

Thesis Abstracts

Résumés des thèses

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Résumés des thèses/Thesis Abstracts

Anne Germain, «Les mouvements de réforme urbaine à Montréal au tournant du siècle: modes de développement, modes d'urbanisation et transformations de la scène politique.» Thèse de doctorat, Département de Sociologie, Université de Montréal, 1980.

Le Québec accuse depuis longtemps un certain retard dans la mise en place de processus de planification urbaine. Il faut en fait remonter au «mouvement urbaniste» qui s'est formé à Montréal au début du XX^e siècle, pour comprendre la nature des conditions entourant l'émergence de l'urbanisme.

Cette thèse constitue une contribution proprement sociologique à l'analyse des mouvements de réforme urbaine à Montréal. En rupture avec une littérature consacrée essentiellement aux discours et/ou aux conduites des réformistes, elle propose un cadre d'interprétation axé sur l'analyse du contexte historique dans lequel se sont développés les mouvements de réforme urbaine, ainsi que cette forme politique prédominante à Montréal qu'est le bossisme. Ce cadre d'interprétation appréhende non seulement les changements de la scène politique montréalaise liés à l'évolution des modes d'urbanisation mais également, à l'échelle de la société toute entière, les transformations du mode de développement.

La signification politique du réformisme réside en effet dans le passage d'une période caractérisée par une indifférenciation des pouvoirs économiques et politiques dans la ville à une période inaugurant l'autonomisation de la scène politique. L'industrialisation substitutive d'importation et l'urbanisation centripète enclenchent une série de processus dont les élites canadiennes-françaises sauront tirer parti pour élargir leur influence politique, et ce, en favorisant l'ouverture de la scène politique montréalaise. Les premiers mouvements de réforme expriment alors l'effort des classes dirigeantes pour réaffirmer l'emprise de la société civile sur la gestion des affaires municipales.

Avec le début du XX^e siècle, l'essor d'une économie à enclaves et d'une urbanisation centrifuge, Montréal devient le théâtre de problèmes sociaux aigus que l'État et les classes dominantes vont essayer de contenir en affaiblissant le pouvoir exécutif montréalais. Après avoir tenté de coopter les forces ouvrières, le réformisme municipal sera supplanté par les premiers «bosses», ces derniers régnant sur une scène politique devenue autonome et marquée par les clivages ethniques plus que par les clivages de classes.

Cette scène politique ne peut guère être le lieu où se négocieraient les orientations du développement urbain.

L'absence relative de classes moyennes modernes prêtes à lier leur avenir à un élargissement des champs d'intervention de l'État contribue à comprendre le peu d'ouverture des mouvements de réforme montréalais aux impératifs de la prise en charge des problèmes sociaux urbains. Ce facteur, lié à la faiblesse des fractions plus proprement industrielles au sein des classes dirigeantes, éclaire la non contribution des mouvements de réforme montréalais à la mise en place de processus de planification urbaine traversant la scène politique.

Edward J. Noble, "Men and Circumstances: Entrepreneurs and Community Growth, A Case Study of Orillia, Ontario, 1867-1898." Ph.D. Thesis, University of Guelph, Department of History, 1980.

The relationship between man's influence on the historical process through his decision-making and the impact of impersonal forces, a conflict D.G. Creighton described as one of "character and circumstance," is a contentious issue amongst writers of history. Urban historians in particular disagree concerning which factor was more influential in urban development. This case study addressed this issue and sought to ascertain the impact entrepreneurial decision-making had on one small centre's growth. The premise adopted for the study was suggested by Robert Lamb who postulated that "detailed entrepreneurship" should be studied in a single community where their activities could be the subject of "close scrutiny." Conclusions drawn from the experiences of Orillia's businessmen suggest that local entrepreneurial initiative and skill provided an essential condition for economic development.

In this study, entrepreneurs were defined as businessmen who risked capital in a variety of ventures in order to achieve material gain. An analysis of Orillia's entrepreneurial structure indicated that there was a distinct difference in hierarchical categories between a small commercial town and that of a manufacturing centre. The former had more categories of wealth and power than the manufacturing town. During the years 1867 to 1890, when Orillia was a service centre for the Muskoka hinterland, three distinct entrepreneurial categories were discerned. Group one was the smallest in numbers, the wealthiest in terms of business ventures and land ownership, and the most influential in local affairs. Wealth and influence decreased for groups two and three. During the years 1890 to 1898, when Orillia's economic function evolved into that of a small industrial town, the number of entrepreneurial categories decreased from three to two. The most important group became wealthier, more influential, and

more diverse in their business operations than their counterparts in group two; consequently, the former assumed the dominant role in community development. To determine the placement of any individual within a group, a number of techniques were employed. The tendency of local papers to emphasize an individual's importance was balanced by the use of the pecuniary ratings of Dun and Bradstreet. Thus a relatively unbiased assessment of the economic worth of each entrepreneur was possible. A computer analysis of assessed land values for the years 1871, 1881, and 1891 indicated that the more important entrepreneurs were also the largest real estate speculators. Local, regional, and provincial newspapers provided an indication of the profile for each entrepreneur within the community. While some of the business leaders were involved in provincial or federal politics, few exerted influence beyond the borders of their community.

The ability of Orillia's entrepreneurs to dominate and utilize municipal politics was an essential ingredient in the community's progress. Public funds were expended in bonusing two rival railways which enabled local businessmen to tap a diverse buying and selling market. Service centre capabilities were enhanced as the commercial entrepreneur succeeded in having the municipal corporation assume the ownership of the water works and expand its services to supply a more efficient fire protection. In the 1890s, the industrial entrepreneurs assumed control of municipal politics and championed the construction of what was reputed to be the first municipally-owned hydro-electric power development. This venture enabled many local entrepreneurs to establish new concerns as they benefited from a cheap power policy. The overall impact of entrepreneurial decision-making was a substantial growth in population and business facilities throughout the entire period. In fact, by 1911 Orillia had surpassed almost all of her rivals in Simcoe County in population and business ventures.

A number of conclusions can be drawn from this case study. A significant finding is that when local entrepreneurs projected a growth ethos, developmental policies were continually accepted by the community. It is also noteworthy that a small community, led by a growth conscious group of entrepreneurs, exhibited the same propensity for expansion as much larger centres. Moreover, the degree of growth attainable was influenced by the size and economic diversity of the hinterland. Finally, if Orillia's experience was typical of other small towns, factors were in evidence by the turn of the century which adversely affected growth potential as circumstances arose beyond the control of small town entrepreneurs. Thus "circumstance" usually won out over "character," and a ceiling was placed on expansion. The growth Orillia did experience, however, was in a large measure the direct result of entrepreneurial decision-making.

D.D. Peterson, "Wholesale Trade Between Edmonton

and Selected Northern Communities." M.A. Thesis, University of Alberta, Department of Geography, 1978.

In the absence of reliable published data related to wholesale trade and linkages between communities within the study area, provide a sufficiently accurate view of the contribution of wholesale trade to the local and northern economy, data for the study were collected by means of a detailed market survey. The results of the survey indicate the direction and volume of wholesale goods flowing through the study area's channels of distribution.

Data from several mail surveys and an extensive field survey of northern markets indicate that the wholesaling structure of the North is a complex marketing system, characterized by a diversity of conditions in various industries and a variety of types of goods and services passing through the system. Within this marketing organization different types of wholesaling establishments are diversified in employment and sales structures. The study shows that the wholesaling structure of the North, as in Edmonton, is characterized by its multi-unit organization, displaying a high degree of horizontal and vertical integration.

Wholesale linkages are analyzed for their ability to regulate the physical flow of goods and services in and out of regions, and in this way shed new light, from both a demand and supply perspective, on Edmonton's historic "gateway" function. The study isolates the strategic position of wholesaling in the distributive systems of the northern marketing organization, in terms of its ability to bridge the gap between producers and consumers. Analysis of the wholesaling linkage characteristics of the northern marketing organization shows that the wholesaling structure reflects the primary and secondary industrial structure of northern Alberta, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

This study isolates a number of specific problems facing northern wholesalers, including transportation, communication and control, labour, and marketing costs. Several ways of improving the efficiency of the present marketing system are suggested, particularly for the level of the quality of wholesaling services now being provided in the North. In this regard, the study points out the increased competition from Vancouver wholesalers and suggests ways in which Edmonton wholesalers could improve their service if they were to meet the challenge of this competition.

Results of this study show that the direct economic effects of wholesaling are limited as regards possible increases in employment and sales through the multiplier effect. However, in its indirect facilitating effects, the wholesaling sector of the northern economy is the one structure in the marketing organization which makes northern development possible and effective.

The study recommends that regional development policies should devote more attention to the problems of wholesale marketing as the key to supplying future economic development in the North. Emphasis should be placed on increasing the efficiency of the present system, particularly through improvements in the Edmonton wholesaling structure. The results indicate that it is not feasible to establish small-scale wholesaling establishments in northern communities in an attempt to streamline the system by bypassing the trans-shipment process in Edmonton.

R.G. Graden, "The Planning of New Residential Areas in Edmonton, 1950-1976." M.A. Thesis, University of Alberta, Department of Geography, 1979.

In structuring the residential environment of Edmonton, two design concepts, the Neighbourhood Unit and the Outline Plan Concepts were applied. The Neighbourhood Unit Concept was utilized in response to the needs that were anticipated as a result of a large increase in population after 1947. It was realized that the existing grid-iron pattern of subdivision was no longer adequate, especially in meeting the demand for well-planned schools, parks and playgrounds, shopping and institutional facilities, and safety in the local street layout.

A change in scale from neighbourhood-size planning-units to much larger units, termed outline plan areas, was based largely on perceived inadequacies with the smaller scale neighbourhood unit. In particular, Edmonton planners decided in their evaluation that the larger outline plan area would function as a more effective community service area than the smaller neighbourhood unit. It was also decided that planning larger units in anticipation of growth allowed for a more orderly and economical provision of public utilities and roadway construction. These conclusions, however, were based more on the planners' experiences with the inadequacies of the Neighbourhood Unit Concept rather than on any careful re-evaluation of the concept itself.

The purpose of this study was to examine the shift to large-scale planning-units as a means of structuring the residential environment of Edmonton. In particular, an attempt was made to determine whether any careful re-evaluation was done of past designs and whether the Outline Plan Concept had produced a more satisfactory living environment from the viewpoint of the resident. The study, however, was not intended to offer rigidly tested hypotheses or guidelines for general application. Its aim was to raise rather than to resolve issues.

The research was conducted in two steps. The first included an analysis of city planning-reports and documents followed by personal interviews with planning officials.

The second step involved the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data on residents' satisfaction with the Richfield Neighbourhood Unit in Mill Woods, through the use of a structured-questionnaire interview.

A major conclusion of this study was that Edmonton's planners did not carefully re-evaluate the effectiveness of the designs which they utilized. The change to the use of large-scale planning-units appeared to be done primarily for the sake of order and economy in suburban development and not necessarily for the purpose of creating environments which were more satisfactory for living. Intuitively, the outline plan was seen to be a more convenient means of ordering the residential environment, since it is based essentially on a hierarchical arrangement of service facilities distributed over relatively large areas of suburban land. However, if re-evaluation had been done, Edmonton's planners would have discovered that this larger and more orderly arrangement has not necessarily produced more satisfying neighbourhoods as was evidenced by the responses of the residents of the Richfield Neighbourhood Unit.

There were, however, limitations with the Richfield Neighbourhood Study. For example, it could not be determined whether planners are designing better environments now than they did during the 1950s. Further research would be required in which several neighbourhoods, planned and developed during the different time-periods, are examined.

L.Y. Luciuk, "Ukrainians in the Making: Their Kingston Story." M.A. Thesis, Queen's University, Department of Geography, 1979.

This study examines the historical record of Ukrainians in Kingston, Ontario. The research is designed to explore the thesis that the ethnicity of this immigrant group has been established as a result of their collective experiences in their new environment as they have interpreted them in the context of their inherited culture. Seen in this light, ethnicity manifests itself in the dynamic of changing social environments rather than in ascriptively assigned values.

Ukrainians who settled in Kingston arrived in Canada during several periods of immigration from Eastern Europe. Their stories are chronicled in historical sequence, with attention paid both to the old-world and new-world conditions in which they found themselves. The emergent concept of being Ukrainian in Kingston is the focus of these narratives. The study concludes with the immigration following World War II.

Jeanette I. Rice, "From Crown to City: The Urban Land

Development Process in Kingston, Ontario, 1800-1900." M.A. Thesis, Queen's University, Department of Geography, 1980.

From 1800 to 1900, "Farm Lot A" was transformed from a wilderness to a densely-populated urban area in Kingston, Ontario. It evolved from one uninhabited lot to 355 lots with more than 500 dwelling units. The manner in which the land was prepared for urban use – the urban land development process – is the focus of this study. The process has been defined and analyzed through the decisions and actions made by landowners and subdividers to prepare the land for urban use and through the ways the process was manifested in the landscape. Likewise, the study attempts to explain the timing and rationale of land development in Farm Lot A in the light of general development practices and economic and social trends of nineteenth-century Kingston.

G.J. Levine, "In God's Service: The Role of the Anglican,

Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic Churches in the Cultural Geography of Late Nineteenth-Century Kingston." Ph.D. Thesis, Queen's University, Department of Geography, 1980.

This thesis is an appreciation of the social-geographical role of four Christian institutions – Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic – in Kingston, Ontario in the period 1881 to 1901. Through a conceptualization of religion as a powerful psychological and social force derived from hermeneutical and Marxian thought, a view of the functioning of these groups in nineteenth-century Kingston is presented. The ideological output and resource-marshalling ability of these religious institutions is described as is the community's response to them. In the final analysis the thesis presents a challenging view of the function of religion in society and, in so doing, provides additional and necessary theoretical and empirical work relative to the geography of religion and to Marxian studies of religion.