

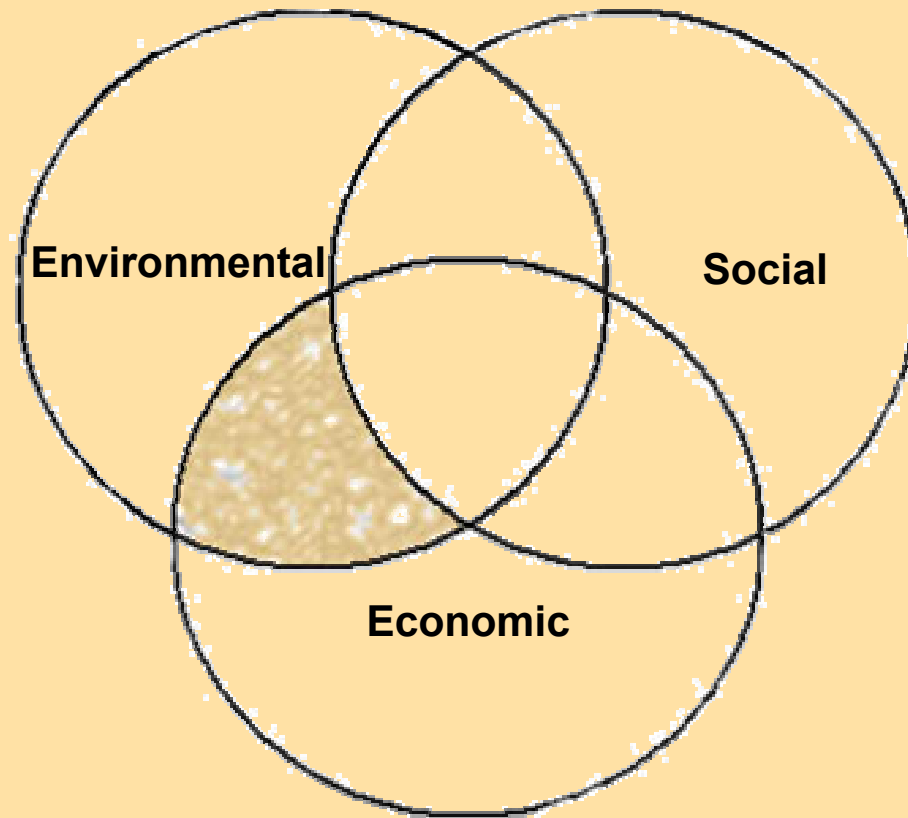
Toward an Inclusive Framework for Environmental Impact Assessment

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Toward an Inclusive Framework



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Legislation

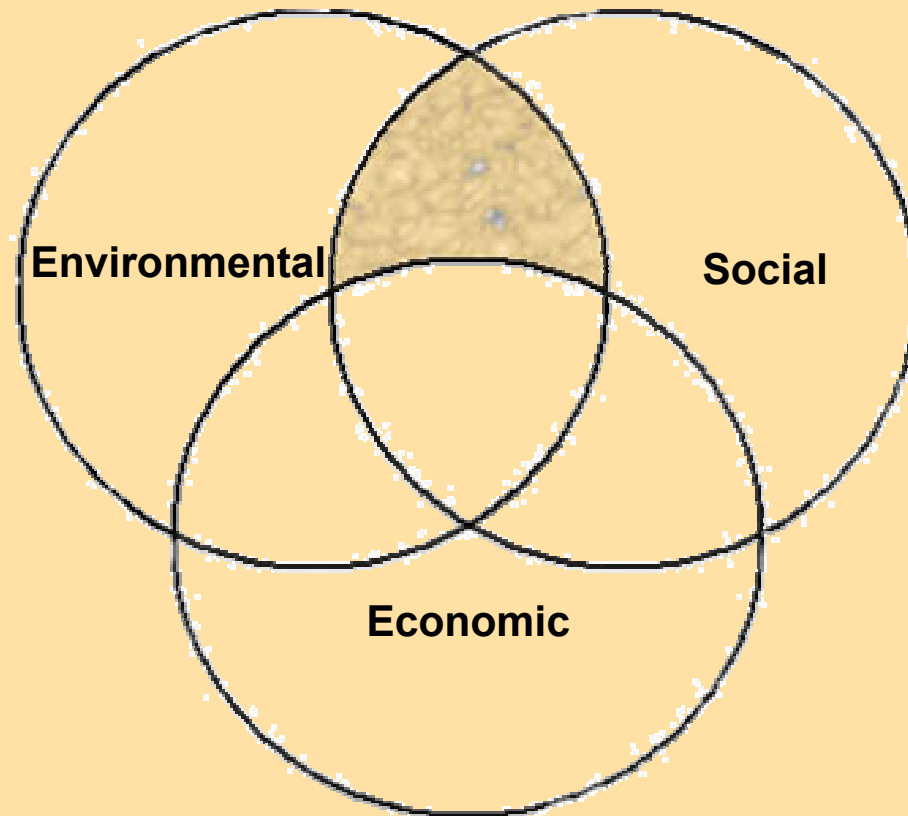
Benefits

Obstacles

Framework

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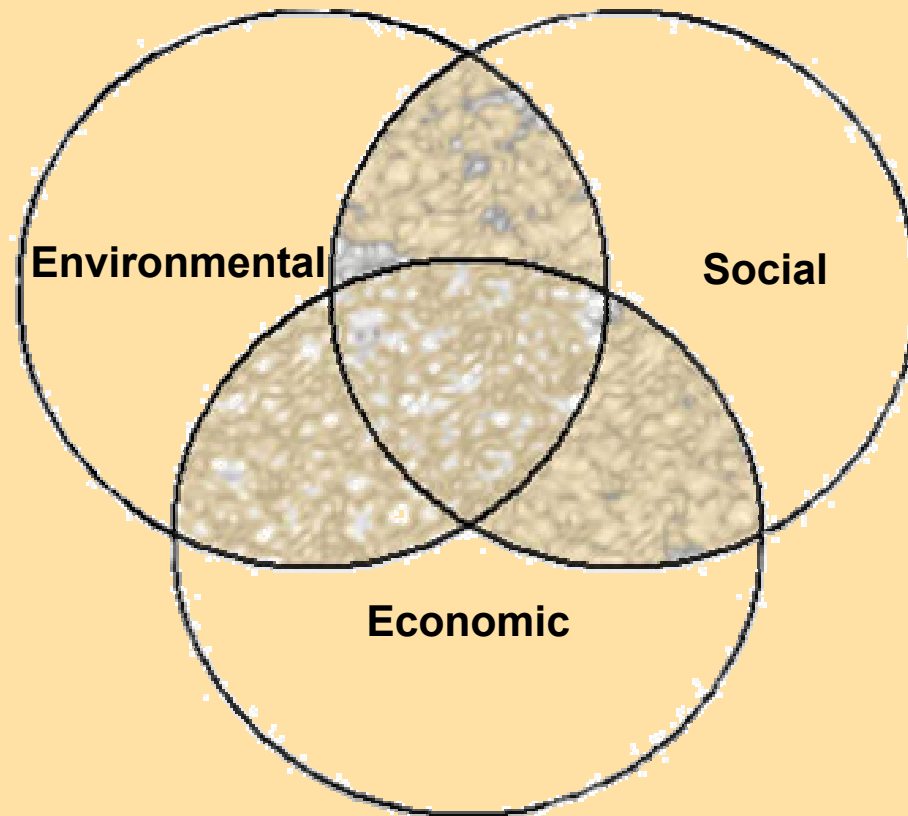
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Room in the Legislation?

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

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- ...ensure environmental effects of projects receive careful consideration before actions are taken;
- ...encourage actions that promote sustainable development ... a healthy environment and economy;
- ...ensure projects do not cause significant adverse environmental effects outside the jurisdictions in which the projects are carried out;
- ...to ensure that there be an opportunity for public participation in the environmental assessment process.

Benefits of an Inclusive Process

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- Overall cost-effectiveness
- Putting Humans back into the equation
- More informative; predictive value
- Proponents can demonstrate concern for impacts beyond those on the environment
- Identification of positive impacts
- Contribute to, and further the discipline of EIA

Challenges - Broad

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- Multisectoral, Interdisciplinary
- Definitions – EIA, Health
- Qualitative nature (initially)
- Identifying and incorporating intangible impacts
- More meaningful, consistent, cost-effective public input and consultation
- Buy-in
- Scale

Challenges - Narrow

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- Indicators (E.g. Cultural Impacts)
- Unit of Analysis
- Absence of Baseline Data
- Timelines
- Applicability

Current State of EIA in Canada

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- Different levels of EIA result in uneven, inconsistent Public Input
- There have been a number of efforts made to include Health in EIA
- No framework or guidelines recognized as a standard for the undertaking of a comprehensive and inclusive EIA

Building on the Foundation

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- Health Impact Assessment provides the ideal jumping-off point for a more inclusive EIA framework
- Not a well-defined body of literature
 - Range of studies fall under HIA
 - Few EIAs incorporating cultural or social issues beyond health
 - Some movement toward HuIA

Identifying the Components

- Health:

“a state of complete physical, mental, and social well being”

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Identifying the Indicators

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- Physical Well-Being:
 - Disease
 - Frequency
 - Traditional (M & M) vs. Emerging
 - Infrastructure
 - Access to Safe, Healthy Food

Identifying the Indicators

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- Mental Well-Being:
 - Mental Illness
 - Stress Levels
 - Rates of Abuse

Identifying the Components

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- Social Well-Being:
 - Social Capital
 - Cultural Activities
 - Health Care Services
 - Community Services
 - Employment Rates
 - Cost of Living: Average Income
 - Education

Finding Meaning in Indicators

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- Data (from various disciplines)
- Qualitative Evaluations
- Not selective
- Presence/Absence Summaries
- Matrices
- Predictive Summaries

Finding Meaning in Indicators

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Indicator	Historical	Current	w/out Intervention	w/ Proposed Intervention
Community Health Care Service				
Cultural Activities				
Access to Secondary Education				
Income: Cost of Living	>1	<1	<1	>1



**Present /
Accessible**



**Weak Presence /
Occasional Access**



**Absent /
Inaccessible**

Now What?

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- Ask the questions:
 - Consider Health and Human Impacts in their broadest sense, in all EIAs, from Screenings to Panel Reviews.
- Build Human Impacts into mitigative and monitoring programs
- Follow up; Revisit; Revise.

Acknowledgements

- **Nonita Yap, YESA Ltd.**
- **CEAA**
- **A.D. Latornell Travel Fund**
- **IAIA'04 Organizing Committee,
Student Waiver Program**