



Navigating Climate Economics Project: Author Interview

Transcript

00:00:00:64 - 00:00:08:79

Narrator: In the Shadow of the Hills Project, Author Interview. Introduction.

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Peter: I'm, my name is Peter Tsigaris. I'm from the Department of Economics, from the Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics.

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Peter: I've been at TRU for 31 years. I came here in 1993.

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Peter: I teach economics and do research in the area of environmental economics and public finance and education of economics, and I enjoy working with students.

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Narrator: Could you please tell me about the project?

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Peter: Oh, yeah, for sure. This is a book that I worked with my students.

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Peter: And it's a course that I was assigned last year, and it was a course that was called a Capstone course. I wasn't sure what I was going to do in that course.

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Peter: And I walked into the first day of classes, and I asked my students, what do you want to do? And they said, we don't know.

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Peter: And I said, why don't we write a book about socio-economic issues in Kamloops. And they were surprised.

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Peter: So, I talked to them about the book, you know, how we can develop it. We brainstormed to find out socio-economic issues in Kamloops.

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Peter: And each student picked a topic, and they started working on their chapter. They each were assigned a chapter on a particular topic like homelessness, like unemployment in Kamloops, like the healthcare cost, of waiting time for surgeries, uh, about the Performance Arts Center.

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Peter: And so, each one took a particular topic, and they worked on it during the semester. And yeah, we came up with a book.

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Narrator: How is the TRU Open Press able to support your project?

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Peter: They are amazing. They're really easy to work with.

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Peter: They provide a lot of support. They helped me in terms of copy editing.

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Peter: They helped me in terms of creating tables. Anytime I had the difficulty, they were there.

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Peter: Images, copyrights on the images. They were editing, too.

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Peter: They were really amazing. Yeah.

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Peter: So, I got lots of good help, and I'm extremely appreciative.

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Narrator: What advantages and benefits will students gain from this book?

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Peter: They will gain a lot of benefits because they, you know, can say that, you know, we created new knowledge, and they can use this book that they co-authored with their professor to put in their CV to find a job. So, there's lots of benefits that they get from being collaborators with their professor in producing new knowledge.

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Peter: Yeah, firms and organizations that when they go out in the real world, as I say, will appreciate this type of work, this type of assignments, this type of assessment of the students. Yeah.

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Narrator: How were the students guided to conduct the research?

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Peter: We were meeting during the class times, and I was going over what they've done.

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Peter: So, I asked them to do first a literature review in the area, I would review each student. It was a small class, would review each student's literature review.

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Peter: We had to get ethics approval, which we went to a course about ethical issues in research. We all finished that course.

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Peter: We got a certificate for it, some of them did a survey, so I had to look at the survey. Others gather data from public sources, and they analyzed every time every time they produce something, I had to review it and give them feedback back and we moved along that way.

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Narrator: What gives credibility to the book?

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Peter: The credibility of the book comes from me asking experts to write a foreword about the book.

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Peter: For this book, the previous mayors in Kamloops wrote a foreword, about the importance of the book. One of them was the Mel Rothenburger, and another one was Terry Lake.

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Peter: They both wrote a wonderful foreword, giving credibility to the book. They they were previous mayors of Kamloops, and they're well known in the community.

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Narrator: Looking ahead, are there any new areas or topics you are considering exploring in future collaborative projects with students?

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Peter: Yep. I'm not sure if I'm going to continue with books. I might.

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Peter: I'm teaching, again, the capstone course, and I'm teaching actually three courses next term. All of them involve students doing projects, projects and research.

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Peter: One is at the graduate level and two at the undergraduate level. One could be that we continue in the capstone course, you could continue with part two and call this part one book and continue with more issues.

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Peter: In the other courses, we also now have an open access journal, student journal and I could issue I'm the editor; I'm the chief editor. It's called Future Earth.

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Peter: Again, I got lots of help from the Open Press, TRU Open Press, and it could be possible that I become a guest. I'm a chief editor, but I might become a guest editor, kind of editor for a

particular topic and then have students submit their work there.

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Peter: So, there's lots of good stuff that can be done.

00:06:32:41 - 00:06:37:29

Narrator: Thank you for the interview, Peter.