Capital Transformations in Community Economic Development

My dissertation, under the direction of Dr. Linwood Tauheed, takes an interdisciplinary approach to community economic development. I argue that participatory community development can be better understood by tracing the transformation of community capitals. The over-arching question asked in my research is: by which processes and pathways are community capitals transformed from and into each other by individuals and communities through social action? I will address this question through three separate articles. The first lays a historic context for the various conceptualizations of capital and then establishes a metatheory of the emergence of each of the community capitals. The second article addresses the characteristics that define capital and identifies and compares several properties for each of the community capitals. The final article builds on the properties of capital identified in first two articles and then proposes a metatheory of capital transformation. The article concludes with two case studies demonstrating the process of capital transformation in past participatory development initiatives. This article builds on insights found at the intersection of theory and practice. Through these three articles, I will demonstrate how and to what extent capital transformation occurs through the process of community development.
PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS


The Greater University Circle Initiative (GUCI) in Cleveland is a multi-anchor economic development model that networks neighboring anchor institutions with community organizations and other local actors. This case study evaluates the success of the GUCI in meeting its goals using the Future Economy Analytical Framework developed by the E3 Network.

CONFERENCES & HONORS

- Association for Institutional Thought Conference – Presenter ’17
- Association for Institutional Thought Conference – Presenter ’16
- Allied Social Science Association Conference – Presenter ’15
- Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference – Presenter ’14
- Economists for Equity and Environment (E3) Research Grant Recipient ’14
- Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference – Participant ’13
- International Relations Outstanding Senior ’07
- Interdisciplinary Graduate Summer Workshop ’06

SKILLS & TRAINING

- Language – Conversational Japanese
- Data Analysis & Management – Intermediate level in R, as well as basic understanding of Stata and SPSS
- GIS Software – Intermediate level in ArcGIS
- Computer – Intermediate skills in Microsoft Office Suite as well as video and image production and editing.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Tanzania May ’10 – July ’10
  Volunteered as an English Teacher at Mt. Meru University near the city of Arusha. Participated in activities with a number of micro-business non-profits. Had the opportunity to visit various cities and towns across the country.

- Japan Sept. ’07 – April ’10
  Attended Japanese Language School full-time for the initial six months, and weekly for the following two years. Volunteer leader for children’s programming at Kuwamizu Church. Communicated and worked in a multi-cultural team setting. Navigated daily life in a cross-cultural environment.

- Czech Republic Sept. ’06 – Dec. ’06
  Attended Charles University through the study abroad program, AIFS. Studied Czech language, politics, economics and culture. Volunteered as an assistant in the university’s photography lab.

- Slovakia May ’05
  Wartburg College Venture Education Program. Examined media impact on Slovakia and studied basics of Slovak culture and language. Traveled and interacted with local Slovaks.

- Nepal Birth (’86) – ’98
  Born to American parents working with a rural development project. Experienced rural and urban living; attended a multi-cultural primary school. These years provided an early start to cross-cultural understanding.

PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC REFERENCES UPON REQUEST