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THOMAS R. DEWAR

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Date and Place of Birth: November 20, 1947; Illinois, USA

Higher Education: Northwestern University 1968-1974
B.A. (Psychology) 1970
M.A. (Sociology) 1971
Ph.D. (Sociology and Urban Affairs) 1974

Brief Bio:

Tom Dewar currently teaches international and community development, evaluation research, along with non-profit management, at the Bologna Center of the School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University, helps run its Center for Democratic Development, and works as a consultant with community and international development projects, focusing on issues of community organizing, organizational effectiveness and evaluation. Before that he was Director of Program Evaluation for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago, Illinois; where he continues to serve as an adviser to the foundation on its work in building community capacity, and juvenile justice – as well as in evaluation. As a faculty member of the Asset Based Community Development Institute at Northwestern University, he has helped train community leaders and organizers from all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as Australia and Southeastern Europe. Most recently he has helped direct a Youth Organizing Institute for teams of young people from across the Balkans, worked with a range of immigrant organizing projects in Europe, and has been involved in helping some new community foundations across Eastern and Central Europe get started and increase their capacity through the Community Philanthropy Initiative of the European Foundation Centre.

Prior to working with MacArthur, he was Senior Project Associate at Rainbow Research in Minneapolis, Minnesota; where he worked extensively with a wide variety of community-driven initiatives, non-profit organizations and community foundations across the U.S. to improve their effectiveness and impact. Before that he was on the faculty of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where he taught and conducted action research for over 15 years. His research and writing has addressed a variety of topics, including: community development, development of meaningful “partnerships” across sectors and with the community affected, role of mutual aid and informal networks in community building, the social and economic organization of local communities and city neighborhoods, and the dangers of an over-reliance on professional service delivery systems.

He has led evaluations that have sought to identify lessons learned from local efforts to achieve neighborhood revitalization, re-integrate formerly institutionalized (and other labeled) people into local communities, provide targeted employment for lower skilled and less experienced workers, improve the integration of school and work, carry out peacemaking and conflict resolution, strengthen sustainable agriculture, and promote strong community organizing.

Major Work Experience

- 2001- Adjunct Professor, Community and International Development, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), The Johns Hopkins University; Bologna, Italy
- 1998-2001 Director of Program Evaluation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Chicago, Illinois
- 1992-1998 Senior Project Associate, Rainbow Research; Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1989-1991 Director, Community Building Project; St. Paul, Minnesota
- 1982-1991 Senior Fellow, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- 1979-1981 Analyst/Organizer, Minnesota Project
- 1974-1982 Assistant Professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- 1973-1974 Instructor, Sociology and Urban Affairs, College of Community Studies, Northwestern University; Evanston, Illinois
- 1971-1972 Instructor, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University (Evening Div)
- 1969-1971 Research Fellow, Center for Urban Affairs and Public Policy Research, Northwestern University
- 1968-1970 Community Organizer, Community Renewal Society, N. Lawndale, Chicago

Major Research Experience

- 2006 Mid-term review of the **New Communities Program** (NCP) Chicago – the largest comprehensive community development effort currently underway in the US. NCP uses an approach that centers on finding and strengthening lead agencies in each of 16 low income neighborhoods, strong resident engagement, quality of life planning for each neighborhood, flexible grant dollars and “early action projects.” The Chicago Office of Local Investment Support Corporation (LISC) is the operating intermediary, with ten-years of core support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur; as well as some from Annie E. Casey, and Joyce Foundations. May-Nov
- 2006 Review for the **Jane Addams Juvenile Court Foundation** – an examination of the problems and prospects of the Cook County Juvenile Court, on the 100th Anniversary of the its founding as the nations’ first juvenile court. March – Nov.

- 2005 Review of the European Foundation Centre's **Community Philanthropy Initiative** (CPI), supporting the emergence and development of Community Foundations in Eastern and Central Europe. Belgium; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Macedonia and Romania.
- 2004 Conducted a "State of the Art" Review of community organizers across the US, to determine their views about how best to assess the **Impact of Organizing**, for the Marguerite Casey Foundation (Seattle, WA), with support from the Bremer Foundation (MN), Denver Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation (NC).
- 2003-2004 Conducted a Review of the MacArthur Foundation's **Large Institutional Grants**, considered one-time investments (meant to be analogous to the MacArthur Fellows, awarded to individuals) **to stabilize anchor organizations** in relation to the Foundation's primary strategies in human rights, arms control, environmental protection and sustainable development, access to public information and critical policy analysis, regional and community planning, and reproductive rights.
- 2002 Conducted an Independent Review of the Aspen's Institute's Henry Crown Fellows Program, through interviews with a representative sample of Fellows, with an emphasis on whether the Fellowship changes values, outlooks, and behaviors; Washington, DC, Chicago, IL, and Santa Barbara, CA.
- 2001-2002 Staffed a major year-long Independent Review of the **Juvenile Justice** Portfolio of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, examining the impact of work supported in terms of the extent to which it helped change current practice and policies in the juvenile justice field.
- 2001-2002 Led an evaluation team that reviewed the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's ongoing work in Chicago neighborhoods, called **Building Community Capacity**, making recommendations about ways to improve the grantmaking, community action, and knowledge building already underway.
- 2000-2002 Examined the "Investment Approach" used in the ten-year long Jobs Initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and as implemented in Denver, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Seattle; through site visits and interviews.
- 1993-1997 Member of three-person team that served as "Cluster Evaluator" for the **Integrated Farming Systems** Initiative of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in which 18 projects around the country are trying to increase the practice of sustainable agriculture through work with farmers, food consumers, rural communities, sustainable development non-profits organizations, the land grant universities, and others. Role is to report progress and "lessons learned" from the cluster as a whole, through coordination and collaboration

with local evaluators efforts and our own contact with participants.

- 1995-1997 Led a participatory evaluation of **Healthy Powderhorn**, an innovative community organizing initiative which seeks to improve community health and wellness in the Powderhorn District of Minneapolis. The project relies on citizen dialogue, community health action teams, social network building, and personal commitments to behavior change. Developed evaluation tools and methods in keeping with the project's values and philosophy. Coached a "self-evaluation" in which all project participants are active and the learning is experiential. (Allina Foundation support.)
- 1994-1995 Provided an evaluation of the **Austin Shorebank Initiative**, an ambitious project on Chicago's west side that sought to address poverty in the Austin neighborhood through creating a stronger and more competitive economy in the area and through helping the local labor force to take better advantage of the economic opportunities being created. In particular, it pursues a sector strategy by reviving the once vibrant and still present manufacturing sector in the area. To do this two entities work in concert, the Austin Labor Force Intermediary and Shorebank Enterprises. In the process, the project tries to more effectively link institutions, individuals, businesses, and community organizations. (with support from the Casey, Ford, MacArthur, and Charles S. Mott Foundations).
- 1994-1997 Participated on a team to review the progress of a national initiative, the **Pew Partnership for Civic Change**, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, that supports civic change projects around the country in 15 smaller cities of 50,000 to 150,000 residents that are often neglected in urban grant-making. It is hoped that by forging diverse, broad-based partnerships, participating communities will pioneer new strategies for solving urban problems. Team is charged with capturing the stories and reporting on the lessons being learned.
- 1993-1994 Identified promising approaches, principles and "best practices" for improving **job opportunities for members of low income families**, as part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's development of its Jobs Initiative. Conducted field explorations and a review of economic development and employment literature, and commissioned writing from established and emerging voices in the field. (with David Scheie)
- 1992-1993 Provided assessment of **Springfield Historic District Revitalization Initiative**, a collaborative effort to revitalize a racially, socially and economically mixed neighborhood in central Jacksonville, Florida. Four neighborhood organizations, in concert with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, developed a strategy to improve housing and economic conditions in the neighborhood. Assessment described progress, recommended ways to strengthen the effort, identified lessons learned in Springfield relevant to other revitalization efforts elsewhere around the country, and made suggestions for future grant-making. Sponsored by the Jessie B. duPont Fund.

- 1992-1993 Worked with the **East Side Development Corporation**, St. Paul, evaluating the difference community organizing makes to the work and relationships of a community development corporation in a working class, increasingly poor and racially diverse neighborhood in St. Paul. Put together a process of co-discovery with Board and staff to determine how the organization and neighborhood are perceived, and developed indicators by to determine future impact of organizing.
- 1989-1992 **Families in Poverty Initiative** -- part of a team (headed by Michael Q. Patton) evaluating the McKnight Foundation's \$20 million, five year anti-poverty initiative that seeks to introduce greater stability in families; to improve their employment status and move them toward self-sufficiency; to encourage public and private systems to be more responsive to them and their persistent problems; and to develop larger, more systemic solutions to the problems of families in poverty.
- 1990 **MNSHIP: Ten Year Report** -- part of a team assembled by the Minneapolis Foundation to evaluate the first ten years of the McKnight Neighborhood Self-Help Initiatives Program -- begun in 1981 to provide support for the initiatives of neighborhoods in the pursuit of neighborhood improvement, effective service delivery, social and economic opportunity, improved quality of life, self-determination, and institutional change.