

Assoc Prof. Jeremy Buultjens

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BIOGRAPHY

Associate Professor Jeremy Buultjens is the Director of the Regional Futures Institute, located in the School of Commerce and Management at Southern Cross University. He is also the Managing Editor of the Journal of Economic and Social Policy. He has taught in a number of units ranging from Economics and Industrial Relations through to Tourism Planning and Indigenous Tourism.

Jeremy's research interests include Indigenous entrepreneurship, regional development and tourism, tourism in protected areas, and employment relations. His publications have appeared in Tourism Management, Journal of Industrial Relations, International Journal of Employment Studies, International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management, Labour and Industry and the Australasian Journal of Business and Social Enquiry. He has also presented widely at national and international conferences.

Jeremy has conducted numerous consultancies. His clients have included the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the NSW Crown Solicitor's Office, W.A. Department of Conservation and Land Management, and the Northern Rivers Area Consultative Committee.

ABSTRACT

An Analysis of Regional Development Models and their Contribution to Sustainable Regions

The aim of this paper is to examine regional development models and assess their applicability in determining the sustainability of regions. Specifically, this examination has involved a meta-analysis of existing top-down (focus on global, national or state led initiatives); bottom-up (focus on social relations and communities); and rationalist regional development models (gives primacy to the economy before political and social order), as the basis for discussion and development of a model for application in the Australian regional development context.

Learning Experiences of the Project

Australian community-based economic development strategies have been tried, but have generally failed to take into account the realities of the larger economic context in which local communities must work (Eversole;2005: 20). The flip-side perspective shows that, in the face of globalisation a number of governments around the world, including Australia, have been proponents of 'export-led recoveries' (Mansell; 2005), however, it was found that export-orientation is unsustainable and reliance on global exports, as on global imports, precludes self-sustaining local economies. It would appear that globalisation approaches do not provide the answer to sustainability in regional Australia and that the key to sustainability requires understanding of the intimate links between local communities and global contexts (Eversole: 2003). Therefore, any framework or model of sustainable regional development must consider both contexts and provide a top-down as well as a bottom-up approach.

Potential Spillovers Identified

By creating a model for the development and planning of sustainable regions, this project will contribute to addressing the sustainability challenges for regional Australia and offer guidance to assist regions and communities to overcome these challenges.