From Black Horses to White Steeds: Building Community Resilience

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6 x 9, 378 b/w pages, soft cover, $29.95
Edited by Laurie Brinklow and Ryan Gibson
14 Chapters featuring b/w photos, Tables, Charts;
Endnotes, Bibliography, Index

From Black Horses to White Steeds celebrates and critiques the dynamics of innovation, governance, and culture in place. Case studies from both sides of the North Atlantic illustrate episodes of “turning around”: evolution, transformation, and visionary strategy that breathe new life into the term “think global, act local.”

They offer a narrative focused on the strength of local initiatives, the impacts of collective power, and re-envisioning local assets. They explore how various “dark horses” including minorities, small towns, peripheries, Aboriginal communities, those with little money, status, voice, or political leverage can rise to the occasion and chart livable futures.

From Black Horses to White Steeds is a companion book to Remote Control (ISER 2009) and Place Peripheral (ISER 2015).

“Rural folk have always been both resilient and resourceful. The narratives in this book are truly inspiring in ways to deal with the current and future pace as new technology and environmental change presents challenges and opportunities. Local communities everywhere will benefit from the insights contained herein.”

— HONOURABLE DIANE GRIFFIN, Senate of Canada

“Like so many collections of case studies, this book provides plenty of inspiring examples. Unlike many, however, it includes useful international comparisons with thoughtful interpretations, methodological transparency, and respect for the limits of the techniques that make the cases useful for critical analysis as well as activism.”

— BILL REIMER, Professor Emeritus, Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University

“That remote rural and island communities should thrive in this day and age might fly in the face of conventional wisdom. Yet, there is clear evidence of vibrant communities that creatively exploit the opportunities presented by their geographical predicament. No horsing around here: these are narratives of leadership, vitality, and resilience; crafted out of grit, imagination, and public/private/voluntary-sector partnerships.”

— GODFREY BALDACCHINO, UNESCO Co-Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada