Thinking Bigger About Smaller Places: Rural Systems Thinking for Collective Impact and “Adjacent Possible” Innovation

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Four Rural Considerations

I. Our “Disruptive Milieu”

II. Systems Thinking Re: Rural Advantage

III. Regional Rural Innovation

IV. New Rural Opportunities
China’s Great Uprooting: Moving 250 Million Into Cities

Articles in this series look at how China’s government-driven effort to push the population to towns and cities is reshaping a nation that for millennia has been defined by its rural life.
“All great truths begin as blasphemies.”

--George Bernard Shaw
Promoting Growth in All Regions
Contributions to aggregate growth depend on few hub regions...

...the fat tail is equally important - if not more - to aggregate growth...
II. Systems Thinking Re: Rural Advantage
Eight Forms of Rural Wealth / Health

- Physical
- Financial
- Natural
- Human
- Intellectual
- Social
- Cultural
- Political
The Framework for Regional Rural Innovation

Critical Internal Considerations

- Wealth Creation, Intergenerational Wealth Retention, and Appropriate Wealth Distribution
- Youth Engagement, Retention, and Leadership Development
- Social Inclusion and Social Equity Considerations
- Specific Attention to Social Mobility and Inequality
What is Demanded?

1. Asset-based development
2. Regional frameworks
3. Regional Innovation Policies Which Align Rural and Urban Interests
4. Support for New Intermediaries
5. Attention to Working Landscapes


7. Addressing Spatial Mismatch in Key Sectoral Alignments

8. Innovative and Linked Investment Approaches Which Enhance Jurisdictional and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration
Three Questions:

Innovating What?

Diversifying How?

Transitioning Where?
Innovating What?

How “we” consider “us”

How we “see” our region

How we “consider” our options

How we support the “connectors”
Diversifying How?

In our vision of the future

In our sense of possibility

In our actions and alignments

In our new collaborations

In our narrative and networks
Transitioing Where?
Collective Impact

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination, yet the social sector remains focused on the isolated intervention of individual organizations.

By John Kania & Mark Kramer | 90 | Winter 2011

See also:
Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success

I. Common Agenda
   - Shared vision for change

II. Mutually Reinforcing Activities
   - Differentiated, but still coordinated

III. Backbone Organization
   - Serves entire initiative, coordinating participating organizations, firms and agencies
Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success (cont’d)

IV. Continuous Communication
   - Consistent, open, unmediated

V. Rigorous and Shared Measurement
   - Collecting predictive indicators, regional data: then measuring ongoing results consistently
2ND ANNUAL PROMISING PRACTICES SUMMIT

Eastern Kentucky Expo Center, Pikeville, KY
October 28, 2015 8:30a.m. till 3:30p.m.

The Summit will showcase learning innovation taking place across the east Kentucky region as a direct result of the Race to the Top-District Grant awarded to Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative and 17 outstanding rural school districts.

Join the Summit Virtually by logging into...

2015 KVEC Area Fall Gathering for Students and Their Families with Hearing and Vision Losses
September 22, 2015

KVEC will be hosting the Fall Gathering for Students and Their Families with Hearing and Vision Losses... on October 16th, 2015. This event will be held...

2014 KVEC TRANSITION FAIR
March 27, 2014, Heather Hall and...

View Photo Gallery
Special Thanks to those districts that participated... by bringing their students to the fair: Floyd, Leslie, Letcher and Perry.
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IV. New Rural Opportunities

Culture of Health

Creative Placemaking (ruralgeneration.org)

Section 6025: New Farm Bill

Unique Iowa Advantages
NEXT GENERATION
The Future of Arts & Culture Placemaking in Rural America

LET’S COLLABORATE TOWARD THE FUTURE OF OUR RURAL PLACES.

Pop Luck potluck at The Coleman Center for the Arts, York, Alabama. Photo: Nathan Purath

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