

Complex Adaptive Theory to Explain Community Development

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Abstract

In this paper we define Canada as complex adaptive social and economic system partially open through immigration and trade to external world societies and governments. It is perceived to be a fitness landscape of varying degrees of ruggedness across the country and within its Provinces (political and geographic Regions). In particular the landscape is not linear and decomposable, entities and agents interact within and across regions with varying degrees of impact on the fitness at various point on the landscape. The focus of the paper is in Montreal Quebec and on the use of the ruggedness of that fitness landscape to explain the social entrepreneurship process among the Black (more specifically English Speaking Black) immigrant sub-populations of the Province. The complex adaptive theory framework was used to analyze and explain the social development and change in the Black immigrant sub-population.

Keywords: Minorities, Complex, Adaptive Theory, Fitness, Ruggedness.

[NOTE: Complete paper will be published later in an Informing Science Journal.]

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Biographies



Dr. Clarence Bayne obtained his BA in Economics and Political Science and his MA in Economics at the University of British Columbia. He then enrolled at McGill University, where he did his Master's comprehensives in Transportation Economics, and completed his PhD in Economics, specializing in econometrics and monetary and macro-economic theory. He is the Director of the Institute for Community Entrepreneurship and Development (ICED) (Formerly DIA/DSA Program from 1991-2006).

Dr. Bayne's research interest is very cross-disciplinary, with an emphasis on community development. He has published, and lectured quite extensively in this area in many cultural communities across Canada (the Cree, Black, Inuit); in Nigeria, and South Africa. Dr. Bayne has received several distinguished Awards and recognition for his work in community development from the Federal and Municipal Governments, as well as various community based organizations. Some of his awards include, Recipient of the Governor General's 125th Anniversary of Confederation Award, the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), The Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award, the Quebec Board of Black Educator's Award (2000), Montreal Association of Black Business and Professionals Award (1988), City of Montreal Round Table on Black History Month Award.

Dr. Bayne's research in statistics focuses primarily on forecasting and sampling theory, with special emphasis on the applied aspects of these fields of study.

He is president of the Black Studies Center of Montreal, and the Director of its institute for community economic development. Professor Bayne is a member of CIM, an advisory committee to the Mayor of Montreal; and a member of an advisory body to the Minister for cultural communities, Government of Quebec.



Dr. Raafat George Saadé has been teaching in the Business faculty at Concordia University since 1998. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1995 (Concordia University) after which he received the Canadian National Research Council postdoctoral scholarship, which he completed at McGill University, Montreal. Dr. Saadé has published in journals such as Information & Management, Decisions Sciences, Expert Systems with Applications, Computers and Human Behavior, and Decision Support Systems. His research is multi-disciplinary as well as inter-disciplinary with research in both theory and applied (Industry consultant since 1993). Dr. Saadé's current work (although evolved over the years) includes information-systems driven change, Information Technology enabled supply chain and change management.