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Solidarity: Utility considerations in agricultural land lease in the Republic of Moldova

by *Levering, Dale W.*, Ph.D., **Kansas State University**, 2010, 80 pages; AAT 3408134

A solidarity nuanced economy has the potential to be an antagonist to inequality and poverty. Solidaric features in an economy can serve development initiatives in that solidarity fosters cooperation and promotes self-help. Exchange is one of the most ubiquitous of all human behaviors. A principle of exchange is that both parties, either individuals or groups, must derive greater benefit than sacrifice for the exchange to occur. Exchange enhances an economic agent's utility. Solidarity informs utility; thus, solidarity impacts exchange. Solidarity can be tersely defined as "social cooperation." Utility maximization unwrought is based on the premise of self-regarding behavior. Solidarity, on the other hand, is other-regarding behavior. These two elements in exchange need not be in discord; quite the opposite, they act in concord.

Solidarity is articulated as being distinct from large group collective action. Collective action can incorporate features of revenge and punishment. Solidarity, as a specialized form of collective action, is strictly associated with cooperation and charity. Solidarity is a process of other-regarding mutual exchange. The inescapability of living out solidarity is described and the case is presented that solidarity is of individual initiative. Because incentives (disincentives) are felt at the individual level, it is here that other-regarding behavior (i.e., solidarity) is incubated.

The Inequality Predicament suggests that economic inequality is the most pressing issue hindering development (United Nations, 2005). The inequality phenomenon calls for more attention to the role of economic solidarity. The inequality predicament may not be so much a matter of wealth inequality as it is

inequality of access to resources and markets. Solidarity is an implement of engagement in gaining access to markets.

Few studies in collective action literature are addressing how rural households are affected by changes in property rights and how land policies impact incentives to engage in solidarity. Land rights can only be properly understood in the context of their development. The uniqueness of land rights is informed by past and present culture. This dissertation presents a conceptual framework for examining the relationship between solidarity (i.e., cooperation) and access to land markets. The focus of this study is on the interplay between property rights and solidaric utility decisions of individuals or small groups. The arena of research is land fragmentation and agricultural development in the Republic of Moldova.

Exploring relationships between social capital, community-driven development activities, and education: Findings from rural Brazil

by *Ammert, Jill D.*, Ph.D., **George Mason University**, 2010, 243 pages; AAT 3421705

Using confirmatory factor analysis in the framework of SEM to analyze data collected in 2005 in 864 rural households in the Northeast region of Brazil, this study provides evidence in support of the existence of a latent construct of general social capital and four latent dimensions of social capital (information and communication, collective action and cooperation, trust and solidarity, and social cohesion and inclusion). The study then utilizes a series of structural regression models to examine the relationships among social capital, having completed implementation of a community-driven development (CDD) subproject, and selected indicators of education in participating households. The study concludes with a discussion of the results and presents implications for the field of education.

An examination of integrated rural tourism development in the Goris region of Armenia

by *Petersen, Luke Alan*, M.B.A., **Utah State University**, 2010, 94 pages; AAT 1475188

Rural tourism is a popular development tool in both developed and developing countries. However, rural economic development can be problematic when considering the diversity of resources and stakeholder groups. In the Republic of Armenia the current system of tourism development is not benefiting rural communities in the regions. This study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of

community dynamics in the rural region of Goris through the study of tourism integration. A novel assessment tool is implemented which provides a systematic qualitative evaluation of stakeholder perceptions through which strengths and weaknesses of the local tourism sector are derived. Data extracted from semi-structured interviews provide a clearer understanding of current conditions that will provide valuable insight for policy and development initiatives that seek to maximize local cooperation and benefit. It is clear from this analysis that local strengths include endogenous natural, human, and historical resources, embedded community valuation of tourism, and complementarity. Local weaknesses are related to accessibility, inadequate infrastructure, information disparity and environmental stewardship. Recommendations are made for follow up, planning and implementation.

How southern is Oklahoma? Segregation in agricultural extension, 1914-1965
by *Dester, Samuel Dunn*, M.A., **Oklahoma State University**, 2010, 103 pages;
AAT 1480975

Scope and Method of Study . An examination of the segregated agricultural extension service at the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, now Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Scope in main is from the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 to the end of the black extension division in 1965.

Findings and Conclusions . While Oklahoma's segregated extension service faced many of the problems that hampered similar divisions in the South and border states, at times the situation in the state was better than elsewhere in the region. Funding and staffing never achieved equity with that of the white division and for black female extension employees, the inequities were more severe. However, Oklahoma's black farm families frequently benefited from a higher ratio of agents to constituents (rural African Americans). This more favorable ratio resulted from the state's cultural geography and the extension division's criteria for agency. The concentration of rural farming African Americans in nine to thirteen counties and the division's policy of qualification for black agency based on a certain demographic threshold brought more agents per farm family to Oklahoma than in the rest of the South. However, just as in other states the extension division could not save the family farm - either black or white - from the grand sweep of American history that resulted in today's consolidated, mechanized farms.

The impact of the New Cooperative Medical Scheme in rural China: Do those who live far from a medical facility benefit more from NCMS participation?

by *Lipow, Corey*, M.P.P., **Georgetown University**, 2010, 65 pages; AAT 1475213

Since the first pilot NCMS's in 2003, the New Cooperative Medical Scheme has offered catastrophic illness and other medical coverage to rural residents in China. Yet few studies have examined whether the scheme actually improves health status, utilization of health care services, and the burden of health care expenditures. This study employs data from three rounds of the China Health and Nutrition Survey to further examine this issue. For the analysis, I employ non-pooled and pooled Ordinary-Least-Squares regression and linear probability models. I also include an interaction term between the NCMS and distance from a medical facility to determine whether the effect of the NCMS differs by distance. I find that participating in the NCMS reduces the probability of being sick or injured in the past four weeks at most distances from a medical facility, and that as distance increases after approximately 8.6 minutes, so does the negative effect of NCMS participation on sick or injured in the past four weeks. The NCMS also appears to increase utilization of preventive care but does not increase utilization of other professional medical care. In two models, I find that the NCMS decreases the cost of preventive care at most distances from a medical facility, and that as distance from a medical facility increases after approximately 9.4 minutes, so does this reduction in costs for NCMS participants. However, in another model the NCMS appears to increase the cost of preventive care, counteracting the previous effect. NCMS participation reduces treatment costs in one pooled model, but the estimate is not very robust. This study finds no other indication that the NCMS reduces the burden of health care expenditures for rural residents.

Essays on the economics of non-profit institutions

by *Nilakantan, Rahul*, Ph.D., **University of Southern California**, 2010, 220 pages; AAT 3418136

This dissertation examines the economics of non-profit institutions in the television industry and agriculture. We analyze two kinds of non-profit institutions: (1) state owned welfare maximizing television broadcasters, and (2) agricultural cooperatives.

We model competition in the television industry under various settings of industry structure (Free to Air and Pay TV), market structure (private economy and mixed economy), and broadcaster entry timing (simultaneous and sequential). We provide theoretical results identifying conditions under which the public provision of television broadcasting services results in a welfare improvement, identify the effects of such provision on competing privately owned broadcasters, and thereby

inform the debate in regulatory circles regarding the appropriate disciplines on state broadcasters as well as the appropriate treatment of loss making state broadcasters.

Our main results are as follows. Broadcasters' decisions on advertising levels and viewer subscription fees are not always more optimal under mixed economy. Social welfare is always higher under mixed economy except in situations where the state broadcaster is at a corner solution for advertising level i.e. 0% advertising level (e.g. BBC, France TV etc.), or 100% advertising level. The optimal regulatory response is not to privatize the state broadcaster, but simply to regulate advertising on the state broadcaster i.e. impose a lower (upper) limit on advertising when there is 0% (100%) advertising level on the state broadcaster. This is because judicious regulation of advertising levels can deliver a welfare improvement greater than could be had by privatization.

Private broadcaster profits are mostly lower under mixed economy, thereby lending credence to their complaints of suffering due to "anti-competitive" actions of state broadcasters. However, no regulatory action is required unless the state broadcaster is at a corner solution for advertising level, since lower private broadcaster profits are consistent with higher welfare under mixed economy. Again, privatization is not the appropriate regulatory response to losses of the state broadcaster. The appropriate response is either judicious regulation of its advertising level, or the provision of budgetary support. As long as the deadweight losses of budgetary support to the state broadcaster do not exceed the welfare gains from having an operational state broadcaster, a welfare argument can be made for the continued existence and operation of loss making state broadcasters.

With regard to agricultural cooperatives, it is the case that in India, most agricultural cooperatives have local area monopoly status in their area of operation (typically a number of villages). One purpose of according local monopoly status to agricultural cooperatives was to rectify the market power imbalance caused by a large number of small farmers facing a few large traders. In light of the findings of the literature on the quantity and quality distorting effects of monopolies, this dissertation investigates the welfare implications of permitting the unregulated operation of monopoly cooperatives in agricultural settings where quality is unobservable and grading capacity is insufficient to grade all available output.

We find that for a given capacity constraint in the grading technology, if the cost of quality is high enough, or if the quality gap between low and high quality output is low enough, the co-op member farmer may provide a greater amount of high quality output at a lower price than the equivalent perfectly competitive farmer. Similarly, for a given cost of quality and a given quality gap between low and high quality output, if the grading capacity is low enough, the co-op member farmer may provide a greater amount of high quality output at a lower price than

the equivalent perfectly competitive farmer. In both cases, welfare under the monopoly co-op exceeds that under perfect competition.

The co-op member farmer's choice of quality is less sensitive to the reduction in grading capacity than that of the competitive farmer. This is because the co-op member farmer, acting through the co-op, has two tools at his disposal to handle the weakened incentive to provide quality—(1) he can reduce quality, and/or (2) he can distort prices. As a result, his reliance on the first tool i.e. quality reduction is less than that of the competitive farmer. Therefore, for a sufficiently low grading capacity, the quality choice of the co-op member farmer will be higher than that of the competitive farmer. Since farmers in both market structures provide sub-optimally low levels of quality in the presence of grading capacity constraints, welfare will be higher under the market structure where the extent of quality under-provision is less i.e. monopoly. We therefore provide a welfare argument for the continued existence and operation of monopoly cooperatives in agricultural settings where quality is unobservable and there are sufficiently tight constraints on grading capacity.

Impact of the Extension's soybean podcast alerts: A case study

by *Norman, Rebecca Carol*, M.A., **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**, 2010, 110 pages; AAT 1479769

Since 2004, podcasts have steadily emerged as valuable communication tools in both industry and academia. As an educational provider to the agricultural community, the Cooperative Extension Service strives to stay on the forefront of new communication technology. In 2009, the Communications department of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service developed a series of video podcast alerts for Arkansas soybean producers. These podcast alerts were intended to alert producers of potential weed and disease problems during the soybean growing season. Case study surveys were conducted at the beginning and end of the growing season to assess the impact of the podcasts alerts from the perspective of three participating groups: (1) Extension specialists, (2) Extension county agents, and (3) Arkansas soybean producers. Case study survey findings suggested that the podcasts included valuable information for producers during the growing season, but that the podcasts were not timely enough to impact most producers' farming practices.

Urban agriculture as revolution: An action research and social movement analysis of food production in Alameda County, California

by *Reynolds, Kristin Arfi*, Ph.D., **University of California, Davis**, 2010, 261 pages; AAT 3404965

This dissertation examines characteristics of urban agriculture as a social movement using Alameda County in the San Francisco Bay Area as a study context. The overarching goals of this study were: (a) to add to the theoretical understanding of urban agriculture in the Global North; (b) to assess urban agriculture practitioners' interest in receiving technical assistance from University of California Cooperative Extension, (UCCE); (c) to assess the possibilities for, and take steps toward, expanding UCCE assistance for a diversity of urban agriculture practitioners. The study was conducted using an action research framework. Distinct characteristics of action research are: its attention to process; its dedication to motivating social change through research; and its emphasis on the interplay between theory and social action.

Field research consisting of intensive interviews and site visits explored: social and geographic characteristics of 52 urban agriculture operations (farms, ranches, and gardens); challenges experienced by practitioners; and types of assistance that would better enable operations to realize their goals. This information was analyzed using descriptive statistics and various social theories. GIS maps were created with site location and U.S. Census data. This enabled further geographic and demographic analysis. An additional data set consisted of UCCE agricultural advisors' perspectives on urban agriculture. This information was collected through participant observation from within the University of California Small Farm Program and Small Farm Workgroup, both of which are part of California's extension system.

In concert with the practical focus of this work, this dissertation draws from several theoretical frameworks for its analysis of urban agriculture as a social movement. David Harvey's (1973) work on revolutionary theory and Patricia Allen et al.'s (2003) study of California agrifood initiatives (AFIs) are central to this analysis. Discussion sections of this work center on a set of four themes derived from the field research. These themes are: (a) community gardening; (b) community food security/food justice/youth development; (c) sustainable living/self-provisioning; and d) commercial agriculture.

Key findings and recommendations are presented in two chapters of this dissertation. Chapter 9 presents action recommendations focused on steps that could be taken to motivate and increase Cooperative Extension support for urban agriculture. A summary of overall findings and suggested topics for future research is then presented in the concluding chapter.

Candles, co-ops and credit funds: Exploring the matrix of grassroots development strategies in a Dominican batey

by *Hudgins, Kristen E.G.*, Ph.D., **University of South Carolina**, 2010, 246 pages; AAT 3402780

This ethnographic research explores the perspective of a largely immigrant Haitian community in the Dominican Republic and their small-scale development strategies via transborder citizen-to-citizen networks. The community of Batey Libertad partners with U.S. student groups throughout the year to support some of its development initiatives in what I refer to as "student development tourism." Student development tourism is a growing phenomenon that links development, service-learning, and volunteerism and is a trend that promises to grow steadily as more universities across the United States promote service and volunteerism both at home and abroad. I focus on the nexus of negotiated development goals on the part of both local and international actors, as well as the ways in which student development tourism of U.S.-based groups both drives and supports grassroots development in Batey Libertad. As resources and support pour into the community through these groups, residents of the batey work to use their agency collectively and individually to direct and redirect social and financial capital towards what they see as their greatest needs.

Conflict spirals, bias perceptions, and recommended interventions

by *Kennedy, Kathleen A.*, Ph.D., **Princeton University**, 2010, 141 pages; AAT 3410889

The development and escalation of conflict is something with which all individuals are likely familiar, in their personal lives or on a world stage. This dissertation addresses this pervasive problem by presenting a theoretical approach to conflict development and escalation that incorporates the effects of bias perceptions.

People are likely to perceive bias in others. For example, one might suspect that others are unable to perceive a situation or an issue objectively because of self-interest, group loyalty, liking, or cognitive biases. The *bias-perception conflict spiral* asserts that imputations of bias are especially likely in the case of a disagreement (and the greater the disagreement, the more severe the bias perceptions). These bias perceptions play an important role in the escalation of conflict by leading individuals to behave in a more conflictual manner (aggressive and competitive, rather than cooperative and peaceful). This thesis begins by reviewing the basic conflict spiral—a model that has been frequently used to describe the path of conflict in the real world. The bias-perception conflict spiral is

introduced and empirical evidence supporting this model is presented. A unique benefit of this bias-perception conflict spiral is that, by taking into consideration the role of bias perceptions in a conflict, it is possible to discern methods for intervening in the escalation of conflict. Two such proposals for conflict-prevention strategies are discussed: non-counterarguing listening and temporal distance. Non-counterarguing listening attempts to limit the listener's ability to critique or counterargue while the opposition is presenting their views. The aim of this intervention is that listeners will gain a greater understanding of the unique views of the other side and will be less likely to perceive those views as the result of personal biases. In the second intervention, increasing temporal distance aims to make the disagreement more psychologically distant and abstract. The goal is that this intervention will reduce imputations of bias and lead to greater cooperation between individuals, thus averting conflict. Further research should continue to explore the benefits of the bias-perception conflict spiral for preventing conflict escalation by targeting these interpersonal bias perceptions.

Cooperative information systems: A tool for supporting Alberta's land-use framework

by *Banister, Kenneth Robert*, M.Sc., **Royal Roads University (Canada)**, 2010, 77 pages; AAT MR58692

Access to land has become a limiting factor for developments in Alberta. This has led the Government of Alberta to introduce the *Land-use Framework* (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, 2008) as a way to improve land-use decision making. Cumulative effects management and the establishment of information and knowledge systems are key components of the framework. With the use of cooperative information systems to combine ecological databases, individual environmental site assessments can be used to build local and regional environmental assessments. This allows for the identification of broader issues that can be missed in individual assessments. As well, local and regional environmental assessments can be developed and reviewed in a timely and effective manner, and government, resource industries, and other stakeholders can be provided with more comprehensive information for decision-making.

Crafting through the storm: Oaxacan women's cooperatives and gender roles in times of turmoil

by *Gandhi, Kashmira*, M.A., **University of Wyoming**, 2010, 188 pages; AAT 1476554

Women's artisan cooperatives have long been viewed as a means to improve the economic, communal, and political position of women throughout the world. Economic freedoms are assumed to be the first step in the general empowerment of the disadvantaged. This project examines how these freedoms, and gender roles in general, were affected by an economic crisis. In 2006, an anti-government protest engulfed Oaxaca City, Mexico, bringing tourism to a halt for six months. This study investigates four local women's artisan cooperatives to determine the effect of the resultant economic downturn on the gender roles of the members. Through in-depth interviews addressing personal economics, family and community relations, and political participation, this research explores whether cooperative participation creates enduring change in women's lives, or if empowerment is linked to economic success. This study concludes that women who had been empowered through cooperative membership maintained this power, while women who had not advanced their status lost some of their already limited freedoms.

Cross-cultural adaptation of Hispanic youth: A study of communication patterns, functional fitness, and psychological health

by *McKay-Semmler, Kelly*, Ph.D., **The University of Oklahoma**, 2010, 322 pages; AAT 3409341

This study examines the psychological health and functional fitness of Hispanic youth from a theoretical perspective, specifically with respect to the role of their interpersonal communication patterns in their integration and adaptation to the mainstream United States cultural milieu. Of primary interest in this study is the role of Hispanic youths' interpersonal engagement with non-Hispanics. Unlike many adult immigrant populations, who can remain relatively insulated from the larger host culture by choice or circumstance, minors are exposed to the larger culture on a regular basis as a direct result of the legal requirement they attend school. The school environment not only provides a context for frequent contact with non-Hispanic Americans, but is also an avenue for cooperative interaction through involvement in group projects and extracurricular activities, as well as for the development of friendships.

Grounded in Kim's (1979, 1988, 2001, 2005) integrative theory of cross-cultural adaptation, this study specifically examines adaptation to mainstream U.S.

American culture among Hispanic youth living in the upper Midwestern United States. The study employs Kim's theory because of the advantages it offers relative to other adaptation theories: Kim's theory offers an explanation of the phenomenon, addresses a broad domain of explanatory factors, and explicitly accommodates an examination of the role of communication behaviors in adaptation. Seven hypotheses were derived to test predicted interrelationships among four theoretical constructs identified in Kim's theory: host communication competence, host interpersonal communication, psychological health, and functional fitness. These four constructs were chosen based on their particular relevance to the study population. It was anticipated by this author that as students in the United States public education system, these four constructs would best tap into participants' daily relevancies, which include the development and maintenance of social relationships (host communication competence and host interpersonal communication) and efforts to successfully navigate the school environment (psychological health and functional fitness).

Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 112 Hispanic youth between the ages of 13 and 21 enrolled in grades 9-12. The sample was drawn from 11 participating high schools in a tri-state area encompassing northwestern Iowa, northeastern Nebraska, and southeastern South Dakota, locally referred to as the greater "Siouxland" area. The universe of public high schools in the defined sampling area was identified and categorized according to two stratifying criteria: urban-rural setting (urban, semi-urban, or rural) and the relative concentration of Hispanic students enrolled in a given school. Schools recruited to participate in this research were purposively selected on the basis of these criteria so as to maximize the sample's representation of the various school environments.

Descriptive findings indicate participants in this study experience moderate to high levels of adjustment with respect to each of the theoretical dimensions, with the exception of the dimension of host interpersonal communication: Participants reported low to moderate levels of overall contact with non-Hispanic Americans and relatively few non-Hispanic American friends, when compared to their friendships with fellow Hispanics. In terms of host communication competence, respondents collectively reported being very comfortable using English in a variety of daily contexts and feeling confident in their communication behavioral competence overall. Moreover, on indicators of psychological health, respondents generally expressed feelings of belonging and satisfaction with respect to their lives in the United States; in terms of functional fitness, participants also reported feeling well-adjusted to the school environment and the demands placed upon them academically. In addition, the descriptive findings indicate (1) individuals who participated in this research generally view being in the United States positively; (2) participants generally express more interest in the opportunities they have in the

United States than interest in adapting to the larger U.S. American cultural milieu; and (3) participants report they struggle with issues of prejudice and discrimination as a result of their ethnic background.

Results of a first-order confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) indicated support for all seven hypotheses. Specifically, Hispanic youths' level of host communication competence was positively correlated with their degree of interpersonal involvement with non-Hispanics, as well as with their level of psychological health. Their psychological health, in turn, was positively correlated with their degree of interpersonal involvement with non-Hispanics. Moreover, their functional fitness to the school environment was found to be positively correlated with their level of host communication competence, their degree of interpersonal involvement with non-Hispanics, and their level of psychological health. The CFA model was found to be reasonably good fitting on several absolute and incremental fit indices. Moreover, all of the model's path coefficients were significant. These results lend empirical support to Kim's conceptualization of the dynamic and reciprocal nature of the relationships among dimensions of cross-cultural adaptation.

Embedding games: Distributed resource management with selfish users

by *Londono Pelaez, Jorge Mario*, Ph.D., **Boston University**, 2010, 166 pages; AAT 3411758

Large scale distributed computing infrastructures pose challenging resource management problems, which could be addressed by adopting one of two perspectives. On the one hand, the problem could be framed as a global optimization that aims to minimize some notion of system-wide (social) cost. On the other hand, the problem could be framed in a game-theoretic setting whereby rational, selfish users compete for a share of the resources so as to maximize their private utilities with little or no regard for system-wide objectives. This game-theoretic setting is particularly applicable to emerging cloud and grid environments, testbed platforms, and many networking applications. This thesis considers both perspectives.

By adopting the first, global optimization perspective, this thesis presents NETEM-BED: a framework, associated mechanisms, and implementations that enable the mapping of requested configurations to available infrastructure resources.

By adopting the second, game-theoretic perspective, this thesis defines and establishes the premises of two resource acquisition mechanisms: "*Colocation Games*" and "*Trade and Cap*". Colocation Games enable the modeling and

analysis of the dynamics that result when rational, selfish parties interact in an attempt to minimize the individual costs they incur to secure shared resources necessary to support their application QoS or SLA requirements. Trade and Cap is a market-based scheduling and load-balancing mechanism that facilitates the trading of resources when users have a mixture of rigid and fluid jobs, and incentivizes users to behave in ways that result in better load-balancing of shared resources. In addition to developing their analytical underpinnings, this thesis establishes the viability of NetEmbed, Colocation Games, and Trade and Cap by presenting implementation blueprints and experimental results for many variants of these mechanisms.

The results presented in this thesis pave the way for the development of economically-sound resource acquisition and management solutions in two emerging, and increasingly important settings. In pay-as-you-go settings, where pricing is based on usage, this thesis anticipates new service offerings that enable efficient marketplaces in the presence of non-cooperative, selfish agents. In settings where pricing is not a function of usage, this thesis anticipates the development of service offerings that enable trading of usage rights to maximize the utility of a shared infrastructure to its tenants.

Empowerment characteristics at midlife: An exemplar study of socialized power individuals

by *Blalock, Linda L.*, Ph.D., **Institute of Transpersonal Psychology**, 2010, 294 pages; AAT 3397168

Empowerment is believed to be a key factor in psychological health, adaptability, and life effectiveness. Varying by domain and researcher, no standard empowerment definition or composition exists. This combined qualitative and quantitative study was initiated to identify common characteristics among empowered midlife adults demonstrating socialized power, based on McClelland's model, and fill empowerment theory gaps. Qualified applicants scored above the 50th percentile on intrapersonal empowerment (*Personal Opinions Questionnaire*) and a minimum mean of 16 (women) or 18 (men) on socialized power orientation (*Socialized Orientation Inventory*). The 24 participants' values (*Schwartz Value Survey*), worldviews (*Worldview Assessment Inventory*), and achievement, affiliation, and power motivations (*Personal Values Questionnaire*) were assessed. In-depth thematic analysis provided rich data on empowerment acquisition, disempowering or powerless event handling, and effect of spiritual beliefs. Findings support theories that empowerment varies by context, individual, and across time and that multiple components comprise it. Zimmerman's

empowerment model was amplified and extended; the revision includes: *Agency* – competencies and self-determination; *Communion* –group membership and identification wherein the person seeks mutually harmonious, nurturing, cooperative relationships; *Life Management Strategies* (e.g., mood management, decision-making); *Power Orientation, Motivation, and Behavior* –power for personal gain (personalized) or to benefit others (socialized) and associated behaviors; and *Psychological Empowerment* –metaefficacy and self-esteem beliefs. Empowerment is a developmental process fostered by others, including a probable parenting style relationship. Missed foundational experiences can be recouped; empowerment is an ongoing learning and adaptation process. Emotion-focused and problem-focused coping augment life-management strategies in handling unexpected events. These socialized power exemplars had a common value base demonstrably different from cross-cultural results. Using Wade's human development model, most appear to function at the achievement or affiliation consciousness level. Participants identifying as spiritual held distinct, adjunctive belief, coping, and communion characteristics. More robust interventions, therapeutic processes, and, for transpersonal psychology, better self-actualizing facilitation should be possible.

Exploration into the roles of culture and geography in economics

by *Kumar, Sanjeev*, Ph.D., **Southern Methodist University**, 2010, 114 pages; AAT 3418902

This dissertation consists of two chapters focusing on the roles that culture and geography play in economics.

In the first chapter, I evaluate previous research that has been of the opinion that protein and micronutrient deficiencies in a vegetarian diet could have an adverse impact on health and human capital outcomes. Using data from India, I employ both parametric as well as semi-parametric estimation techniques to estimate the impact of a vegetarian diet on height, body mass index (BMI), hemoglobin level, substance uses, education, and skill-formation. I use several methods to evaluate the extent to which a causal interpretation to the uncovered relationships is warranted. In particular, methods proposed by Altonji et al. (2005) for both the continuous and discrete outcomes and by Rosenbaum (2002) in the case of propensity score matching (PSM) estimates, are used to assess the potential bias created by non-random selection in a vegetarian diet regime. I find mixed results of the effects of a vegetarian diet on health and human capital. In the case of the long run and some short run indicators of nutrition and disease, I find a positive but not a very robust effect. However, in the case of blood hemoglobin level, I do

find a robust negative impact. Furthermore, I find a robust positive impact of a vegetarian diet on substance use and educational attainment. That raises the possibility of the non-cognitive skills, such as self-regulation and delayed gratification, being the potential pathways through which a vegetarian diet might be having an effect on health and human capital outcomes.

In the second chapter, an investigation into a relatively lower level of violence in India is conducted. Given the levels of poverty and economic development, India has not experienced a level of interpersonal and inter-group violence that have marked other countries at the same level of poverty and economic development. However, there are large regional variations in the incidence of violence in India. In this chapter, I investigate the causal effects of the socio-economic features woven around the cultivation of rice. Then, I explore the potential mediating channels like: social capital or local cooperative infrastructure, culture, gender-equity, biology, poverty, urbanization, inequality, and unemployment, on the level of interpersonal and inter-group violence. The main variable of interest, the rice-area variable, in this study is the percentage of a district area under rice cultivation. The labor intensive rice cultivation is highly and more skill-oriented than the non-rice crops like wheat and corn. In the absence of the modern mechanized agricultural methods, it requires more cooperation from neighbors. Furthermore, the smaller size of paddies in most of the traditional rice-growing areas necessitates more repeated interaction. I hypothesize that these features of the rice-growing areas would lead to a lower level of violence. In a linear regression framework, after factoring in the issues pertaining to selection on both observables as well as unobservables, the empirical results do support the hypothesis of the moderating influence of the rice-area variable. The historical and continued dependence on rice cultivation thus can be treated as a causal factor that has helped in the management of conflict negotiation in India at both individual-level and community-level.

No alternative: Participation, inequality, and the meanings of fair trade in Nicaragua

by *Fisher, Joshua B.*, Ph.D., **University of Oregon**, 2010, 428 pages; AAT 3407189

This dissertation research takes an ethnographic perspective on competing notions of "fairness" in the first vertically-integrated garment production chain in the world that is certified as fair trade. In sharp contrast to the straightforward images of social justice that are so common on the consumer end of fair trade, the dissertation demonstrates that relations of fair trade production, distribution, and consumption

are complicated by ideological disjunctures, by different experiences of work and labor, by unequal access to capital and political opportunity, by asymmetrical power, and ultimately by disparate concepts of economic justice.

Organized as a commodity chain analysis, this dissertation is based on sixteen months of multi-sited, ethnographic research in Nicaragua, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), with four separate fair trade organizations: a faith-based NGO from North Carolina called the Center for Sustainable Development, a well-known Michigan-based fair trade retailer called Clean Clothes Organics, and two Nicaraguan producer organizations, including a women's industrial sewing cooperative (The Fair Trade Zone, which is the first worker-owned organization in the world to gain free trade zone customs certification), and an industrial cotton spinning plant called Genesis. The research shows that, from the standpoint of production and distribution, conflicts frequently emerge over the terms, conditions, and meanings of labor, business contracts, extra-contractual relations, participation in decision-making, and the definition of roles. Producers, moreover, often have no alternative but to accept the terms of more powerful groups under duress of poverty.

Theoretically speaking, this dissertation contributes to an understanding of alternative economic formations, including fair trade and cooperatives. In this vein, I argue that the idea of fair trade as an "alternative" to conventional trade is a problematic rhetorical move that tends to obscure the fact that all aspects of trade—production, distribution, and consumption—are not only inherently political, they are also riven with the complications of mediating between disparate cultural meanings, social positionalities, and political, economic, and social inequality. I recommend revisioning the relationship between the economy, the state, and various spheres of society in light of the insights of substantivist economics, feminist political economy, and ethnography.

Revivals among the urban poor a look at civic participation and collective efficacy in churches

by *Wesley, Julia Marie*, Ph.D., **University of Illinois at Chicago**, 2010, 385 pages; AAT 3417363

A descriptive exploration of the links between church participation, civic participation, community collective efficacy (CCE) and church collective efficacy (ChurchCE) was carried out using a cross-sectional mixed method research design grounded in the attitudes, views and needs of church attendee (churchgoers) in four urban, predominantly African American communities characterized by concentrated disadvantage. Using what Creswell (2003) refers to as a sequential

transformative research approach, participatory methods were used to guide the development of eight open-ended survey questions, as well as participant review of the forced-choice items. The forced-choice and open-ended questions were combined to form one survey instrument, which was group administered via face-to-face interview to 368 participants selected from 10 churches in four Chicago communities.

Overall, the more churchgoers engaged in religious activity, the more they participated in civic activities, the greater their perceptions of CCE, and the greater their perceptions of ChurchCE. Study findings showed that religious and communal cooperative activities were weak, but promising predictors of CCE and ChurchCE. Further, churchgoer reported resident use of church ministries and programming as evidence that the church was having a positive impact on the surrounding community.

Asset distribution and productivity: Best practices for developing this synergistic relationship

by *Willbanks Wiesner, Wendy, M.A., University of Denver*, 2010, 86 pages; AAT 1478263

Productivity is an essential component of lasting corporate success. It is also a critical ingredient in the recipe for making a vibrant and prosperous community. Economics recognizes that both capital and labor make contributions to productivity through the functions of investment and production. Enhancements to productivity can be obtained in multiple areas, including technological advancement, corporate expansion, market penetration, and product development. Sustained productivity growth, however, is predicated upon continual process improvement and market innovation.

Identifying precisely "who" and "what" are contributing to productivity is challenging. Because capital and labor interact, it is difficult to determine whether the positive effect is due to the man or the machine. Evaluating the contributions of labor alone is complicated, as people are productive both as individuals and in working together as a group. It is hard to imagine a situation where a competitive advantage is obtained without cooperation. Nevertheless, economics is theoretically geared toward atomistic contributions to productivity.

Making any significant achievement within a corporation or community requires input from a variety of entities having a willingness to commit their time and energy to a particular effort. Because the path to improvement involves making mistakes and learning-by-doing, patience is involved. Often short-term gratification must be sacrificed for long-term gain; incurring costs today in the

hope of revenues tomorrow. This tradeoff affects both costs and profits. Because short-term profits are the predominant incentive for investment capital, and marginal costs are the key determinant of wages, favorable behaviors on either the investment or production front are not automatically rewarded. Attention must be given to asset development, if incentives are to be structured properly.

In this paper, I emphasize the importance of using specific asset-based methods and financial tools to fairly and efficiently distribute contributions to productivity. Corporations will find these methods equally desirable because they can be used to generate low-cost, highly-accessible finance capital. These incentive structures include the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), as well as other financial instruments that are built upon the foundation of the ESOP. These include the CSOP (Customer Stock Ownership Plan), the CIC (Community Investment Corporation), and the CHA (Capital Homesteading Account).

Although these variations of the ESOP address a wide variety of situations, they have yet to be tax-qualified like the ESOP. I am hopeful that this will change. To cover the landscape of what is available right now, however, the structures that include the Community Development Corporation (CDC), the Community Land Trust (CLT), and the Individual Development (IDA) are investigated.

Because the future prosperity of individuals, corporations, and communities depends upon continuous improvement and innovation, contributions to productivity are of primary importance. Just as important is the creation of a life and work environment that is competitive, efficient, and fair.

But the white man peeked: Impacts, opportunities and dilemmas within social development and private sector cooperation in the international mining sector in sub-Saharan Africa

by *Fishlock, Janet*, Ph.D., **York University (Canada)**, 2010, 314 pages; AAT NR64904

Over the past two decades there has been a resurgence of interest in exploiting sub-Saharan Africa's mineral wealth, largely as a result of globalization and the permeation of capital activity into all corners of the earth. Although widely debated, this resurgence has in many instances undermined the social, economic and political progress of nation-states in Africa.

Responding to public pressure, the mining sector has made efforts to improve their 'environmental and social performance', assisted by a growing pool of development practitioners, consultants and organizations willing to collaborate. It is predominantly the major mining companies who are shaping the sectors response to the demand for greater corporate social responsibility, accountability

and sustainability. It is practitioners, mainly from the global north, comfortable operating within a social planning/locality development perspective, who are attracted to the perceived opportunities of private sector collaboration. And, although we share some values, strategies and methodologies, the critical, socio-political analysis which underpins our work is uneven in breadth and depth.

Using a mix of qualitative research methodologies, including in-depth interviewing, website analysis, participant observation and autoethnography, this dissertation examines this emerging trend of collaboration. It endeavours to understand more fully the practitioners' motivations and approaches to collaboration, and the tensions, opportunities and dilemmas embedded within this work.

The findings of the study suggest that an essential tension within collaborative relationships arise as the culture of community development, with its process orientation and people-centered focus, clashes with the profit and task efficiency orientation of business/mining. This is further complicated by the often weakened role, capacity and commitment of the state, and the dynamics of power within, and among, communities, consultants, NGOs, companies and governments. There is also the contradictory push and pull of collaborations aspiring towards strong, organized, healthy functioning communities, which mining companies often fear and sometimes resist. Yet, as this research demonstrates, there are opportunities for collaborative relationships to contribute to building both physical and social infrastructure within communities. It will require however, critical self-reflection and considered analysis by practitioners individually and collectively, in order to honour community development's commitment to empowerment and environmental and social justice.

Cooperation in the midst of chaos: An examination of Colombia's civil-military relationship and its effort in combating socio-political destabilization
by *Schoonover, Harvey A.*, M.A., **Florida Atlantic University**, 2010, 171 pages;
AAT 1485932

Internal strife has plagued the South American country of Colombia for well over forty years. In an effort to combat the different subversive elements within its borders, the Government of Colombia developed an interagency counterinsurgency strategy that takes a whole-of-government approach. This approach takes many governmental functions and institutions and places them under one counterinsurgency "umbrella." The cornerstone of this interagency model is strong civil-military cooperation. What this research project seeks to accomplish is to first apply the Concordance Theory of Civil-Military Relations to Colombia's unique civil-military relationship. Secondly, this research project seeks to understand how

the Colombian interagency counterinsurgency model has balanced the country's security and socio-political development and sustainability. Specifically, this research project attempts to answer the question of how this interagency model of counterinsurgency influences socio-political and security sustainability since the implementation of *Plan Colombia*. The methodology for this research project will include a combination of primary source reviews, comparative case study examination and simple trend analysis of significant security and socio-political variables. This methodological approach will best describe the unique political, military and social dynamics taking place within Colombia. This analysis of Colombia's interagency counterinsurgency strategy is relevant not only to Colombia but to many other countries facing similar challenges in Latin America and around the world. The applicability of this model to other insurgency scenarios will also be briefly examined.

Equity in the context of bilateral, international water allocation treaties in arid regions: An interdisciplinary, transformative approach to conflict resolution

by *Abukhater, Ahmed Baha'*, Ph.D., **The University of Texas at Austin**, 2010, 485 pages; AAT 3417449

The persistence of water conflicts in many arid regions is not simply a matter of water shortages, but rather the lack of equitable agreements that govern the allocation of disputed water resources to mitigate the adverse impacts of hostility and resentment. As such, equity is at the heart of many trans-boundary water disputes. Mindful of the dynamics and implications of inequitable water allocation on inter-state relationships and overall regional stability, this research aims at eliciting and developing theoretical criteria for equitable distribution of water (*process equity*) responsible for creating equitable outcomes and perception. This research makes the distinction between " *process equity* " and " *outcome equity* " and their impact on attaining and sustaining water security, peace, and hydro-stability.

These parameters of equitable processes will be developed through a review of current literature addressing the issues of water equity in arid regions, coupled with case study analyses and cross-case comparisons and semi-structured interviews of key water negotiators. These key cases will be selected through a systematic screening methodology that analyzes nine pertinent cases. Collectively, employing these methods will yield in-depth analysis and findings applicable to other international water dispute cases in the context of arid regions.

Proposing an alternative strategy that views water as a catalyst for peace and cooperation rather than conflict and altercation, this research further advocates for the development and adoption of an interdisciplinary, transformative approach to conflict resolution to advance water disputes to plausible and implementable agreements. Aiming to inform the theory and practice of hydro-diplomacy along disputed water resources, this approach encapsulates three key components, including rules of engagement, mechanisms of engagement, and neutral third-party mediation. Water satiety is identified as a major characteristic of equitable water allocation agreements that ensure the level of satisfaction of all involved stakeholders and the extent to which acceptable agreements, durable implementation, and sustainable relationships among co-riparians are attained and maintained.

Factors influencing multi-municipal plan implementation in Pennsylvania

by *Morgan, Sarah M.*, M.A., **Lehigh University**, 2010, 57 pages; AAT 1480733

In contemporary society, land use planning is crucial to protecting community integrity and open space from the pressures of sprawl. Poor planning often produces societal problems, such as economic decline, a burden on taxpayers, an overall lower quality of life, and a strain natural resources. Protecting the land, a natural resource that spreads across multiple governmental jurisdictions, requires regional cooperation. Such cooperation faces significant challenges in Pennsylvania, due to the state's complex system of local planning and governance. In 2000, state legislators made changes to the Municipal Planning Code that encouraged municipalities to improve land use outcomes by working together to create multi-municipal plans. Recent research shows that many regions have drafted these plans, but few have implemented them to the full extent of the law. This study asks why so few drafted multi-municipal plans reach the stage of implementation. My hypothesis is that land development activity and public support for planning determine whether multi-municipal plans are implemented. Specifically, drawing on both quantitative and qualitative research, I argue that trends in development pressure and level of public support for the planning process have a significant impact on the implementation of multi-municipal plans. This research has implications for determining how lawmakers, interest groups and citizens can foster the implementation of multi-municipal plans to produce responsible and more socially just land use outcomes.

Making milking modern: Agriculture science and the American dairy, 1890–1940

by *Rueber, Micah Aaron*, Ph.D., **Mississippi State University**, 2010, 326 pages; AAT 3398548

In the late nineteenth century most dairy farmers went about their work in much same manner as had their predecessors centuries earlier. However, by 1940 most farmers practiced recognizably modern dairying techniques. Use of mechanical milking machines was widespread and growing, farmers compounded rations by combining feeds that blended precise proportions of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and vitamins, and breeders, eager to maximize the influence of productive bloodlines, evaluated their animals with the use of scientific scorecards and employed intense breeding plans that relied on various forms of inbreeding in order to fix the desirable aspects of prized cattle.

Yet the majority of these changes were instigated not by the dairy farmers who actually performed the tasks but by agricultural scientists working in the laboratories of the nation's agricultural colleges and experiment stations. Agricultural science emerged in Germany in the 1840's; Americans pursuing advanced degrees in Europe brought these ideas to the United States War and received an official imprimatur with the passage of the Hatch Act in 1892, which dedicated federal funds to the establishment and maintenance of agricultural experiment stations.

The focus of this study is the work performed by these scientists in shaping the development of American dairy farms between 1890 and 1940. Researchers not only made scientific advances, such as the discovery of vitamins, that led to new methods of feeding and breeding dairy cattle but also invented and evaluated technological advances such as the Babcock Milk-fat test and mechanical milking machines that would revolutionize American dairying.

This work contributes to our understanding of the emergence of the modern dairy farm by demonstrating that it was agricultural scientists, more so than farmers, who established the outlines of the modern dairy. They did so not only by adopting common techniques and methodologies that fostered communication and cooperation between and among researchers but by employing a number of rhetorical devices that broke down the barriers between laboratory and farm. While farmers enjoyed the benefits of scientific advances, they did so at the cost of their autonomy as scientists increasingly dictated what constituted modern dairying.

Networks and co-management in small-scale fisheries in Chile

by *Marin Ricke, Andres*, M.N.R.M., **University of Manitoba (Canada)**, 2010, 167 pages; AAT MR63513

Some recent studies of co-management have focused on social networks among local resource users but only a few have attempted to include other decision-makers in these networks. The Chilean Management and Exploitation Areas for Benthic Resources (MEABR) system provides a good opportunity to study co-management networks. The MEABR applies to the small-scale benthic fishery sector and it has not been studied from a network approach. The MEABR system has attracted a great deal of international attention as a model of co-management. However, there are various critiques of the system. Novel and on-going challenges suggest there is room for adaptation and fine-tuning given that co-management is not an end-point but a process and is always changing.

The purpose of my research was to explore the organizational networks of actors and interactions that comprise the small-scale fisheries co-management system in Chile. Further, the thesis looks at existing adaptive capacities of these networks and its members that could affect the long-term sustainability of the Chilean fishery co-management policy. Using mixed methods, this study is based on one detailed case. Drawing from this case, the study expands to cover 38 small-scale fisher organizations from two administrative regions. Information from these organizations was used to investigate (1) the key actors and relationships of Chile's fisheries co-management system, (2) the relevant governance networks of the system, and (3) the implications of individual networks for the functioning of co-management. The analysis is based on a *two-mode* network centrality analysis. The focus is placed in the linkages between fisher organizations and other co-management counterparts (including fisher and non fisher actors).

The overall MEABR system is mostly supported by facilitating relationships among fisher organizations and their counterparts. However, decision-making seems to be highly centralized, and power is concentrated in state institutions. There is little horizontal exchange and cooperation among local fisher organizations. Nonetheless, other self-organized networks have emerged to respond to growing drivers of change. Some of these are long-standing regional and national fisher associations, which play key political and bridging functions. Others represent novel partnerships with the goal of increasing resource productivity. In some cases these alliances are hampered by the rigidity of the policy structure. For example, there have been experimentation initiatives involving universities and fishers. Conflictive linkages between fishers and other sectors, such as large development projects, were identified and require conflict resolution mechanisms.

Findings suggest that the presence of broad and strong social networks, as an expression of linking social capital (i.e., between local organizations and actors at other scales), are positively correlated with external prestige of fisher co-managers. These networks are also correlated with fishers' pride in their management areas and with the current results obtained from these areas. Preliminary conclusions are: (1) social networks are relevant and associated with perceived success of co-management; and, (2) networks are actively established by fishers over time to cope with difficulties or to take advantage of opportunities. Social capital and networks are certainly not only the only predictors of co-management success. There are multiple conditions that can lead to better functioning and performance of management areas.

The findings have several policy implications. To achieve the goal of increased resilience and better governance we need a way to transform organizations that are relatively poor in social and natural capital, into organizations that are relatively rich. To do this may require greater flexibility to experiment and innovate and greater autonomy to carry out such experimentation independent of top-down government management. The "engines" for innovation in the MEABR system are those organizations which are already rich in social and natural capital. Flexibility can be introduced step-wise, gradually reducing fishers' dependence on external actors. For example, reducing the amount of money spent on resource inventory, by fishers themselves taking over that function, may allow fisher organizations to invest more in services in other areas, such as marketing, processing, and infrastructure.

Psychological ownership and ownership markers in collaborative working environment

by Wang, Qian Ying (*Jane*), Ph.D., **Stanford University**, 2010, 185 pages; AAT 3395862

Ownership is a fundamental human concern. It has been explored by various disciplines and within a variety of contexts. However, previous ownership researches focus primarily on physical objects such as toys, houses and stamps, while almost no research has been conducted about the psychological ownership toward digital entities. This dissertation studies the psychological aspects of digital ownership. A conceptual model of ownership and ownership indicators is summarized first. Next, ownership marking, a behavioral manifestation that is closely tied with psychological ownership, is introduced and discussed, followed by the presentation of two experimental studies that investigated the effects of digital ownership and ownership markers on owners/users.

Study 1 examined how the similarities and differences between two of the most widely-used ownership markers—communicative and defensive markers—affect users' perception and performance. A 2 (communicative marker: present vs. absent) by 2 (defensive marker: present vs. absent) by 2 (gender of dyad: male vs. female), between-participants design (N = 88) was used for this study. Results show that ownership markers had a strong impact on users' behaviors and attitudes, and communicative markers influenced users' attitudes more than defensive markers did.

Study 2 (N = 64) further investigated contextual factors that influenced the emergence and development of ownership. A 2 (social context: cooperation vs. competition) by 2 (ownership marker: present vs. absent) by 2 (gender of dyad: male vs. female), between-participants design was used. This second study identified the effects of similarity on users' behavior and attitudes between the competitive context and ownership markers. Markers had a strong negative impact on group collaboration.

The dissertation ends with the discussion of implications for the design of computer-supported group work. Directions for future research are also suggested.

Strategies used in rebuilding small businesses after Hurricane Katrina: A qualitative investigation in the South Central United States

by *Rose, Israel*, Ph.D., **Capella University**, 2010, 195 pages; AAT 3397670

Small businesses rebuilding in an erratic business climate faced many challenges to business continuity after a natural disaster. The qualitative study of 10 restaurant owners explored business recovery and continuity strategies employed in a region impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and, the alignment of those strategies with local governments' strategic visions. Lessons from the study can serve as feedback to relevant stakeholders (small business owners, local leaders, and future researchers), as insight into future rebuilding efforts, and to spawn research in the field of small business strategy. Strategies were derived from small business owners' descriptions of their experiences in retrospect in terms of the personal, stakeholder, and industry/environmental factors associated with decisions to rebuild their businesses. Hypotheses were developed from the extant literature on strategic behaviors in relation to partnerships between local governments and small businesses. Theory on stakeholder behavior in turbulent or uncertain business environments drove two hypotheses—one related to cooperation and the other related to the potential for threat. Context analysis of the retrospective experiences allowed the strategies to be categorized based on a continuum from entrepreneurial to engineering. Raw data took the form of digitally-recorded, face-to-face researcher conversations with study participants. Data were analyzed to identify

themes and essences of strategies that can help provide focus and direction to businesses, and can aid local government leaders in providing direction and making decisions during community rebuilding. Research into the development of a comprehensive Small Business Rebuilding Plan (SBRP) was recommended to support future rebuilding efforts.

**The development and expression of positive social behaviors in urban settings:
A multidisciplinary, evolutionary approach**

by *O'Brien, Daniel Tumminelli*, Ph.D., **State University of New York at Binghamton**, 2010, 227 pages; AAT 3413870

More than half the world's population lives in cities. Cities represent an environment very different from those humans lived in previously, placing our evolved social adaptations in a novel context. This dissertation probes how these capacities and tendencies of our species interact with urban settings, primarily focusing on prosociality (i.e. positive social behavior), using Binghamton, NY as a laboratory. This broad research focus requires the integration of four main literatures: evolutionary theory, social psychology, sociology, and experimental economics (Chapter I).

There are three main research programs addressed in the dissertation, the first regarding adolescent prosocial development. Evolutionary models on prosociality suggest that it is a trait that can only be adaptive when people's social partners are also prosocial. This axiom suggests that prosociality should be higher in those urban adolescents who receive greater social support from adults, and live in neighborhoods whose residents have a strong community. Survey studies done with students from the Binghamton City School District support both hypotheses in a cross-sectional sample (Chapter II), but only the former held for longitudinal analyses (Chapter III).

The second program of research is on the development of social attitudes during resource interactions. A feature that promotes prosociality is the presence of advantages to cooperation within the environment, which in urban lifestyles may be reflected by low access to financial resources. Other features of urban neighborhoods may teach economic fairness, for example the presence of small businesses within a neighborhood. Measuring social preferences by playing an experimental economics "game" with students at Binghamton High School, each of these hypotheses is supported (Chapter IV).

The third program of research is on how urban landscapes influence social attitudes and behaviors. Chapter V contains three studies that ask individuals to respond to images of unfamiliar neighborhoods from across Binghamton. Using

data from Chapter II, we find that individuals make accurate assessments of neighborhood safety, and are less trusting when playing an experimental economic game with residents of neighborhoods that are rated as unsafe. Finally, we identify physical maintenance as the primary determinant of the responses provided by naïve raters.

Income diversification among fishing communities in western Kenya

by *Olale, Edward*, Ph.D., **University of Guelph (Canada)**, 2010, 275 pages; AAT NR58280

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 cooperatives 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.

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