Preparing for the Next Field Season:
Methodology Lessons for Engaging in
Labour Mobility Research in Mining
and Tourism

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On the Move: Webinar Series
January 2014
• Community-based research
• Outline fieldwork completed
• Lessons learned
  – Training
  – Developing relationships
  – Recruitment of participants
  – Safety
  – Challenges with work sites
• Building capacity of community partners & researchers
Community-Based Research I

- Partnership of students, faculty, and community members to collaboratively engage in research to solve a community problem (Strand et al. 2003)
- Building relationships and capacity amongst researchers / stakeholders
- Level of engagement will vary throughout research process
Community-Based Research II

Before the field

- Getting to know one another
- Identifying projects & communities
- Research design
  - Selecting appropriate research tools
- Budgets and logistics
- Framework for collaboration & maintaining relationships
- Context matters!
Community-Based Research III

In the field

• It’s a people process
• Respect, patience, & flexibility
• Safety for researchers & participants
• Rhythms of the community
• Mutual learning
After the field

- Staying in touch
- Member checking
- Continuation of mutual learning during analysis
- Brokering relationships, resources, & expertise
- Mobilizing new knowledge into action
Field Work: BC Team

- Mining sector
- Tourism sector
Mining Sector Study

- Preliminary investigations to set stage for multi-year study
  - Key informant interviews
    - 25 community stakeholders in Williams Lake
    - 25 local workers in Williams Lake
    - 9 LDLC workers in Williams Lake
    - 23 stakeholders in Mackenzie
  - Impacts on community
    - Key pressures and responses
    - Initiatives with industry / governments
    - Barriers / gaps
Lessons Learned I

• Mining sector
Training

• Background information
  – Literature / community information

• Interview questions
  – Review and test interview tools
  – Meaning of question
  – How information could be used
  – Significance of question for participant

• To develop rapport with different stakeholders / workers
  – Body language
  – Tone / approach to conversation
    • Impacts responses
Monitoring Field Work

- Early debriefing
- Review interview notes / transcripts early to provide feedback
- Trouble shoot questions
- Continue to educate researchers about how LDLC impacts “different” stakeholders
Safety

• Safety orientation
  – Gender and safety
  – Exit strategies
  – Vehicle safety

• Conducting interviews
  – At worksite, offices, restaurants
  – Conduct home interviews in teams

• Routine check-ins
  – Skype meetings, text messages, e-mail, phone calls, site visits
  – Check-in especially key after evening interviews
Recruiting Workers

• Recruiting strategies
• Student researchers’ networks
• Facebook / Linked-in
• Snowball sampling
• Taseko staff
  – Access to industry site for 2-3 hours
  – Access to meeting room onsite
  – Provided staff with list of characteristics of potential interviewees
  – Representation across genders, age, length of time at mine, job type, etc.
Additional Challenges

- Closed worksites
  - Mount Milligan under construction

- Nature of labour force
  - Gibraltar mostly local workers
  - Resulted in small sample of LDLC workers
  - But...relationship in place if new Prosperity mine is approved
• Communicated year one results to stakeholders / participants
• Presentation to Williams Lake Social Planning Council
• Issues now on radar
• Community stakeholders more prepared to engage as equal partners moving forward
• Planned presentations for Mackenzie
Field Work: BC Team

- Mining sector
- Tourism sector
1. Interviews with key stakeholders:

- 6 Service Providers (Town Community Workers)
- 3 Tourism Business Operators (2 small businesses, 1 large international)
- 8 Young Adult Mobile Workers
- 2 Community Leaders (Town Council)
- 3 Residents (2 long term)
  - (i.e. services / reps of Banff)
2. Door-to-door Household Survey:

- Delivered to >660 households in residential areas known to have a higher population of migrant workers (Town Census 2011)
- Questions: background of residents, their time in and reasons for coming to Banff; their work; housing; and perceptions of the community.
3. Focus Groups:

- Four focus groups
- Posters around Banff at key areas
  - Gas stations, Restaurants, information centers, YWCA, Hostels
- Total number of participants: 26
4. Housing & community sustainability

• Housing Forums – including with:
  • Advocate leaders
  • Business leaders
  • Young adults
  • Temporary foreign workers
Lessons Learned II

• Tourism sector
Developing Relationships

• Participated in housing forums to get involved with stakeholders
  – Young adults / temporary foreign workers

• Challenges to develop working relationship with Fairmont / Banff Springs Hotel

• One family owns most of tourism infrastructure

• Next steps:
  – Contact hotel / motel business association
  – Reconnaissance trip to Canmore, Lake Louise, Fields, BC
Reaching Participants

- Door-to-door household survey
- Most houses have 5 doors
- No mail boxes
  - Assumption people won’t live in Banff long enough
- Conducted 3 visits to obtain completed surveys
- Survey provided option for people to participate in interviews / focus groups
Reaching Participants II

• Focus groups
• Two conducted at YWCA
  – YWCA staff provided support to recruit their workers / residents for the project
• Two at the public library
Strengthening Foundation for CBR II

• Connections made with Town of Banff & BanffLIFE (policy makers & targeted service providers)
  • Website and FB page to raise questions make issues known
  • Planning presentations of initial findings to community stakeholders
  • Planning to develop small comparative studies with Lake Louise, Canmore and Field, BC
  • Academic presentation & publication of initial findings
Closing

• Next steps
• Moving forward
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On the Move Partnership Project

http://www.onthemovepartnership.ca