The Alberta Climate Dialogue as Integrative Education and Social Network

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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?

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