

 The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

New Researcher Forum

Bill Reimer
bill.reimer@concordia.ca
<http://BillReimer.ca>
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 **RPLC**
RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

 **CAPR**
COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE
DES POLITIQUES RURALES

 **CCRR**
COUNCIL OF RURAL REVITALIZATION

 **NRE**

 **EJ Project**

 Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada


 Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

 Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

 Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

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Introductory Comments




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Notes

- Good research is collaborative
- Follow your passion
- Build your networks

<http://www.billreimer.net/welcome/teaching/tips-and-tools>

- Good research is collaborative
 - Including theses: don't be intimidated by request for "original thesis". You will discover your originality after much of your work is done.
- Follow your passion
 - The legacy of "objective" research is necessary, but it does not apply when considering the topic or even key claims.
 - The issue should drive the methodology – not the other way around. Therefore, you should become familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of each type of approach, so that choice is possible.
 - Objectivity is about research design: Have you designed it so that you can be **wrong**? The design must include the possibility of being wrong – not just straw man, but the strongest competing views.
- Build your network
 - Beyond your committee and beyond scholars.



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Strategies

- Ask a question
- List all possible answers
- Organize the answers
- Develop the design
 - Make sure you can be wrong (and will learn from this)
- Repeat

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Strategies for research

- Ask a question – as a question (with ?)
 - Core element of research: The answer is often a better question
 - E.g. (my research history) What is social capital?
 - What are the various types of social capital?
 - In what ways to people seek support?
 - How effective are the various types of support?
- Answer the question with as many answers as you can imagine.
 - Seek help collecting answers
 - Be expansive, not critical
- Organize the answers according to the most reasonable, strategic, competing, etc.
 - These will serve as a basis for the research design (making sure you can be wrong)
- Integrate appropriate comparisons in your design
 - Make them explicit and strategic
 - This is also the process during which research questions can be considered with respect to the objectives you feel are important (including political advocacy).
 - Why is this question and its related answer important to you?
- Conduct the research
- Ask a better question