

**Community Perspectives on Infrastructure Design for Food
Sovereignty:
A Reflective Learning Experience with Inuit Communities In
Canada**

Dr. Ranjan Datta

Canada Research Chair in Community Disaster Research

Indigenous Studies

Department of Humanities

Mount Royal University

Calgary, AB, Canada

Situating Self

Acknowledgement

Why Food Insecurity in Arctic

□ Causes

- High Cost of Imported Foods
- Poorly Developed Transportation **Infrastructure Design** Networks
- Inadequate Storage System
- Only Science and Technology Oriented Solution

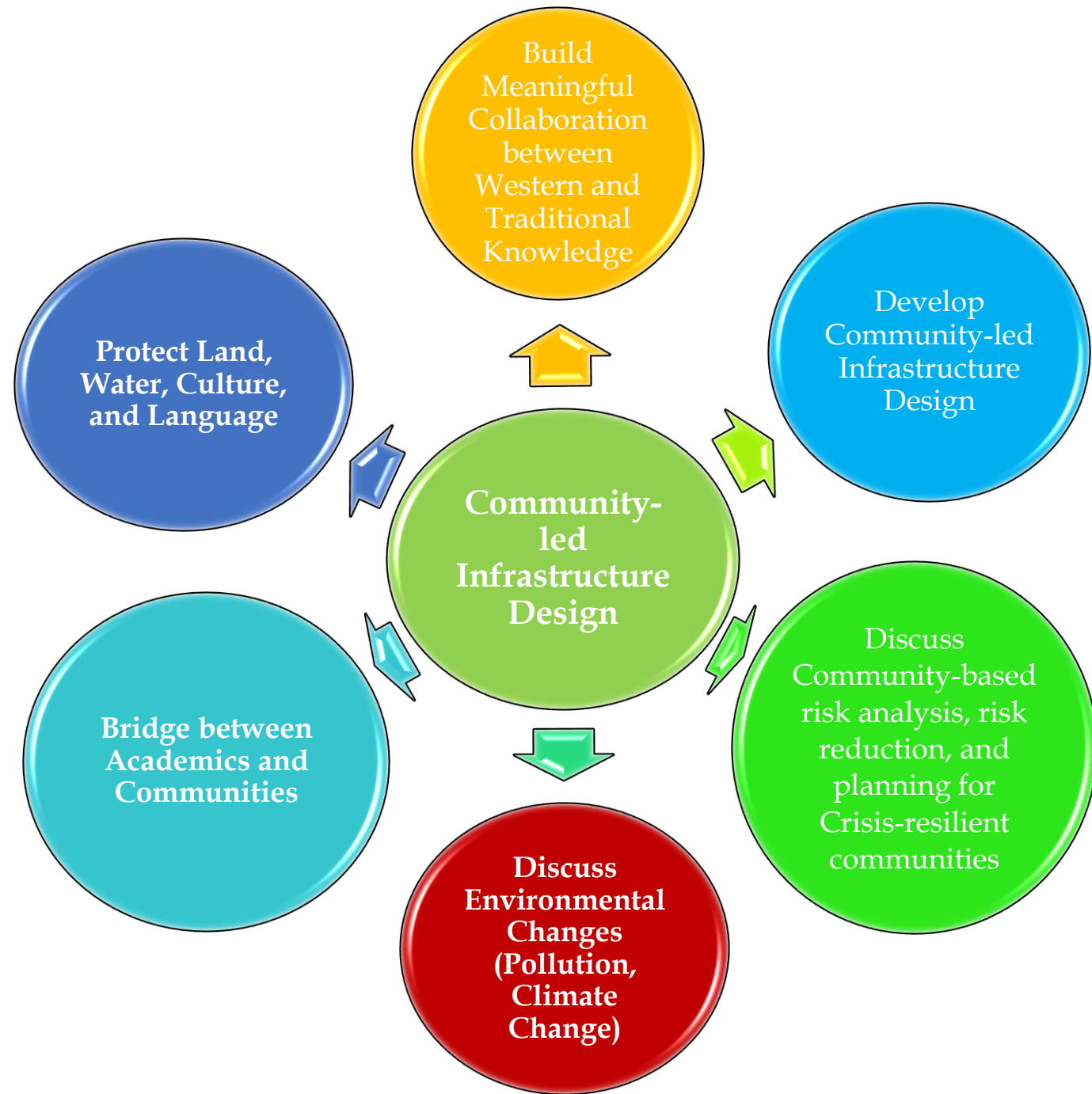
Impacts

- High health impacts, particularly increased rates of anemia, delayed physical growth, high diabetes, and high obesity (Pirkle et al, 2014)
- Severely Higher Food Price than Southern Canada (Action Canada, 2014).
- 20% Extra due to Transportation Cost (Sorobey, 2013)
- High Electricity Rates CCIA, 2014)
- High Labour, Storage, and Building Maintenance Cost (Duhaime, 2013)
- High Government Subsidy (\$ 68 Million in 2016), BUT, Food Crisis is significantly high

Challenges in Community Perspectives on Infrastructure Design for Food Sovereignty

- The Politics of “Recognition” toward Community scholarship in **Infrastructure Design**
- Western Worldview over Community Worldview
- Separation between Community Knowledge and Science **Infrastructure Design**
- Unclear Researcher Responsibilities in Research

**Community-led Infrastructure Design
from the Community Perspectives for
Food Sovereignty**



Takeaways to Overcome Challenges in Infrastructure Design

- Decolonizing both Research and Researcher in Infrastructure Design
- Bridging between Community and Academic Worldviews
- Multiple Ways of Knowing in Infrastructure Design
- Culturally Appropriate Food System and Infrastructure Design
- Land-based Infrastructure Design
- Honour and Respect Community Knowledge in Infrastructure Design
- Rethinking Research as Action

Questions

Contact Information:

rdatta@mtroyal.ca