



NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2009
Volume 3, Issue 2



BALTA
BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance

Check us out at: www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca

BALTA's 2009 Symposium

BALTA's 2009 symposium has been scheduled for Tuesday-Wednesday, November 24-25, at

We hope to see you all there. Further information will be circulated in the early Autumn.

Mount Royal University (formerly Mount Royal College) in Calgary. The symposium will feature sessions focusing on several themes linked to BALTA's research program.



So please mark these dates in your calendars.

Above: Mount Royal University in Calgary will host BALTA's 2009 symposium. Photo: MRU

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Viewpoint



Too Old To Tweet

By Dr. Martin Garber-Conrad

Although I'm way too old to tweet, I have contemplated a bit of blogging on occasion. So, from the airport on my way home from the May/09 Steering Committee meeting, I might have written the following:

It's starting to be a long time. I signed on when BALTA was only a gleam in Mike Lewis's good eye. Since then, I have a new job (4 years) and a new house and family (5 years). How time does fly!

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Too Old To Tweet

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It was never easy. Way too big a project. Hard to figure out where we were going. And the people—academics and practitioners—what's that all about?

Nevertheless, most of the original Baltonians have stuck with it. And quite a few new folks have joined. Research projects have been completed and dozens of students have learned, written, and presented.

Reflecting on the most recent Steering Committee meeting, two things in particular caught my eye. First, we still have serious arguments about grand strategy and the specifics of individual projects.

However, when we pick sides now, it's rarely along academic-practitioner lines. It took some time to get there. We spoke, after all, quite different languages.

Now, we're much better at translation, at interpretation, at listening. And so our disagreements are much more fun now!

Secondly, although the three initial SERCs were a useful first cut—providing manageability, focus and the opportunity to build community among members—there is a recognition that some of the most interesting projects are “crosscutting” now.

We're less protective of our own SERC's agenda and more open to working together—to seeing the connections between our particular interests and those of the others.

So, now, the entire scope of the research is taking more shape. We are seeing that many themes are mutually informative and we are beginning to think beyond a collection of individual projects.

This has allowed us to better address the gaps in research. And we are finding willing folks—yes, academics and practitioners!—willing to take on issues they might not have thought of themselves.

As a result, both collaboration and collegiality are enhanced. There are still systemic barriers, inherent in the structure of this

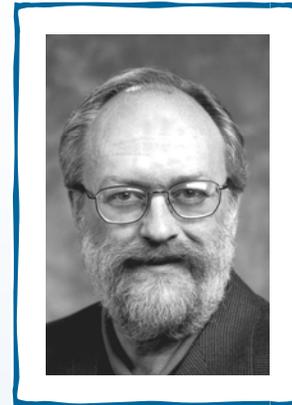


Photo: Edmonton Community Foundation

Above: Dr. Martin Garber-Conrad, Co-Investigator and CEO, Edmonton Community Foundation

endeavour, e.g., different reward structures, resource allocation limitations, and just finding the time to do BALTA off the corner of our desks. But we are making BALTA work. And it feels good. I think it means we are learning.

Visit Our New BALTA Web Site in October
socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca



Above: BALTA Steering Committee Members. Fr L to R; George Penfold, Lena Soots, Dr. Mark Roseland, Dr. Mary Beckie, Mike Lewis, Dr. Michael Gismondi, Dr. Martin Garber-Conrad. Photos: Jennifer Lee Jones.

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**2010
International
Conference
on
Social Capital**

The Social Capital Foundation is holding an international conference in 2010 on social capital. A wide range of social capital related topics will be included.

Dates: May 7-10, 2010

Venue: Malta

Deadline for Submissions: February 15, 2010

For further information:

www.socialcapital-foundation.org

BALTA Launches 2009-2010 Research Program

BALTA's steering committee approved BALTA's 2009-2010 research program and projects at a meeting on May 25-26. The program includes a mix of research continuing from 2008-2009 and a range of new projects. The research programs were developed and approved by each research cluster (SERC) and the mapping program team in a series of meetings (mainly by tele-conference) over the preceding two months. A significant feature of the program, as in 2008-2009, was several 'cross-cutting' projects that link to the mandate of more than one SERC.

Several other new initiatives were approved for 2009-2010 including:

S Establishment of BALTA's first post-doctoral research position for a one year term;

S Establishment of a student program coordinator, a student who will work to improve our support to student research assistants working under BALTA's auspices (see New Staff article on page 5);

S Exploration of options for an inter-university course on the social economy; BALTA has already been involved in development of a new Master's in Community Development program at the University of Victoria and this new initiative will enhance that commitment to supporting new education programs on the social economy.

SERC 1 Research – Housing, Human Services and Financing

New Projects:

A7 – Co-op Housing Futures: A Spatial Design Research Approach

A8 – Social Enterprise Capital Providers in BC and Alberta

A9 – Sustainable Management of Affordable Housing by Not-for-Profits and Co-ops

A10 – Role of Faith Based Organizations in the Social Economy – Phase 2 – Catholic Religious Orders and the Mennonite Community

Continuing Projects:

A6 – The Fraser Valley Social Economy with Reference to Affordable Housing Provision and Related Support Services



Above: A second phase of BALTA research related to the role of farmers' markets will be implemented in 2009-2010. Photo: Vancouver Farmers' Market



LEFT: Lead investigator, Mike Lewis, is beside himself with excitement over BALTA's 2009-2010 research program. Photo: David Thompson

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Check us out at: www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca

Have an Idea? We Need Great Photographs!

of both BALTA research in action and of the social economy sectors / organizations that BALTA is researching. Contact Jennifer Lee Jones jljones@cedworks.com



Above: BALTA's research related to development of a golden mussel shellfish industry with BC Coastal First Nations will continue in 2009. Photo: Kenn Renauld.

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SERC 2 Research – Rural Revitalization & Development

New & Continuing Projects:

B5/B7 – Farmers' Markets as Social Economy Drivers of Local Food Systems – Completion of Phase 1 and a Phase 2 Project

B6 – Prospects for Socializing the Green Economy: The Case of Renewable Energy

SERC 3 Research – Systems & Infrastructure

New Projects:

C16 – Survey of Social Enterprises in Alberta and British Columbia

C17 – Building a *Supportive Environment for Social Enterprise: Synthesis of SERC 3 Research*

C18 – Procurement Policy & Market Development for the Social Economy

Continuing Projects:

C9 – CED and Social Economy Policy Inventory in BC and Alberta

C10 – Municipal Government Support of the Social Economy

C15 – Social Embeddedness and Monitoring the Social Economy and Community Resilience

Cross-Cutting Research

New Projects:

D7 – Land Tenure and the Social Economy – Phase 2

Right: Sean Connelly, recently awarded his doctorate by Simon Fraser University, will be working with BALTA as a one year post-doctoral researcher.



D8 – Credit Unions and Rural Reinvestment – Phase B

D10 – Advancing the Social Economy Through Networks and Collaboration

Continuing Projects:

D2 – Leveraging Social Ownership of Proprietary Trademarks related to the Golden Mussel as a Base for Expansion of Social Enterprise in Coastal B.C. Aboriginal Communities

D4 – Sustainable Infrastructure for the Social Economy: Cluster-based Social Enterprise

Models

D6 – Foundations for the Social Economy

Mapping Program

The social economy mapping program will continue in 2009-2010, with an effort to increase the size of the sample of organizations surveyed and a greater focus on analysis of data. Several projects initiated by SERC researchers will be channelling data into the mapping program. Project E3 – A Neighbourhood Case Study – will complete its look at social economy relationships within a specific geographical area.

BALTA's First Post-Doctoral Research Position

Dr. Sean Connelly, recently awarded his doctorate by Simon Fraser University, will be working for BALTA as a one year post-doctoral researcher. Sean's research will examine the linkages between the social economy and sustainable community development, including a specific focus on re-localizing food systems. Another of Sean's roles will be to assist in synthesizing the research from various research projects and identifying significant common themes that emerge.

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National Summit 2010

Social economy and community economic development supporters from across Canada will gather in Ottawa in late May 2010 for a national summit.

BALTA and its sister networks in the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships will be supporting the summit and using it as a venue for sharing some of the results of our research programs.

The summit will provide an opportunity to showcase the social economy, expand relationships and unite the various social economy sectors under a common umbrella, and engage in strategizing for how

to strengthen the sector and its contributions to constructing an economy that is ecologically, socially and economically vital and accountable.

BALTA lead investigator, Mike Lewis, has played a leading role in initiating planning for the summit and continues to serve on the summit steering committee.

The steering committee brings together many of the leading networks in the social economy and is co-chaired by Mike Toye of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet), Nancy Neamtan of the Chantier de

l'économie sociale, and John Anderson of the Canadian Co-operative Association.

The national summit will be held at Carleton University in Ottawa from May 31 to June 2, 2010.



New BALTA Staff

BALTA welcomed two new staff recently. With 20 years of experience Jennifer Lee Jones will act as our part time communications specialist.

As a communications and marketing coordinator, an art director, and an editor, publisher and owner of a national publication, and project coordinator she has assisted



Jennifer Lee Jones

advertising agencies, design consultants, corporations, government, small business and not-for-profit organizations to inform, market and motivate.

Clients include Canadian Centre for Community Renewal, Habitat for Humanity York Region, York Region District School Board and Yellow Brick House and Neighbours, Friends and Families. Jennifer Lee can be contacted at www.jenniferleejones.com.

Lena Soots, who will act as our part time student program coordinator, is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education and an instructor/



Lena Soots

researcher with the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University. Lena has worked with BALTA as a student researcher on various projects since 2006.

Lenas' doctoral research brings together ideas in the areas of sustainability, the social economy, social enterprise, organizational learning and social innovation.

Our New Student Researchers

Tanya Jonker is an Honours Psychology student at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford.

She recently finished her Honours thesis, and is spending the summer working with Dr. Ron van Wyk and Dr. Anita van Wyk on Project A6 - the Fraser Valley Social Economy with Reference to Affordable Housing Provision and Related Support Services.

The project looks at non-profit organizations within



Above: Tanya Jonker

the Fraser Valley and seeks to attain a better understanding of the extent of affordable housing.

Tanya is excited to be working on this project because it will further her research experience in preparation for graduate

studies, and because the project is having an impact on the community in which she lives.

Tanya plans on attending graduate school for her MA in Psychology in the fall of 2010. She enjoys research and hopes to use the skills she has learned in university in this BALTA project as well as in her future endeavours.

Jana Svedova is currently working on BALTA's Affordable Housing Initiative and looking at the sustainable management of not-for-profit organizations and co-operatives with minimal government support.

Not-for-profit organizations play a significant role in the provision of social and affordable housing, but face the challenge of increasing demand for their services while sources of government funding for the support of their efforts is decreasing.

Organizations are responding to this challenge with innovative and sustainable business models to decrease reliance on outside sources of funding.

By looking at means that

such organizations have employed to become financially sustainable and examining the lessons learned from the experiences, this project



Above: Jana Svedova

will provide guidance for other not-for-profit organizations and co-ops that want to replicate existing models that have successfully contributed to financial sustainability.

Amanda Polak, a student of UBC Sauder School of Business (MBA) works on project C18 -Procurement Policy and Market Development for the Social Economy: Expanding the Market Opportunities for Social Enterprise, Co-operatives, and Other Social Economy Businesses

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Publishing & Dissemination

BALTAs' recent Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council mid-term evaluation identified the need for further publication products.

BALTAs' Steering Committee members met in May in Vancouver, where they discussed the importance of publishing and dissemination of project results.

The Steering Committee will be asking each BALTA research cluster (SERC) to pay greater attention to monitoring and promoting publication efforts for the projects under their auspices and to report back to the SC in six months.

Further information will be forthcoming.



International CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy

October
1-2, 2009

The second International CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy will take place in Östersund, Sweden.

Please visit the Conference website for updated information.

Online registration
<http://socek.se/registerinfo>



Our New Student Researchers

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The purpose of this research project is to examine social economy businesses within the marketplace supply chain. The goal will be to develop a procurement framework that reflects socially responsible and sustainable development.

Further, this research aims to support public and private sectors in implementing a procurement policy, by providing guidance on the integration of socially responsible considerations within existing procurement policies.

Kate McBride is an undergraduate at the University of Victoria where she is finishing up her degree in Sociology.

She has an interest in health, housing and community support networks. Kate



Above: Kate McBride

spent a year and a half working in India with women and children with AIDS and conducted her honours research on the intersection of poverty, religion and social capital as experienced by these patients.

She is joining the team working on Project A6 – The Fraser Valley Social Economy with Reference to Affordable Housing Provision and Related Support Services .



Above: Brendan Decoster

Brendan Decoster just received his M.Ed from the University of Alberta, where he is currently working with Jorge Sousa on a synthesis project for BALTA.

This project looks at ways that current research can be used to support social enterprises in BC and Alberta.

Brendan came to Alberta from the US by way of Korea, where he spent several years teaching English.

His research interests all revolve around culture and the ways in which people communicate and interact.

Most recently, he has put together a framework for treating time as money in higher education and worked with Jorge Sousa on an inventory of social economy organizations throughout BC and Alberta.

B.C. Student Wins Social Economy Scholarship

Jody Bauche of British Columbia has been presented with the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program award by The Canadian Social Economy Hub (CSEHub). The scholarship program promotes original research by emerging leaders in the Social Economy, and advance the capacity of successful candidates to further strengthen the Social Economy in their academic and practitioner sectors. Recipients receive \$3000 to further their research.

projects. Jody has worked as a community practitioner in the field of early childhood development and social services for nearly twelve years.



**BALTA
STEERING
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
2009**

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

Lena Soots, BALTA Students' Representative, Simon Fraser University

Stuart Wulff, Staff, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal

BALTA

BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance



Talk to us.
BALTA Staff

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Stuart Wulff



Jennifer Lee Jones



Lena Soots

Produced by www.jenniferleejones.com

BALTA Presents In Ottawa

Several BALTA representatives presented work at the recent ANSER conference held May 27-29 at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research or ANSER is a Canadian association for those who have an interest in research that pertains broadly to nonprofit organizations and the social economy.

BALTA members and students who presented included Rebecca Pearson, Bob McKeon, James Rodrigo, Jorge Sousa, Julia Affolderbach and Peter Elson.

Preceding the ANSER conference the International Student Conference on Social Economy took place on May 26 at Carleton University where BALTA student Celia Lee presented a paper based on a neighbourhood social economy case study.

Course Creation

The BALTA Steering Committee has agreed to explore the creation of a social economy course and accompanying material development.

One of the goals of this course creation would be to bring the results of BALTA's research into university programs to ensure

longevity.

The course could include units such as: what is the social economy, social enterprise and financing. Complementary applications such as online resources and distance education to assist teachers and trainers will also be considered.

Check us out at: www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca