



BALTA Symposium

January 12-14, 2012 Vancouver, BC

The next BALTA research symposium will be held from Thursday eve through Saturday afternoon, **January 12-14**, at the **Sutton Place Hotel** in **Vancouver**. This will be the final symposium of BALTA's current SSHRC-funded program, which will end in early 2012. The symposium will provide an opportunity to reflect upon the results of BALTA's research and other activities since 2006 and to consider ways to enhance BALTA's longer term legacies.

The aims of the event can be summed up in five words: Reporting, Synthesis, Evaluation, Visioning and Celebration. It will be an opportunity to look back over what BALTA has accomplished and to look forward to future collaborative research possibilities, as BALTA and/or through other forms of collaboration. There will be presentations about new BALTA research since the last symposium two years ago. A major part of the symposium will focus on identifying and analyzing the key learnings and strategic level impacts arising from the six years of the BALTA research partnership and program.

The symposium will also provide opportunities to discuss further action that can be taken to strengthen the legacies from BALTA's research and potential areas for future research, including a proposed new BALTA research program on The Social Economy, Community Resilience and the Transition to Sustainability (see page 3).


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Come Celebrate with Us

January 12, 5:30 - 9:00 PM
Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver

BALTA will be holding an evening of celebration and reflection on the results of our six years of research into the social economy. A **reception from 5:30-7:00 PM, Thursday, January 12**, with light food and a cash bar, will be followed by presentations and discussion on the results and legacies from BALTA's research program and other activities.

This evening event will kick off a BALTA research symposium that extends through Friday and Saturday, January 13-14.

We invite friends and colleagues to join us in celebrating. **Space is limited. Please confirm if you plan to attend with an email to: ccebe@telus.net** 



Sutton Place Hotel, 845 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC

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All articles are by Stuart Wulff.

BALTA Symposium

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Outline of the Symposium Program

- **Thursday eve, 5:30 - 7:00:** Reception
 - **Thursday, 7:00 - 9:00:** Presentations and discussion on highlights of the BALTA research partnership. Presenters include (see photo array at right, top to bottom, **Lena Soots**, **John Restakis**, and **Mike Lewis**.)
 - **Friday, 8:30 - 5:00:** Reports on recent research. Working groups analyze significant learnings, results and legacies from the BALTA research program.
 - **Saturday, 8:30 - 5:00:** Further reports on recent research and publications arising from the research; Various sessions focus on how to advance the BALTA legacy and options for further collaborative research, including potential new BALTA research initiatives.
- BALTA members are encouraged to reserve the dates and plan to attend (funding is available for travel and participation of BALTA members). Others are welcome to attend at their own cost. **If you haven't already registered and plan to attend, then please contact balta@xplornet.com as soon as possible to register.**

Further information will be circulated to those who register. For further inquiries contact: balta@xplornet.com 📧



Photo courtesy
Jennifer Haslett



BALTA Takes to the Airwaves



During the 2011 conference of the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research in Fredericton, the Atlantic social economy research network ran two days of broadcasts on Fredericton community radio. BALTA collaborated in this initiative, with **Stuart Wulff** interviewing BALTA representatives about aspects of BALTA's research program.

These radio interviews are now available online as downloadable mp3 files at:

<http://dc.msvu.ca:8080/xmlui/handle/10587/1110>

The BALTA interviews are as follows:

- **George Penfold** talks about BALTA's research on affordable housing. **baltapenfold.mp3** (NB: This audio file starts with **Noreen Millar** of the Atlantic

research network interviewing Stuart about BALTA, but then continues to Stuart interviewing George about the housing research.)

- **Celia Lee** talks about her neighbourhood level social economy mapping research, which was incorporated into her Master's thesis. The thesis won ANSER's 2011 thesis award. **baltalee.mp3**
- **Bob McKeon** talks about his research on the role of faith based organizations in developing and supporting the social economy. **baltamckeon.mp3**
- **Mike Lewis** talks about BALTA research related to sustainability. **baltalewis.mp3**
- **Peter Elson** talks about BALTA research on the social enterprise sector. **baltapeter.mp3** 📧

Proposed New BALTA Research Program

BALTA has submitted an application to the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada** (SSHRC) to fund a new research partnership and program on Social Economy, Community Resilience and the Transition to Sustainability.

The initial application is for a two year Partnership Development Grant that would support development of the research partnership and planning for a future multi-year research program. Towards the end of the two year development process, an application would be submitted to SSHRC and potentially other funders to support a 5-6 year major research program.

The goal of the new research partnership would be to study the scaling up/out of innovations that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of communities and regions. The project would build upon the strong research partnership model developed by BALTA from 2006 to 2012, but would also engage new partners and participants. While the primary focus of the partnership would be in Alberta and BC, there are national and international partners, particularly in the UK.

Key findings from BALTA's earlier research reveal the strategic importance of the social economy in advancing sustainability and meeting basic needs on a more local-regional basis. With sixty per cent of the planet's ecosystems at risk and continued reliance on fossil fuels making inevitable a future of severe and irreversible climate change, populations are rendered more vulnerable and

the communities and regions they live in more subject to environmental, economic and social dislocation. BALTA's earlier research studied examples of current best practice in addressing sustainability objectives. This new research partnership would build upon that to study how to adapt and scale up successful innovations to a wider range of contexts.

There are three major components to the project:

1. Mobilizing more widely the results of earlier research by BALTA and other partners relevant to the aims of this project.
2. Analyzing the intersections between contexts, innovations and enabling factors at micro (local), mezzo (enabling systems) and macro levels of transition, identifying lessons to be learned and knowledge gaps that would benefit from further research in the future research program.
3. Engaging a selection of communities/regions in community based participatory action research projects that would explore scaling up/out specific innovations and transition strategies. These action research projects would form the main part of the future research program.

SSHRC funds projects through a competitive review process. We expect to hear by **April 2012** if our application has been successful. 🙏



The goal of the new research partnership would be to study the scaling up/out of innovations that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of communities and regions. The project would build upon the research partnership model developed by BALTA 2006-12, but would also engage new partners and participants.

2012 Conference and Call for Proposals

Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research

ANSER, the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research, will be holding its **Fifth Annual Conference May 30 to June 1, 2012** at **Wilfrid Laurier University** and the **University of Waterloo** in **Waterloo, Ontario**. The theme of the conference will be “The Changing Role of Nonprofits and the Social Economy in an Uncertain World.”

ANSER invites proposals for papers, panels and discussion roundtables on topics such as:

- Changing Role of Nonprofits and the Social Economy in an Uncertain World
- Co-operatives in 2012, the Year of the Co-operative
- Nonprofits in a Time of Cutbacks
- Social Enterprises, Social Entrepreneurship, and Social Innovation
- Community Economic Development and Community Organizing

- Volunteering and Citizen Engagement
 - Collaborations, Partnerships and Mergers
 - Finance, Governance and Management
 - Research Methodologies and Community-University Research Partnerships
 - Public Policy & Government Relations
- ANSER particularly welcomes proposals involving collaboration between academics and practitioners.

Proposal abstracts, in either official language, must be submitted online by **January 9, 2012**, at: <http://ocs.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/anser/ANSER2012/schedConf/cfp> or by email to: anserconference@gmail.com

For further information, go to: <http://www.anser-ares.ca/conference.php>

BALTA

The BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance



BALTA Steering Committee Members

- Mike Lewis, Lead Investigator, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal
- Dr. Mary Beckie, Co-Investigator, University of Alberta
- Dr. Martin Garber-Conrad, Co-Investigator, Edmonton Community Foundation
- Dr. Michael Gismondi, Co-Investigator, Athabasca University
- George Penfold, Co-investigator, Rural Innovation Chair, Selkirk College
- Dr. Mark Roseland, Co-Investigator, Simon Fraser University
- Stuart Wulff, Staff, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal

Financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for BALTA's research program and this newsletter is gratefully acknowledged.



Social Sciences and Humanities
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