

J. PONGÉRARD

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The dissident heritage

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Inuit dissidence in Nunavik: a long-lasting economic, political and social movement

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ARPE 2017-2018

14/09/2018

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- ▶ ARPE at Université de Montréal
- ▶ Research on the history, memory, heritage, and hypothetical topicality of an Inuit political movement (ITN)
- ▶ Initial plan: focus on the idea of autonomy
- ▶ Actual research: focused on the social-political uses of economy

Academic context: UdeM's Geography department

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- ▶ Strong connections within: formal and informal contacts
- ▶ Small and dynamic teams
- ▶ Researching and learning

The genealogy of my subject

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- ▶ A continuation of my dissertation in Arctic Studies:
 - ▶ Inuit territorial resistance and the Dissidence
 - ▶ Discourses of autonomy
 - ▶ A specific community at the heart of dissidence
- ▶ A focus on social sciences approaches and questions: political, economic and social mobilization (especially through the cooperatives)

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- ▶ Literature review (scientific, but also gray and activist)
- ▶ Archives
- ▶ Interviews (formal and informal, with various actors and witnesses)
- ▶ Fieldwork

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- ▶ ... beyond the cliché of strict opposition (to the JBNQA)
- ▶ a project pursued all along the XXth century
- ▶ **Autonomy**
 - ▶ Modeled on the cooperative project

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- ▶ ... beyond the cliché of strict opposition (to the JBNQA)
- ▶ a project pursued all along the XXth century
- ▶ **Autonomy**
 - ▶ Modeled on the cooperative project
 - ▶ A principle effectively enacted through self-financing
 - ▶ Achieving economic autonomy in order to legitimate claims for political autonomy
 - ▶ Anchored in territoriality

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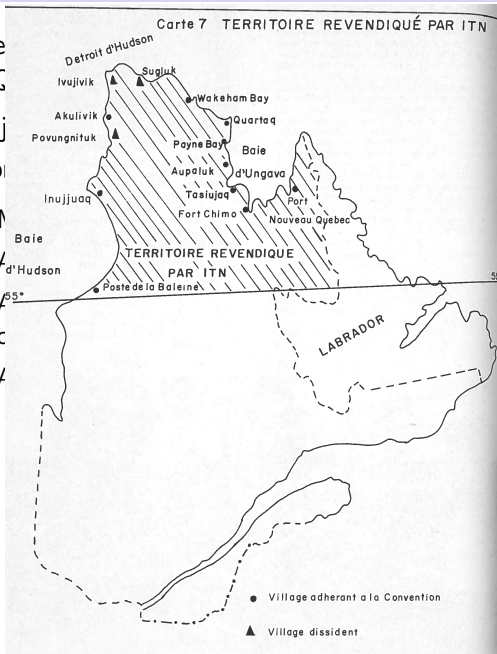
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 - ▶ Achieving economic autonomy in order to legitimate claims for political autonomy
 - ▶ Anchored in territoriality
- ▶ **Authenticity**
 - ▶ A difficult definition
 - ▶ A focus on rejecting ethnic definitions
 - ▶ The ideal of grassroots direct democracy
- ▶ “Toward Sustainable Self-Determination”?

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The structures of collective memory

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- ▶ A vivid memory anchored in the community's identity
- ▶ The local cooperative embodies and claims the dissident heritage

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- ▶ A vivid memory anchored in the community's identity
- ▶ The local cooperative embodies and claims the dissident heritage
- ▶ Beyond the institution: extended familial networks

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- ▶ The cooperative: a hegemonic institution?
- ▶ Between economic mobilization of politics. . .
- ▶ . . . and political mobilization of economy
- ▶ Limits and contestations of the institution

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Structures of mobilization

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Understanding people's understanding of economy: sharing, cooperating, collaborating

- ▶ The *Cooperative* as an (invented) institution
- ▶ *Sharing*: a collective value and a social resource
- ▶ The constructed *collaborative* meaning of local economy

Understanding people's understanding of economy: sharing, cooperating, collaborating

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- ▶ A case study on local contemporary inuit societies and the social uses of economy (Martin 2003; Gombay, 2010; Nuttall, 1991)
- ▶ Collaborative economy: understanding the “collaborative” aspect of economy in terms of social meaning (Botsman 2013)
- ▶ Political science of indigenous peoples: a case exemplifying and complexifying Corntassel’s framework on the “rights’ discourse” (Corntassel, 2008)
- ▶ Sociology of consumption: exploring the tension between political consumerism and routinization of consumption practices (Baumann *et al.*, 2015); Wahlen and Laamanen, 2015)
- ▶ Organizational and economic sociology: understanding the interplay between economic success and social-political mobilization (Simard, 1982)

- ▶ Report for EDDEC institute (Université de Montréal/ Polytechnique Montréal/ HEC Montréal)
- ▶ Communications
 - ▶ Geography: “Économie collaborative et héritage dissident : un projet social, économique et politique d’actualité au Nunavik ?”, Canadian Association of Geographers, Indigenous Peoples Working Group, IGU-CAG Annual Conference, Québec (Canada), 04/08/2018.
 - ▶ Sociology: “Cooperative economy and collaborative consumption in a “dissident” Inuit community : between activism and mundanity”, European Sociological Association, Sociology of Consumption (RN05) Mid-term Conference. Copenhagen University, 30/08/2018.
 - ▶ ... and maybe history : “Au nom du Roi, de la République et du Capital. Légitimation(s) de l’occupation des territoires autochtones de l’époque moderne à nos jours”, Paul Valéry – Montpellier 3 University, March 2019.

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- ▶ A precious opportunity to learn research by doing research
- ▶ The best way of getting to know a specific field of study and its foreign traditions
- ▶ A decisive step in my research career

Thanks !

Nakurmiik !

Merci !

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