

TELLING THE STORY OF T.C.R.C. RESEARCH

- Research Questions -

- What TCRC projects would be of notable quality to highlight at the TCRC's 25th anniversary conference? What projects were considered impactful, useful to the host organization, and/or met the needs of the community?
- What trends in projects (including economic, sociopolitical, cultural, and environmental) might be found over the years and how have these changed?
- What can the TCRC archive of projects tell us about the practice/discipline of community-based (university-based) research and where it's come from/where it seems to be going?

Host Organizations Interviewed:

- Camp Kawartha
- Green Up
- KWIC
- New Canadians Centre
- OPIRG
- PPCII
- Seasoned Spoon

- Methodology -

Two main methods of data collection were used for the duration of this project. First, archival research was conducted in the TCRC database of past TCRC projects from 1995-2016. Attention was given to the date projects were proposed, the departments they were filed under, and the themes of the projects. The second method consisted of 10 semi-structured interviews conducted with:

- TCRC staff
- Trent faculty
- Host organizations

Interviews addressed questions of projects' results, impact, effectiveness and potential for further research.

- Common Themes -

Sociopolitical:

- Disabilities
- Housing
- Aging
- Community Belonging

Environmental:

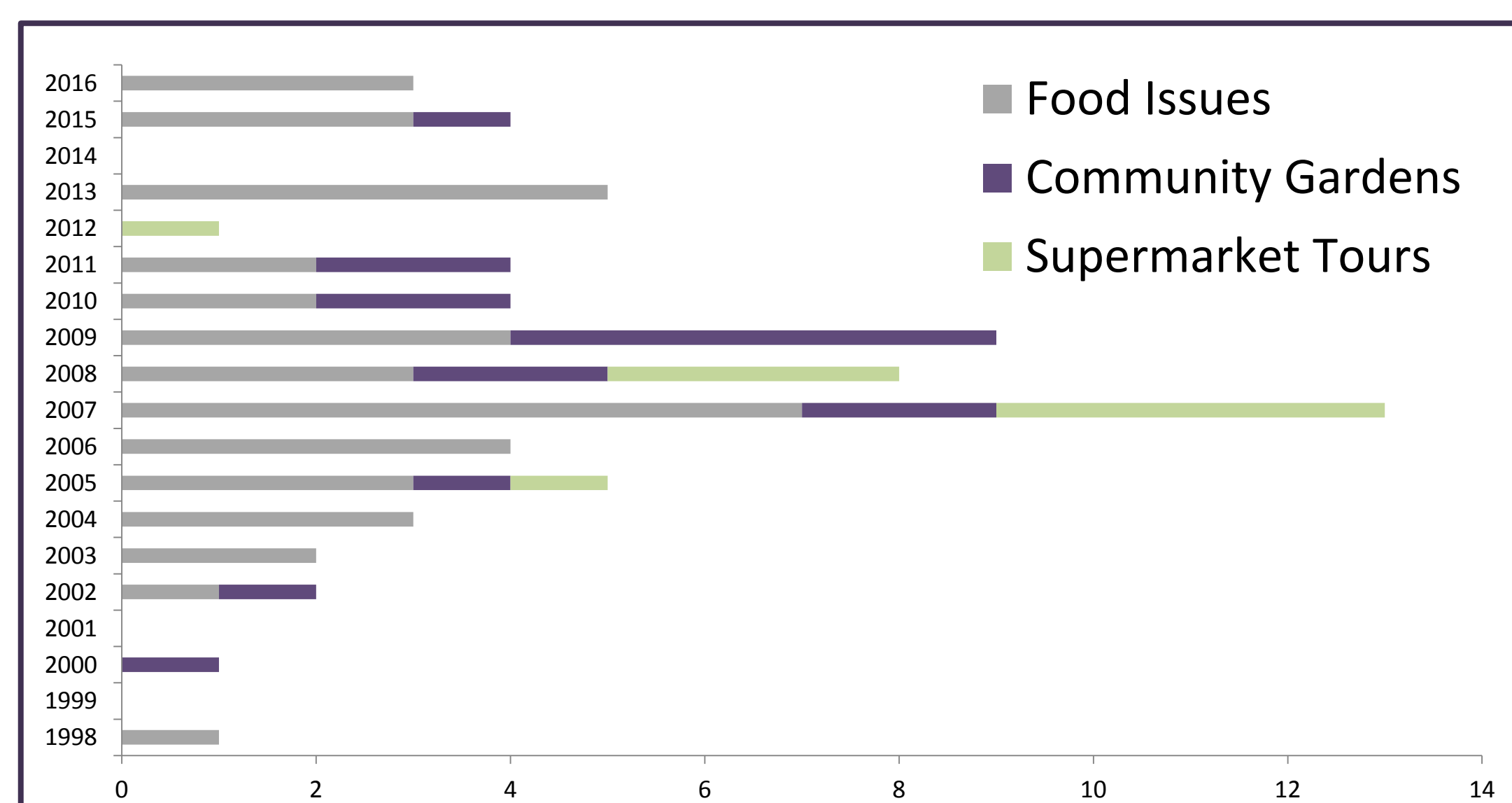
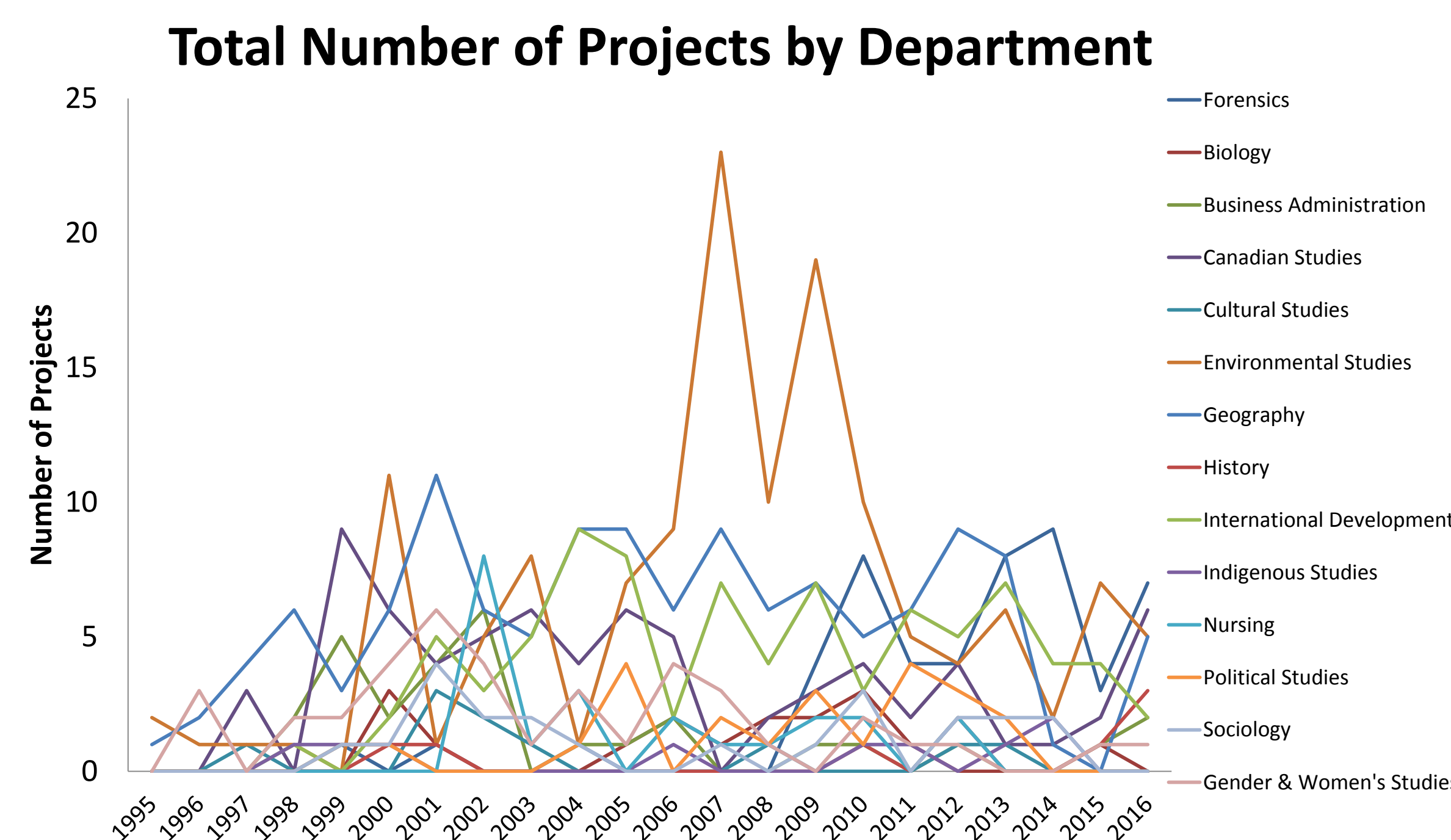
- Invasive Species
- Environmental Education
- Food Issues

Economic:

- Feasibility Studies

Cultural:

- Heritage Sites



- Interview Findings -

In addition to highlighting specific projects, interviews explored their impact and effectiveness as well. Despite spanning two decades and over a dozen disciplines, commonalities emerged, including:

- Projects provide useful research that many organizations may not have resources to conduct themselves
- Projects have contributed to the creation of community initiatives, such as OPIRG's Supermarket Tours
- Common project deliverables include surveys, manuals, workshops, curriculums, environmental studies
- Projects have shaped a research relationship between Trent University and the community

- Recommendations -

The TCRC should underline the wide thematic range of projects that was highlighted through both the archival research and the interviews. Additionally, attention should be given to those that encapsulate the TCRC's relationship with key hosts.

