



## **Sustainable Development in a Diverse World (SUS.DIV)**

### **STRATEGIC PAPER OF RESEARCH TASK 4.3**

**“Cultural dialogue through (im)possible spaces: diversity in the social arena”**

## **Future Research Activities and JPA for the next 18 months**

### **Participants**

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### **Non SUS.DIV Associates**

**Virginia Bond**, Zambian and South African TB and AIDS Reduction Study  
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Funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2004 – 2010.

The research work of this first SUSDIV year and continuing into the second is directed towards development and testing of the revised model; and identifying a set or sets of indicators enabling the creation of a general typology of local urban systems. The next section reports work-in-progress begun by partners/associates in this first year and to be expanded and developed in: the second. The responsible institute and lead researcher are named with the title.

The first sub-project is concerned with systems' modelling and pursues analogies between biological and social diversities, the others are field studies applying a variety of approaches to the search for reliable indicators of open: closed. In the first phase all have concentrated on visible /mappable indicators of area/system type; the coming phase will develop in depth research into the less visible relational elements of local systems.

**Re: Systems, diversity: [Beijer Institute, Drs Johan Colding, Ingela Ternstrom]**

In the anthropological tradition, as noted in Section 3, the systems' perspective shows as a commitment to holism: all the parts of a social system – here specifically, all the elements of cultural diversity - are connected and [so] cannot be understood in isolation. Further, the interrelationships between them are not static: social reality is always in process. We freeze-frame it, for the sake of analysis, but must be - wary of essentialising the data we collect.

In the SUSDIV project these basic notions are enriched by inputs from ecological economics. Models of complex adaptive systems are more sophisticated in this field, with more confident handling of feedback loops. Routine ecological notions like 'adaptive co-management', 'resilience building' – even 'biological diversity' - raise questions new to social anthropology; and aspects of economic theory, mathematics, computer simulation etc will improve the chance of understanding diversity in urban systems.

Of specific interest is the notion of *response diversity*.<sup>1</sup> It is closely linked to the notion of *functional diversity* in ecological systems. By functional diversity is meant the diversity of functions that species perform within an ecosystem, for example functions

such as pollination, seed dispersal, nutrient filtration and grazing. One example is pollination where a number of different species perform the same function. Here you have an overlap of functions or 'redundancy' in the performance of functions. In case of disturbance/change, however, the different species will respond differently to the disturbance; some species will die, others will be non-affected and will continue to perform pollination in the ecosystem. Here, we have what is coined *response-diversity*, or the diversity of responses to environmental disturbance among species that contribute to the same ecosystem function (Elmqvist et al., 2003).

All this fits nicely into resilience thinking in social systems as well. Specifically, there is an analogue to the ideal situation of the 'open' system [Type A: circles distinct but linked]. Here you have high response diversity to changing circumstances (e.g. disturbance) due to high redundancy in functions. [By contrast], in the case of a 'closed' system [Type B: circles superimposed]] response diversity to changing circumstances is low because all species (or human individuals/groups) respond similarly to the disturbance. In an ecological system this happens if and when all species, such as all species in the functional group of pollinators, respond in the same way to a given disturbance..

The hyper-open system [Type PP: disaggregated circles} would be equal to a simplified ecosystem with little connectedness, where you only have one species (one circle) performing a particular function. Hence, again, low response diversity.

These ideas will guide the second year of Beijer's collaboration with Task 4.3.

## **Re: Field Studies**

In the first year of SUSDIV 4.3 , our partners in Prague and Slovakia have contributed aspects of their on-going work to the typology project. Other studies were carried out in direct collaboration with associates at IPRS in Rome and ZAMSTAR in Lusaka [Zambia] and Cape Town [South Africa].

In this pilot phase, SUSDIV research in these latter projects has been concerned to identify dimensions of each local system which can be assessed as more or less open/closed, and will enable a first level classification – i.e. broadly speaking, what

kind of a local system is this ? In the metaphor proposed in Wallman 2005, [see also fn. 1 of the Position Paper], we are looking for indicators of the nature of each ‘fishtank’. In the second year we will move to closer study of the experience of individual ‘fish’ – i.e. of the inhabitants of field areas designated as local systems...

The ZAMSTAR study is the larger and longer established of the two. Qualitative values have been assigned to six indicators in each of 24 sites. Cumulated open-closed “scores” for each site were helpful in a randomized control trial for TB interventions. The IPRS study continues to collect and compare indicators in designated Roman neighborhoods, In the second year it will also explore ways to incorporate architectural data and visual images in the classification process.

A brief work-in-progress account of each of the four studies follows in the place sequence southern Africa; Rome, Prague and Slovakia. Data and perspectives will be more closely integrated in up-coming research meetings as plans for the second year are carried forward. Materials from these and other studies will be used to test/refine hypothesis emerging.

***1. ZAMSTAR Social Science. [Dr Virginia Bond, Ms Emma Murray].***  
**Notes on an Exercise in Typing 24 African Sites as “Open” or “closed”**

The open-closed model was adapted in an exercise to social context into a constrained randomisation process of a community-based trial. The trial<sup>2</sup> concerned is testing different public health interventions that aim to reduce the prevalence of tuberculosis in Zambian and South African settings that carry a high burden of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The constrained randomization of the 24 research sites is a statistical process used to maximize the probability that the different arms<sup>3</sup> of the trial will be balanced with regard to important parameters that are thought likely to affect the outcome measure (prevalence of tuberculosis) of the trial. The constraining process of randomisation was able to take factors (that are likely to affect the prevalence of tuberculosis in these sites) such as HIV prevalence, tuberculosis notifications rates, urban/rural mix and tuberculin skin test results into account. The use of a diversity continuum that typed sites as relatively more open (more heterogeneous) or more closed

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<sup>2</sup> ZAMSTAR – Zambian and South African TB and AIDS Reduction Study – carried out by LSHTM and ZAMBART Project in Zambia and the Desmond Tutu TB Centre in Western Cape, and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2004 to 2010.

(more homogenous) provided a practical framework so that differences in social context could also be included into this constraining process. Key to adopting (and adapting) the model and developing indicators of diversity in order to type sites as more open or more closed, was the understanding that an areas resistance, networks, exposure and health information hold implication for both tuberculosis prevalence and the uptake of intervention.

The qualitative data emerging from rapid baseline studies<sup>4</sup> of the twenty-four African sites were used to chisel mappable, visible and comparable indicators of diversity that were work-shopped in a typology exercise. The final set of six indicators were all independent variables and comprised livelihood, topography, interest groups, population mixing, population movement and housing options. Each of the six indicators was enumerated for each site on a qualitative scale: -3 to 0 being closed/homogenous and 0 to +3 being open/heterogeneous. Topography was the most difficult indicator to classify and score. Most sites proved to be multiple cityscapes, not constituting a single system or a single community and herein lies a caveat to this adaptation of the model. The open-closed model used in this case had to apply to the character of a local area rather than the character of a local system (as in the original model). The practical implication of this is that interventions will not necessarily work the same way across any one site.

The sum of the results across the indicators ranked a site along an open-closed continuum of diversity. The crude agglomeration of scores did not reflect differences within sites or mean that sites with the same score (or position on the continuum) were the same on the ground. A matching score on any parameter between sites meant that they had the same degree of diversity, although the components of diversity may well be different. This classification of sites as “open” or “closed” was used alongside HIV prevalence (lower/higher), tuberculosis notifications rates (lower/higher), urban/rural mix, political considerations and results from a tuberculin skin test survey to balance the intervention arms of the trial. Eighteen of the 24 sites (all eight South African sites and 10 Zambian sites) were classified as relatively open and six sites (in Zambia) as relatively closed. For Zambia the classification meant that social context was "counted"

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<sup>3</sup> The trial allocates communities at random to receive either, both or neither of two interventions (household counseling and enhanced case finding) in addition to strengthening combined TB/HIV activities at each local clinic.

<sup>4</sup> Fieldwork comprised community meetings, transect walks and structured observations carried out over a period of four to six days

as the similar interventions were spread across the scale, providing opportunity for comparisons of the uptake of interventions between open and closed communities. For South Africa, this was not the case: interventions, after constrained randomization, landed up not being spread across the scale with the same interventions being implemented in sites in a similar position along the diversity continuum. Part of the reason for this is that the 24 sites from both countries were plotted along the same continuum and the South African sites were all classified as open. A final typing of the sites that would allow the typology and other constraining factors to be fed into the randomisation process meant that the typing had to be formulated in multiples of four. This could either have been achieved using a three set or a two set classification and we opted for a two set (i.e. “open” or “closed”). Should a three set classification have been opted for, this may have changed the spread of interventions across the sites.

The exercise in typology also highlighted the need for deeper ethnographic work to comprehensively research the significance of relevant invisible, relational characteristics of the sites that may possibly affect their position along the open-closed continuum. The shallow and wide data collected proved insufficient to warrant the use of less tangible indicators such as community identity, popular knowledge and perceptions of tuberculosis and tuberculosis treatment patterns. However, based on the intuition of the team of researchers involved and by using a participatory ranking exercise; sites were placed along an open-closed continuum using community identity as an indicator. This significantly moved the ranking of some of the South African sites. The South African sites also proved harder to rank using the community identity indicator than the Zambian sites. Reasons for this seemed to be rooted in that distinctions across the Zambian sites were more geographically spread and therefore more marked as opposed to distinctions across the South African sites, which were of a finer grade. Another contributing factor is that some of the South African sites are relatively new and in a state of flux. Four of the South African sites were evaluated as particularly fragmented and marginalized when considering community identity, seemingly at the extreme of the open end of the continuum. One of these sites in particular made researchers feel that it was possible to describe this place as extreme, but difficult to place it on the open or the closed end of the continuum was difficult.

The model was useful in that it allowed us to synthesise emerging data from two different countries and from twenty-four different sites using visible and mappable indicators. The open-closed scale of sites that emerged provided an unusual opportunity to feed indicators of diversity into a community-based randomized trial, although the relevance of the typology to understanding and reducing the prevalence of TB in sites requires finer grained analysis and more longitudinal evaluation. This will be developed in the second year. It may also be useful to look at different tuberculosis and HIV prevalence rates as well as tuberculin skin test result across the scale, but this was not our primary objective with using the scale. The possibilities will be explored in later phases of SUSDIV.

## 2. *IPRS, Rome* [Dr Rafaele Bracalenti, Ms Alessia Montuori]

First formulation of comparison between the two field areas..

	<b>ESQUILINO</b>	<b>PIGNETO/PRENESTINO</b>
<b>A) Preliminary data</b>		
1) Local history	<p>Since 1870, Esquilino has been one of the traditional arrival places for immigrants and a commercial area, originally built for newly arrived Government employees in the newly United Italian State (particularly from northern Italy), the area then became a destination for immigrants from poor regions of central and southern Italy (from end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until World War I and later there was a sort of “building fever” in Rome; in Esquilino many buildings 4-5 floors tall were built, all similar to one another, painted yellow ochre, the cheapest colour available, rented to small shop-keepers and artisans); later among the neighbourhoods in Rome this was one of the destinations where jews expelled from Libya after 1970 (ebrei tripolini) came to live and to establish clothing shops in the area; and more recently for non-European immigrants starting in second half of the ‘70s and continuing to the present day, due to its central position and its proximity to the main railway station (Termini) and to the main public bus</p>	<p>Before 1870 the suburban area was full of vineyards and horticulture; after 1870 it became a low-cost location for the spontaneous settlement of immigrants from poor Regions of central and southern Italy. Starting from Porta Maggiore, the area is a triangle of land marked by the different lines of the railway tracks from the nearby Termini station. Illegally constructed buildings, that do not follow the building codes or an urban plan. These buildings were subsequently legalized by the Municipality. In the Prenestino Labicano Quarter, the diverse neighbourhoods of “isola pedonale” Pigneto, “villini”, and Torpignattara each next to one another, has been recently defined as an “urban mosaic”, a “patchwork”, a “kaleidoscope”. It is also almost the only neighbourhood in Rome where an effort was made to establish factories and a concentrated groups of public services, such as urban transport (these structures were built between the two World Wars, today</p>

	transport point	almost no longer in use. After World War II many “neo-realist” films were shot in this area
2) Population structure (from census)	<p>Year 1991 italian population <u>age structure</u>: 0-14: 12%; 15-54: 57%; 55-74: 24%; over 75: 8%</p> <p>Year 1991 italian population <u>gender structure</u>: 48% male, 52% female</p> <p>Year 1991 italian population <u>family structure</u>: one member 48%; 2-3 members 37%; 4-5 members 14%; 6 or more members 1%</p> <p>Year 2004 averall population <u>age structure</u>: 0-14: 10%; 15-54: 55%; 55-74: 24%; over 75: 11%</p> <p>Year 2004 only foreign population <u>age structure</u>: 0-14: 13%; 15-54: 70%; 55-74: 12%; over 75: 5%</p>	<p>Year 1991 italian population <u>age structure</u>: 0-14: 13%; 15-54: 60%; 55-74: 24%; over 75: 9%</p> <p>Year 1991 italian population <u>gender structure</u>: 47% male, 53% female</p> <p>Year 1991 italian population <u>family structure</u>: one member 33%; 2-3 members 44%; 4-5 members 21%; 6 or more members 1%</p> <p>Year 2004 averall population <u>age structure</u>: 0-14: 11%; 15-54: 53%; 55-74: 23%; over 75: 12%</p> <p>Year 2004 only foreign population <u>age structure</u>: 0-14: 17%; 15-54: 76%; 55-74: 6%; over 75: 1%</p>
<b>B)</b> <b>Visible/countable/m</b> <b>appable data</b>		
1) Housing options	<p>Big buildings in Piedmont style; big flats, mostly rented by Italians whose families owned and lived in the falts for generations to foreigners at very high rates, so the foreigners adapt by living together in the same apartment in large numbers in order to pay the rent.</p> <p>Year 1991: 59% owners, 36% renters; 5% other</p>	<p>Very different types of housing varying from zone to zone, mixed in each zone: in the zone called “isola pedonale” the houses are small, often with a ground-floor plus one or maximum two floors; further from the centre 2-3 and sometimes even 4-floor houses, with small gardens. In the “villini” area: british “garden cities” with two-family one-floor buildings</p> <p>Year 1991: 65% owners, 30% renters; 5% other</p>
2) Work options (I=Italians; F=Foreigners; B= both but separated; M= Mixed)	Hotels, bar & restaurants (M), “ethnic” shops (F), museums (I), offices (I), local market (e.g.: clothing: B, fruit & vegetables: M), public areas and garden restoration (directors: I; generic jobs: F or M)	Few local factories (chemical) & services like public transportation (I), small local market (B; M), bar & restaurants (M, B), private building renovations, public areas and garden restoration (directors: I; generic jobs: F or M)
3) Population mix	In 1991 foreign immigrants were 6%, concentrated expecially in two areas (one near a religious college, the other in small hotels near the station). The area appears to be the first, transitional place of arrival. In 2004: foreign immigrants of 120 various nationalities make up 20% of the total neighbourhood population. They come from China (20% of total foreigners), Bangladesh (13%) and the Philippines (10%). In recent years, many intellectuals and artists (foreign and	In 1991 foreign immigrants were 2%, concentrated expecially in the now pedestrian-only zone, “isola pedonale” 2004: foreign immigrants of 103 various nationalities are 11% of the total neighbourhood population. They come from Bangladesh (17% of total foreigners), China (13%) and the Philippines (10%). Fewer nationalities on a whole than Esquilino but more even share of each population. Also, as in Esquilino, students, artists and

	Italian) have decided to buy houses in Esquilino	intellectuals have decided to live here, either buying or renting houses (prices have gone up quickly)
4) Daily population movement (in &out)	Tourists, University students, employees, craftsmen, shop-owners & shop-employees in. Public employees, workers in general out.	Employees & workers in general out for work; shop-owners & shop-employees in; few factory employees in; public transport drivers & workers in
5) Transport	Very well connected by bus, urban train, railway, subway; due to recent prohibition of wholesale trade (2003) big vans are not allowed in (Chinese wholesale clothing shops in the area have been converted into show-rooms)	All around the so-called “isola pedonale” (pedestrian island) area there are buses and streets for cars; an urban train along the Casilina street; railway tracks split neighbourhood in two parts, joined up only by a little pedestrian bridge; overpass
6) Cultural offer	Many different museums (musical instruments, military, ancient Rome, contemporary history, etc); theatres	Cinemas (under renovation); initiatives by private bookshops
7) Schools	2 nursery schools; 2 primary schools; 1 middle school; 3 secondary schools; 1 University Department (oriental languages). One primary school in particular welcomes students of immigrant origin to apply, the other discourages them; the first one offers language support & intercultural activities in co-operation with parents, and about ten years ago began organizing a city festival for “intercultura” (=cross-culture) called Intermundia in the restored piazza Vittorio gardens	6 nursery schools; 5 primary schools; 3 middle schools; 0 secondary schools. There is a centre for “Intercultura” in one primary school supported by the Municipality (Polo Intermundia), with afternoon classes and activities for children and parents
8) Public services & gardens	Central National Public Library; many municipal and health offices and services; small gardens (piazza Vittorio, Villa Wolkonski)	Very active center for elderly people: only one foreign member, an East-European 55-year-old lady; 3 Hospitals (1 public, 2 private); 3 big public parks;
9) Public intervention on the neighbourhood	Important renovation interventions during the last 6-7 years (Programma di riqualificazione urbana); the most important and visible is the relocation of the historical market from the piazza Vittorio to two old barracks in disuse nearby the original location; the gardens in piazza Vittorio have become the “multicultural showcase” of Rome	Diffuse and small renovation interventions (Contratto di quartiere Pigneto, on the area called “isola pedonale” and nearby); private renovations in the “villini” area
10) Local political & religious associations and groups	Various pro-foreigners associations or organized foreign communities; also right-wing anti-immigrant associations and groups. Many NGO’s have their offices here, most of them are not neighbourhood-based, their work is addressed to the entire city. Recently a Buddhist temple has been established	Many churches offer the use of their buildings to foreigners’ associations, also for non-christian religious ceremonies (particularly muslim). There is a very active “comitato di quartiere” (neighbourhood committee), which is a strong groups of local representatives which any residents in the area can join
11) Shops &	Esquilino has one of the most intense	There are many shops run by foreigners,

restaurants	concentration of shops and restaurants owned or run by immigrants, particularly from China, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and different African countries; they are owned and run by different mixes: only Italians; Italians as owners and foreigners as employees or foreigners as owners and employees. Recently there are also shops of foreign owners and mixed employees	but it is a less commercial area compared to Esquilino; recently many “alternative” shops have been established (fair trade shops, alternative book-shops, ethnic musical instruments shops, targeting an Italian public. There are also cheap restaurants, with mostly Italian or roman cuisine
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These data are to be examined against the typological model. We are developing qualitative methods for the study of individual and group networks [level C] in the next phase of work.

### **3. Institute of Ethnology of the ASCR [Dr Zdanek Uherek]**

#### **A report from Prague**

Following the preliminary position paper, the Prague team is developing the methodology of diversity measuring in the social networks spread all over the city space. We launched the enquiry of Slovak network in Prague and we are going to continue with Poles and Vietnamese. We also make some progress with mapping out ethnic (national) diversity in the local spaces of the Czech Republic. We completed the data-base of foreigners in the Czech Republic (permanent and long-term stays) and now we are analyzing the “nests” of their concentrations. The general question is now: Where are the massive concentrations of ethnic (national) diversity and why it is so? The second question is directed to the forms of co-existence and social cohesion.

The study of social networks brings some methodological problems. Consequently, we tried to test the stability of social networks in the town of Milovice about 30 km from Prague. The work will be published in the series Prague Occasional Papers in Ethnology. The role of family networks in the integration processes had been tested among the recognized refugees in Olomouc region. Some questions on the social cohesion are a subject of enquiry in three towns in Bohemia and Moravia. The both probes will be elaborated to the format of the case studies in the next phase of work.

The first results were discussed in the public lecture organized by the French Center for the Social Research located in Prague in May 30, 2006. The lecture was held with

professor Marc Abeles (CNRS) and Zdenek Uherek (Institute of Ethnology of the ASCR). The title of the lecture: *Penser global, agir local ? Échelles et interactions*.

#### **4. Matej Bel University, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia**

Dr Alexandra Bitusikova, Ivan Chorvat

#### **Extract from itemised list of publications and research planned for Year Two**

BITUŠÍKOVÁ, Alexandra – LUTHER, Daniel. Etnologické aspekty sociálnej a kultúrnej diversity. [Ethnological aspects of social and cultural diversity.]

BITUŠÍKOVÁ, Alexandra. Urban spaces as places of cultural dialogue and interaction.

DARULOVÁ, Jolana. Sacral and profane public spaces in the city.

CHORVÁT, Ivan. Diverzita a problémy diverzifikácie v sociálnych vedách. [Diversity and problems of diversification in social sciences.]

KOŠTIALOVÁ, Katarína. Presentation of traditional culture in an urban environment.

LUTHER, Daniel. Socio-spatial transformations of the Bratislava City Centre.

October 2006 – October 2007:

- in-depth studies – case studies in selected cities of Bratislava, Banska Bystrica and Zvolen (conducting face-to-face interviews; participant observation; data analysis)
- Participating actively in the international conference on diversity in Amsterdam (July 2007)