

Socio-ecological transition and climate crisis in territorial development approaches: Learning to improve collective and community intervention

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Context

Quebec expertise in community development, but little presence of environmental issues and especially those related to transition.

Work on integrated territorial development that shows difficulties and challenges in linking social/economic/cultural and environmental issues (Lachapelle and Bourque, 2020).

How can territorial development approaches, especially those dedicated to social development, contribute to collective efforts to ensure the socio-ecological transition and a more effective fight against the climate crisis?

Which actors in the SDTs are carrying the transition with which conceptions, strategies, controversies, results, challenges, etc.? Understand the positioning and dynamics of the transition in DC.

What are the specific contributions of collective intervener?

What is a Territorial Development Approaches (TDA)?



Composition: public and third sector organizations, as well as private sector organizations (e.g., philanthropy); sometimes citizens.



Structure: informal and formal (incorporated as a nonprofit).



Goal: to carry out collective actions that respond to needs and improve the living conditions of the population (social development).



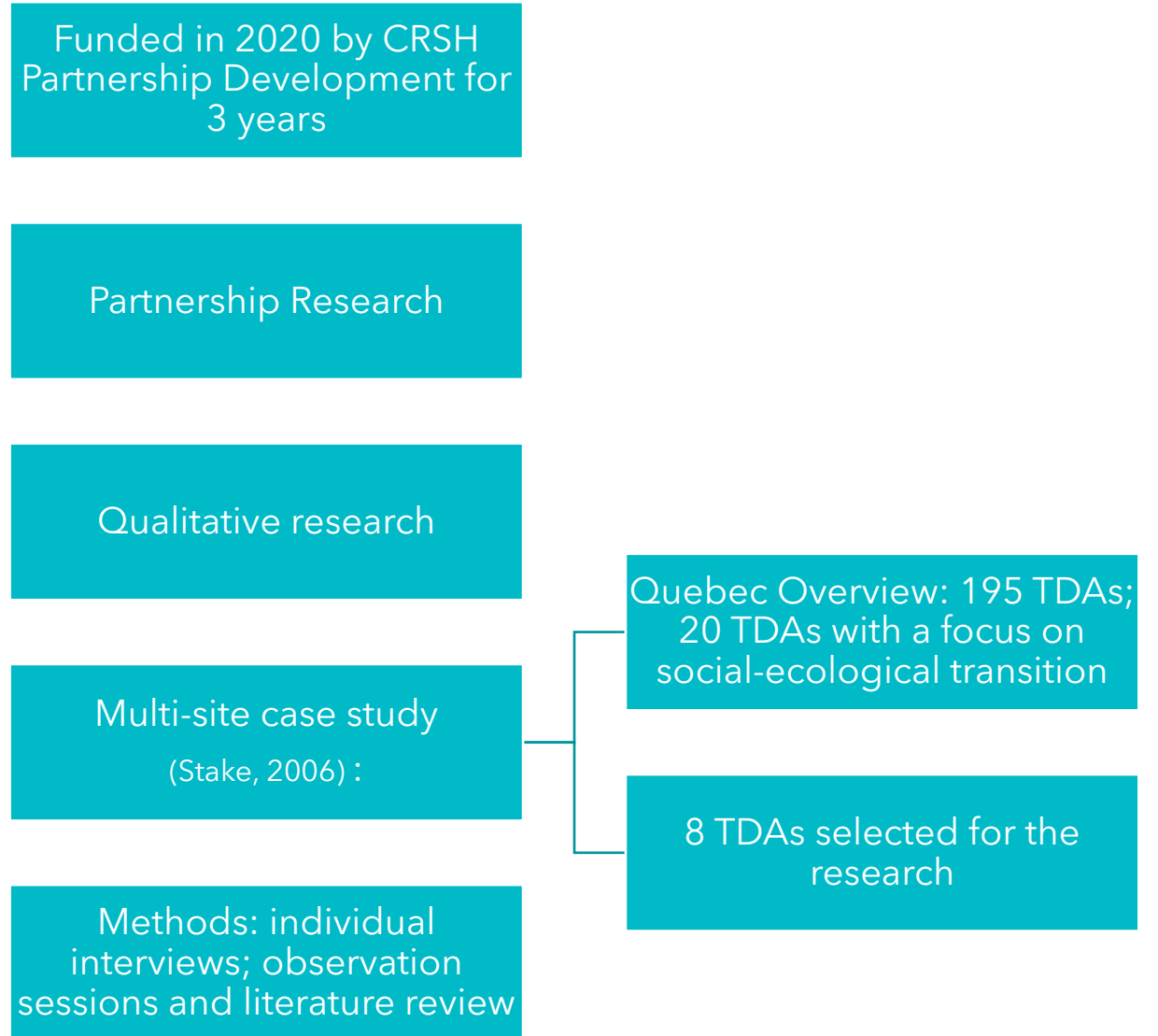
Coordination: collective intervener (people whose target of intervention are groups, organizations and communities).

- "The transition from the current state of the system to a more **socially just, inclusive and ecologically sustainable state**, made possible by a transformation of our democratic practices, our modes of production, consumption, living together and our representations (narratives), and based on the establishment of **social relationships** that promote social justice and inclusion" (Free translation Audet and al., 2015 cited in Guay-Boulet, Martin-Déry and Huot, 2021, p. 24).
- **Ecocentric approach** (Guay-Boulet, Martin-Déry and Huot, 2021)



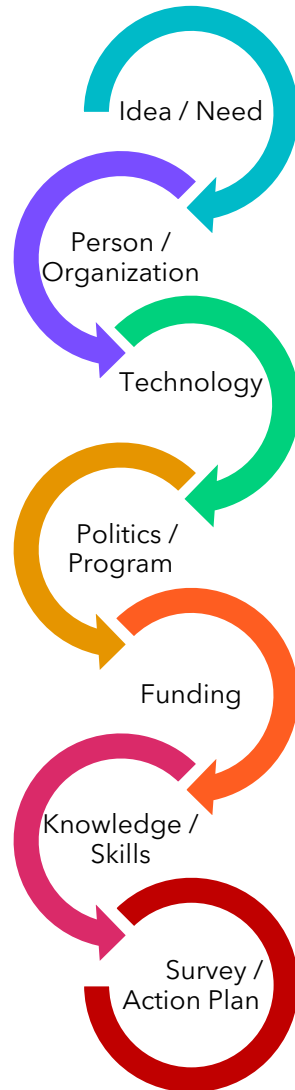
Socio-ecological transition

Research structure

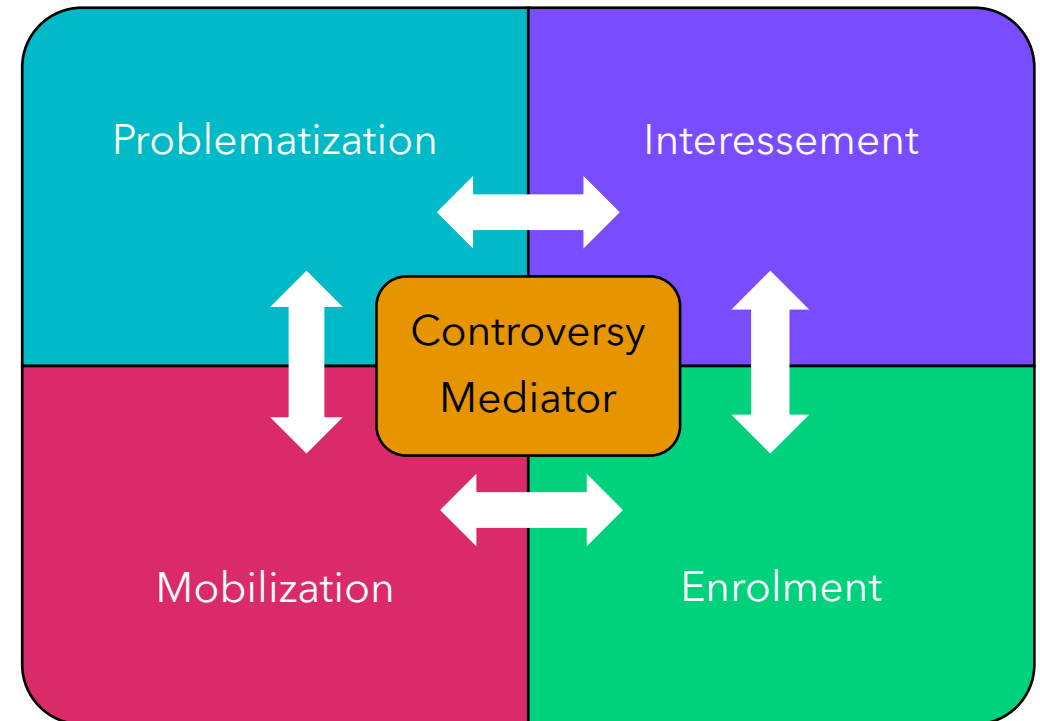


Conceptual framework: Actor-Network Theory

Sociotechnical Network



Translation Process



(Inspired by Akrich, Callon and Latour, 2006; Bilodeau and Potvin, 2016; Callon, 1986)

Main forms of the contribution of TDAs to the socio-ecological transition



Food

Community and collective gardens,
Solidarity gardens,
Shared fridges,
Collective gardening bins,
Neighborhood (village) gardens...



Greening and demineralization

Planting plants, shrubs, flowers, etc. in available spaces;
Woodlot protection;
Planting trees (increasing canopy);
removing concrete and asphalt to green the space.



Thrift store



Waste collection blitzes



Eco-districts
(collective reinvestment of disused spaces)

Preliminary Observations

- Projects contributing to the socio-ecological transition are dependent on the type of territory in which they are developed (urban, rural, peri-urban...)
- Project intentions are evolving in favor of the transition:
 - From social impact projects to social AND ecological impact projects
 - Spokesperson for ecological issues: citizens, especially young people
- The participation is worked in 2 parallel silos (ecology and fight against poverty)
- More difficult to take action: the feeling of incompetence experienced by the actors; tinkering with the financial plan;
- Accompaniment of TDA by specialized organizations (Vivre en ville, Solon, etc.)

« The success of the energy transition will be measured everywhere at the same time. It cannot be the subject of competition between neighboring territories, nor between levels, because there will only be a success if it is global and shared by all » (Free translation of Bailleul, 2018, p. 3).

- Anchoring in the territory (proximity)
- Networks and links established and nurtured with several key players in the transition (citizens, municipal players, community organizations).
- Experience and expertise in cross-sectoral community action



Conclusion

2 articles to be published

Courtemanche, A., Bourque, D., Racine, S., Parent, A.-A. et Morin, L. (à paraître). **Développement des communautés et transition socioécologique au Québec.** *Organisations et Territoires*, 31(2). <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-03646738>

Courtemanche, A., Morin, L., Parent, A.-A., Bourque, D. et Racine, S. (à paraître). **Effets de la pandémie de COVID-19 sur le développement des collectivités : apport des intervenants collectifs.** *Écrire le social*, (4). <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-03653301>



Thank you for your attention!

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