growing households. The effects of the reforms are represented

in terms of the yearly household expenditures per adult equivalent, a proxy of income. This essay uses a representative panel data of 252 coffee households surveyed in 2001 and 2007. Using fixed effects model and the instrumental variable method, results show that coffee farmers benefited from the reforms by increasing their expenditures over time. In addition, the results show that coffee growers that sell to the new coffee cherry market benefited more from these reforms than farmers who sell to the traditional parchment market. These effects were, however, not statistically significant.

The third essay compares the effects of two organizational forms of coffee supply chains (cooperatives and private processors) on household income. It also assesses which supply chain has benefited coffee growers the most. This essay uses a reduced panel data of 148 coffee households that were derived from the panel data used in the second essay. Only farmers selling coffee cherries were retained in the analysis. Using the walking distance (in minutes) as an instrument for the choice of the supply chain, estimations from the instrumental variable method show that there is no indication that farmers benefited from selling cherries to processing cooperatives instead of selling to private processors. These findings provide important information that may assist the Rwandan Government, international funding and development agencies in assessing the impacts of coffee policies and in developing other policies or interventions that induce the poverty reduction of farmers.

'Maybe our children can see better days' a brief history and analysis of farmers' cooperative organizations in Turkey

Publication Number AAT 1472732

Sakinc, Mustafa Erdem, M.A., University of Massachusetts Lowell (U.S.A.), 2009, 137 pages; Advisor: Robert Farrant.

Abstract (Summary)

This thesis examines rural cooperatives in Turkey and identify the reasons behind the weaknesses and ineffectiveness of the rural cooperative system today. The problematic is based on two issues: The historical ill-development of the cooperative organizations in Turkey and the recent pressures of neoliberal policies and deregulation. The particular focus is a careful study of Turkey's Unions of Agricultural Sales Cooperatives (UASCs), historically one of the country's main components of agricultural production and policy. A review of the history of UASCs since 1930s along with the general agricultural policy explains how the

rural cooperative system marched along the transformation of government policies on agriculture. More recently the effects of European integration and a World Bank sponsored agricultural reform have had substantial effects on agriculture and cooperatives. Oral history interviews with cooperative managers and members conducted at three cooperative unions clarify the causes of contemporary issues of cooperatives which are a mixture of historical conditions and recent policy changes. A grassroots perspective allowing the democratic participation and commitment of small-scale farmers to their cooperatives is questioned to halt the potential destruction of the rural cooperative system at the expense of small farmers.

Reassessing forest transition theory: Gender, land tenure insecurity and forest cover change in rural El Salvador

Publication Number AAT 3386791

Kelly, Jessica Jean, Ph.D., Rutgers The State University of New Jersey - New Brunswick (U.S.A.), 2009, 185 pages; Advisor: Thomas K. Rudel.

Abstract (Summary)

Rural out-migration, increasing market orientation and forest resource scarcity, according to the forest transition theory, promote the recovery of forests on landscapes in rural areas. However, the drivers and paths in the North American and European case studies, on which the theory was developed, differ in important ways from those drivers and paths observed in case studies conducted in the tropics. The forest transition theory, through a feminist lens, is reassessed by examining the social drivers of forest cover change in a case study in El Salvador. A gender sensitive construction of forest transition theory incorporates the ways in which the social and cultural roles of women interact with migration patterns, land tenure structures, and organizations, such as cooperatives. The results of qualitative research conducted in El Salvador (2005-2007) at the household level and of quantitative research at the regional and national levels demonstrate that ecological processes of forest recovery, through a confluence of factors, have an important, heretofore unrecognized gendered dimension.

Tending the garden: The country life movement between productivity and sustainability

Publication Number AAT 3386708

Motter, Jeffrey Brian, Ph.D., Indiana University (U.S.A.), 2009, 269 pages;
Advisor: Robert L. Ivie.

Abstract (Summary)

This study explores the seventy-five year history of the Country Life Movement (CLM), 1901-1976, and its attempt to reconcile agricultural modernization with traditional agrarian practices. Drawing on themes of democracy, globalization, and sustainable development and theories of articulation, metaphor, and myth, I provide an account of a social movement's rhetorical invention of symbolic resources for cultural production.

The CLM is divided, for purposes of analysis, into three rhetorical phases of social action. I argue that rhetorical representations of the land were transformed through these three phases from an image of cooperation to one of division and domination.

In its first phase, 1901-1914, the movement drew on the narrative of America's mythic garden to invent an emergent rhetoric of sustainable development through an articulation of productivity that was compatible with land ecology. Concurrently with an emphasis on land ecology, the CLM expressed an initial attitude of globalization as a cooperative process of mutual economic and agrarian exchange.

While remaining insistent on the land's ecology, the second phase, 1914-1939, confronted a government and state unconcerned with the declining economic and social position of American agrarians. With the land as a symbol of cooperation, country lifers challenged the state on democratic grounds by dissociating citizens from the state and the state from democracy. A democratic attitude of cooperation and equality, grounded in an affinity with the land, was embodied in agrarians.

The final phase, 1939-1976, illustrates how a movement can become captive to the very symbolic resources it invents. As the movement began to cast aside its emphasis on land ecology, the mythic garden was symbolically transformed into an industrial Eden, driven by a metaphor of development which undermined the movement's commitment to sustainable development. As the land became a symbol of place-based division, an attitude of domination resulted that emphasized rural virtue over urban blight and U.S. exceptionalism over international iniquity.

Overall, this study reveals the centrality of the symbolic land in the attitudes and practices of citizens. With the land developing over time into a rhetorical source of place-based divisions, the CLM ultimately expressed an exploitative attitude of imperial globalization.

Three essays on applied economics: Rural electric cooperative call center demand, fertilizer price risk, and estimating efficiency with data aggregation

Publication Number AAT 3372174

Kim, Taeyoon, Ph.D., Oklahoma State University (U.S.A.), 2009, 87 pages;
Advisor: Philip Kenkel.

Abstract (Summary)

Scope and Method of Study. This study consists of three sections. The purpose of first section is to forecast peak call volume to allow a centralized after-hours call center for rural electric cooperatives to estimate staffing levels. A Gaussian copula is used to capture the dependence among nonnormal distributions. The purpose of second section is to examine the effectiveness of systematic cash purchase strategies in reducing fertilizer price risk for Oklahoma fertilizer dealers. The historical effectiveness of hedging with the fertilizer future market contracts (which have been discontinued) is also analyzed to provide a benchmark for comparison. The purpose of last section is to determine the effects of data aggregation on estimation of a stochastic frontier cost function using a Monte Carlo study.

Findings and Conclusions. For the first section, ignoring the dependence that the copula includes, would have resulted in an underestimation of peak values. The centralized call center resulted in cost savings of approximately 75% relative to individual centers at each cooperative. Adding cooperatives to the centralized call center is projected to further decrease costs per member. The magnitude of additional cost savings depends on the regional location of the new call center member. For the second section, cash purchase strategies were shown to be slightly effective in reducing average price and moderately effective in reducing risk. The reduction in price variance through cash purchase strategies was comparable to the historical effectiveness of hedging. For the last section, when the translog form of a stochastic frontier cost function with aggregated data is estimated, the variations of total cost decrease as output increases. If the variations of explanatory variables are small, then heteroscedasticity on the inefficiency error might be negligible. Stochastic frontier functions hold up rather well in the presence of data aggregation, but efficiency measurement from DEA diverges from true efficiency measurement.

Making a living in Kassumba, Guinea-Bissau

Publication Number AAT 3356115

Lundy, Brandon Daniel, Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo (U.S.A.), 2009, 496 pages; Advisor: Phillips Stevens, Jr.

Abstract (Summary)

Development initiatives in Africa have proven largely ineffective. Neoliberal policies promoted by international aid agencies have done little to improve the livelihoods of civil society. For example, a push for cashew nut production and the opening of fishing grounds to foreigners have left Guinea-Bissau's citizenry with fewer fish, neglected rice fields, and little capital. In addition, the colonial legacy exacerbates underdevelopment in a hierarchical world-system. Therefore, development, as it is understood today, is inherently flawed and in need of serious alternatives.

This study examines the socio-economic milieu of a rural community and investigates unfolding negotiations between everyday activities, conceptions of cultural identity, globalization, and national politics. Through the use of ethnographic methods including household surveys, interviews, local histories and participant observation, the researcher describes and analyses the southern village of Kassumba divided between Islamic Nalú landowners and the majority, spiritist Balanta immigrants. This work demonstrates how the local inhabitants understand their historical realities and political economy, meet their subsistence needs, and modify their household livelihood strategies in order to adapt to poorly understood economic deprivations. This study finds that socio-economic cooperation and flexibility play important roles in adjusting to rapidly changing circumstances.

Traditional field methods are once again proving effective in response to new and pressing needs for fresh research on the changes today's peripheral economies are being forced to make. This thesis is intended to be a policy paper, local history, and ethnography.

The microfoundations of state building: Informal institutions and local public goods in rural Afghanistan

Publication Number AAT 3384135

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, Ph.D., The University of Wisconsin - Madison (U.S.A.), 2009, 389 pages; Advisor: Melanie Manion.

Abstract (Summary)

Despite persistent central government weakness and decades of conflict, self-ordered customary village organizations provide public goods at the community level in Afghanistan, usually without government support or interference. This project explores how communities are able to provide public goods in the context of a very fragile central government and, by doing so, demonstrates that there is a great deal of informal order even in failed states. The dissertation develops a theoretical framework of local self-governance and systematically tests its implications, using previously unexploited data from two recent, nationally representative surveys as well as original qualitative data from over 300 interviews and focus groups collected in villages across six provinces of rural Afghanistan. The qualitative data represent the most expansive, independent study of local governance conducted in post-2001 Afghanistan.

The empirical analysis considers public good provision at three levels: within villages, between villages, and between villages and the lowest level of formal government. First, through analysis of public opinion data, I demonstrate that customary organizations do not hinder support for the central government. Second, I develop a theoretical framework showing why customary organizations are effective in providing public goods and services. This is mainly due to the fact that authority in villages is diffused among several customary organizations, namely village executives (*maliks*), village councils (*shuras/jirgas*), and religious arbiters (*mullahs/imams*), each of which derives legitimacy from distinct sources. Third, the dissertation demonstrates that customary organizations are not a panacea and are limited in the kinds of public goods they can provide. Finally, empirical analysis demonstrates the conditions under which customary organizations cooperate with local governments. Such cooperation between these formal and informal organizations is widespread.

This project brings comparative and local politics into the study of post-conflict state building and has several implications for persistently "weak" states. In the absence of central authority, individuals may organize productively to provide public goods. While state failure leads to central government anarchy, such power vacuums do not eliminate non-governmental sources of public goods provision.

What advances effective community-driven development: A cultural perspective of gender mainstreaming and self-organization in rural China

Publication Number AAT 3375356

Xie, Huiping, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh (U.S.A.), 2009, 249 pages; Advisor: Louis A. Picard.

Abstract (Summary)

The international development agencies and the Chinese government have become increasingly more aware of the importance of bottom-up community-driven development. Some scholars argue that the problems for community-driven development in China are mainly because of the lack of favorable policy environment and effective monitoring mechanisms. The research in this dissertation does not intend to deny the importance of those factors. The goal of this work, however, is to offer perspectives that can help organizations at all levels and of different sectors to understand the importance of embracing and integrating the local culture into development policy making and program designing. To achieve effective community-driven development, the policy makers and practitioners should first understand and respect the culture and interests of the beneficiaries.

Instead of addressing institutional and structural development issues as "hardware", this research takes a cultural perspective as "software" to contribute to the existing literature of this field. To achieve effective community-driven development in China, partnership and cooperation between different players is crucial. Culture, both as means and ends of development, is an important factor that bonds them together. Emphasizing the significance of gender roles and responsibilities, a gendered perspective of community development in China is presented in this research.

This research also refers to theories of Complex Adaptive Systems and Self-organization mechanisms, which explain how complex, adaptive macro behavior emerges from simple, local micro decisions and how simple agents collectively solve difficult problems. The roles of community, government, and NGOs [domestic and international] in this development process will be addressed here. During the author's field study in the rural areas of China in the summer of 2007, data was collected through participatory observation, interviews, and focus groups with multiple stakeholders involved in the community-driven development programs in China. This work highlights the opportunities and challenges for effective community-driven development in China. Based upon the analysis, this research also offers policy implications for different stakeholders.

Towards improved partnerships in the water sector in the Middle East: A case study of Jordan

Publication Number AAT 0822308

Odeh, Nancy, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (U.S.A.), 2009;
Advisor: Lawrence E. Susskind.

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation focuses on the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the water sector in Jordan, a Middle East pioneer with respect to experimenting with different approaches to delivering water services in both cities and rural areas. Jordan's efforts to decentralize water services began in the late 1990s at the prodding of the World Bank. A management contract was awarded to a private consortium to operate and maintain Amman's water system.

One major stumbling block has been finding the right organizational and legal arrangements. In this inquiry, I selected four cases that vary in terms of the institutional arrangement which I hypothesize impacts the effectiveness of partnerships. These were (i) the Greater Amman water supply and wastewater services management contract; (ii) the Northern Governorates Water Administration Managing Consultant contract; (iii) the water user cooperatives in the Jordan Rift Valley; and (iv) the Red Dam Cooperative for Agricultural Water Reuse in Wadi Mousa. I selected four indicators to assess effectiveness: water quality, sustainability of the water supply, affordability and financial arrangements, and efficiency of the water services.

My initial expectations were confirmed: institutional arrangements did have a significant impact on partnership effectiveness. The factors that appear to have the most impact are the contracts, the structure of governance arrangements, and the legal context. Contracts embodying clearly defined targets are deemed crucial in ensuring accountability to customers receiving water services. However, sufficient flexibility in order to allow for a considered review and possible adjustments of initially set targets is also important. Contracts must also allow the service provider adequate autonomy to operate effectively. Second, in the case of governance structures, it is those which encourage consistent and inclusive participation of partners in decision-making and information sharing that bring a positive effect to bear on PPP arrangements. And third, relevant laws and regulations need to enhance accountability to customers in urban partnerships, and farmers as irrigation water users through cooperatives in rural partnerships. My findings also suggest that failure to implement knowledge transfer and the impact of troublesome historical relationships and events can thwart even well designed partnerships in the water sector.

Assessing the impact of water harvesting on water resources in rural India

Publication Number AAT 1450732

Oblinger, Jennifer Ann, M.S., Clemson University (U.S.A.), 2008, 124 pages;
Advisor: Stephen Moysey.

Abstract (Summary)

Clean water supplies, like all natural resources, are becoming scarce all over the world, but especially in developing countries where special interest groups (such as city governments, commercial farmers, other villages downstream, etc.) fight over water rights. The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is a non-government organization in India whose mission is to restore degraded lands through cooperation with rural villages. In order to increase the water supply to the ecosystem, FES constructs water harvesting structures (WHS) which impound rainfall, water that would have otherwise runoff and contributed to erosion, in surface storage. This study was conducted to assess the impact of the WHS on the environment and the effectiveness of extending the water supply through the dry season. To accomplish this task, a surface water balance was formulated to estimate the natural hydrologic characteristics of the system and an analytical balance over the WHS was designed to approximate the infiltration from the standing pool.

A conceptual model of the hydrogeology of the Deccan Traps was created to determine the approach to the solution of the water balance. Digital data provided by FES was compiled and organized using ESRI's ArcGIS. The geology of the study area was surveyed in the spring of 2007 through surface mapping and vertical electrical sounding. A geologic map was drawn and a basic conceptualization of the flow of groundwater through the subsurface was formulated.

It is hoped that this study will be the beginning of a project which will aid FES, other NGO's and the Indian government in promoting self-management and cooperative usage of available water resources in rural villages.

Career benefits of cooperative education and internships: Perceptions of graduates from a rural Midwest engineering and science institution

Publication Number AAT 3318828

Sawyer, Darrell, Ed.D., University of South Dakota (U.S.A.), 2008, 149 pages; Advisor: Karen Card.

Abstract (Summary)

Although many studies have been conducted related to the initial career-related benefits received by graduates with cooperative education or internship experience, limited research has been done to examine this career development from longer-term perspectives. The purpose of this study was to assess the perceptions of

graduates from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) regarding their co-op or internship experiences and to examine what differences exist among graduates in their early, middle or advanced career stages.

A researcher-developed survey instrument with five-point Liked scale questions was used to collect data from SDSM&T 1986-2006 graduates regarding their perceptions of their co-op or internship experiences and their career development. The survey questions were organized into four subscales: career actualization, professional development, personal growth, and overall satisfaction. The survey was sent electronically to all graduates for whom an email address was available. A total of 276 graduates completed the survey. The respondents were generally distributed among the early, middle, or advanced career stages.

Computation of the means for the survey questions and the composite subscale means indicated that the graduates viewed their co-op or internship experiences as positive influences on their career development regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, or major. The respondents strongly recommended that current students obtain such experiences before they graduate. Female and non-Caucasian graduates considered their co-ops and internships to have increased their understanding of their professional, ethical, and social responsibilities at a higher level than males or Caucasians.

The graduates' perceptions were positive regardless of whether they were in their early, mid-, or advanced career stages, with advanced career respondents indicating a statistically significant higher positive level than early career stage respondents. The value that graduates attribute to their co-ops and internships does not diminish over time and actually is slightly higher by graduates in their mid- or advanced career stages. Multiple linear regression analysis indicated that the graduates' perceptions regarding career actualization, professional development, and personal growth all are significant predictors of graduates' overall satisfaction with their co-op or internship experiences ($p < .05$).

Community development in historical perspectives: Tianjin from the Qing to the People's Republic of China

Publication Number AAT 3315919

Kongridhisuksakorn, Prangtip, Ph.D., Indiana University (U.S.A.), 2008, 381 pages; Advisors: Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Lynn Struve.

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation focuses on the role of relief and post-relief institutions in Tianjin from the Qing Dynasty to the People's Republic of China, as they have played out in China's development history. I use the Buddhist Middle Way economic principles as my methodology in assessing achievements and limitations of development efforts since the Buddhist concept of the Middle Way was incorporated into the Confucian Centrality and its standard of a *xiaokang* society. As a commercial, industrial, educational, and political center, Tianjin has successfully contributed to the rapid development of China's national economy. Tianjin cultivated the world-famous Xiaozhan rice. It spearheaded the establishment of the first China's modern agricultural schools, agricultural associations, and experimental areas, the National Products Promotion Society, as well as the Rural Reconstruction cooperative movement and village folk educational halls. It has played a leading role in scientific and technological innovations in the realm of agriculture and industry, particularly metallurgy and machinery, electronics, bio-technology, and energy and petrochemicals. In order to further move China towards its final goal of common prosperity based on its own classic standards of comprehensive well-being, Tianjin is reviving its traditional central role of relief and philanthropy, reinforcing the growth of traditional products along with new and high technology industry, bridging the gaps between the city and its surrounding areas, and addressing the problems of environment. This is in order to promote the traditional values of harmony and true well-being.

Conflict and accommodation: The politics of rural local government in the post-apartheid South Africa

Publication Number AAT 3331904

Fikeni, Somadoda, Ph.D., Michigan State University (U.S.A.), 2008, 346 pages; Advisor: Michael Bratton.

Abstract (Summary)

The point of departure in this dissertation is that traditional leadership remains an important political force within the modern African states. Its role and form of accommodation within the modern state has come into sharp focus in the context of democratizing states. Post-apartheid South Africa, just like many post-colonial African countries, faces a challenge of accommodating traditional authority particularly in its local government system. The focus of this study is on the politics of South African rural local government with particular attention on the

relationship between the traditional leaders, elected local councilors and local civic leaders. The first chapters of the study provide a context by looking at the literature on this subject as well historical evolution of South African rural local government and reactions of traditional leaders to liberation politics into the current configuration of rural local government in post-apartheid democratic South Africa.

This comparative case study looks at factors and variables that are associated with conflict and cooperation between traditional leaders, elected local councilors and civic leaders. The questions that this study seeks to answer are the following: What is the composition, function and structure of rural local government in the post-apartheid South Africa? What sorts of relations have actually evolved between the traditional leaders and the emergent political elite of elected councilors? What are the factors that are associated with conflictual relations and cooperative or accommodative relations between the traditional leaders and the elected councilors and civic leaders?

Nine South African rural communities in three provinces, namely KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga, are surveyed. A range of demographic and attitudinal variables as well as leadership styles were assessed to examine if they had any association with one form of relationship or another. The findings in this study and analysis indicated that age, education, party affiliation, income, and employment status are demographic variables that have influence on or are associated with rural elite relations. More specifically, this study indicates that cooperation is associated with communities where traditional elites and elected councilors or civic leaders share most the aforementioned attributes and demographic features whereas conflict is associated with instances where they have less in common. Leadership style also proved to be an important factor in rural elite relations though more needs to be done to understand the specific manner this variable impacts on the relationship. Overall, this study reveals challenges of accommodating two distinct political systems within a modern democratic arrangement, but also demonstrates that this arrangement does not always end up in conflict.

Conservation and development: Following the middle path in the Kingdom of Bhutan

Publication Number AAT 3336226

Brooks, Jeremy Scott, Ph.D., University of California, Davis (U.S.A.), 2008, 174 pages; Advisor: unknown.

Abstract (Summary)

The three components of this dissertation are designed to explore the relationship between development and conservation at different scales. The first component of the study was a meta-analysis based on a global sample of conservation and development projects in which my colleagues and I find support for the prediction that market integration, access to local resources, and participation in project design and implementation are associated with multiple ecological, economic and social indicators of success.

The second component of the study was conducted in the Kingdom of Bhutan and was designed to test alternative hypotheses for how development affects environmental values and resource use behaviors. While development may threaten the Buddhist-based cultural and political foundations for conservation success in Bhutan, it could provide economic security and market access that can facilitate the growth of environmental support and minimize pressure on local resources. I found that, across rural and urban communities, measures of wealth and market integration are better indicators of pro-environmental values and environmental behaviors than religiosity. However, I also found that development can exacerbate the negative environmental impacts of market-oriented, suggesting that the relationship between development and conservation may depend on the nature of individual behaviors. Additionally, though Buddhist values and social norms are largely unimportant among individuals, they may be crucial for motivating environmental support as Bhutan's development continues.

With the third component, I explored the coevolutionary dynamics between individual behaviors and common pool resource management institutions in the same rural communities in Bhutan. I found that neither social nor economic factors were paramount in explaining cooperative behaviors and I discuss how the evolution of community institutions both depends on and influences the knowledge and behaviors of individual collectors.

Overall, I suggest that the Bhutanese government's explicit emphasis on protecting their environmental and cultural heritage may provide an example of truly sustainable development. The degree to which traditional norms and values continue to be reinforced and merge with contemporary environmental awareness may a crucial factor in determining the continued success of this approach, particularly as the Bhutanese transition to a more democratic form of governance.

Intergroup contact caused by institutional change: An exploration of the link between deregulation in Rwanda's coffee sector and attitudes towards reconciliation

Publication Number AAT 3382994

Tobias, Jutta Mathilde, Ph.D., Washington State University (U.S.A.), 2008, 116 pages; Advisor: Craig D. Parks.

Abstract (Summary)

An exploratory field survey was conducted among a sample of rural Rwandan coffee farmers who have been experiencing new commercial opportunities and associations since the deregulation of Rwanda's coffee industry in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide. Participants were interviewed in confidential settings on their attitudes towards reconciliation and on other social and economic factors that may have changed since the economic liberalisation of coffee in Rwanda's recent history.

Results from correlational analyses suggest that membership in a coffee cooperative, being associated with a particular coffee washing station comparatively longer, and economic as well as general life satisfaction are significant correlates of positive attitudes towards reconciliation among participants, beyond a clear indication that frequent, deep, and pleasant contact with members from the other ethnic group in Rwanda is strongly linked to an attitude of reconciliation.

These observations were discernible independent of ethnicity of particular participants, or of the specific ethnic mix of community members in a given survey location, indicating that forgiveness and reconciliation are equally salient for all Rwandans, and that those individuals who benefit from the coffee sector deregulation economically may also experience positive social change as an ancillary result.

Although the study's sample represents a minority of coffee farmers in Rwanda, i.e. those benefiting from the results of privatisation in Rwanda's coffee sector, and the survey design prohibits generalisations beyond the group examined, the observed correlations match current theories of reconciliation, and extend the small body of field studies in reconciliation research, thus providing a quantitative insight into the potential mediating effect of commercially induced intergroup contact on positive intergroup relations in post-conflict environments with lingering ethnic discord.

Limitations of survey research in post-conflict settings are discussed in conjunction with recommendations for follow-up inquiries on the social factors

that may contribute to a reduction in inter-ethnic hostility, even if on the face of it, they may seem utterly unrelated to psychology.

Jumping the gun: Local agency and early experiments in the socialist transformation of rural society in revolutionary China

Publication Number AAT 3330040

Hou, Xiaojia, Ph.D., Cornell University, 2008 (U.S.A.), 232 pages; Advisor: Sherman Cochran.

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation studies why in the early 1950s the Chinese Communist Party launched the agricultural cooperative movement, a movement in many crucial ways resembled the collectivization in the Soviet Union. Past research has treated China's cooperative movement as a campaign imposed from above by Mao Zedong. By refocusing the scholarly attention from the center to localities, instead, this dissertation discovers that in its early stage this movement had a measure of strong social support from below. Not denying Mao's dominant role, this dissertation examines the roles of others who were not at the top of the party's hierarchy. It shows how certain provincial and prefecture cadres provided Mao Zedong with inspiration, evidence, even the theories and finally succeeded in convincing Mao to endorse their plans. Refuting the conventional wisdom that takes this movement as a pre-determined one, this dissertation contends that this movement was the outcome of a complex combination of ideology, circumstances, contingencies, domestic politics, and personal ambitions. In addition to highlighting the institutional uncertainty and fluidity, this dissertation also studies the complex interplay between the state's agency and peasants. Peasants were not simply the receptacle of policies formulated at the highest levels of power: they were always seeking to adapt directives sent down from above to local conditions. By studying the cooperative movement at a key experimental site--Changzhi prefecture in Shanxi province from 1950 to 1953, this dissertation explores the process of mass mobilization from the province to villages.

"Keep America American": Great Depression, government intervention, and conservative response in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, 1920s--1940

Publication Number AAT 3326477

Egolf, Jennifer Ann, Ph.D., West Virginia University (U.S.A.), 2008, 351 pages; Advisors: Elizabeth Fones-Wolf, Ronald L. Lewis.

Abstract (Summary)

This study of one rural county in western Pennsylvania during the Great Depression highlights people's response to government recovery programs. Rural folks in Somerset County experienced the depression before the crash in 1929, and throughout the 1920s, miners and farmers in the area found ways to cope with rising unemployment and declining farm prices. Miners used the strike to fight for better conditions; farmers organized into cooperatives to secure the best prices for their products. Each promulgated a set of values that reflected their vision of America. The 1920s was only a prelude to the economic downturn in the 1930s, when rural folks had to adapt to changes in the way that the government approached the economy. Many residents in Somerset County favored the approaches of Herbert Hoover, who honored their cherished values of thrift, self-help, and minimal government. For similar reasons, they also supported Republican Governor Gifford Pinchot, until he began to implement new taxes and to consolidate power at the state level. To many conservatives and localists, Pinchot resembled Franklin Roosevelt, who entered office promising federal assistance to the needy.

When Roosevelt took office, he implemented programs that often contradicted their cherished values. He passed costly federal direct and work relief programs that ran counter to their belief in private charity, self-help, and local control. His and Governor George Earle's "new deals" also included farm policy that set limits on production and forced processors to pay a tax and consumers to pay more for food. County residents generally favored the laissez faire, supply and demand model for the economy. Even more troubling to the county's localists and conservatives was the labor legislation that Roosevelt and Earle approved. The National Labor Relations Act, passed in 1935, and Pennsylvania's Labor Relations Act, passed two years later, forced companies to recognize unions, and residents believed that this also prevented individual workers from freely negotiating for employment. When the Pennsylvania Turnpike began construction in 1939, the county experienced one of the worst labor disputes since the "strike for union" of coal miners in 1922. The protracted battle underscored conservative's fears that the

unions and Roosevelt conspired to deny Americans jobs unless they had a "union card" and supported the Democratic Party.

Somerset County residents' steadfast values informed their voting behavior and political actions. Because their values were often conservative and they had a long history of voting Republican, the residents fought to preserve the party's conservative principles and also to retain the Republican Party in power at the local, state, and national levels. Although this is a community study, it is important because the region's people helped to shape the political landscape of the late 1930s and beyond.

Mutual aid as community development: Accessing potable water in rural El Salvador

Publication Number AAT MR41694

Ewart, Sande, M.A., Saint Mary's University (Canada), 2008, 138 pages; Advisor: unknown.

Abstract (Summary)

This study looks at the potable water problematic in the rural Salvadoran community of Delicias in the department of Cuscatlán. It proposes a new approach to community management of a common-property resource (CPR) like potable water by focusing on the cooperative aspects of human nature hardwired into us by natural selection. This cooperative instinct was initially referred to as Mutual Aid by Russian evolutionists, and was introduced to the English speaking world by Peter Kropotkin in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century. Although the Western obsession with practicality competition and conflict in the sciences and social sciences, known as the "English doctrine", has resulted in a serious neglect of this cooperative evolutionary perspectives, in recent years scientists have begun to re-evaluate the value of cooperation in the evolutionary process. In this study we will look at how this re-emerging area of study can inform community development thinking and practice.

Shadows over Goshen: Plain whites, progressives and paternalism in the Depression South

Publication Number AAT 3329751

Smith, Freddy Carl, Ph.D., The University of Southern Mississippi (U.S.A.), 2008, 323 pages; Advisor: Louis Kyriakoudes.

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation is about poverty and rural Southerners and the beginnings of America's rational assault on poverty. By 1932, a sense of emergency and desperation permeated American economic and political thinking. The apparent collapse of the industrial economy and credit markets created an environment in which politicians allowed and the public demanded bold experimentation. The period, 1933-1937, in which most of America approved or tolerated progressive notions, offered an opportunity for progressives to demonstrate their solutions to persistent southern poverty.

The Division of Subsistence Homesteads (DSH), an agency of the Department of Interior, created communities that combined subsistence gardening with part-time wage work. The Resettlement Administration (RA) developed the New Deal's most progressive efforts to cure southern poverty, entire towns populated by subsistence yeoman farmers. However, other progressives, especially liberal churchmen and the Socialist Party of America envisioned a more radical solution for rural southern poverty.

This study of three communitarian projects reveals that the clients of those communities, representing the lower and lower middle class, were intensely concerned with maintaining or achieving a specific class status. A subordinate thesis of this dissertation, evidenced by the words of the clients, suggests that the dispossessed (for whatever reasons) rural Southerners made a distinction between "poor whites" and "plain whites." All of the clients of the communities in this study were poor; not all of them were plain. "Plain whites," as employed in this study, refers to poor rural southerners without access to financial or political power. Three projects typify the approach by progressive liberals of the 1930s. Success for all three projects would be determined, in large part, by the willingness of their clients to forego voluntarily some of the privileges and rights associated with American individualism. In all three projects success depended on the economic cooperation of the clients. The Tupelo Homesteads were designed to meet the requirements of a "pleasure economy" and a radically different manufacturing world. Dyess Colony was an attempt to create in flesh and blood what had often been an American myth, a robust class of independent and disinterested yeoman farmers. Delta Cooperative Farm was supposed to give the means of production to the people and to turn the hearts of man to God. To say, categorically, that these projects failed is to ignore the primary purpose of experimentation.

All three projects promised dignity, self-determination, and refuge for those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Activists associated with New Deal in general and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Division of Subsistence Homesteads, Works Progress Administration, Resettlement Administration, and Farm Security Administration in particular encouraged their clients to be satisfied

with subsistence. The Socialist Party of America joined with a coterie of liberal churchmen and promised social and economic justice and control of the means of production. Despite the powerful influence of such notables as Rexford G. Tugwell, M. L. Wilson, Lawrence Westbrook, Harry Hopkins, Sherwood Eddy, and most famously, Reinhold Niebuhr, the clients refused to abandon their notions of dignity and their aspirations to upward mobility.

Arguably, the greatest benefit from experimentation is falsification of theory. Two of the experiments, Tupelo Homesteads and Dyess Colony were certain to be failures from the very beginning. The failure of Delta Cooperative Farm was self-inflicted by its liberal leaders. The various "wars" on poverty since the Great Depression have been shaped, in part, by the first attempts of liberal progressives to take advantage of the crises and opportunities of the Great Depression.

Social support and women's health in El Alto, Bolivia

Publication Number AAT 3331102

Hicks, Kathryn Ann, Ph.D., Northwestern University (U.S.A.), 2008, 232 pages; Advisor: William R. Leonard.

Abstract (Summary)

As in other parts of the global south, economic difficulties in rural areas of Bolivia have forced many of Bolivia's indigenous people to migrate to urban areas such as El Alto, where formal employment and access to services are limited. Women are particularly vulnerable as they must balance economic activities with childcare, and are increasingly likely to head their own household. Social support is positively related to a number of aspects of health, but work on this topic has tended not to explicitly consider the larger-scale cultural, political and economic contexts which may affect this relationship. This dissertation examines the importance of social support for women's health, in this marginal urban setting, with a focus on cultural definitions of social support, and prevailing political economic conditions in Bolivia. The specific objectives are to explore the cultural context of social support, to determine whether instrumental or economic social support is particularly important in this setting, and to determine whether instrumental support is a stronger predictor of health for women who head their own household.

This project was carried out with women working in a knitting cooperative (N=91), and uses a mix of qualitative and quantitative ethnographic methods to examine relationships between emotional and instrumental social support and body

composition, inflammation (C-reactive protein) and immune function (antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus).

The findings of this study include relatively high levels of overweight and obesity, consistent with other studies, suggesting that overnutrition is becoming as much of a problem as undernutrition in Bolivia. Instrumental support is relatively less common than emotional support in this sample, but is positively related to percent body fat, indicating that it may help improve food security. Although few women report strong relationships with fictive kin, emotional support from these relationships is positively related to immune function, suggesting that individuals able to maintain these ties experience material health benefits. Finally, there is no evidence that social support interacts either with socioeconomic status or household composition in predicting health outcomes, suggesting that social support does not serve as a means for coping with economic inequality for women in El Alto.

The orange proletariat: Social relations in the pais Valenciano, 1860--1939

Publication Number AAT 3315998

Hudson-Richards, Julia, Ph.D., The University of Arizona (U.S.A.), 2008, 260 pages; Advisor: David Ortiz, Jr.

Abstract (Summary)

This dissertation examines the formation of an agro-industrial working class within the citrus industry of Valencia, Spain. In a region that was historically defined by intensive agricultural production for market, the citrus industry in Valencia became the dominant economic sector in the decades prior to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. Its workers, straddling the agricultural and the industrial, the rural and the urban, entered into a socio-economic relationship with the rural bourgeoisie in charge of the industry. This relationship was administered through the formation of *jurados mixtos* (mixed commissions), associations, and citrus cooperatives that directed the harvest, worked out export contracts, began irrigation projects, and organized labor. World War I produced a crisis within the industry due to the collapse of export markets and the lack of available shipping. Workers and small farmers suffered the brunt of the effects, and as a result, their relationships with the bourgeoisie began to break down. By the declaration of the Second Republic in 1931, workers and farmers had become far more politicized and dissatisfied. As landowners and commercial agents fled Valencia after the outbreak of war in 1936, workers and smallholders banded together in collectives,

based on the established tradition of cooperation, to preserve the harvest and direct orange exports, the profits of which were increasingly important in the face of prolonged conflict.

I rely heavily on documentary evidence from local journals and newspapers, political organizations, contemporary photographs, and local associations. Utilizing gender and labor theory and theories from cultural studies, I show the process of proletarianization through an examination of the labor culture within Valencia in order to complicate our categories of agricultural and industrial work and how the people of Valencia created a regional identity based on orange production.

Alternative approaches for sharing machinery, labor, and other resources among small- and medium-sized agricultural producers

Publication Number AAT 1453142

Colson, Greg, M.S., Iowa State University (U.S.A.), 2008, 186 pages; Advisor: Roger Ginder.

Abstract (Summary)

As the U.S. agriculture industry continues to become increasingly concentrated, the viability of small- and medium-sized farms faced with diminishing profit margins per unit of output hinges in part on their ability to expand operations. In this study, the solution to this problem of taking advantage of economies of scale through farm-level resource sharing arrangements is considered. Through a two phase data collection procedure, Midwestern farmer groups engaged in resource sharing arrangements were identified and investigated through a case study approach. Evidence from the case studies suggest that sharing of equipment and labor can yield not only financial benefits but also enable expansions in cultivated acreage, access to better technologies, greater operational efficiencies, and improved access to information. As well, a cost-benefit model is developed to explore the potential economies of scale in sharing machinery among multiple farms. The model quantifies the significant potential for equipment cost reductions through cooperation.

Factors affecting milk yield, milk fat, milk quality, and economic performance of dairy farms in the central region of Thailand

Publication Number AAT 0820445

Rhone, Jeffrey Andrew, Ph.D., University of Florida (U.S.A.), 2008; Advisor: Mauricio A. Elzo.

Abstract (Summary)

A study was conducted to characterize the dairy production, educational experiences, decision making practices, and income and expenses of dairy farms and to determine the effects of season, farm location, farm size, and management practices on farm milk yield (FMY), average milk yield per cow (AYC), milk fat, bacterial score, bulk tank somatic cell count (BTSCC) and economics of dairy farms in the central region of Thailand. The farms were located in Lopburi, Nakhon Ratchasima, and Saraburi provinces. Farm groups were identified as farms from the Muaklek dairy cooperative (Muaklek farms) and farms from other dairy cooperatives (Non-Muaklek farms). Collection of data was at the farm level; individual animal records were unavailable. A total of 967,110 daily farm milk yield, 58,575 milk fat and bacterial score, 24,109 BTSCC and 58,575 milk price records from 1,034 farms were collected from July of 2003 to June of 2006. Additional details of farm management practices and educational experiences were collected through a questionnaire in May of 2006. There were three seasons: rainy, summer and winter. Farm size was defined as the number of cows milked per day. Farms were categorized into small, medium, and large according to their size. Two pricing systems were defined as 1 = base price plus additions/deductions for milk fat percentage, solids-non-fat, and bacterial score, and 2 = same as 1 plus bulk tank somatic cell count (BTSCC).

Results showed that most farms from both groups had a primary or high school educational level, used a combination confinement and pasture production system, gave a mineral supplement, raised their own replacement females, milked approximately 16 cows/day, used crossbred Holstein cows (75% Holstein or more), and mated purebred Holstein sires to their cows. More Non-Muaklek farms (80%; $P < 0.05$) used a combination of genetic and phenotypic information when selecting sires than Muaklek farms (54%).

When looking only at Muaklek farms, FMY and AYC were higher ($P < 0.05$) in winter and lower in the summer and rainy seasons. In addition, the majority of small size farms had higher ($P < 0.05$) AYC and milk fat values, and lower bacterial score and BTSCC values than medium and large size farms. Farm milk prices were lower ($P < 0.05$) in pricing system 1 than pricing system 2. Most small

farms had higher ($P < 0.05$) milk prices than medium and large farms across both pricing systems. Large farms lost more milk revenue due to deductions from bacterial score and BTSCC than small and medium farms. Farms that kept records on individual animals had higher ($P < 0.05$) milk fat percentages and lower bacterial scores than farms that did not. Farms that used genetic information (EBV) and phenotypes when selecting sires were higher ($P < 0.05$) for milk fat percentage than farms that used only phenotypes and personal opinion. Farms milking cows with a single unit milking machine and by hand, had higher ($P < 0.05$) bacterial scores and BTSCC than farms using only a single or multi unit machine.

Overall small size farms had higher AYC and milk prices and lower losses in milk revenue compared to larger farms. Additionally, farms that kept individual animal records used EBV when selecting sires, used a single method for collecting milk, and used family labor achieved higher performance from their herds than farms that did not. (Full text of this dissertation may be available via the University of Florida Libraries web site. Please check <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/etd.html>)

Manitoba producers' willingness-to-invest in New Generation Cooperatives

Publication Number AAT MR41481

Turko, Tasha J., M.Sc., University of Manitoba (Canada), 2008, 128 pages; Advisor: unknown.

Abstract (Summary)

The New Generation Cooperative (NGC) has been a popular form of farmer-owned enterprise widely adopted by producers in the United States, especially in North Dakota and Minnesota. The adoption rate of this organizational form has been comparatively slow in the province of Manitoba, which is geographically adjacent to these two states.

The objective of this thesis is to ascertain which factors affect Manitoba producers' willingness-to-invest and willingness-to-commit to NGCs, as well as potential monetary investment in NGCs. Finally, whether or not these decisions are affected by producer farm type is determined.

Data collected from surveying Manitoba producers are analyzed using ordered logit to examine the producers' willingness-to-invest and willingness-to-commit, and tobit to examine the producers' potential monetary investment in NGCs. Further statistical analysis is shown through producer profiles, odds ratios and marginal effects.

Positive and significant associations are found between a producer's self-assessed knowledge about NGCs, having been approached, farm size, education level and their willingness-to-invest, while there is a negative association with age. Self-assessed knowledge level and contracted commodities have positive and significant associations with willingness-to-commit. Finally, self-assessed knowledge level, having been approached, farm size, net cash income, minimum rate of return required, age, and education level have positive and significant associations with potential monetary investment, while production of commodities under contract and risk-aversion levels have negative associations with potential monetary investment.

**Ontario soybean producers and organizational structure in vertical integration:
Case study**

Publication Number AAT MR42817

Pate, Gregory, M.Sc., University of Guelph (Canada), 2008, 176 pages; Advisor: unknown.

Abstract (Summary)

Ontario soybean producers aim to improve farm profitability by best positioning themselves in the bio-product industry. This thesis examines factors (stakeholders, corporate governance and financial governance) that influence a choice of organizational structure. The research investigates factors influencing the organizational structures of three Ontario agricultural co-operatives using case studies. The research develops the Organizational Selection Scorecard (derived from the Balanced Scorecard) along theoretical characteristics, tests the scorecard with the Ontario agricultural co-operative case studies and applies the scorecard to future investment opportunities in biodiesel and an IP crushing facility. Combining literature, case studies and the Organizational Selection Scorecard, this work creates final recommendations for producers. The recommendations for Ontario soybean producers are (1) use a member-investor cooperative for the biodiesel investment and (2) use new generation co-operative for an IP crushing facility.

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INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (Organ of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics)		
Vol. 65	JANUARY-MARCH 2010	No. 1
CONTENTS		
SUPPLEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE NUMBER: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009		
Presidential Address:		<i>Dinesh K. Marothia</i>
Conference Keynote Papers		
The Impact of Agricultural Futures on Output and Prices: A Classical Approach		<i>Romar Correa</i>
Corporate Entry into Agricultural Input and Output Markets and Its Impact on Small Producers and Consumers		<i>R. Balakrishnan</i>
Summaries of Group Discussion:		
Futures Market in Indian Agriculture and Its Impact on Production and Prices		<i>K. Elumalai</i>
Urbanisation and Its Impact on Farm Sector		<i>M. Jayakrishna</i>
Implications of Input Entry into Agricultural Input and Output Markets and Its Impact on Small Producers and Consumers		<i>Sukhpal Singh</i>
ARTICLES		
Structural Breaks and Performance in Indian Agriculture		<i>Madhusudan Ghosh</i>
Magnitude, Structure and Determinants of Tenancy in Rural India: A State Level Analysis		<i>H.R. Sharma</i>
Price Discovery and Volatility Spillover Effect in Indian Commodity Market		<i>M.T. Shihabudheen and Puja Padhi</i>
RESEARCH NOTES		
Economic Evaluation of Farming System Research in NEH Region: Some Issues		<i>Subhasis Mandal, K.K. Datta and T.D. Lama</i>
Impact of Investment on Agricultural Growth and Rural Development in Himachal Pradesh: Dynamics of Public and Private Investment		<i>S.H. Baba, A.S. Saini, K.D. Sharma and D.R. Thakur</i>
Determinants of Coffee Husk Manure Adoption: A Case Study from Southern Ethiopia		<i>Tewodros Tefera and Melesse W/Giorgis</i>
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