

Defining and Measuring Social Cohesion

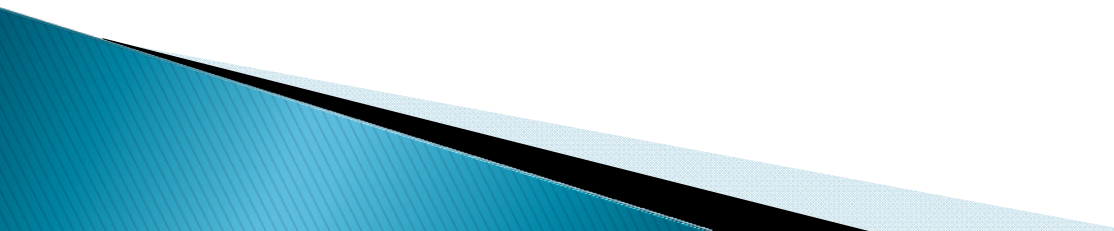
Timothy Woolford



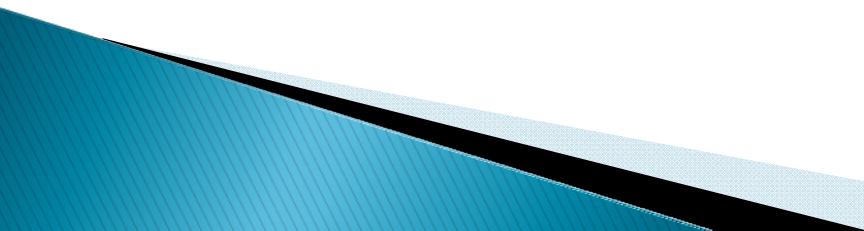
Outline

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Literature Review
 - ▶ Economic Implications
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 - ▶ Methodology
 - ▶ Critical Success Factors
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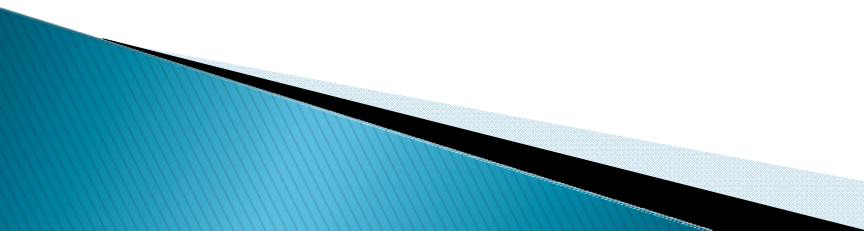
Introduction

- ▶ “Sustainable Development is kind of like pornography... we know it when we see it but apart from that its pretty difficult to define” – Herman Daly (1996)
 - ▶ Can the same be said of Social Cohesion?
 - ▶ Two terms
 - Social– Society
 - Cohesion– the extent of togetherness
 - ▶ Can it be measured?
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Literature Review

- ▶ Role of Values
 - ▶ Girvan (1998)
 - “... the failure to agree on a basic set of core values to which everyone subscribes results in continuous contention over fundamentals.”
 - Call for social consensus among principal social partners
 - Development of “... trust and co-operation among the social partners and for promoting socially constructive behavior”.
 - Lessons of East Asia
 - Call for consistency
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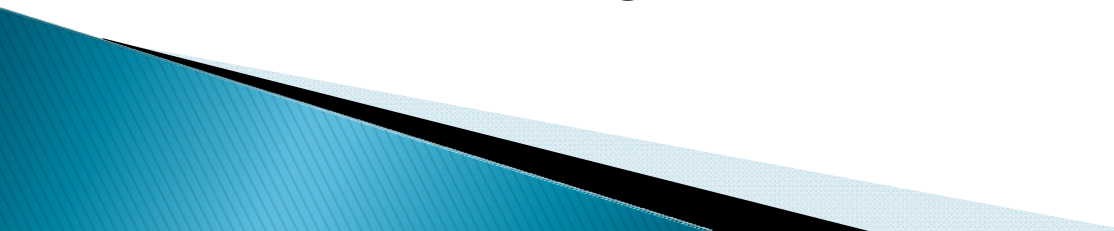
Literature Review

- ▶ Level of discourse among political parties
 - ▶ Values require a sense of self
 - “the Caribbean is a green world, one without metaphors” – Derek Walcott
 - ▶ Best (2009) Role of the Plantation Economy
 - ▶ Has Caribbean economic development taken into account Caribbean values?
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Latin America

- ▶ UNECLAC (2007) – Social Cohesion: Inclusion and a sense of belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ▶ Social cohesion has been seen as a response:
 - high indices of poverty
 - the extreme levels of inequality and discrimination
 - the incidences of social exclusion which can be traced throughout the history of the region

Latin America

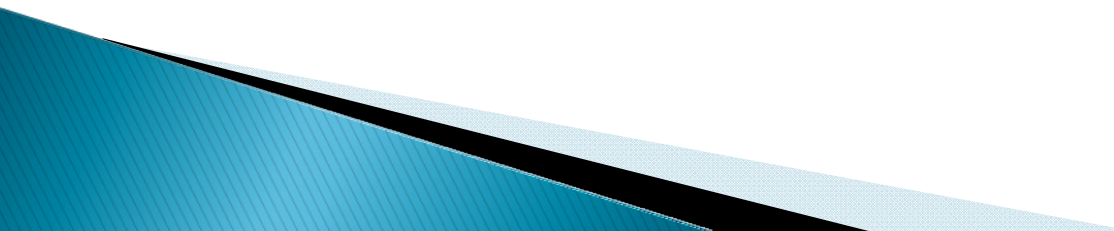
- ▶ Inter- American Development Bank – Social Cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean: Analysis, Action and Coordination
 - ▶ Correlation exists between social cohesion and the important areas of development:
 - Growth
 - competitiveness
 - capacities for technological innovation and
 - democratic governance
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Extra- Regional

▶ Singapore

- History of Social tensions (Heng & Aljunied(2011))
- Bilingual Education Policy (Dixon (2005))
- Legislation that lends a voice to minority groups

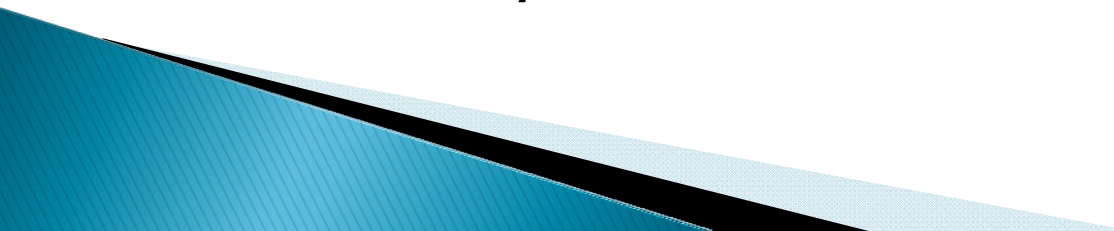
▶ England (House of Commons)

- Oldham Riots (racial tensions)
 - Common vision and sense of belonging
 - Need for open dialogue
 - Role for media
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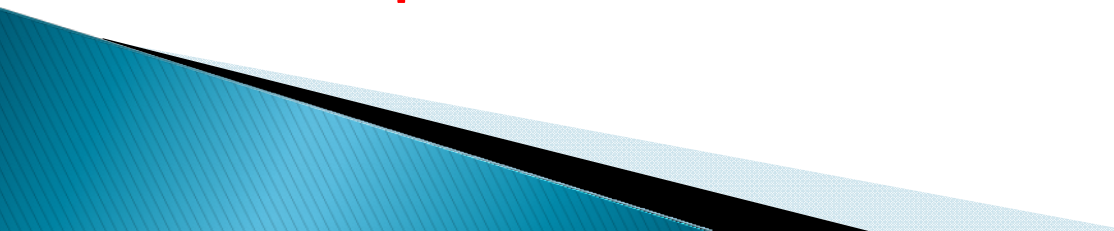
Economic Implications

- ▶ European Union (Growing Regions, Growing Europe: Fourth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion)
 - GDP 5–10% higher
 - Creation of 2million net additional jobs
 - Enhanced environmental quality
 - Increased human capital investments
 - More integrated approach to development
 - More holistic view of development
 - Strategic planning structure of governance

Methodology

- ▶ Foa (2011)
 - ▶ Econometric Model
 - ▶ Social Development Indicators
 - ▶ 200 variables from 25 sources
 - ▶ Extremely time consuming
 - ▶ Availability of Data
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Indicators

- ▶ Markus (2011)
 - ▶ Sense of Belonging
 - ▶ Sense of Worth
 - ▶ Social Justice and Equity
 - ▶ Acceptance/Rejection Legitimacy
 - ▶ **Participation**
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Methodology

- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Belonging
 - pride in the country's way of life
 - whether or not persons see a need for change in that way of life
- ▶ Sense of Worth
 - the ability of persons to meet their needs financially
 - and secure some sense of financial security for themselves.

Methodology

- ▶ Social justice and equity
 - perceptions of adequate opportunities for those experiencing poverty
 - perception that there exists a gap between the rich and the poor
 - possibility of that gap widening
 - whether or not persons view their homeland as conducive to economic opportunity
 - the extent of trust in the powers that be

Methodology

- ▶ Acceptance/Rejection legitimacy
 - attitudes to immigration
 - incidences of discrimination
 - perception of equal opportunities between and among religious groups
- ▶ Participation in Political processes

Social Cohesion Indicators

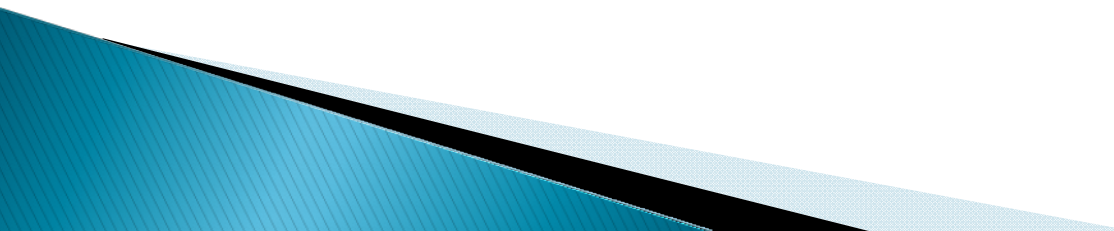
$$SCI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n f_r \cdot W_r}{n}$$

- ▶ Where:
- ▶ f_r = the frequency of each response
- ▶ W_r = the weight of each response
- ▶ i = the question number
- ▶ n = the number of questions in each section

Pilot Data

Belonging						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	SC Indicator
1	0.01	0.59	0.33	0.07	0.00	
Weight	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.00	
Weighted Value	0.00	0.18	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.25
2	0.41	0.51	0.07	0.00	0.00	
Weight	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.00	
Weighted Value	0.17	0.15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.33
3	0.05	0.13	0.29	0.48	0.05	
Weight	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.00	
Weighted Value	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.17
Total						0.75
# of Questions						3.00
SC Indicator						0.25

Social Cohesion Indicators

- ▶ $0 \leq \text{TSCI} < 0.4$ = weak cohesion
 - ▶ $0.4 \leq \text{TSCI} < 0.8$ = mild cohesion
 - ▶ $0.8 \leq \text{TSCI} < 1.2$ = moderate cohesion
 - ▶ $1.2 \leq \text{TSCI} < 1.6$ = strong cohesion
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Participation Index

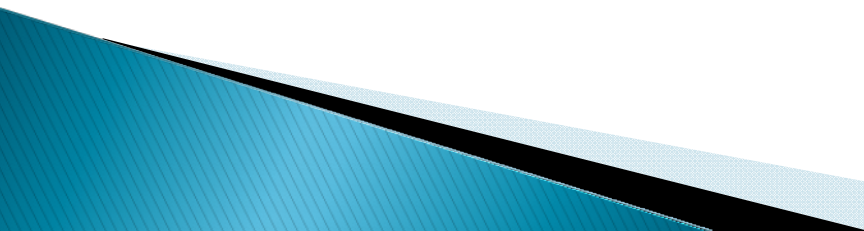
$$P = \sum_{i=1}^5 p_i \cdot w$$

- ▶ Where : P= participation Index
- ▶ p_i = political process 1,2...5
- ▶ w = weighted value= 0.2

Pilot Data

Participation				
Sample Size:	82			
Process	Frequency	Proportion	Weight	Weighted Value
Voted in an election	81	0.99	0.2	0.20
Signed a petition	17	0.21	0.2	0.04
Contacted MOP	17	0.21	0.2	0.04
Boycott	2	0.02	0.2	0.00
Attended Protest	6	0.07	0.2	0.01
Participation Index				0.30

Critical Success Factors

- ▶ Consensus among principal agents
 - Shared Vision
 - Sense of self
 - Co-operation
 - ▶ Consistent and concentrated policy
 - ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Not an Outcome but a Process
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Looking Ahead

- ▶ National Survey
 - ▶ Regional Integration
 - ▶ Causal Relationships
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