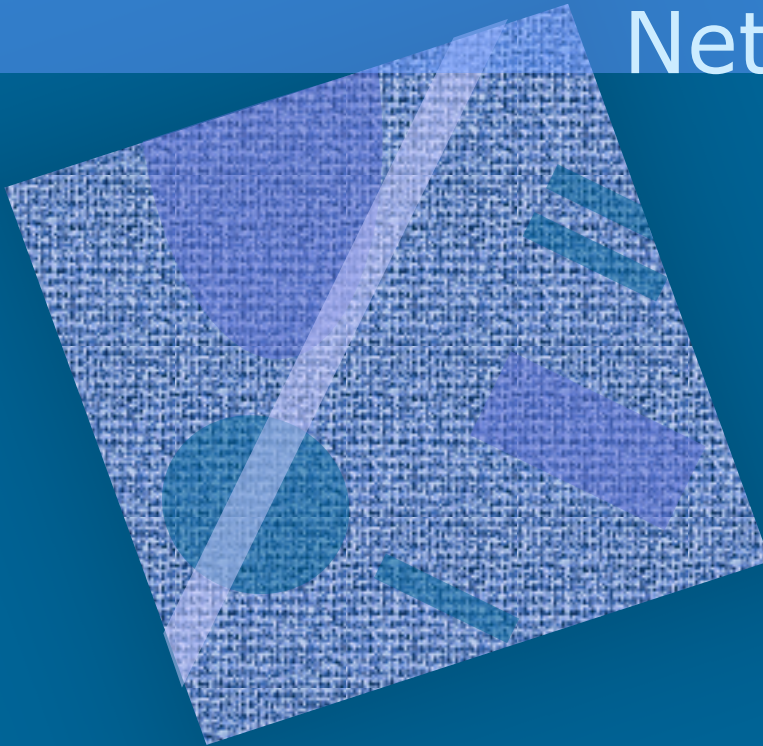


The Alberta Climate Dialogue as Integrative Education and Social Network



Asif Siddiqui,
Grant MacEwan
University

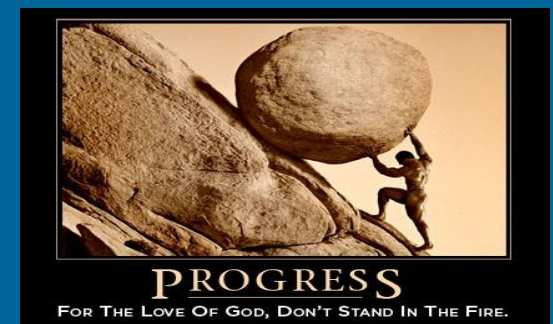
19th Annual ISSRM –
Estes Park, CO
June 8, 2013

Topics to be Covered

1. Alberta Climate Dialogue (ABCD)
2. ABCD as Integrative Education
3. First Social Network – Students
4. Second Social Network – Edmonton Citizens Panel
5. Third Social Network – Greater Business Involvement (Future Work)

Alberta Climate Dialogue (ABCD)

- Partnership Involving:
 - University of Alberta (and other universities)
 - City of Edmonton (and other municipal governments)
 - Various Community Organizations (think-tanks and those fostering Deliberative Democracy)
 - Businesses (to a limited extent)



ABCD – Funding

- Three Main Sources:
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Community-Research Alliance Program
 - The University of Alberta (and other universities)
 - Community Organizations around the World



ABCD as Integrative Education

- What is integrative education?
 - Palmer and Zajonc, *The Heart of Higher Education*, say it is bringing together:
 - What is important to the heart of the educator
 - What is being taught in the classroom by the educator
 - Doing good for the community



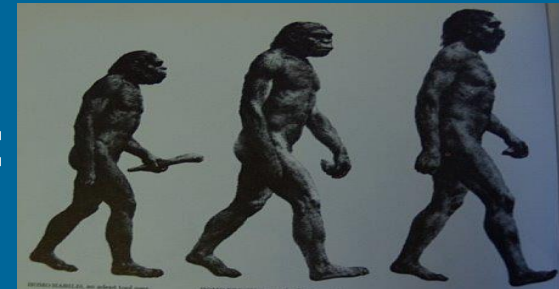
Dr. David Kahane – Project Director of ABCD

- What is important to his heart?
 - Passionate about Climate Change and mitigating its negative effects
 - Passionate about increasing citizen involvement in political process
 - Caveat: These are based on my observations of him as a student in his class



Dr. David Kahane – Political Science Professor

- What does he teach in the classroom?
 - “Deliberative Democracy (DD) and Climate Change” as Political Philosophy professor
 - DD has different meanings:
 - Disseminating information to the public (Habermas)
 - Bringing together mini-publics (Dryzek)
 - Ensuring marginalized voices heard (Kahane)



Deliberative Democracy (DD) and Climate Change

- What do students do in his class?
 - Use different DD techniques to bring about discussion on climate change:
 - Some try to educate other students by giving information
 - Others set up mini-publics
 - Theatre Forum was discussed
 - World Café (mine – I like to eat)



The Scholar and the Community

- Examples of doing good:
 - Writing Working Papers with:
 - Representatives of the City of Edmonton
 - Other scholars interested in the field
 - Working with students to facilitate research
 - Bringing community members together



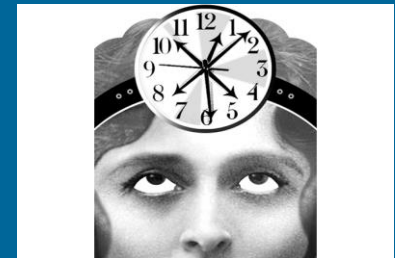
First Social Network – Students

- As a former student, I can say:
 - We are E-mailed for assistance with projects (such as Edmonton Citizens Panel)
 - Many continue to follow what ABCD is doing even if no longer closely involved (like me)
 - Ignited a deep passion for DD in many (most already concerned with Climate Ch)



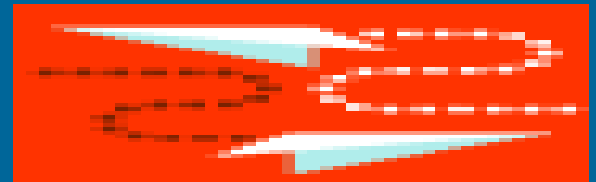
Second Social Network – Edmonton Citizens Panel

- ABCD worked with City of Edmonton on this (Final Report, April 2013)
 - Brought together ordinary citizens – a mini-public that included marginalized voices
 - They discussed Climate Change
 - Students volunteered to recruit panel members and helped facilitate meetings



Third Social Network – More Businesses (Future)

- In the Edmonton Citizens Panel:
 - Academics and ordinary citizens brought together
 - Some members of the business community also involved in dialogue
- Kahane concerned more business involvement might lead to strategic positioning – not honest dialogue



Question and Answer

- What questions do you have?
- Contact information:
 - awsiddiq@ualberta.ca

