

The Nexus of Crises

The Art of Decolonising Climate Species and Culture

David Haley PhD HonFCIWEM

Art – Research - Ecopedagogy



The Nexus

CLIMATE

SPECIES

CRISES

CULTURE

危機
危機

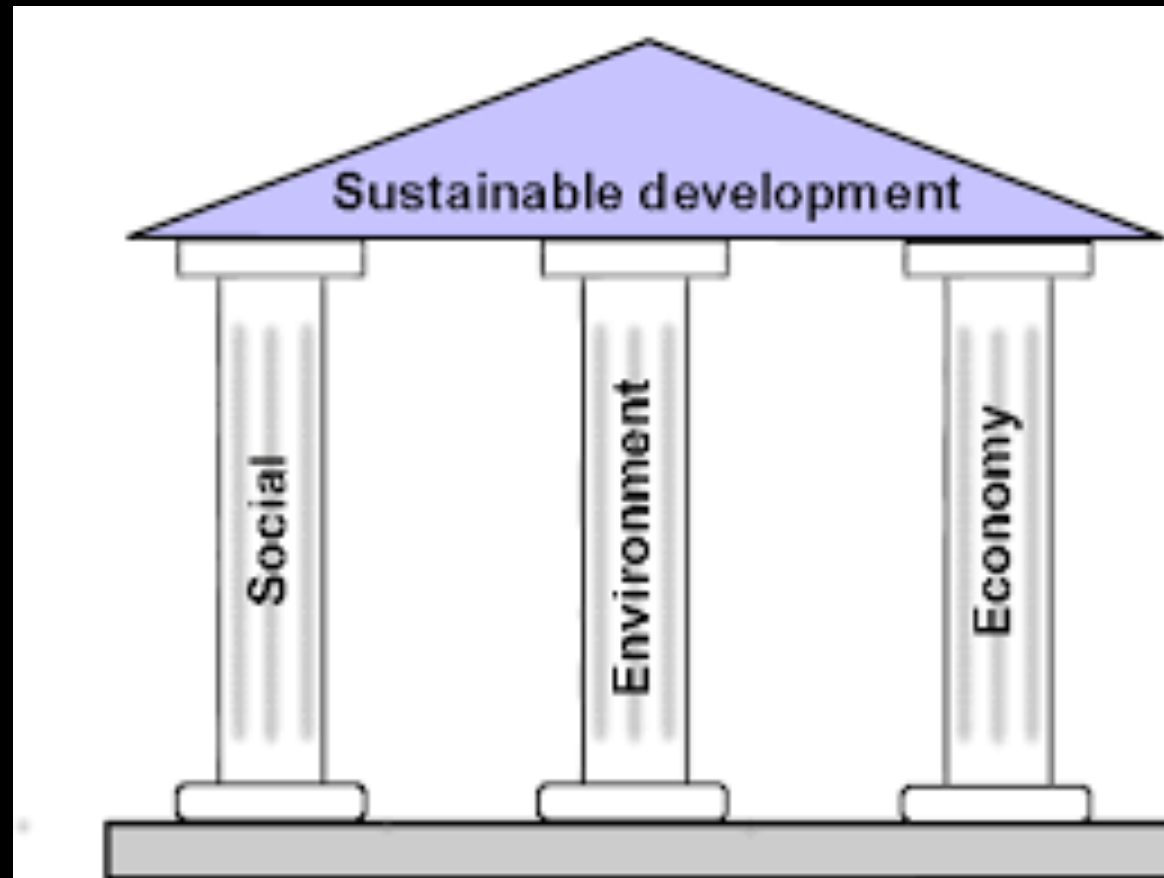
Agenda 21

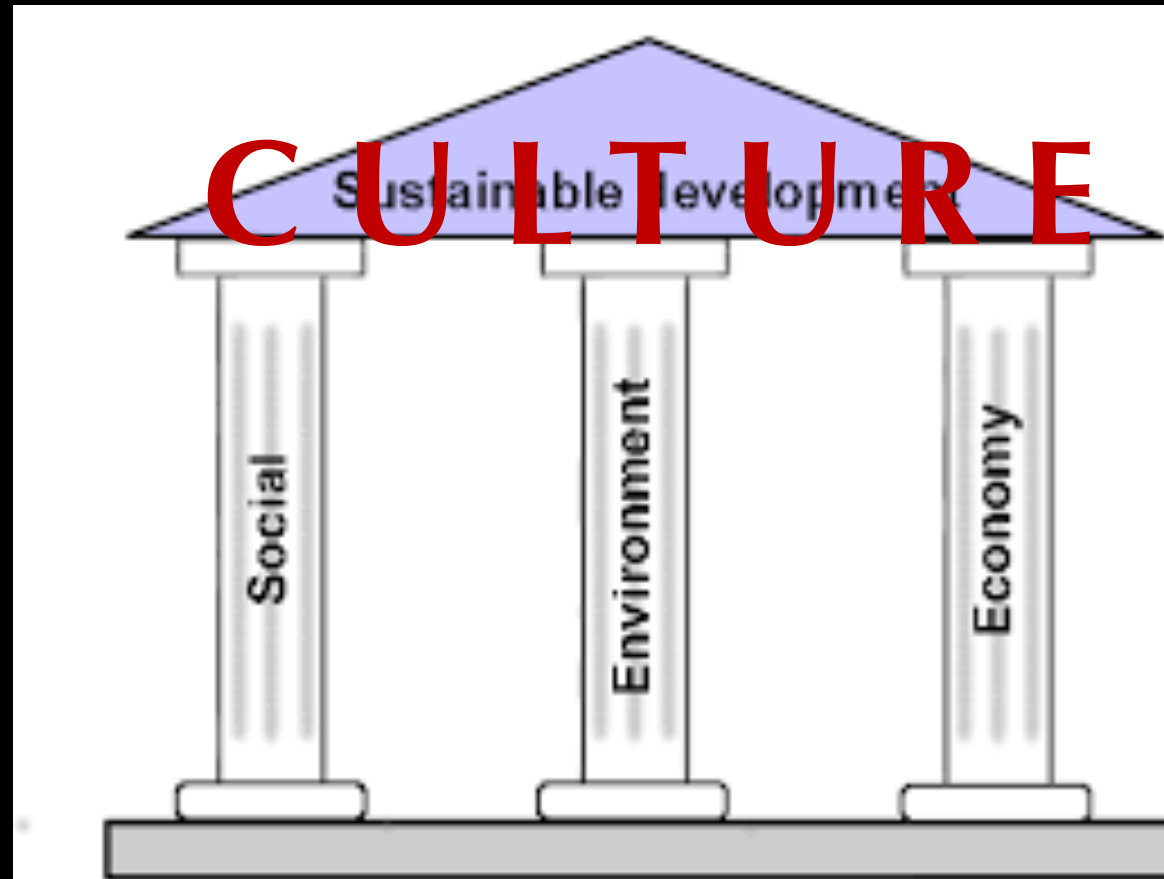


Earth Summit '92

The United Nations Conference
on Environment and Development
Rio de Janeiro 1992

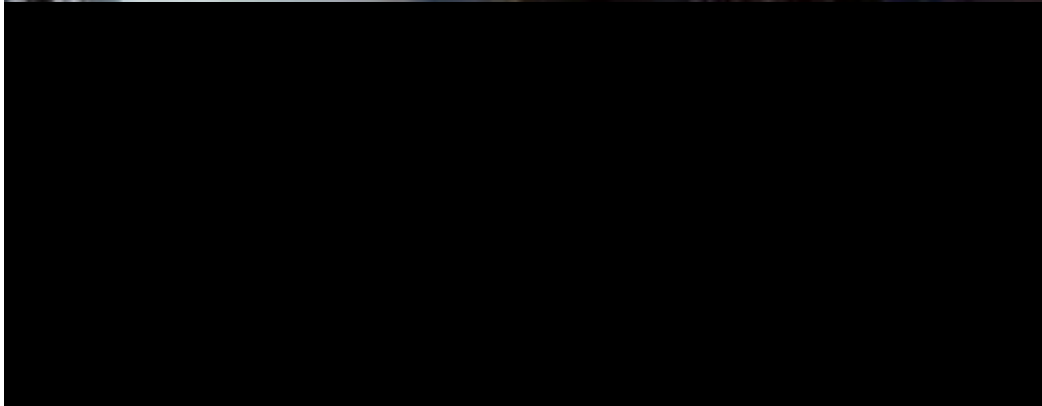


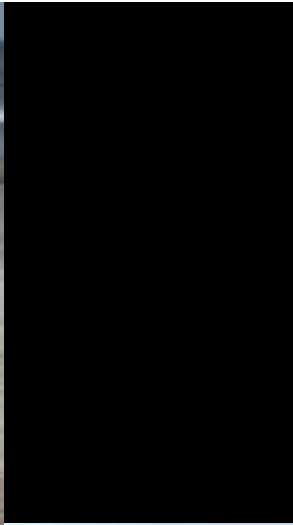
















SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

‘To what extent has colonial and other history, exclusion and social injustice influenced how the UK environmental science research sector presents cultures and issues, including around race, racism and representation and intersectionality?’

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

RESEARCHERS

- **P.I. Valeria Ruiz Vargas** Research Associate-Education for Sustainable Development, Manchester Met University, Department of Natural Sciences - (environmental management, community empowerment, global citizenship and a human capabilities approach
- **Dr. David Haley** ecological artist, researcher, eco-pedagogue - expertise in creative dialogical community development.

ADVISORS

- **Professor Emerita Carolyn Kagan**, Manchester Met University - community social psychology, arts and intergenerational projects with creative methods
- **Professor Emeritus Phil Wheeler**, Manchester Met University. - environmental and geographical sciences, and public health
- **Michael Barns-Wynter** multi-disciplinary artist, focusing on human suffrage, racism and gender exploitation.

PARTNERS

- **Z-arts:** Manchester arts organisation working with diverse & intergenerational communities.
- **People's Republic of Stokes Croft:** Bristol community & environmental arts activist organisation.
- **CARGO Movement:** (Charting African Resilience Generating Opportunities) is a collective of artists poets and filmmakers from across the globe with a single minded vision to address the balance of accessible narratives from the African diaspora.
- **The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management:** UK and international industry leader in professional expertise.
- **UK Urban Ecology Forum:** Partner Member UN Habitat Assembly
- **The National Wildflower Centre** (Eden Project):

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences



**GESTURING TOWARDS DECOLONIAL
FUTURES**

<https://decolonialfutures.net/>

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

OBJECTIVES

- To address British colonialism
- Adopt a co-learning strategy, through a sequence of online workshops
- Use an heuristic ontological, rather than an epistemological approach (Henare, et al 2007)
- Use creative dialogical methods of storying
- Critique and complement the established scientific method within the environmental sciences (Bohm 2008)
- Include other cultural worldviews (Freire 2017).

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

AIMS

- To sow the seeds of global citizenship perspectives for environmental sciences using a Global Citizenship Otherwise approach (Stein & Andreotti 2021)
- The researchers, partners and their communities to engage in observant self-reflection of our own actions, analyses and responses in relation to the following colonial patterns (ibid 2021:p9):
 - (a) Racialized expropriation and exploitation of humans and other than human-beings
 - (b) Epistemicide - denial of the gifts of other knowledge systems; treating knowledge and language as a means to index, control, and order the world and define existence

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research questions address the relations between Environmental Sciences (ES) and people affected explicitly and implicitly by British colonialism:

1. How is the history of colonialism experienced and expressed through contemporary narratives with ES?
2. How may arts-led, practice-based research methods contribute to the decolonization of ES?
3. How may ontological ways of knowing complement empirical knowledge and what part does language play in this?
4. How may familial prospects and education enhance choices in ES for diverse communities and those who identify as being affected by British colonialism?
5. How may ES institutions achieve their goals of greater participation and membership?
6. How might the decolonization of ES better address the climate, species and cultural nexus of crises?

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

WHAT HAPPENED?

- The whole project was conceived and delivered during COVID-19 lockdown ...

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

THE WORKSHOPS

- Zarts – engaged local schools and diverse families
- People's Republic of Stokes Croft – designed and produced mugs to celebrate black women scientists
- CARGO Movement – filmed 7 black youths engaging with the Research Questions
- CIWEM – featured women of colour in their 'Environment' magazine
- UK Urban Ecology Forum – provided anecdotes from academia
- National Wildflower Centre – identified diverse community participation in urban biodiversity projects

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences



Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences



Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives for Environmental Sciences

STORYING THE METANARRATIVE

- Starting from the perspective of the colonised, and those who feel excluded from ES, a storying, nonlinear, holistic approach provided a narrative, to explore being and doing that align to 'global citizenship otherwise'
- The process of storying created the space for a dialogue to emerge between the project researchers and partners that challenged the colonial nature of the scientific method
- The project found common ground between analytical, epistemological and feminine, ontological ways of understanding and engaging with nature

Generous Domains

Global Citizenship Perspectives
for Environmental Sciences

The nexus of climate,
species and cultural crises
found a
“BRAVE SPACE”