



Singing Alone? The Contribution of Cultural Capital to Social Cohesion and Sustainable Communities

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Outline of Presentation

- Role of culture in fostering cohesive and sustainable communities – why is this debate happening now?
- How does cultural capital relate to human and social capital?
- How does cultural capital contribute to personal and collective well-being?
- What evidence exists?
- What is the model linking cultural capital, social capital, social cohesion and sustainable communities?
- What are the policy implications?

Culture and collective well-being - Why now?

- ✓ UNESCO – broader approach to role of culture in society and the economy
- ✓ Development studies
 - culture and social inclusion
 - culture, creativity and innovation
- ✓ Urban studies
 - culture and cohesive neighbourhoods
- ✓ Media studies
 - culture and participatory democracy

Social ecologies - What holds societies together?

Structural Elements

- ☞ Ideologies and values
- ☞ Social differentiation (distribution of goods and services)
- ☞ Community (patterns of social interaction)

Procedural Elements

- ☞ Social bonding (ties between intimates)
- ☞ Social integration (linkages between functional elements)
- ☞ Social solidarity (commitment to a larger whole)

Human, Social and Cultural Capital – Standard Definitions

- ✔ **Human capital** – the knowledge, skills, competencies and attributes embodied in individuals which facilitate the creation of person, social and economic well-being
- ✔ **Social capital** – social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them
- ✔ **Cultural capital** – the disposal of taste or consumption of specific cultural forms that mark people as members of specific classes

Three-Part Harmonies – Complementary Relationships between Human, Social and Cultural Capital

- ✔ Human capital and cultural capital reside in individuals
- ✔ Social capital resides in relationships

BUT ...

- ✔ Human capital contributes to literate and informed citizens who are better able to organize collectively
- ✔ An individual's volume of social capital depends on:
 - the size of his or her network connections
 - the volume of economic and cultural capital possessed by those connections

Cultural Capital, Social Capital and Bourdieu's Fields

Fields

- now viewed as dynamic rather than static
- a network of objective relations among positions

Cultural capital

- a complex web of relationships and beliefs, values and motivations
- provides human societies with the means to actively modify the field
- determines the **quality** of social capital

Cultural Capital and Community

- ✓ Members of cultural groups score higher on generalized trust, political trust and optimism and tolerance
- ✓ Participation in the arts has positive effects on social cohesion:
 - encourages partnerships
 - promotes intercultural understanding
 - promotes neighbourhood security
 - helps regenerate neighbourhoods
 - has positive impacts on local image and identity

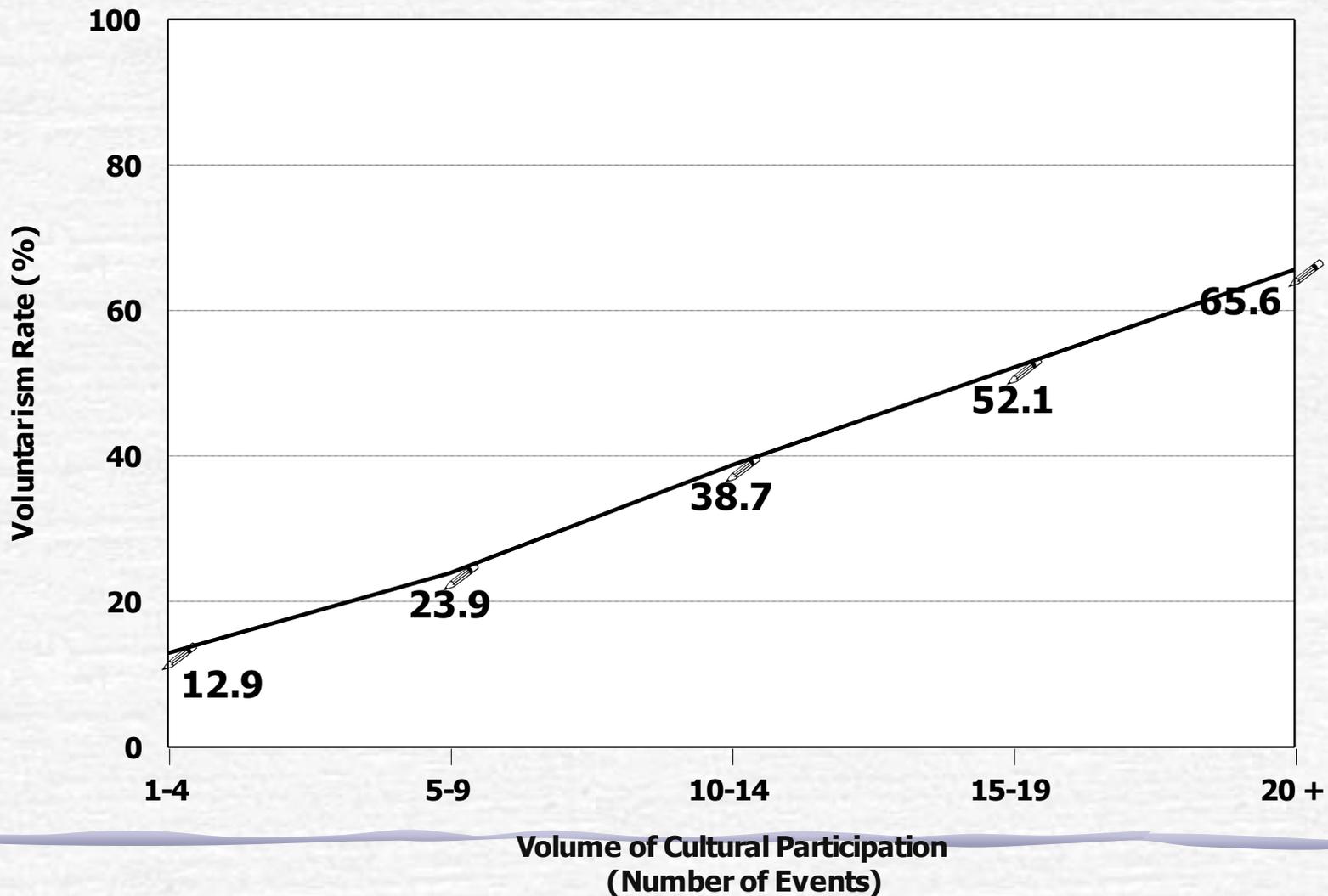
Cultural Attendance and Volunteer Rates (%) Canada 1998

Activity	Volunteer Rate Attenders	Volunteer Rate Non-attenders
Attended children's performance	61	42
Attended choral music performance	57	43
Attended dance performance	55	43
Attended classical music performance	52	44
Attended theatre performance	51	38
Attended opera	51	45
Visited commercial art gallery	51	46
Visited science museum	51	44

Cultural Participation and Volunteer Rates (%) – Canada 1998

Activity	Volunteer Rate Participants	Volunteer Rate Nonparticipants
Acted or did other theatre activity	64	33
Sang in a choir or solo	55	32
Wrote poetry, stories, non-fiction	48	32
Did choreography	47	33
Did artistic photography	47	33
Played a musical instrument	45	32
Did visual arts	43	33
Did crafts	41	31

Rate of Voluntarism (%) by Volume of Cultural Participation Canada 1998



Canada's *Our Millennium* Project

- An invitation to Canadians to make lasting gifts to their communities to mark new century
- More than 6500 projects submitted and registered on the « Our Millennium » website
- More than 4.6 million people involved as volunteers, audience or visitors

Our Millennium - The significance of arts and heritage

- Over 27% or about 1770 volunteer projects were arts and culture and heritage-related
- Top six of eleven theme areas:

- Environment	16.4%
- Heritage	16.3%
- Children and youth	13.3%
- Care and support	11.5%
- Arts and culture	10.8%
- Connections	9.2%

Distribution of *Our Millennium* Arts and Culture Projects by Type of Project or Main Participants (Top 10 only)

Type	Number	% of Total
Youth performances / art / cultural events	146	20.7
Amateur performances / festivals	80	11.4
Multicultural / ethnocultural performances / art / events	74	10.5
Millennium artworks / public art	53	7.5
Special exhibitions (professional artists / galleries)	39	5.5.
Professional performances / festivals	37	5.3
Quilts / wall-hangings / textile art / quilting events	34	4.8
Exhibitions (amateur artists)	27	3.8
Cultural fundraising events for non-cultural purposes	26	3.7
Capital building projects (cultural and heritage)	23	3.3

Distribution of *Our Millennium* Heritage Projects by Type of Project or Main Participants (Top 10 only)

Type	Number	% of Total
Restoration / conversion / improvements of heritage structures and objects	113	10.6
Multicultural / ethnocultural arts and cultural events	112*	10.5*
Histories (of communities, organizations, families)	96	9.0
Special heritage events / community celebrations / reenactments / religious services / parades / tours / rededications	94	8.8
Time capsules	69	6.5
Monuments / cairns / plaques / signage	60	5.8
Youth heritage projects (e.g. photos, yearbooks)	57	5.5
Connections (homecomings, reunions, exchanges)	52	4.9
New museums / special exhibitions	47	4.4
Environmental / recreation activities (e.g. creation / revitalization of parks, trails, gardens)	41	3.9

Major cultural and social capital outcomes addressed by “Our Millennium” projects

- ✔ Personal empowerment
- ✔ Linkages of cultural participation with altruistic behaviour
- ✔ Promotion of economic development and quality of life
- ✔ Promotion of cultural sustainability

Jenson's five dimensions of social cohesion

- Belonging
- Inclusion
- Participation
- Recognition
- Legitimacy
- Isolation
- Exclusion
- Non-involvement
- Rejection
- Illegitimacy

Bernard's formal and substantive dimensions of social cohesion

Formal

Equality/Inequality

Recognition/Rejection

Legitimacy/Illegitimacy

Substantive

Inclusion/Exclusion

Belonging/Isolation

Participation/Non-
involvement

Social Cohesion Network's definition

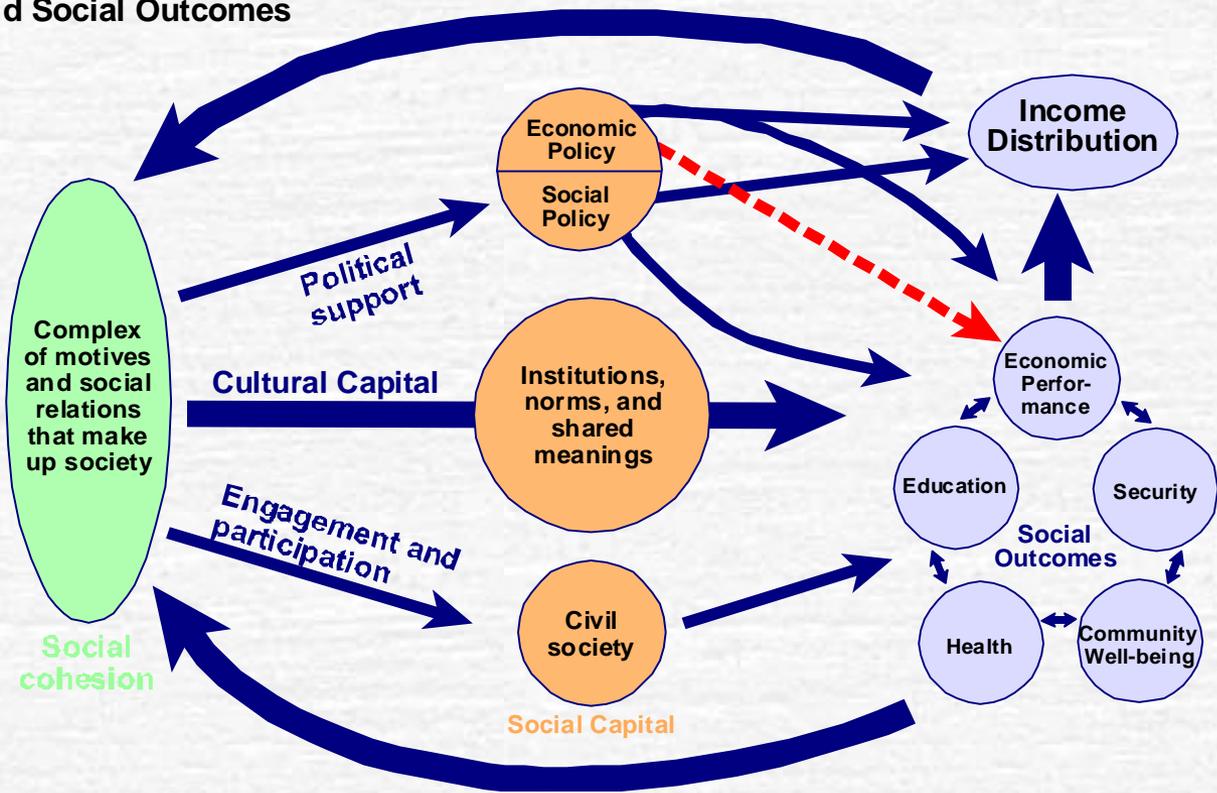
- ☛ **“Social cohesion is based on the willingness of individuals to cooperate and work together at all levels of society to achieve collective goals.”**
- ☛ Focus is on outcomes and behaviours (dependent variables)
- ☛ No focus on inputs or enabling conditions (independent variables)

A systems theory model for social cohesion

- Social cohesion has multiple independent and dependent variables linked in a complex system characterized by:
 - emergent properties (more than the sum of the system parts)
 - adaptive capabilities (ability to withstand change in the environment)
 - self-referential and unpredictable outcomes

Causal Links Between Social Cohesion and Social Outcomes

Causal Links Between Social Cohesion and Social Outcomes



Implications of changes in cultural capital for policy

- Cultural policy – national policies becoming less relevant as value shifts to cultural capital at the global and local level
- Citizenship policy – creation of collective citizenship becoming more challenging as individual consumerism and transnational identities grow

Time, space and policy

- ☞ Recognition that both time and space are in constant mutation
- ☞ Cultural capital is changing rapidly
- ☞ Cultural and citizenship policy should focus on:
 - flows, rather than products
 - connections, rather than nodes