

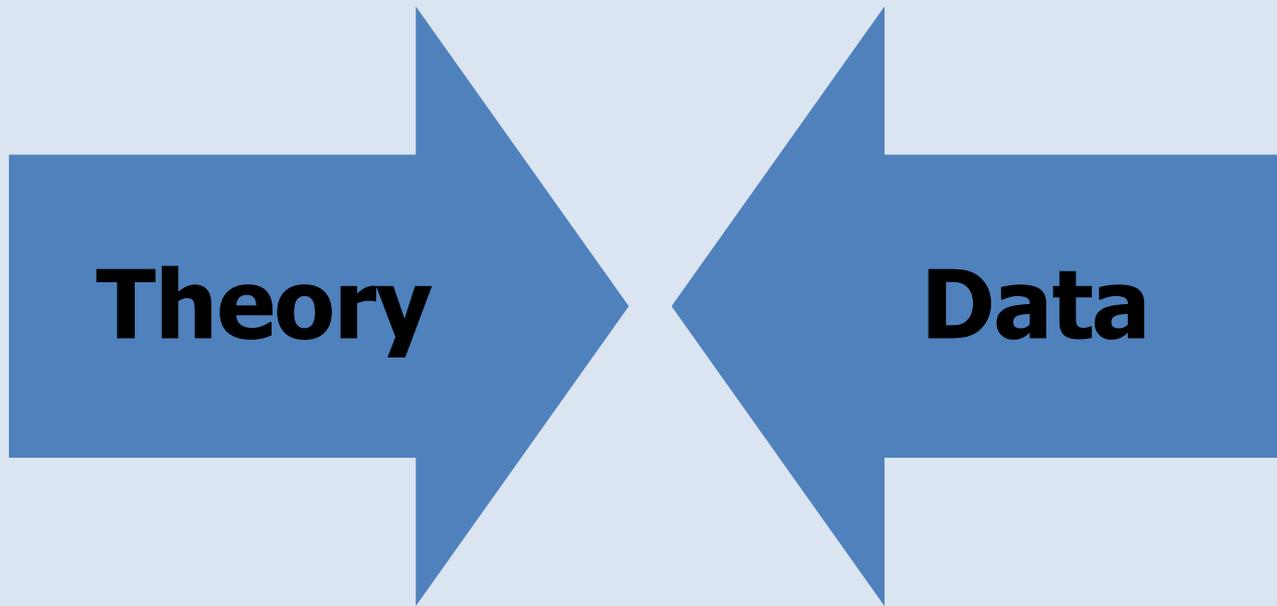
The Indian On-Reservation Workforce & Labor Market Data

**Data for Indian Economic Development Workshop
Flagstaff, AZ – July 24, 2017**



**Navajo worker
at the Navajo
Generating Station**

**Photo courtesy of the
Central Arizona Project**



Theory underlies data

Data shapes theory

Labor Market Theory v Reality

“Mainstream” Theory

- **Urban Labor Market**
- **Private Sector Jobs**
- **Career Ladders**
- **Active Work Search**
- **Willingness to Move**

Reservation Reality*

- **Job Scarce Rural**
- **Public Sector Jobs**
- **Jobs Available**
- **Moccasin Telegraph**
- **Attachment to Res**

A Mismatch

**with current reservation data
built on “mainstream” theory**

- **“Unemployed” = Active search for work in prior four weeks**
- **“Not in the Labor Force” with no data on barriers**
- **No U-6 equivalent for Indian data at the reservation level**

A Mismatch

**Is the unemployment rate of
Indian workers on the Navajo
reservation**

22% as the ACS says

**or 50% or more as
as Tribal Leaders say?**

Resolving the Mismatch

Increase the capacity of tribes to collect and manage data on tribal populations and tribal resources

The major theme of the NCAI Tribal Data Capacity project

A Way to Start

**A joint tribal-federal effort to
build the BIA Population and
Labor Force Report around
tribal data**

many thanks

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