

Designing research methods for story-telling: eliciting narratives through enactment and performance

Linda Naughton
Staffordshire University

Background

- MSc in Innovation and Design for Sustainability – discourse analysis using modelling techniques and metaphors in debates on the environment, sustainability and growth.
- PhD Geographical narratives of exercised social capital.

Jane Jacobs 1916-2006



- The Death and Life of Great American Cities 1961
- The Economy of Cities 1969
- Cities and the Wealth of Nations 1984

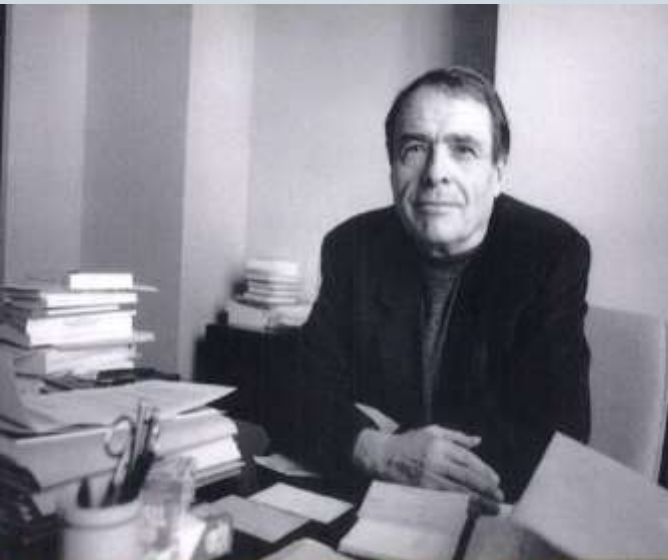
Jane Jacobs, then chairperson of a civic group in [Greenwich Village](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenwich_Village), at a press conference in 1961.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Jacobs

'Social Capital'

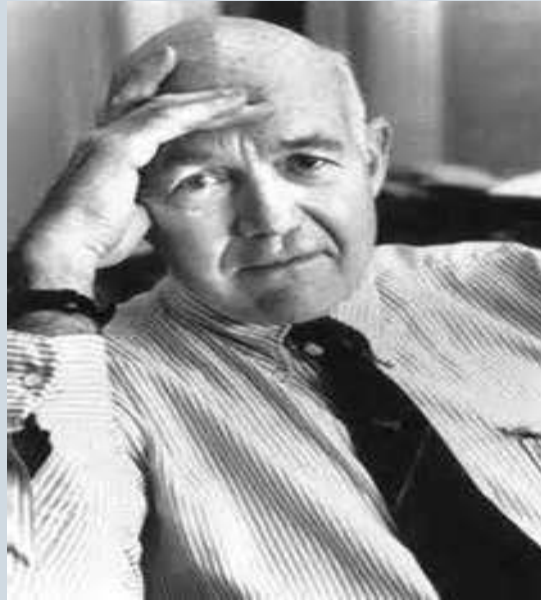
- Jacobs – connecting up people and places to power in order to solve a community's problems.

Social Capital Theorists



Pierre Bourdieu 1930-2002

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Bourdieu



James S Coleman 1926-1995

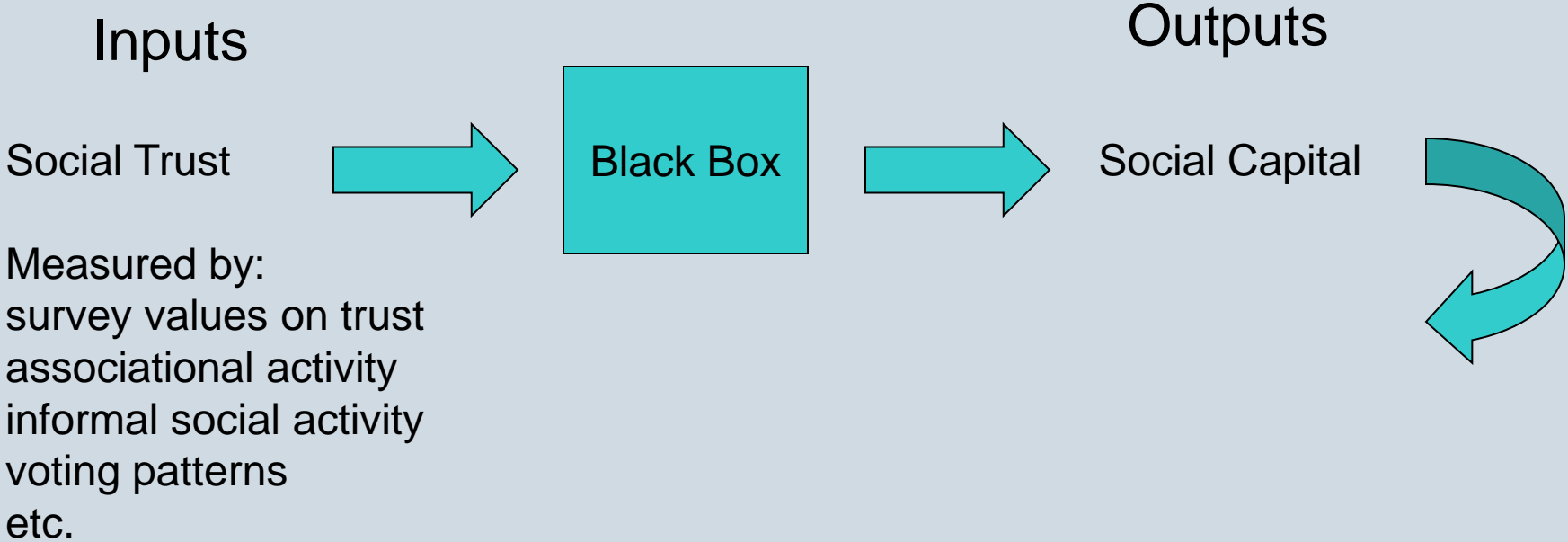
www.educationnext.org



Robert Putnam 1941 –

www.princeton.edu

Circularity Problem



'exercised social capital'

- Relational geographical framework:
 - Nancy Ettlenger's (2003) multiple subjectivities and dehomogenized trust.
 - Yeung's (2005) conceptualisation of power as an effect mediated by network relationships.
 - Allen's (2003, 2004, 2011) topologies of power where power is 'always already spatial'.

Research Question

How is the exercise of social capital enabled or constrained in a particular context?

Case-study

- Narrative approach

- Explore from the participant's perspective how social capital was understood in the real world context of a particular network of cultural/creative practitioners?

- Narrative and Space

- What could narrative tell us about the spatialities of social capital?

Design Questions

- How to produce talk without presuming what social capital is?
- How to re-produce the processes that participants used to create their network?
- How to re-produce the system of inter-connections?

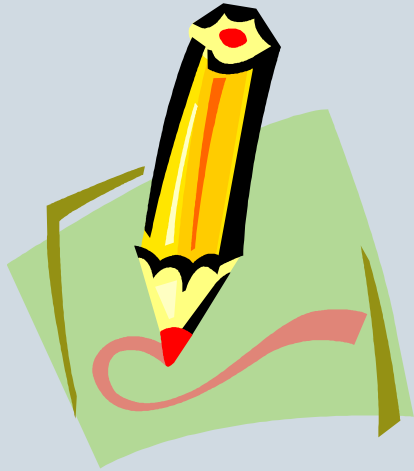
Narrative - Performance

- Dialogic/Performance – Bahktin/Riessman
 - What is being said, by whom and for what purpose?
 - Always political

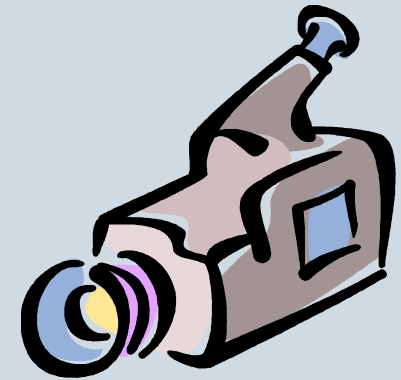
Narrative - Enactment

- Replicate a process through mapping the network.
- Self-direction.

Methodology



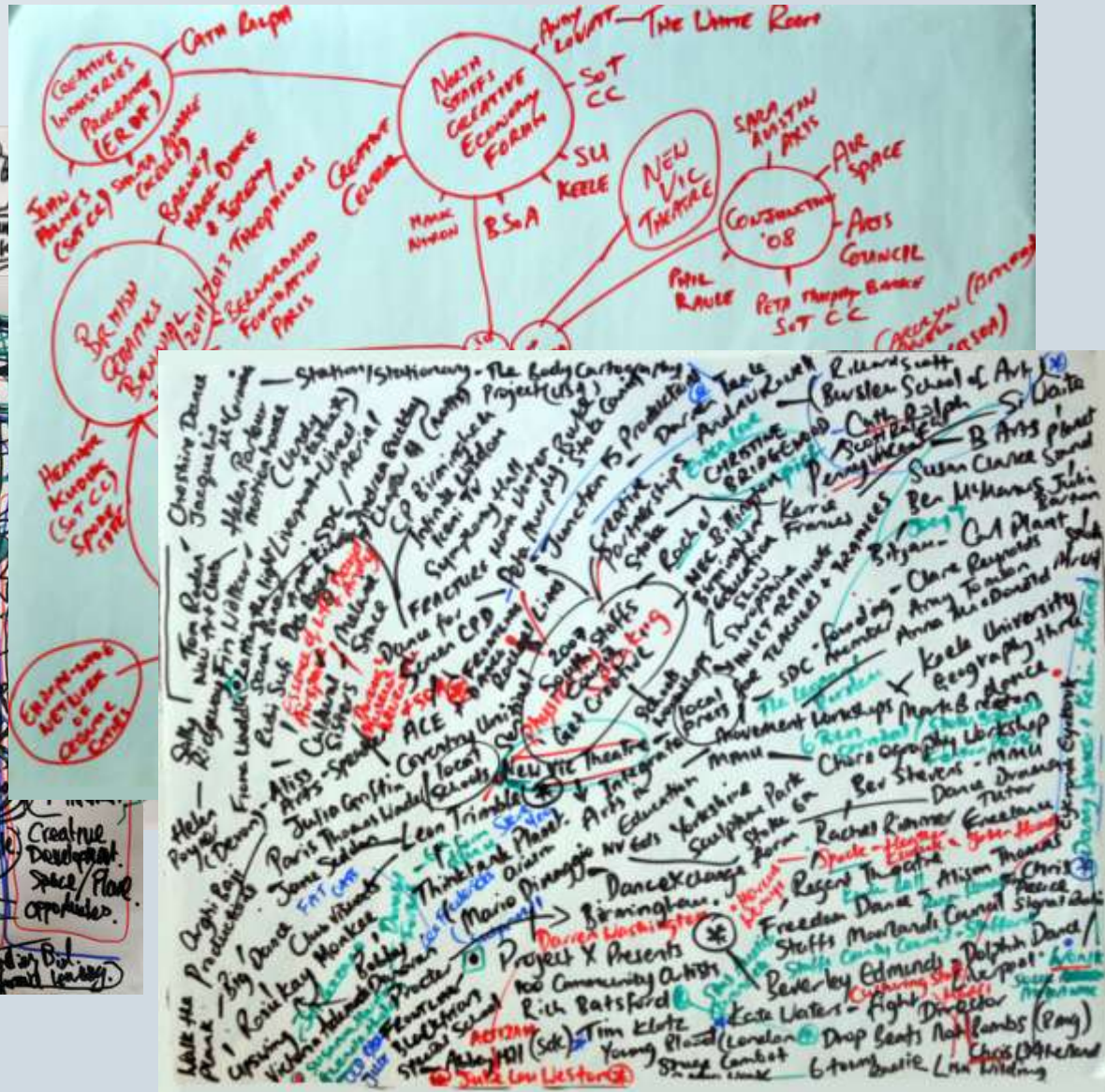
*2007-2011
People and Organisations
Spaces
What worked and
what didn't work?*



Process

- Video

Enacted/Performed Maps



Narrative System

1. The Ideal
2. Self-sufficiency
3. Stop-start
4. Strategy Vacuum
5. Silence
6. City/Towns

Creative Methods

Questions:

- Power
- Ownership
- Direction
- Multiplicity of voice/narrative
- How meaning was being interpreted

Researcher Roles and Relationships

- Designer
- Producer
- Audience
- Writer
- Editor
- Continuity
- Director

Participant Reactions

“You haven’t really directed me, I’ve directed myself and that’s the way I like doing things, that’s the way I play. If you were asking questions I would be – oh that’s what you want me to say. Even when I was talking I was thinking, am I going off subject here, but you didn’t say anything so I just went for it.”

“I feel like I’ve opened up some new neural pathways.”

“Well will you look at that, that’s what my brain looks like.”

“I feel like I’m getting messages from the other side.”

“It’s helped to visualise or to put things in a little bit more perspective so like I said to you, when you originally started talking about it, I thought it’ll be great for me and I’d love to help out with it, because yeah it helps you and it gives you something, but it also gives me something and so it’s not just one-sided.”

Final Analysis and Future Directions

- Creative outputs from research?
- Research and the creative process?
- Narrative systems?