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JOURNAL OF RURAL COOPERATION

Vol. 40

No. 1

2012

The Center for Agricultural Economic Research
המרכז למחקר בכלכלה חקלאית

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY MAGNES PRESS, JERUSALEM

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**Social embeddedness of traditional irrigation systems in the Sonoran Desert:
A social network approach**

Navarro Navarro, Luis Alan. 251 pages. [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Arizona: The University of Arizona; 2012. AAT 3502716.

This research applied the social network approach to unveil the social structure underlying the members of two traditional irrigation systems (TISs) in Sonora. This research used two TIS case studies representing rural communities located in arid and semiarid lands in the Sonoran Desert region, in the northwestern part of Mexico. The irrigators represented a subset of rural villages where everyone knew everyone else. The theoretical framework in this study suggested that social embeddedness of the economic activities of TIS irrigators is an important factor supporting their local institutions. Irrigators who are socially embedded possess more social capital that help them in overcoming social dilemmas. Evidence of social embeddedness is theoretically incomplete when not related to a tangible dimension of the TIS's performance. This research also dealt with the difficulty of assessing the sustainability or successfulness of a TIS. The results showed that the irrigators sharing a rural village are entangled in a mesh of social ties developed in different social settings. The most salient variable was family; cooperative ties within the irrigation system tend to overlap more than the expected by chance with kinship relationships. Likewise, irrigators had a strong preference for peers geographically close or those within the same irrigation subsector. Finally, the qualitative part of the study did not reveal the presence of severe social dilemmas. Irrigators in each community have developed successful forms of local arrangements to overcome the provision and appropriation issues typical of common pool resources. Nevertheless, the qualitative analysis revealed that there are other socioeconomic variables undermining the sustainability of the systems, such as migration, water shortages and social capacity of the systems.

Terra Recognita: The Permacultivation and Preservation of the Demilitarized Landscape

Lynch, Amy Suzanne. 101 pages; [M.Arch. dissertation].United States – Ohio: University of Cincinnati; 2011. AAT 1500390.

Oh! Home on the Range! Our American Landscape—that place which so defines our national character—has been commodified and consumed by the hungry till of industrial agriculture. Her remains are reduced to disconnected pockets hidden among the infinite irrigated moundscape of agribusiness.

Ironically, some of our richest remaining natural landscape can be found on remote sprawling military bases in the west: under lock and untouched by the plow. The Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot is one such site, and the site for this thesis. Slated for closure later this year, this ecologically valuable and culturally unique place now, too, faces that destructive plow.

This thesis confronts that threat by putting forth a reconception of the relationship between human being and landscape. Instead of some distant object for profit, the land is regarded as a complex composition of natural systems with which we must intimately interact. Thoughtful stewardship of these systems—permacu-

lture—brings forth not only lasting nourishment for our bodies, but a place to call home.

This reconception of landscape is embodied in the design of a permaculture community at Umatilla—a demonstrative subversion of commodity culture. It will be a self-sustaining, walkable dwellingplace that reconnects people to the land and each other through intensive cooperative organic gardening. It is a place where impetus is not personal profit but the common good, and one's worth is measured in sweat not dollars.

In practice, it is a healing gesture. Forward-looking optimism is juxtaposed over the eerie material remains of the site's military history to tell a story about hope. This is the poetry of terra recognita: reconceiving the past into a more sustainable future.

Use of preventive health care services and personal protective equipment among a cohort of Wisconsin farmers

Schiller, Lisa F. 208 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee; 2011. AAT 3462816.

Farmers and their families are exposed to significant health and safety risks and are faced with problems that include advancing age, lack of occupational health and

safety services, high rates of uninsurance and underinsurance, and lack of access to preventive health care. These and other factors may affect farmers' use of preventive health care services (PCS) and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The purpose of this study was to examine patterns and predictors of PCS and PPE use among farmers in Wisconsin who participated in a health risk assessment (HRA) from July 2007 through July 2008.

This study was a retrospective, cross-sectional, exploratory study of farmers' use of PCS and PPE. It was a secondary analysis of the Farmers' Health Cooperative of Wisconsin (FHCW) HRA (n = 967). Descriptive analysis using chi-square and backward logistic regression were used to answer inferential questions.

Results of this study found that 45.2 % of participants reported overall age appropriate non-gender specific PCS use, with women reporting significantly more use of PCS. Women in this cohort reported lower appropriate cervical cancer screening (79.2%) and breast cancer screening (77.2%) than state or national averages. Overall appropriate PPE in this sample was 7.8% with women reporting significantly more PPE use than men (p < .001).

Results of backward logistic regression found that participants who had a routine physical within the last three years were more likely to use overall PCS as well as cervical and breast cancer screening (p < .001). Participants were less likely to use overall PCS as age (years) increased in all models with the exception of breast cancer screening (p < .001). Participants (total sample and men) were more likely to use PCS if they were taking a prescription medication (p < .01). PPE use was significantly more likely in participants who reported healthy behaviors (e.g. routine physical and seatbelt use). PPE use was less likely among participants who reported unhealthy behaviors (e.g. poor dietary habits) or chronic health conditions (e.g. obesity). Implications for nursing practice, research, and policy are discussed.

From outreach to engaged placemaking: Understanding public land-grant university involvement with tourism planning and development

Herts, Rolando D. 307 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – New Jersey: Rutgers The State University of New Jersey - New Brunswick; 2011. AAT 3494925.

Public land-grant universities (PLGUs) have been mandated for nearly a century to fulfill research, teaching, and public service missions by advancing scholarly inquiry that benefits broader society, by ensuring educational access to a broad citizenry, and by providing direct assistance to communities primarily through agricultural cooperative extension services. With the advent of a global service-based economy in recent decades, PLGUs have become involved with tourism

planning and development efforts in their communities as forms of education and public service through academic programs and cooperative extension tourism, as well as through conference and event services and through campus-based visitor information centers. PLGU involvement with tourism planning and development signals a trend towards placemaking that coincides with the national university-community engagement movement.

This exploratory analysis begins to clarify PLGU involvement with tourism planning and development as an emergent form of university-community engagement. The study finds that predominantly elite PLGUs are promoting their involvement with tourism planning and development as community engagement, thereby advancing themselves as powerful placemakers that help to make their communities more competitive destinations in regional and national place hierarchies. As a consequence, PLGUs that appear to lack capacity to compete in this innovative approach to community engagement also appear to lack placemaking power in their communities. Ultimately, the study asserts that the adoption of community-based tourism engagement marketing strategies among elite PLGUs creates a new playing field on which lower capacity PLGUs and their communities are disadvantaged to compete. Ironically, this practice reinforces the very class and power structures that the university-community engagement movement seeks to address.

Using primarily grounded theory, institutional ethnography, and case study methodological approaches, the study identifies and characterizes levels of tourism planning and development capacity among PLGUs on national and regional scales. The study lays groundwork for further research on PLGU tourism planning and development as both a potentially beneficial and potentially disempowering form of university-community engagement.

Garden Variety Histories: Postwar Social and Environmental Change in Northeast Cambodia

Padwe, Jonathan. 346 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Connecticut: Yale University; 2011. AAT 3496947.

The Vietnam War, the Khmer Rouge regime, and rapid modernization and "development" in the postwar era have transformed Cambodia's northeast hills. This dissertation investigates the relationship between social and environmental change in the postwar era among the residents of Tang Kadon, a highland village of Jarai-speaking swidden agriculturalists situated near Cambodia's northeast border with Vietnam. It seeks to understand the nature of changes to villagers' lives and culture wrought by the recent history of war, violence, and social upheaval.

How have the conflicts of the recent past transformed the ways life is lived in the highlands today? How are the legacies of the past understood by highlanders? How do people there narrate their history and account for its importance to them in the present? And what purposes are these remembrances made to serve? These questions are at the heart of the research presented here.

Like many of their neighbors, villagers at Tang Kadon were subjected to massive aerial bombardment by US and South Vietnamese aircraft during the war. During a US-led ground invasion of Cambodia, Tang Kadon village was burned to the ground, forcing villagers into hiding in the forest nearby. For the next several years villagers practiced little agriculture and subsisted largely on forest resources, until, in 1973, Khmer Rouge soldiers resettled them on a lowland agricultural cooperative in the floodplain of the Sesan river. There they were instructed to farm lowland "wet" rice in banded pond-fields. Following the liberation of Cambodia in 1979, villagers spent several years away from their traditional lands before returning to their upland territory in the late 1980s. In the following two decades, even as villagers reconstituted their agro-ecologically diverse system of swidden agriculture, modernization and development have led to rapid deforestation, an influx of ethnic-majority Khmer settlers from the lowlands, the replacement of the traditional system of communal property rights with private property in land, and the emergence of small-holder cashew farming across the landscape. These transformations have had implications not only for highlander's agricultural production system, but also for cultural and ritual life in the highlands.

For the upland farmers of this border region, the upheavals of the recent past were experienced not only as human tragedies, then, but as environmental crises, too. Indeed, the changing ecologies and the changing regimes of environmental management that have characterized this tumultuous period may be said to tell the story of social change in this region. That is the project this dissertation undertakes: to use stories of agricultural and environmental transformation as a stepping off point for investigation of the wider processes of social change within which those transformations are embedded. Individual chapters look at: the cultural associations assigned to two invasive species, *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mimosa pigra*; the emergence of the cashew economy and its implications for social and cultural life in the highlands; the practice of feasting and consumption of rice beer, a significant aspect of Jarai ritual life; the transformation of ritual feasting that has occurred in the years since the war and the Khmer Rouge regime; and a series of rumors of the end of the world spurred on in part by the passage of numerous Christian Jarai refugees from neighboring Vietnam who passed through Tang Kadon during their flight from repression in Vietnam's Central Highlands.

A descriptive study of the two Texas extension programs: Agents' perceptions, understanding and recommendations for strengthening the partnership

Stueart-Davis, Sonja Latrice. 155 pages; [Ed.D. dissertation]. United States – Texas: Texas A&M University; 2011. AAT 3486265.

Texas is one of 17 states with both 1862 and 1890 Extension programs. The purpose of this study was to examine the partnership amongst agents of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program, in counties that have both Extension programs. Seventy-eight agents participated in the study, of which, 73% (N=57) were employed by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and 24% (N=19) were employed by the Cooperative Extension Program.

Cohen's D Effect Size was used to determine the practical significance of differences among agents' perception of the relevance of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University, along with the agents' understanding of the partnership, willingness to partner and knowledge of the Operational Guidelines. As part of the study, agents also identified strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of having two programs in the State and provided recommendations for strengthening the partnership.

Among agents, there was a high degree of relevance for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, while there was a moderate degree of relevance for the Cooperative Extension Program-Prairie View A&M. Cohen's D Effect size suggested a large practical difference amongst agents in their perception of both Extension programs. Findings indicated a moderate degree of knowledge of the Operational Guidelines and understanding of the partnership amongst agents. Cohen's D Effect size value ($d = 1.29$) and ($d = 1.30$) suggested large practical differences amongst agents, from the two programs, in relation to their willingness to partner and understanding of the partnership respectively.

Strengths of having two Extension programs identified by agents were the Extension programs ability to reach new and diverse audiences and address community and state needs. Weaknesses identified were agents competing against one another for audiences, two programs causing confusion to clientele, and a lack of understanding on how to collaborate. Opportunities of having two Extension programs identified were collaborating on programs, reaching diverse audiences, and the ability to provide more services. Agents provided recommendations of better communication to understanding the partnership and how to partner, clearer job descriptions to prevent duplication and competition, and making the citizens the priority instead of the Extension programs.

Decentralization, Community-Based Planning, and Poverty Reduction in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Phakphian, Sawanya. 117 pages; [M.U.R.P. dissertation].United States – California: University of California, Irvine; 2011. AAT 1505607.

The existing literature shows little understanding of the relationship between community-based planning and poverty reduction in the concept of decentralization, demonstrated in part by empirical evidence of the mechanism of decentralization at the local level. Proponents of decentralization highlight its three main positive impacts on political, administrative, and economic considerations. Examples of these positive impacts are an increase in people's participation, better allocation of resources to meet people's need due to more knowledge about local conditions, and improvement for transparency and accountability of governance—all of which are prerequisites of poverty reduction. However, opponents of decentralization believe that it creates inefficient governance and ineffective economics (Devas 2004 and Tanzi 2002). Some of these opponents go so far as to say that decentralization increases social inequality (Tanzi 1995). It is these inconsistent perspectives on the impacts of decentralization on poverty reduction that this study investigates. This study investigates the evolution of decentralization policy in Thailand and the process by which decentralization helps reduce poverty at the local level.

This study uses a case study of Pan-Num, a poor Chiang Mai urban community, and conducts a comparative study of two community-based planning efforts which have different modes of participation—Canal Cleaning, a local initiative program, and Baan Man Kong, a governmental initiative program. Data were collected through 49 in-depth interviews, complied with household surveys, six months of field observations, and secondary sources of governmental and international documents.

Since 1932, the year that democracy was established in Thailand, the country has undergone several radical changes in its political administrative structure. There are many factors that have affected changes in the political structure and decentralization in Thailand. Examples of these changes are rapid urbanization, political dynamics such as the 1990s demonstration, and economic changes such as the 1997 economic crisis. Decentralization is suggested as a progressive approach to solving Thailand's existing problems, such as the distressed economy, inadequate service delivery, political instability, and social inequality, all of which contribute to poverty, one of the issues of greatest concern. Scholars and practitioners have tried to understand the process of decentralization that links it with poverty reduction (von Braun and Grote 2000, Rondinelli, Nellis and Cheema 1983, UNDP 2005). Their studies have revealed that the relationship between

decentralization and poverty alleviation outcomes are inconsistent. It is this uncertain finding that this study investigates.

This study attempts to analyze how community-based planning efforts help reduce poverty in the concept of decentralization by pushing beyond analyzing decentralization as democratic participation. The findings reveal that the implementation of community-based planning efforts in Pan-Num was able to promote some aspects of poverty reduction. A lack of infrastructure and public services is seen to improve after implementing community-based planning efforts. However, poverty reduction is limited to some groups of residents, and most still faced the problems of poverty. This represented the gap in social equality and the limited accountability of governance and planning.

In addition, the findings reveal that positive outcomes of community-based planning depend upon the level of collaborative work between the government, NGOs, the international agencies, and the community. Both modes of participation create relatively small-scale solutions and have difficulties to maintain their organizations. Several reasons are associated with the limited involvement of an array of relevant organizations. Also, positive outcomes are associated with the level of social capital. Residents who have strong tie to a community tend to work together better within community-based planning efforts. Thus, this study then suggests to building up social capital as well as promoting collaboration between the government, NGOs, the international agencies, and the community as well as more cooperative work between communities.

By its nature, this study's coverage is limited, further research is required. Further research should either use larger pools of randomly sampled residents and communities in Chiang Mai or investigate the study using longitudinal approach. Only this approach would allow a researcher to draw conclusions from case studies to the population of other poor urban communities.

Viewing the impact of shared services through the four frames of Bolman and Deal

Schumacher, Kyle A.. 104 pages; [Ed.D. dissertation].United States – Illinois: Northern Illinois University; 2011. AAT 3495023.

On March 31, 2011, Governor Quinn of Illinois called for schools to consolidate in order to become more financially and administratively efficient. This call for massive school reform is not new. Although consolidation, or reducing the number of school districts to save administrative costs, seemed radical to some, the idea of sharing services to save costs and operate more efficiently has been around for years in the form of special education cooperatives, state regional offices of

education, and many other public and private joint ventures. The cost savings of shared services have been documented in research. But what are the nonfinancial impacts of shared services on an organization?

Through a qualitative instrumental case study using Bolman and Deal's 2003 four frames as a lens—the structural, human resource, political, and symbolic frames—this researcher looked at the perceived impact of shared services on two Northshore school districts in Illinois. Through interviews and document research, the story of shared services through the eyes of teachers and administrators who have experienced shared services firsthand is told. The perceived impact that shared services had on these two districts varied, depending on the vantage point of the individual, but several common themes emerged through analysis of the data. The questions that this researcher sought to understand were: (1) What impact did shared services have on two districts' organizational structure and educational processes as viewed through the lens of the four frames of Bolman and Deal? (2) What perceptions of benefits are afforded to districts that enter into a shared-services agreement beyond financial implications? (3) What steps can be taken to limit any potential negative impact on culture and climate at the school level to districts implementing a shared-services model?

The analysis of the interview data and the documents provided insight into shared services in these particular school districts in Illinois. This researcher recommends further research on the perceived long-term impact of consolidation versus shared services, the impact on student growth, and the long-term analysis of the ability to sustain efficacy of service delivery and financial savings.

Microcredit as a poverty alleviation strategy, women's empowerment and gender relations

Kumar Bhargavi, Valsala Kumari. 305 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – New Jersey: Rutgers The State University of New Jersey - New Brunswick; 2011. AAT 3474891.

This dissertation is about how women are empowered when they gain access to small loans (microcredit) and how that alters or reinforces existing gender relations. My study shows that "the poor" is not a monolithic entity but is an aggregation of differentiated categories with the most vulnerable segments of society occupying the lowest rung of society. The state-civil society synergy that is so characteristic of the state of Kerala does not percolate down to the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society and the tribes for a variety of reasons. If these segments of the population have to benefit, the structure of microcredit has to be redesigned to make it more appropriate and responsive to their special needs.

Microcredit provides the entry point but it is the networking that empowers impoverished women who lack material resources. Networking itself is an umbrella term that entails different kinds of networking.

My conclusion is that the women-centric microcredit program sponsored by the state marks a departure from the earlier paradigms of developments in which women were not placed at the center of developmental activities. The new paradigm is the state's attempt at negotiating privatized strategies of development in the larger context of liberalization espoused by the Indian state. My study reveals that microcredit does help women tide over the emergency needs of the family without relying on others. But it is not a substitute for long term structural problems of poverty. The social solidarity generated by different kinds of networking helps women's empowerment by way of expanding their consciousness through new knowledge including legal literacy and through exposure to other people with other ideals and ethics. I also find that the social capital generated by the networking of over 3.7 million women through self help groups has not transformed into organized demand cutting across party politics for radical changes like redistribution of resources especially arable land. Microcredit has functioned to depoliticize what could have been a progressive politics for gender equity.

Acculturative stress of Mexican immigrant women and the nature and role of social support

Stone, Barclay. 189 pages; [Psy.D. dissertation].United States – California: The Wright Institute; 2011. AAT 3471596.

This quantitative study describes the social support networks among a sample of 152 Mexican immigrant women in the San Francisco Bay Area. The data was examined to determine the associations between acculturative stress, perceived general social support, and different sources of social support. The impetus for this study was the lack of formal research on risk and protective factors for Mexican immigrant women. More specifically, this study addresses a gap in the literature with regard to the role of non-family social support in the presence of acculturative stress.

Higher levels of acculturative stress, as measured by an established measure, the Social Attitudinal Familial Environmental acculturative stress scale [SAFE], were associated with the demographic variables of leaving immediate family behind in Mexico, less self-reported English proficiency and lower income. Relying on a friend for help during stressful situations as measured by the Personal Resource Questionnaire-85 [PRQ-85] Part I was also associated with higher levels of acculturative stress.

Perceived general social support was measured with Part II of the PRQ-85. Factor analysis revealed a strong negative correlation between all the dimensions of acculturative stress and perceived general social support. Reporting "no one available" to turn to for help was also strongly negatively correlated with perceived general social support.

This study's statistical analysis did not favor the dichotomy that the literature suggests between family and non-family social support. More specifically, factor analysis revealed that informal support resources correlated (e.g. parent, partner, friend, and neighbor/co-worker), as did more formal support resources (a self-help group, a relative, a professional, and an agency).

Reporting that one could count on the support of a partner, a religious figure or an agency was correlated with increased levels of perceived general social support. However, participants were least likely to report that they would turn to religious or agency support. Thus, these results suggest that health care providers should assess the quality of women's intimate relationships and recommend resources for strengthening those relationships when indicated, as well referring women to agency and religious resources whenever appropriate.

Cost-savings motivation, new technology adoption, regulatory compliance burden, and adoption of online banking services for Russian credit unions

Tatarintsev, Evgeniy. 92 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Minnesota: Capella University; 2011. AAT 3458033.

This dissertation examines the relationship of cost savings motivation, capability to adopt new technology, regulatory compliance burden, and the rate of adoption of online banking services for credit unions in Russia. Information about these credit unions was obtained from the Russian Credit Union League, which is a member of World Council of Credit Unions, headquartered in Washington, DC. A survey was administered to managers who work for Russian credit unions. Correlational data analysis was performed on items that measure cost savings motivation, capability to adopt new technology, regulatory compliance burden, and the rate of adoption of online banking services. Research Question 1 examined the relationship between cost savings motivation and the rate of adoption of online banking services. The corresponding hypothesis was that credit unions with greater cost savings motivation have a higher rate of adoption of online banking services. The correlational analysis showed that cost savings motivation was positively correlated with the rate of adoption of online banking services. Research Question 2 examined the relationship between capability to adopt new technology and the rate of adoption of online banking services. The corresponding hypothesis was that

credit unions with greater capability to adopt new technology have a higher rate of adoption of online banking services. The correlational analysis showed that capability to adopt new technology has positive correlation with the rate of adoption of online banking services. Research Question 3 examined the relationship between regulatory compliance burden and the rate of adoption of online banking services. The corresponding hypothesis was that credit unions that perceive high regulatory compliance burden have a lower rate of adoption of online banking services. The correlational analysis showed that perceived regulatory compliance burden was positively correlated with the rate of adoption of online banking services. In other words, those who believe that online banking has lower compliance burden have a higher rate of adoption. The research results suggest that if credit unions have greater cost savings motivation and greater capability to adopt new technology, and if they perceive low regulatory compliance burden, then they have a higher rate of adoption of online banking services.

Drivers of member advocacy and detraction in credit unions: Key contributors to net promoter scores

Goldman, Neil. 156 pages; [Ed.D. dissertation].United States – California: Pepperdine University; 2011. AAT 3444674.

Credit unions today face an uncertain future, with their very survival in question. This study sought to understand where credit union leaders should focus to foster growth and create lasting organizational success.

Treacy and Wiersema (1995) proffer that the key to growth rests in "customer intimacy" and as others suggest, the creation of an exceptional customer experience (McConnell & Huba, 2003; Pine & Gilmore, 1999). As customers for credit unions are called members, an exceptional "member experience" is thus necessary.

Customer (or member) satisfaction levels indicate the member experience. Member loyalty levels also reflect the member experience. This study sought to uncover the drivers of credit union member advocacy and detraction, and explored the existence of age, income, or gender differences. The study used the seminal SERVQUAL model (Zeithaml, Parasuraman, & Berry, 1990) of customer satisfaction as a framework for understanding the drivers of high member loyalty. Specifically, responses to the Net Promoter Score's "likelihood to recommend" question (Reichheld, 2006a) were coded, first independently, and then to the five distinct dimensions of service quality: Tangibles, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance and Empathy (Zeithaml et. al, 1990). In so doing, this study led to greater understanding of what contributes to high and low NPS scores, and thus

what credit union leaders can do to create an excellent member experience, and high loyalty, among current members.

The study also led to a new, more complete banking-specific account holder experience assessment model, "SQ+", and five additional dimensions: Convenience, Rates, Fees, Products/Services and Relationship. Two key research tools were also developed: A new SQ+ questionnaire for use in assessing the member/customer experience, and a codebook to use in interpreting and utilizing NPS "likelihood to recommend" comments.

Exploring location and accessibility relationships between manufactured housing and banking facilities in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Yankson, Eric. 92 pages; [M.S. dissertation]. United States – Alabama: The University of Alabama; 2011. AAT 1505222.

This study has explored location and accessibility relationships between manufactured housing (also referred to as mobile homes, manufactured homes, or trailers) and banking facilities in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The main research objective was to examine the relative location of manufactured housing and banking facilities. Additional research objectives included determining the demographic characteristics of mobile home residents and finding out whether or not these residents have access to banking facilities. The study showed that whereas manufactured homes tend to be located in outlying census tracts or in the central part of the county outside city limits, banking facilities are located in the central part of the county within city limits. A Geographical Information System (GIS) suitability analysis showed that overall, less urbanized areas are suitable for the location of manufactured housing units in Tuscaloosa County. These trailers have kept out of the more urbanized locations by zoning restrictions. Statistical analyses showed that the number of industrial establishments and population density are strongly correlated with the number of branches of identified banking facilities, with the number of industrial establishments having the strongest correlation. A spatial mismatch was found between the locations of manufactured housing and banking facilities. Less urbanized areas where mobile homes are located were found to have low population densities, low per capita incomes, and low levels of competitiveness, while more urbanized areas where banking facilities are located were found to have high population densities, high per capita incomes, and high levels of competitiveness.

From the survey of mobile home residents carried out as part of this research, it was evident that a majority of household heads (approximately 57%) are between the ages of 46 and 65 years, while 14% are 65+ years old. It was also found that

approximately 58% of household heads are working, while 42% are not working. All the respondents in the survey use banking services, with a majority using credit unions. An overwhelming 91% of respondents use loans, while 60% of those who use loans have gone in for a home or home improvement loan (either alone or together with other loans). Based on the results of the survey, it was fair to conclude that notwithstanding the spatial mismatch between the locations of manufactured housing and banking facilities, residents of manufactured housing have access to banking facilities in accordance with the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) of 1977. This implies that one does not necessarily have to be located in close proximity to a banking facility in order to access banking services, as most banks have adopted more technologically advanced ways of dealing with their customers. Also, with space-time accessibility measures, where people work or shop could be a much more useful way of assessing whether or not they have access to banking facilities. However, in terms of aggregate accessibility which is based on points such as homes or zones, or topological accessibility which is based on travel distance or time, manufactured housing residents are placed at a disadvantage relative to residents of site-built homes when it comes to accessing banking facilities.

Adaptation to Environmental Change among Water User Associations in the Colombian Andes

Murtinho, Felipe. 171 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – California: University of California, Santa Barbara; 2011. AAT 3482013.

In developing countries, understanding how communities organize and cooperate is particularly important for water management as many rural communities must decide by themselves if and how they will protect their watersheds and distribute their water. Despite research on the factors that facilitate collective action in resource management, we have limited knowledge on the specific conditions that enable local communities to adapt to changing conditions. This doctoral dissertation explores the factors that determine whether local Water User Associations in the Fúquene watershed in the Andes of Colombia take measures to adapt to threats to their water availability. The study uses a hybrid agency-structure theoretical approach including concepts from the New Institutional Economics literature in order to answer four research questions: i) what threats to water availability, if any, do WUAs face in Fúquene?, ii) what adaptation strategies are WUAs implementing, if any, in response to these threats?, iii) what conditions facilitate (or impede) WUAs' initiatives to adapt to these threats? And as a specific

subset of the above question, iv) what are the impacts of different financial strategies on WUAs' initiatives to adapt?

The research uses quantitative and qualitative methods incorporating data from surveys of water user associations and households, meteorological data, municipal socio-economic information and land-use maps. The results show how and why different characteristics at three different scales (the household, the association, and the broader governing context) impact the decision of the associations to adapt to changes in water conditions. The study shows that the key factors that facilitate WUAs' initiatives to adapt include: households willingness to support their WUAs, water scarcity perceptions (more than actual environmental changes), WUAs' self-organization capacity and collective management experience, and the local government financial support to WUAs (but only when support is requested by the WUA).

The findings of this study contributes to geography and other disciplines that study human-environment relations and decision-making in three ways: i) explicitly linking natural disturbances to adaptation strategies, ii) understanding collective resource management under varied and changing conditions, and iii) exploring the impacts of decision-making and coupled human-environment conditions at different scales on collective action and adaptation.

Water, International Development and Collective Action: An impact assessment of an irrigation management project in Southern Kyrgyzstan

McGee, Heather LaRue. 253 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Michigan: University of Michigan; 2011. AAT 3492937.

Water scarcity is a severe and growing global challenge. Over the last 50 years, water withdrawals have tripled due to economic development and rapid population growth, placing serious pressure on the planet's water systems. Agriculture remains the most significant consumer of water, accounting for approximately 75% of all global water use. Millions of rural agriculture-dependent farmers in Africa, Asia and the Middle East already face devastating shortages of irrigation water, a situation that will have severe implications for food security and economic development across the globe. Therefore, efficient irrigation water management is critical to meet the growing demand for water resources.

My dissertation seeks to determine the impact of a development project committed to improving irrigation management in Kyrgyzstan. The research focused on the Water Users' Association Support Program (WUASP), a project dedicated to building the capacity of local institutions of irrigators known as Water Users' Association (WUAs) through social mobilization, institutional development

and participatory rehabilitation. An interrupted panel design and fixed effects regression methods are used to isolate the program effect. Additionally, data from a large N probability survey is used to explore the program's association with four behavioral mechanisms— knowledge, participation, attitudes and social capital –that link WUASP to irrigation management outcomes. Furthermore, my quantitative methods are supplemented by qualitative data from focus groups, interviews and participant observation collected over nine months of field research.

The results indicate that the program improved irrigation management outcomes; these results were mediated by a WUA's size, economic and social heterogeneity, as well as ecological scarcity. Moreover, the analysis points to a positive program association with the mechanisms of knowledge, participation and attitudes . However, there is no evidence of a positive effect for women or water users located at the end of a canal, and the program failed to generate a positive community dynamic over irrigation. Thus, while WUASP may have promoted efficiency gains among the elite or privileged groups, the findings suggest that in cases of significant economic inequality, the program either had no effect or may have inadvertently increased the disparity between powerful and powerless water users.