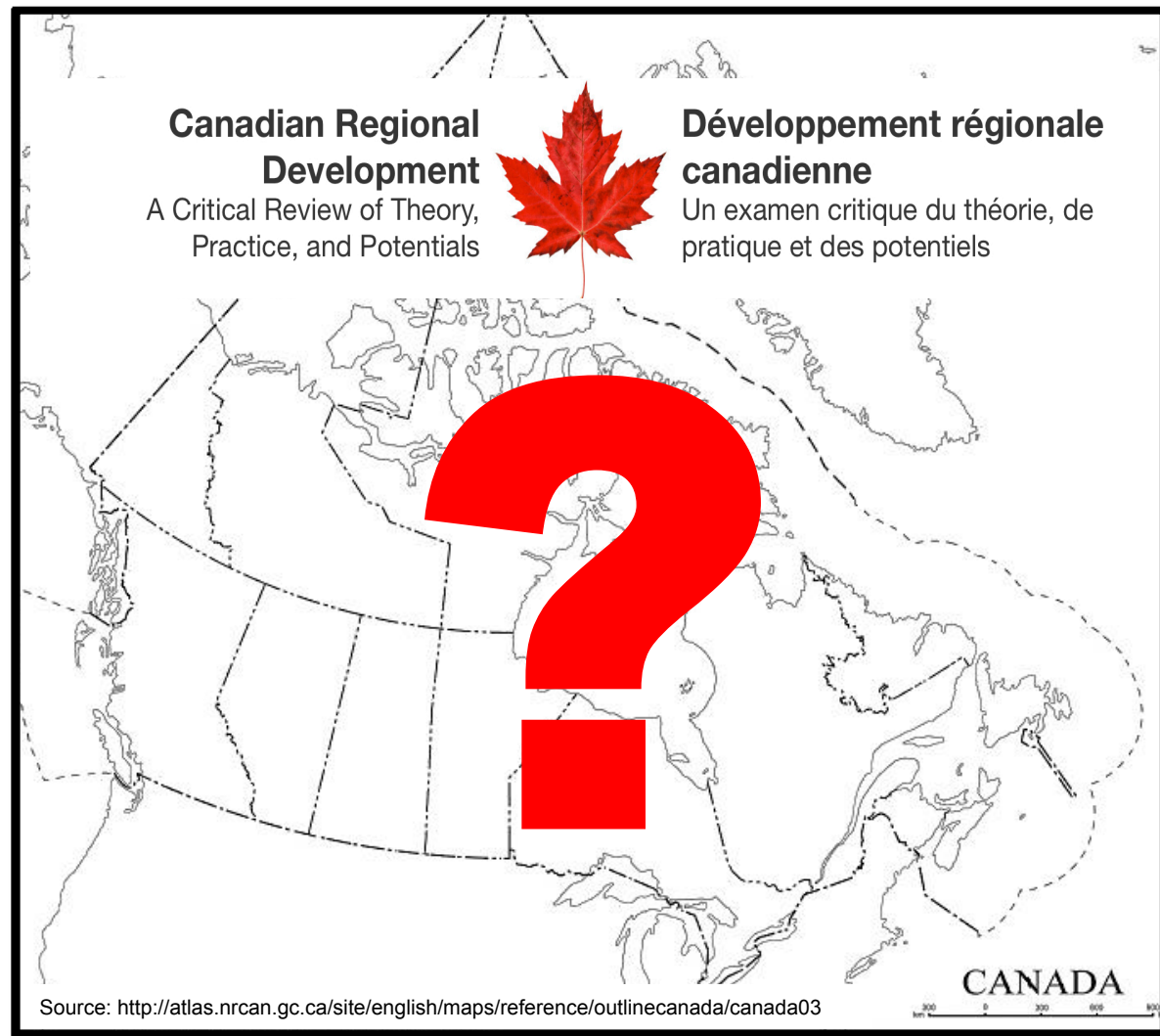# Anecdotes vs. Evidence: The Role of Place-Based Development in Becoming a Region in Rural Canada

May 28, 2014

Sean Markey, **Sarah Breen**, Kelly Vodden, Jen Daniels

A Country of Regions

Canadian Regional Development
A Critical Review of Theory, Practice, and Potentials

Développement régionale canadienne
Un examen critique du théorie, de pratique et des potentiels

CANADA

The Rise of Place

Place

- Skilled Labour
- Amenities
- Connectivity
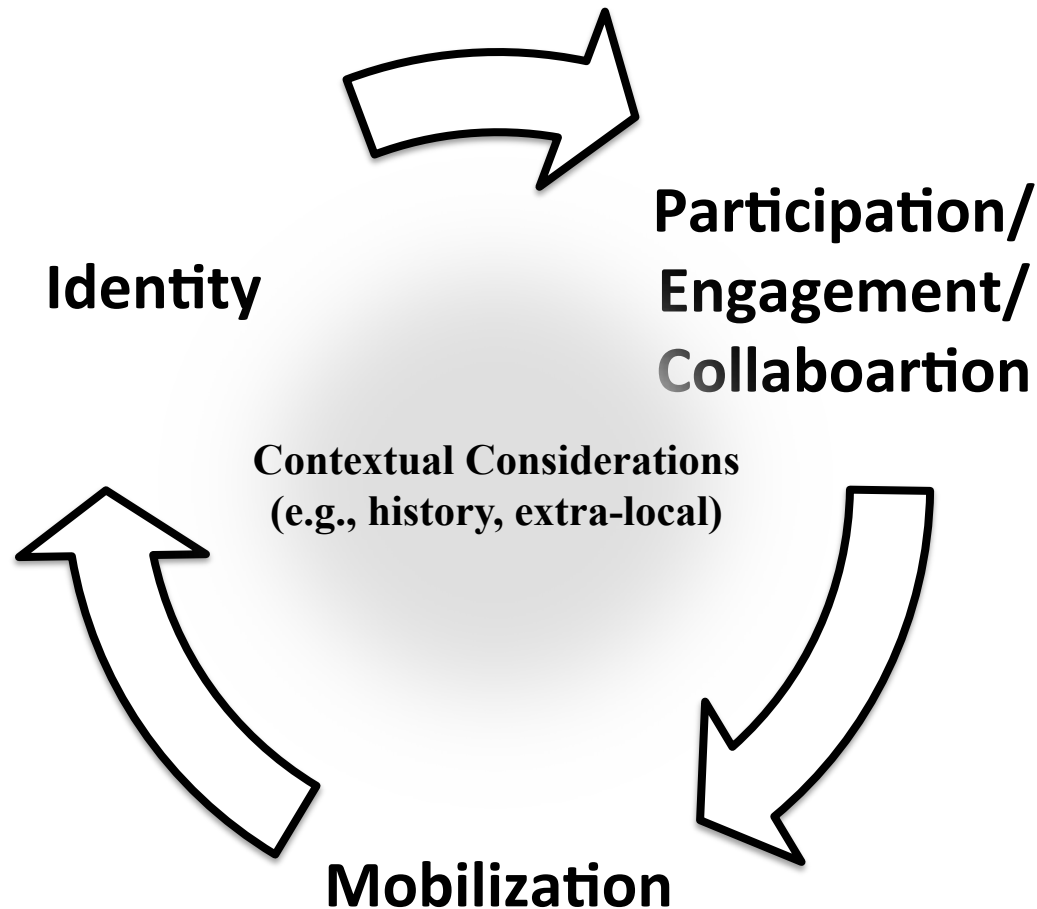- Environment

Breen, 2011

Space

- Resources
- Distance
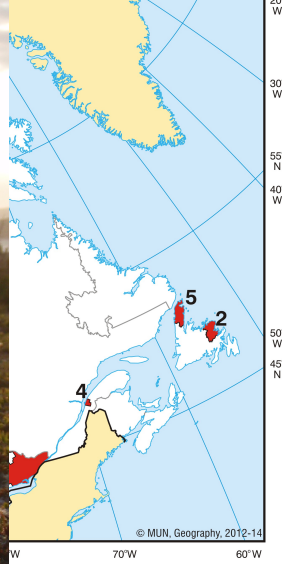
JD Pooley/Getty Images, 2013

Place and how regions 'become'

Case Study Method

Canadian Regional Development, 2013

Overview: Place Findings

- Regional Identity

- Regional Governance Structures

- Community vs. Region

- Legacy of Forced Regions

Weak Regional Identity

*"We hardly ever collaborate. We never have and it is hard as hell to collaborate on even a local level with anybody. It is hard to get three villages together to do anything. It is nearly impossible to get the district together to do anything. And only occasionally do the areas in the regions and different regional districts get together to do anything. **And when we do get together it is usually to fight something that somebody else is doing.**"*

Regional Governance Structures

Government ←————————————————————→ **Governance**

"*I have often pondered the question of* **whether the territory made sense**…*I wonder if the MRC should not deal with the hinterlands only and the city could deal with themselves and the two could work together (in concert) with each other.*"
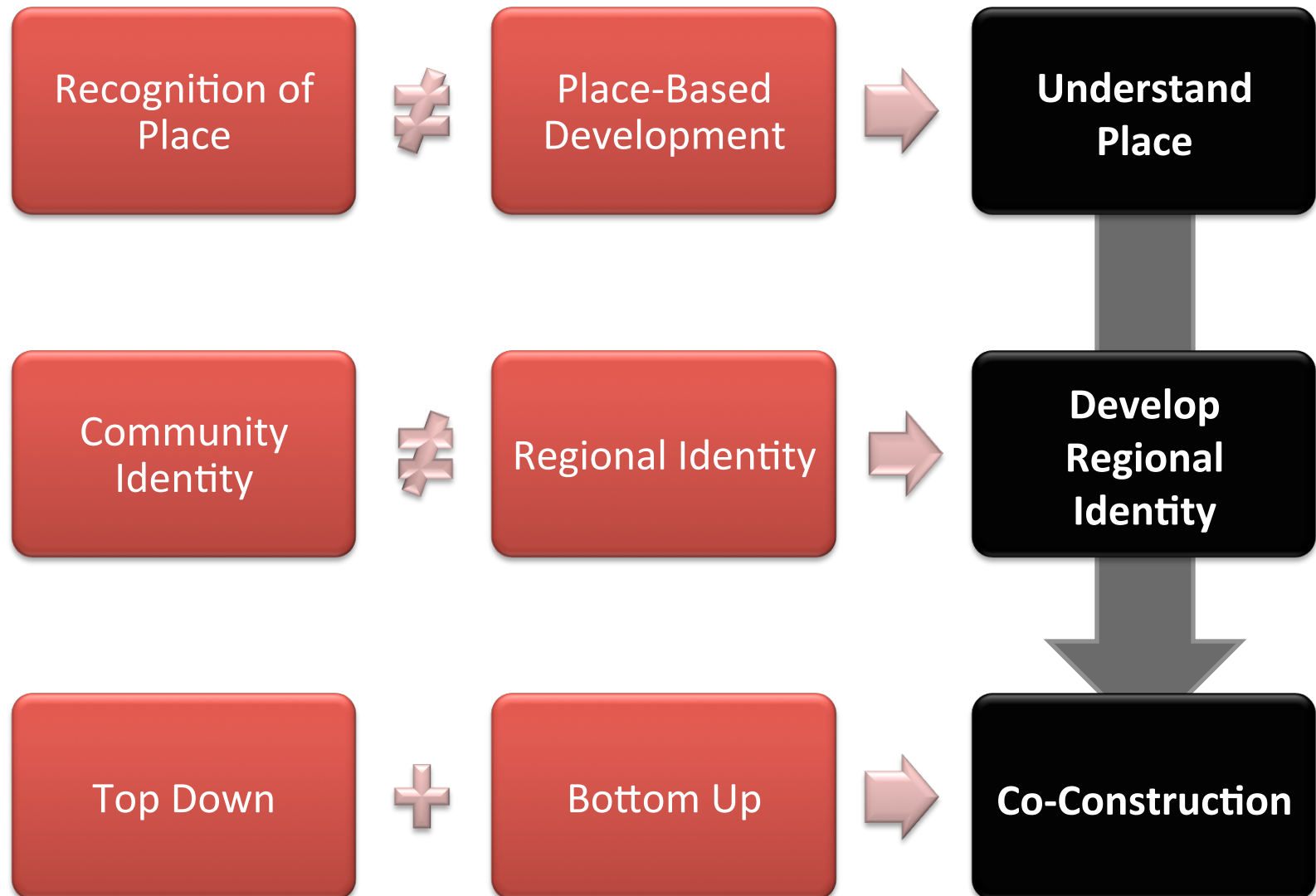
Community vs. Region

*"...people are set in their ways or their **histories and a lot of baggage** comes with working in rural context the same as anywhere but some of it is irrational and illogical so you've got to kind of rationalize that and say how is this going to help you by doing these things ..."*

(legacy of) Forced Regions

- Amalgamations
- Eastern Ontario
  - French / English
  - Rural / Urban
- Legacy of fear
- Competition vs. collaboration

Minnes, 2013

Heading Forward

Recognition of Place	≠ Place-Based Development	→ **Understand Place**
Community Identity	≠ Regional Identity	→ **Develop Regional Identity**
Top Down	+ Bottom Up	→ **Co-Construction**

Thank you

Questions?