

Teaching Sociology of Communities

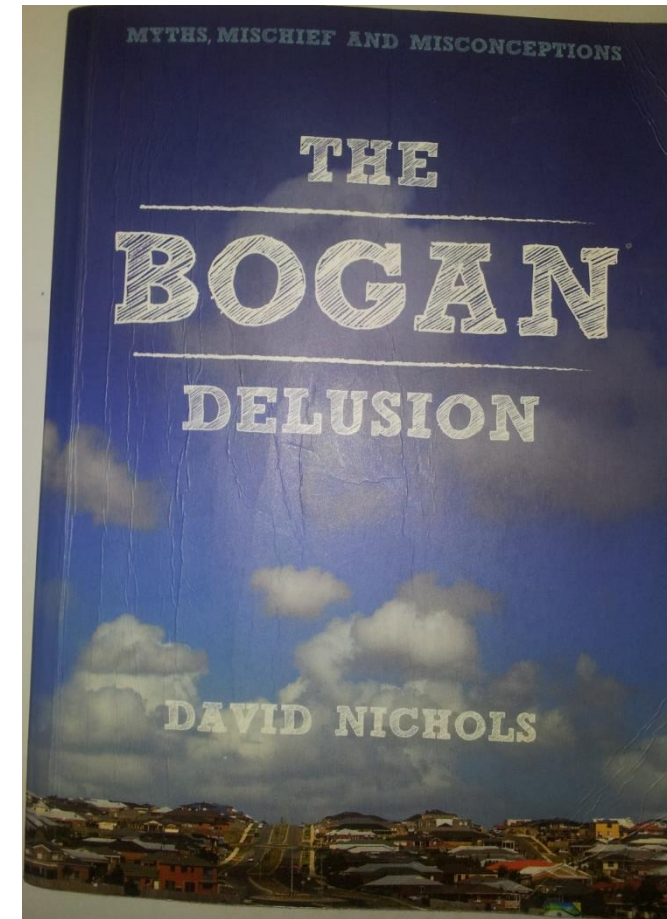
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Structure of the presentation

1. A perspective or two
2. Stories of some teaching practices
3. Questions and problems we can examine?

We can do community stereotypes



Cambodia



A perspective or two

1. Communities, plural
2. Actually, it's the 21st century
3. Grabbing students' attention (13m sea-level rise by 2500) ◦
4. The rural-urban thing
5. Global people movements – amazing!



<http://geology.com/sea-level-rise/>

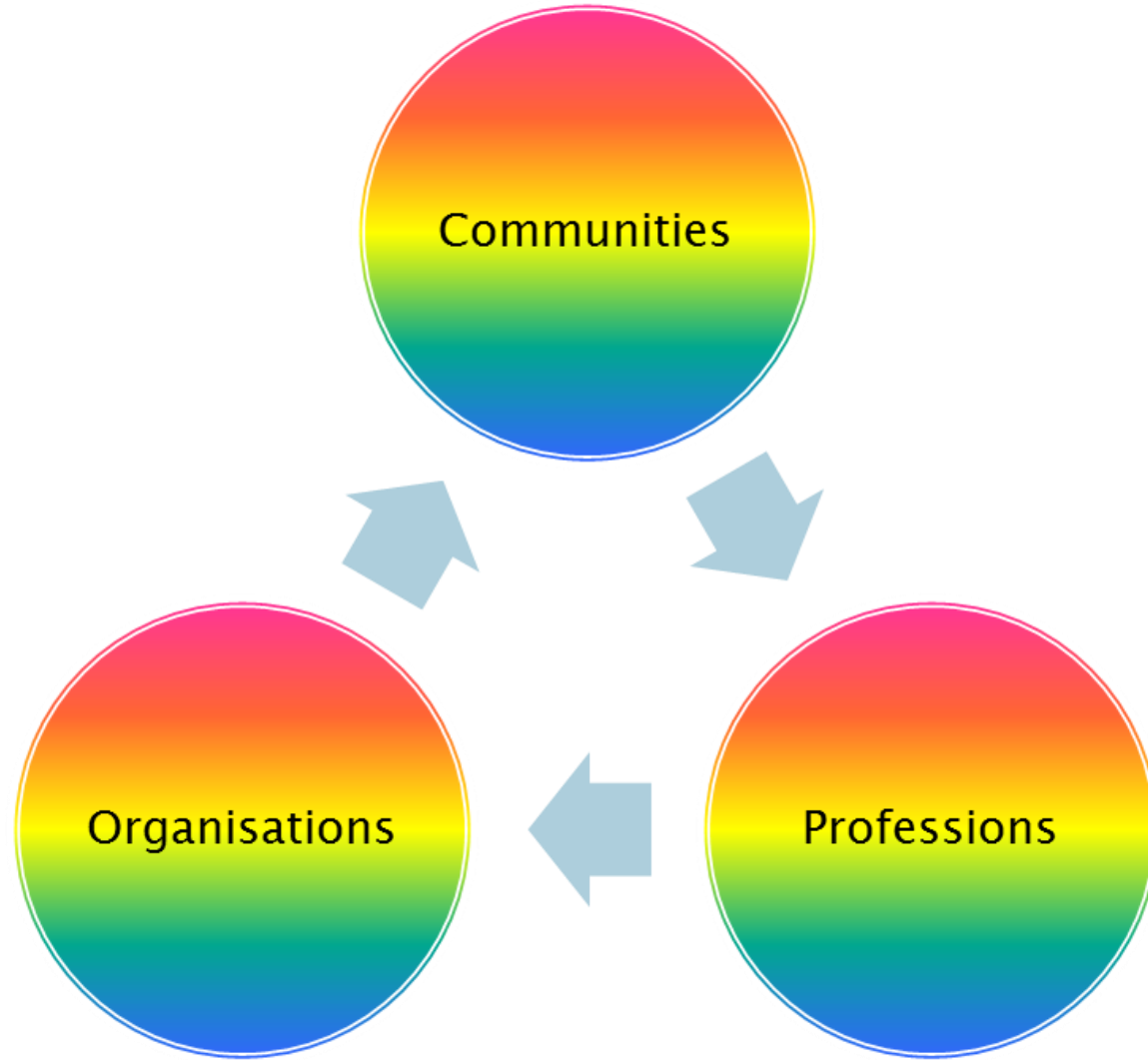
A social interaction focus

1. Groups within communities
2. Schools, worship places, sports
3. New groups in your community
4. Interaction with newbies, neighbours and nasties

How community concepts connect



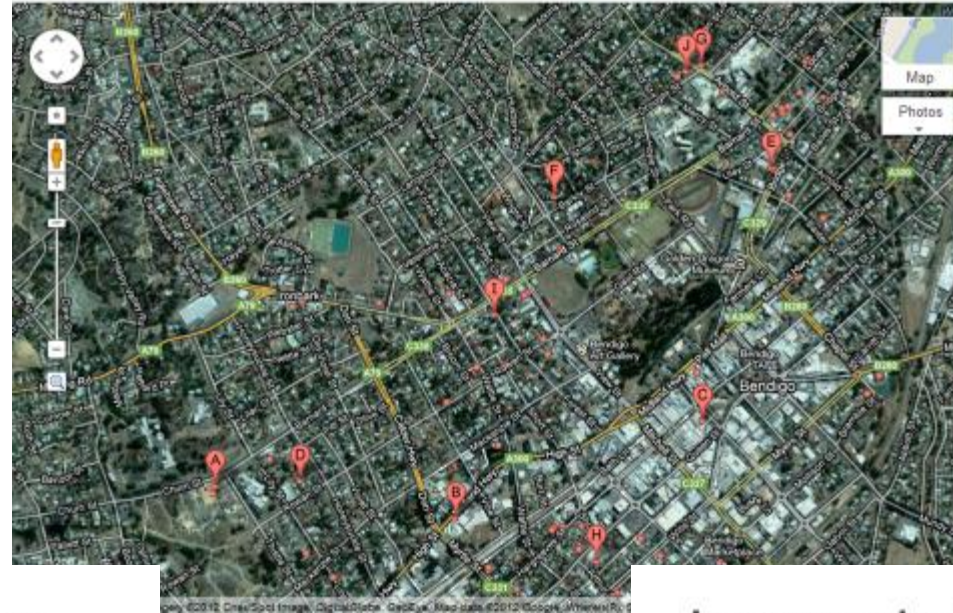
Communities, professions and organisations



Google it --

Communities, professions
and organisations

Doctors in Bendigo- Google map



Doctors in Bendigo- Google map



Lawyers in Bendigo - Google map



Organisations and community



How many examples (mob ph camera anyone?) can students find?

Community orgs (not just NGOs)

Big blow to Goulburn Valley as SPC to retrench
150 13 Aug 2012

Welcome to the New Bendigo Hospital



Concept of the one company
town

Describe characteristics...

	Community	Organisation	Profession
Formal			
Instrumental			
Stakeholders			
Processes			
Skill levels			
Rewards			
Boundaries			
Economic			

Get students to identify examples of trends over time affecting communities

1. Urbanization
2. Gentrification
3. Automation
4. De-industrialisation
5. Mechanisation
6. Migration

Can get weirder:

Salinisation
Industrialisation
Suburbanisation
High rise Developments
Secularisation

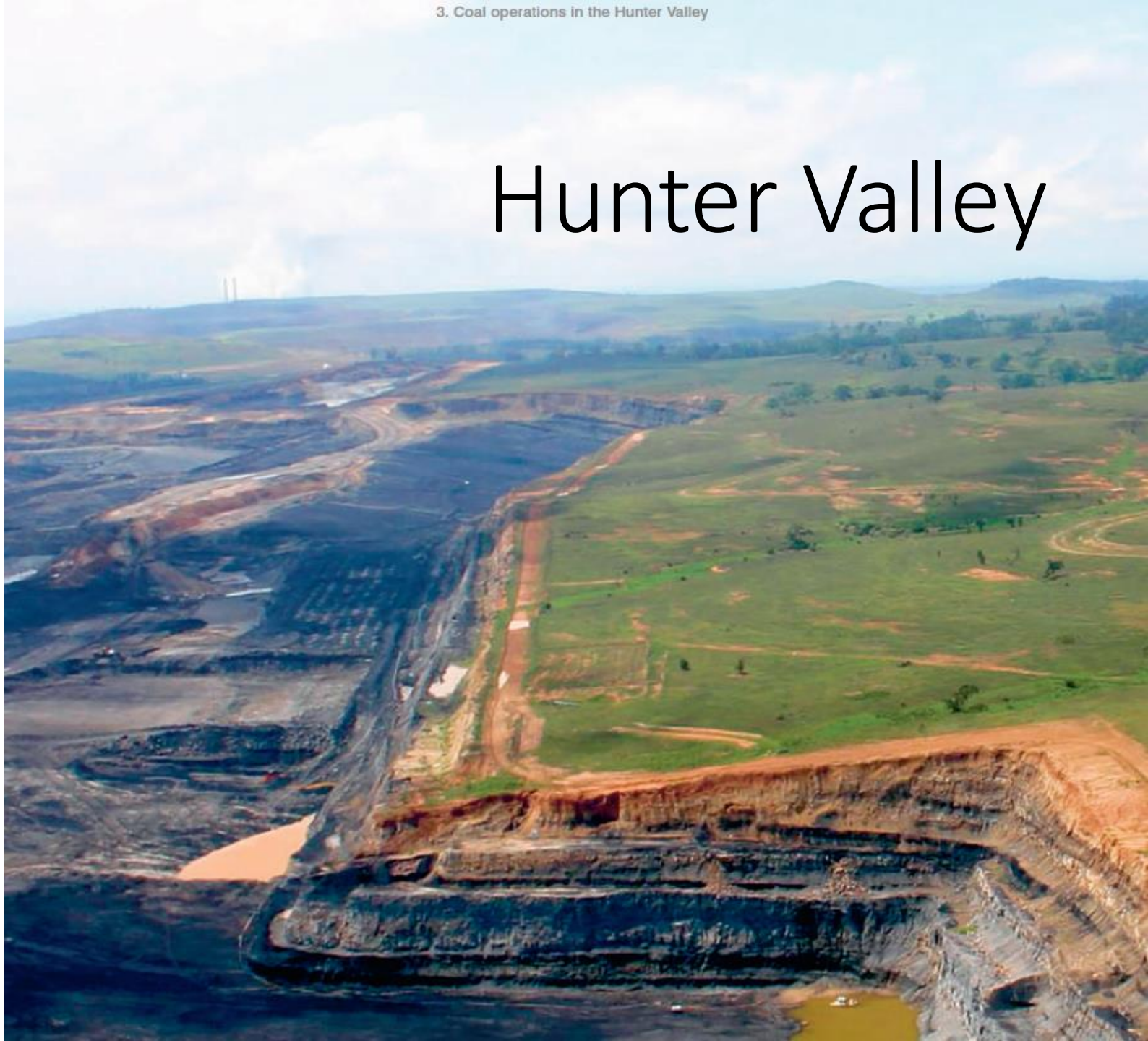




Mildura High School. 1917

Hunter Valley

http://caha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CAHA_CoalHunterValley_Report_FINAL_Approvedforprint.pdf (2015, p. 13)



The empty shops project

- Evan Willis based on Wodonga
 - How can you tell if a town is doing well, or poorly?
 - What measures would you devise?
- Current research in Murray-Darling Basin
 - Comparing MDB with non-MDB areas
 - Water intensive
 - By States
 - Looking at town size, distance from metropolitan centres
 - What other variables might be useful?

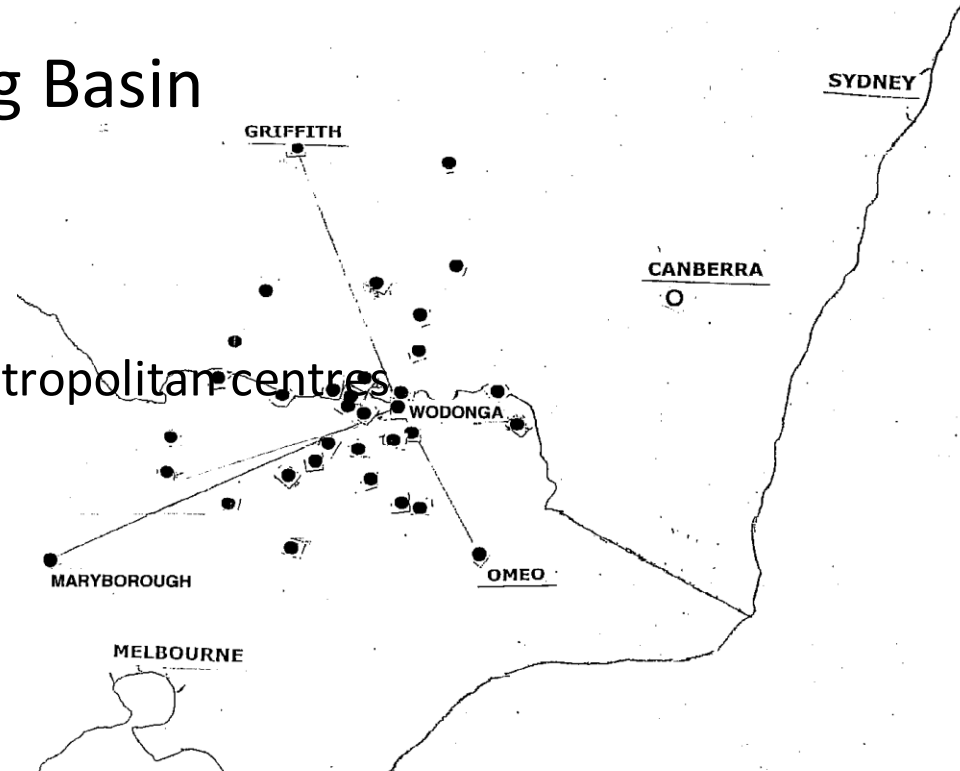
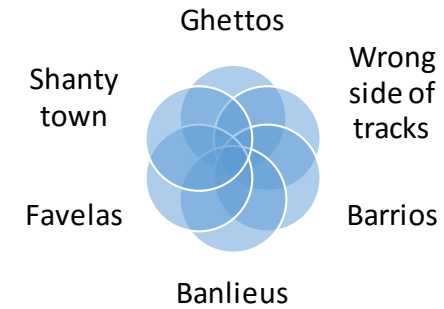


Table 1.1 Two versions of the contemporary English countryside

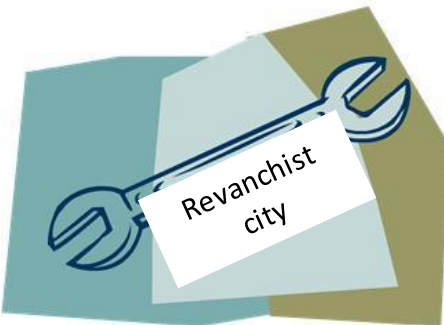
Rural idyll	Rural crisis
<p>Intact communities</p> <p>A sense of community</p> <p>Safety and security</p> <p>Neighbourliness and social care</p> <p>Small scale and local agricultural economies</p> <p>Open spaces</p> <p>Privacy and solitude</p> <p>Proximity to nature and rural traditions</p> <p>Reaffirming Englishness and cultural security</p> <p>Timelessness</p>	<p>Break down of communities</p> <p>House prices and housing shortages</p> <p>Closure of shops and social amenities</p> <p>A lack of neighbourliness and an absence of social care</p> <p>Rural restructuring and the rise of agri-business</p> <p>Commuting</p> <p>Isolation</p> <p>Attacks and restrictions on rural practices and traditions</p> <p>Loss of national identity and cultural insecurity</p> <p>Constant change</p>

Conceptual toolkit for working on communities



Interdicted spaces:

- shopping malls
- gated communities
- corporate public plaza



Social innovation and entrepreneurs

- leadership**
- Community planners
 - Organic intellectuals
 - Artistic folk
 - Community leaders
 - Movers and shakers
 - One-off projects

- Kinds of leadership**
- Coaches/ after school teachers
 - Ministers/ nuns
 - Story of the bicycling rubbish picker-upper
 - Interest clubs – trams, knitting, golden oldie hockey...

Montmartre, Paris



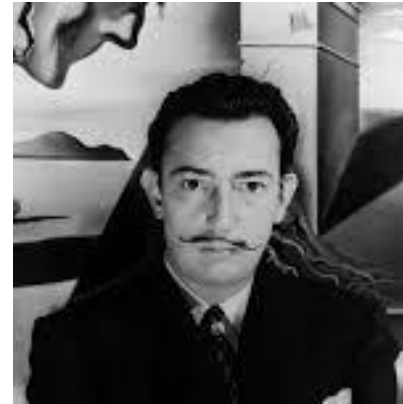
Monet



Montmartre, edge of Paris



Van Gogh



Dali



Picasso

Technology *for* community

Technology *for* community

- 'How To Turn Your iPhone Into A Microscope [For Only \\$10](http://gizmodo.com/5629880/how-to-turn-your-iphone-into-a-microscope-for-10)' –URL [below](http://gizmodo.com/5629880/how-to-turn-your-iphone-into-a-microscope-for-10)

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- But many related possibilities
- Line between business, NGO and social blurred

Not always about technology

- Watch re technological imperative /fix
- Ambivalence – Ellul's warnings vs need for solutions
- Later we'll see how systems issues are central



(Image: Wu Hong/EPA/Corbis)

Learning our community ABCs

- Trevor Budge: “When you’ve seen one community, you’ve seen one community”
- Community banker: “Every community we go to tells us, ‘We’re very different here; our problems are different’.”
- Community entity: “It’s those outsiders” v “No one round here will do anything”
- Deconstructing binaries: Town/country, govt/local, metro/rural, born-&-breds/ blow-ins

We could have compared the Hobbits (not just the Smurfs)
and Southbank



"A pretty
thin story
line"

Say you were the god of community...
and today, Australia...



Where are you going to
construct communities?

Can put them
anywhere?

What sizes?

What logics would you
apply to working out a
distribution

Community theorising: same-o, same-o

• Pre-modern to modern	Modern to global	• Late modern to digital
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modernity replaces• New adds a layer• New re-problematises human relationships	<p>Globalisation</p> <p>replaces</p> <p>New adds a layer</p> <p>New re-problematises human relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual replaces• New adds a layer• New re-problematises human relationships
Classic sociology	Analogue, sequence, intermediary	21st century

Technology and community

- Fresh angle
 - Contemporary and historical
 - Students can find many examples
 - See slide set
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- Community is your FRAMING idea