

Social Capital and Quality of Life in Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhoods: A Critical Analysis

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Structure

1. Introduction - context, definitions, functions, objectives
2. Methodology - measuring SC
3. Selected findings
 - *Neighbourhoods, conditions, SC ... relationships*
4. Conclusions and policy implications

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Introduction:

Context, definitions, functions,
objectives

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Context & Interest

- Explanatory / analytical tool ... new?
- Economic v. social focus
 - *how / extent to which the social matters?*
- Policy interest
 - *EU, World Bank, OECD*
 - *NESF 2003, TF on Active Citizenship 2006*
- Themes
 - *Social capital, prosperity Good governance*
 - *Local territorial development (sustainable) social inclusion*
 - *Mobilising resources, building capacity, community development ... partnership ... homogeneity*
- Social capital in public policy
 - *Institutional Community Relabeling?*

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SC Definitions and Functions

- Definitions (not agreed), measurement ...
- Influencing factors & outcomes
 - *People ... education, family, social class ...*
 - *Places diversity of use, facilities ...*
 - *Institutional aspects ... decentralised*
- Social capital & prosperity... impact?
 - *Product or cause ... multi-causality ... not conclusive*
- Circularity of debate ... tautological concept?

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Theoretical Concept

Bourdieu (1986)	individual advancement - groups - " <i>deliberate construction of sociability ... resource</i> "
Coleman (1988)	role of social capital in human capital development
Granovetter (1985)	" <i>embeddedness of economic action in ... social relations</i> "; " <i>strong</i> " and " <i>weak</i> " ties
Putnam (1993)	well-functioning democracy & economic Performance ... territorial application
(i) Norms, values ... trust & reciprocity (ii) Networks (iii) Consequences (function)	(i) Bonding - strong, homogeneous (ii) Bridging - weak, heterogeneous (iii) Linking - vertical ... power relations

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Perspective & Objectives

- Civic perspective ... spatial application ... contested
 - "The stocks of social trust, norms and networks which people can draw on to solve common problems" (Putnam, 1995)
- Objectives
 1. Test alternative means of measurement
 2. Types and variations in social capital .. neighbourhoods
 3. Link between social capital & impact associated with it .. Quality of life, development trend ..

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Methodology

Research strategy, design, conceptual framework, measurement

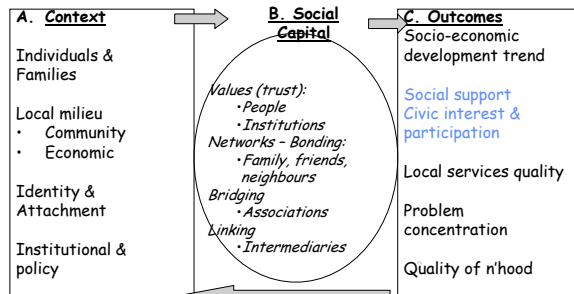
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Methodology

- Research strategy: quantitative & qualitative
 - Research design (cross-sectional)
 - Research methods
 - Resident survey (sample)
 - Interviews
 - Local meetings
 - Secondary data & observation
 - Research sites - criteria
 - Different types
 - Identity & boundaries (EDs)
 - History of community development & public policy interventions
 - Analysis - SPSS & techniques
- Tipperary Town (part), 2,130 pop., 760 h'holds
 - Moyross, 4,100 pop, 1,110 h'holds
 - Kings Island, 2,760, pop., 972 h'holds,
 - Thurles (part) selected areas, c. 1,900 pop., 729 households
 - 4 independent samples (400)
 - 100 x n'hood
 - Electoral lists & other
 - Random & quota - by area
 - Face-to-face "cold calling"
 - Spring - Summer 2003

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Conceptual Framework



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Dimensions	Bonding Strong, homogeneous	Bridging Weak, horizontal, heterogeneous	Linking Weak, vertical, heterogeneous
Elements			
Values	Social trust Reciprocity Cohesion (2) Inclusion	Trust community leaders Trust in community organisations	Trust in institutions (7) Community efficacy Local governance (3)
Networks	Know neighbours Network density Interaction See enough of family & friends?	In vol orgs-passive In vol orgs-active Religious services (Reasons for non-involvement)	Aware of sc linking organisations Involved in SC linking organisations
Intermediate outcomes	Doing & accepting favours Social support	Civic interest (news media) Civic action (voting, action on n'hood problems)	

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CONTEXTUAL TEST FACTORS	DESCRIPTION
Conditions	
Neighbourhood location	4 n'hoods, city v. town, disadvantage v. average
Community infrastructure	Average score frequency of use of 10 facilities
Economic infrastructure	Average score frequency of use 5 facilities
Attachment / identification n'hood	Average score: (1) sense of belonging, (2) pride
Outcomes	
Satisfaction	Average score: (1) place to live (2) improving (3) stay v. leave
Quality of local services	Average score rating quality of 9 services
Concentration of problems	Average score: extent to which 16 issues are problems (social, economic, environmental...)
Personal safety in n'hood	Average score: (1) walking alone during daytime (2) after dark

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Social capital in urban neighbourhoods

Selected findings

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Study neighbourhoods 2002 (CSO)

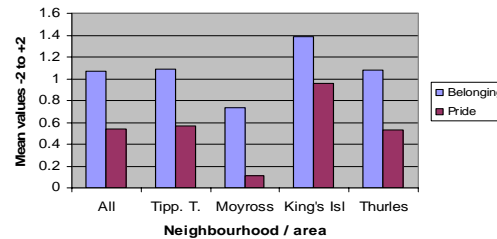
Area	Classification (GAMMA)	Social class	Education	CD & policy
Tipperary Town	Disadvantaged - disimprovement	Overall mixed	27% low qualification	Long history, organic development
Moyross	Very disadvantaged - improvement	Lower socio-economic classes	40% low qualification	Policy support 1990's
King's Island	Extremely disadvantaged - much worse	Lower socio-economic classes	46% low qualification	Policy support 1990's
Thurles	Below average - disimprovement	Overall mixed	21% low qualification	Limited & very recent support

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Area (Census)	Absolute Affluence/ Deprivation Score				Relative Affluence / Deprivation Score		
	2002	1996	1991	Change 1991-02	2002	1996	1991
Tipp. East Urban	0.3	-5.0	-10.6	9.5	-14.9	-11.9	-10.6
Ballynanty (for Moyross)	-13.0	-18.1	-29.3	16.3	-28.2	-25.0	-29.3
St. John's A (King's Island)	-35.9	-35.7	-40.7	4.8	-51.1	-42.6	-40.7
St. John's B (King's Island)	-8.0	-15.1	-16.9	8.8	-23.2	-22.0	-16.9
St. John's C (King's Island)	3.8	-10.1	-13.7	17.5	-11.4	-17.0	-13.7
Thurles Urban	10.1	4.1	0.6	9.5	-5.1	-2.8	0.6
Ireland	17.4	9.1	1.9	15.4	2.2	2.2	1.9

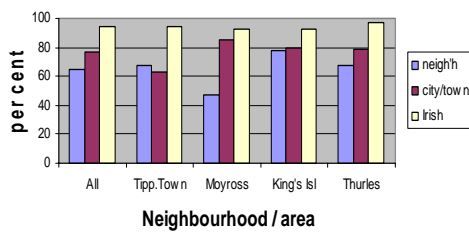
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Conditions: Attachment to neighbourhood



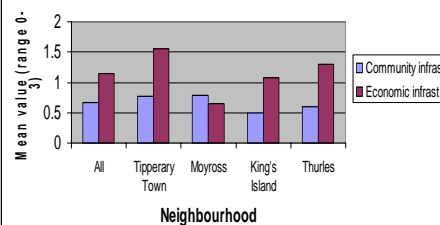
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Conditions: Sense of pride in different units of territory



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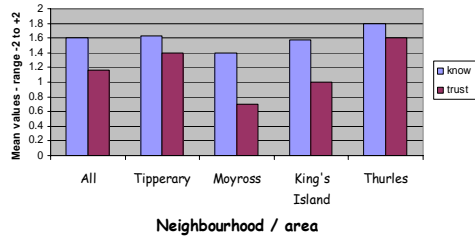
Density of use of community infrastructure & economic infrastructure



- Community infrastructure**
- Community centre
 - Social centre
 - Parks
 - Playground
 - Indoor sports
 - Outdoor sports
 - Library
 - School
 - Adult education
 - Neighbourhood church
- Economic infrastructure**
- Shops
 - Pubs
 - Restaurant / coffee shop
 - Cinema / theatre
 - Work
- Frequency of use:**
weekly, monthly, yearly, never

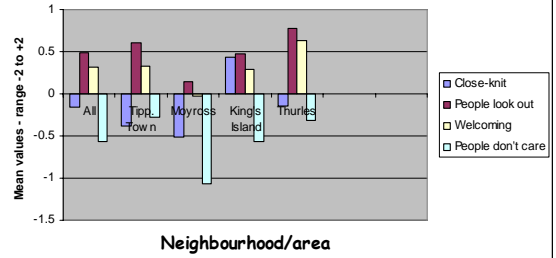
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Bonding: Extent of knowing & trusting people in the neighbourhood



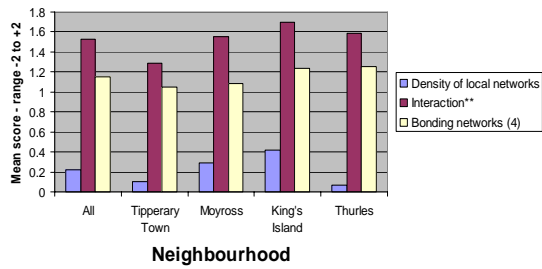
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Bonding: Attitudes towards community



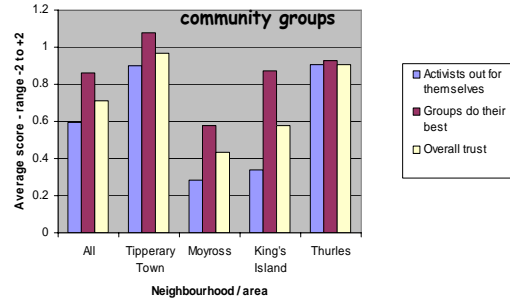
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Bonding: Networks



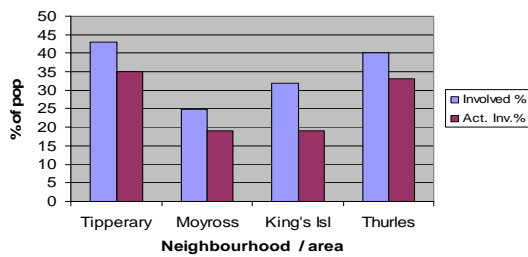
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Bridging: Trust in community activists and community groups



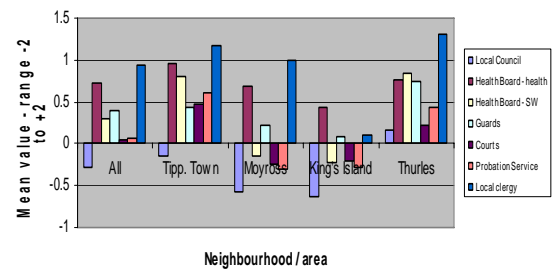
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Bridging: Involvement in voluntary / community organisations

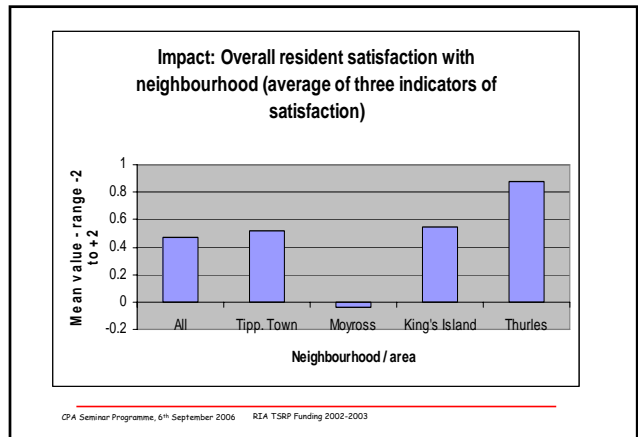
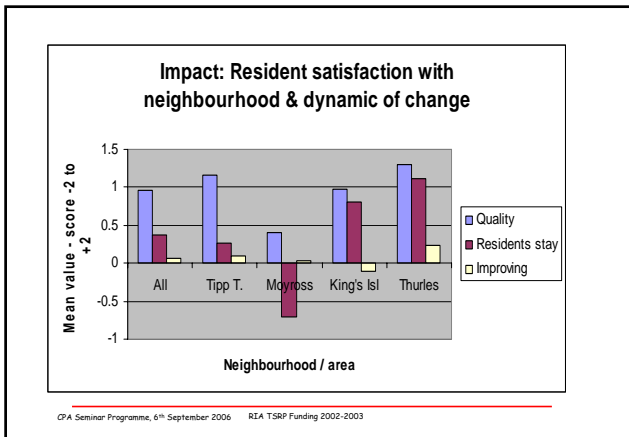
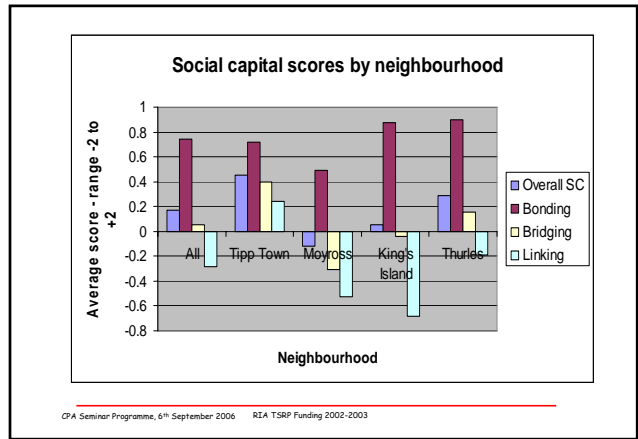
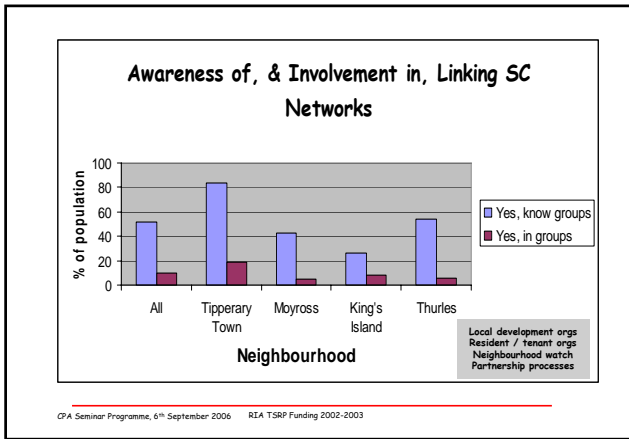
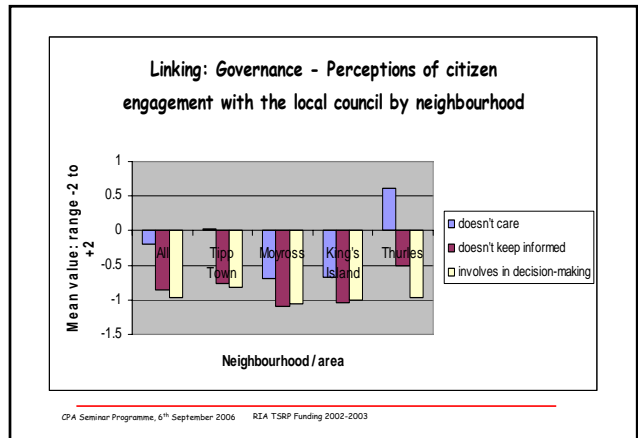
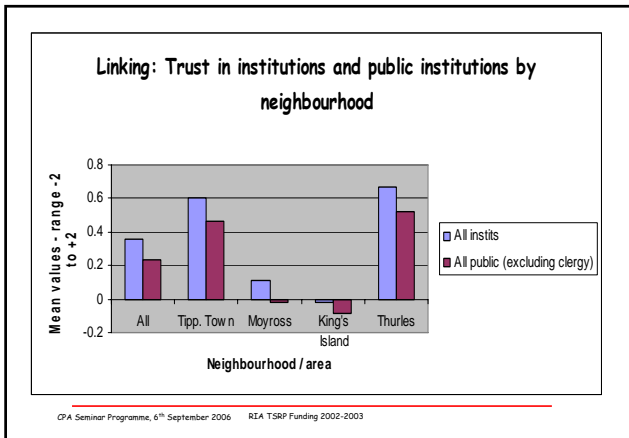


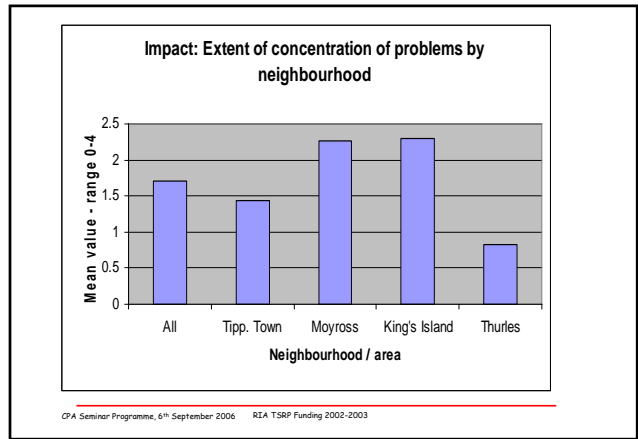
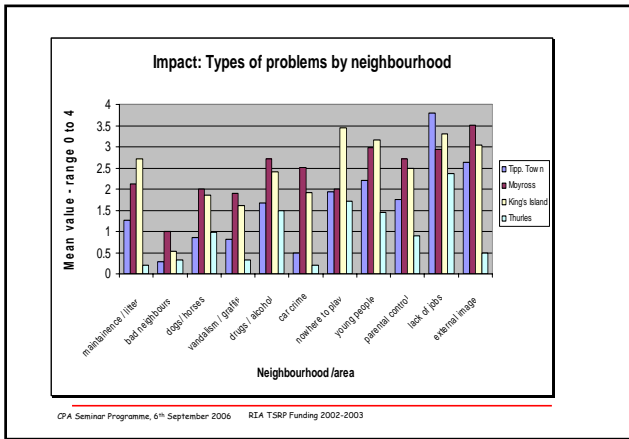
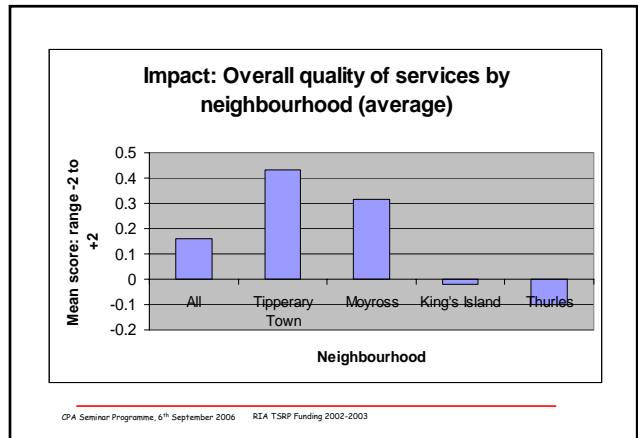
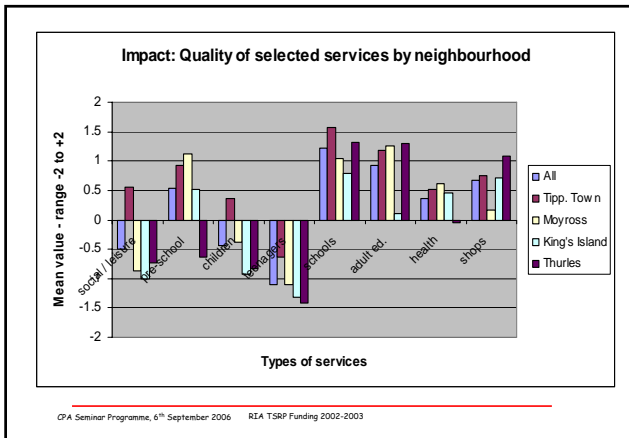
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Linking: Trust in various institutions by neighbourhood



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Dependent variables	1. Social Capital including int. outcomes	2. Social Capital excluding int. outcomes	3. Bonding	4. Bridging	5. Linking
Predictors					
Context - Place	+ City***	- Moyross** - King's Isl.* + Tipperary T.*	- Moyross* + King's Isl.** - Tipperary T.*	- Moyross* - King's Isl. + Tipperary T.	- Moyross** - King's Isl.*** + Tipp. T.***
Composition	- Renting* + Education* - Single parent / alone**	+ Education** - Single parent / alone*	+ Residence* - Single parent / alone*	+ Education** - Single parent / alone	+ Education - Single parent / alone*
Contextual conditions	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality*** + Identity*** + Services*	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality** + Identity*** - Problems*	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality** + Identity*** - Problems**	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality** + Identity*** + Services*	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality** + Identity*** + Services* + Problems**
Adjusted R sq	0.427	0.451	0.354	0.328	0.332
F stat	36.464***	36.197***	24.695***	21.531***	22.290***
Cases	382	386	390	379	387

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Dependent variables	Values	Networks	Intermediate Outcomes
Predictors			
Context - Place	- Moyross*	- City***	- City
Composition	- Renting + Education* - Single parent / alone	- Renting* + Education - Single parent / alone**	+ Residence* - Renting - Single parent / alone*
Contextual conditions	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality** + Identity*** + Services** - Problems***	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality*** + Identity*** + Services + Problems	+ Comm. Inf.*** + Quality + Identity + Services + Problems**
Adjusted R sq	0.441	0.335	0.158
F stat	33.980***	22.072***	8.934***
Cases	378	378	382

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Conclusions & Policy Implications

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Conclusions

- Bonding ... most developed
 - All neighbourhoods
 - Positive and negative
 - Bridging & linking weaker
 - Weakness of governance structures
 - Disadvantaged v. more affluent neighbourhoods?
 - Variations
 - Socio-economic factors
 - education, single parenthood / alone, length of residence, renting
 - Place-based factors
 - City / provincial town
 - Conditions ... facilities, services, problems ...
- "Better neighbourhoods, higher levels of social capital"*

 - SC - some relationship to relative disadvantage?
 - No relationship of causality ..
 - Embeddedness of social capital ...
 - Multi-causal explanations
 - SC .. Shaping and is shaped by
 - Values as well as networks.. Sources?
 - Better conditions ... more positive values

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Policy implications

- Problems of neighbourhoods cannot be reduced to deficits of SC
- SC as a policy tool?
 - simplistic & selective application
- Community agency / structures
- Civil society from the grass-roots
- Benefits & trajectories
 - Links to economic capital, human capital
 - Wider economic & market conditions (including housing)
- Focus on changing conditions...
 - Services, social mix via housing policies, education / school access, family support, transport

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CPA Seminar

6th September 2006

**Title: Social Capital and Quality of Life in Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhoods: A
Critical Analysis,
Eileen Humphreys**

Detailed results of analysis

Table 1: Models – Overall social capital and bonding, bridging and linking social capital

Dependent variables →	Model 1 Social Capital – Composite measure of social capital: Bonding, Bridging & Linking <u>including</u> intermediate outcomes	Model 2 Social Capital – Composite measure of social capital: Bonding, Bridging & Linking <u>excluding</u> intermediate outcomes	Model 3 Bonding Social Capital Composite measure of Bonding <u>excluding</u> intermediate outcomes (social support)	Model 4 Bridging Social Capital – Composite measure of Bridging <u>excluding</u> intermediate outcomes (civic community)	Model 5 – Linking Social Capital – Composite measure of Linking <u>excluding</u> intermediate outcomes (civic community)
↓ Predictor variables					
Contextual – place					
City (Dummy variable)	-0.234*** (-5.068)	-	-	-	-
Moyross (Dummy variable)	-	-0.218** (-2.601)	-0.169* (-2.008)	-0.417** (-3.065)	-0.296** (-2.863)
Tipperary Town (Dummy variable)	-	0.146* (2.037)	-0.154* (-2.127)	0.090 (0.704)	0.346*** (3.514)
King's Island (Dummy variable)	-	-0.176* (-2.157)	0.253** (3.100)	-0.221 (-1.631)	-0.738*** (-7.269)
Compositional – individuals & households					
Length of residence (1, 2, 3)	-	-	0.078* (2.147)	-	-
Renting home (Dummy variable)	-0.106* (-2.284)	-	-	-0.345*** (-3.521)	-
Education (1, 2, 3)	0.093* (2.366)	0.119** (2.678)	-	0.227** (2.801)	0.098 (1.630)
Single parent / alone (dummy variable)	-0.153** (-3.177)	-0.165** (-3.130)	-0.132* (-2.501)	-0.127 (-1.289)	-0.178* (-2.480)
Contextual – facilities, services, quality of life					
Density of use – community infrastructure	0.369*** (7.256)	0.459*** (7.856)	0.232*** (3.959)	0.773*** (7.326)	0.278*** (3.544)
Quality of neighbourhood	0.096*** (3.753)	0.088** (2.738)	0.067* (2.098)	0.143** (2.673)	0.119** (3.039)
Neighbourhood attachment / Identification	0.114*** (5.468)	0.138*** (6.321)	0.147*** (6.221)	0.153*** (3.585)	0.099** (3.161)
Quality of services	0.075* (2.342)	-	-	-	0.118* (2.330)
Problem concentration	-	-0.089* (-2.407)	-0.103** (-2.8071)	-	-
Intercept / constant	0.078 (1.034)	-0.209* (-2.315)	0.547*** (5.005)	-0.619*** (-3.778)	-0.601*** (-5.184)
Adjusted R²	0.427	0.451	0.354	0.328	0.332
F-statistic	36.179***	36.197***	24.695***	21.531***	22.290***
N	379	386	390	379	387

t-values in brackets

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

Variables: city=1, other neighbourhoods=0; Moyross=1, other neighbourhoods=0; Tipperary Town=1, other neighbourhoods=0; King's Island 1, other neighbourhood=0; Length of residence: 1=<5 years, 2=5-19 years, 3=20 years and over; Renting: 1=local authority/private renting / other, 0=owner occupied; Education: 1=lower secondary or below, 2=upper secondary, 3=third level; Single parent / living alone=1, other=0; Density of use of community infrastructure: scale 0 (never use) to 3 (most regular use); Quality of neighbourhood: scale -2 (very poor) to +2 (very good); Neighbourhood attachment / identification: scale -2 (no attachment) +2 (strong identification / attachment); Quality of services: scale -2 (very poor) to +2 (very good); Problem concentration: scale 0 (no problems) to 4 (very big).

Table 2: Models – social capital values, networks and intermediate outcomes

Dependent variables Predictor variables ↓	→	Social capital values	Social capital networks	Social capital intermediate outcomes
		Composite measure centred on trust & reciprocity (people in the neighbourhood, community activists and organisations and institutions), social cohesion and inclusion	Composite measure based on existence of & interaction within the closest networks, involvement in voluntary orgs., & regular attendance at religious services, awareness & involvement in linking social capital networks	Composite measure based on availability of social support in times of need & civic interest, participation and action
Contextual – place				
City (Dummy variable)	-		-0.421*** (-4.828)	-0.061 (-0.813)
Moyross (Dummy variable)	-0.178* (-2.573)		-	-
Tipperary Town (Dummy variable)	-		-	-
King's Island (Dummy variable)	-		-	-
Compositional – individuals & households				
Length of residence (1, 2, 3)	-		-	0.103* (2.278)
Renting home (Dummy variable)	-0.050 (-0.875)		-0.155* (-2.151)	-0.046 (-0.709)
Education (1, 2, 3)	0.096* (2.020)		0.116 (1.889)	-
Single parent / alone (dummy variable)	-0.082 (-1.436)		-0.213** (-2.872)	-0.148* (-2.329)
Contextual – facilities, services, quality of life				
Density of use – community infrastructure	0.221*** (3.544)		0.604*** (7.507)	0.341*** (4.927)
Quality of neighbourhood	0.116** (3.365)		0.064 (1.441)	0.062 (1.657)
Neighbourhood attachment / Identification	0.150*** (5.982)		0.140*** (4.346)	0.037 (1.302)
Quality of services	0.112** (2.819)		0.008 (0.153)	0.085 (1.963)
Problem concentration	-0.159*** (-4.750)		0.038 (0.749)	0.134** (3.138)
Intercept/constant	0.317** (3.201)		-0.413** (-3.252)	0.575*** (3.946)
Adjusted R²	0.441		0.335	0.158
F-statistic	33.980***		22.072***	8.934***
N	378		378	382

t-values in brackets

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

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