

RAVEN project

Feedback from launch and paper at Rural Issues workshop (September 13, 2018)

Document for discussion at RAVEN team meeting Sept. 25

1. The paper and discussion did not mention francophones, dismissing 1/3 of the province's residents. How will the project engage with francophone rural champions? One suggestion was to identify it as an anglophone project so a possible similar francophone research might access similar funding (?). Another was to team up with a francophone researcher.
2. The paper Acadie-Nouvelle has a different perspective than Brunswick News. Also CBC exists. Where does this fit in your analysis.
3. What about other populations of rural residents, such as immigrants, visible minorities, etc.?
4. Who are "rural champions"? How do we define them? Are we interested in other rural voices?
5. Is there a distinct "rural environmentalism"? (e.g. some rural people in the anti-spraying movement may not align with other aspects of the wider environmental movement goals). Be careful of using the word "environment" as we need every rural story to be told.
6. Can we link to good examples from other places? (Vermont was mentioned - social enterprises?)
7. Can the project address corporate capture directly? How can we tell stories about it, map it, etc.? One potential avenue is to look at the moral conflicts of retired government scientists.
8. Tom highlighted some of the challenges of presenting photovoice in a digital format - have we thought about these?
9. How will we fact-check the subjective experience of participants? We risk getting sucked into the fake news vortex.
10. How will we measure how viewers / readers change their minds about environmental issues after reading the stories we present that conflict with stories in the mainstream media?
11. Public sphere theory: humans are not rational beings, we react emotionally first. How will rural stories affect rational thinking?
12. Shaping/ shifting public opinion: What is the goal? Can we map or graph it? How will we measure success?

13. Access to broadband (and digital media) a significant issue in rural areas. How will we address this?
14. The paper was very dense. How can our work be more accessible? How can we create project events that are open and inclusive (not only for academics?)
15. How will we address the disconnect between urban and rural? Members of the RAVEN team live in urban settings. How will rural voices be protected, respected, presented and understood by their urban allies when their views run counter to urban activists' point-of-view?
16. How will we address the connections and disconnections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities? Suggestion: we need to see more Indigenous perspectives in this work. How will the project engage with Indigenous languages?
17. How will training in the cultural field disrupt or change anything (instead of changing the productive relations within the cultural field)?
18. Does our definition of rural unnecessarily exclude small towns and villages that have many rural characteristics?
19. Where are the children in our project?