Concepts and methods

First global conference on research integration and implementation

The story of the poster

- The world is in the process of transformational change
  - Working with transformational change calls for transdisciplinary inquiry
    - Transdisciplinary inquiry requires a collective mind
      - A collective mind draws on collective learning and asks collective questions
Transdisciplinary Research for a Collective Future

Working with transformational change

Valerie A. Brown
Director, Local Sustainability Project
Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University
TACKLING WICKED PROBLEMS
THROUGH THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY IMAGINATION

Valerie A. Brown
John A. Harris
Jacqueline Y. Russsell

PUBLISHED 2010
Tackling **wicked problems** requires:

- **Combining knowledge cultures**
  individual • local • specialist • organisational • creative

- **Challenging existing knowledge**
  moving from single disciplines to collective knowledge

- **Creating social change**
  with transformational thinking

- **Finding multiple solutions**
  for all the interests involved in the change
Combining knowledge cultures needs

- Individual knowledge
- Local knowledge
- Specialised knowledge
- Organisational knowledge
- Holistic knowledge

Collective knowledge is a collective set, not a hierarchy
Collaborative action requires collective thinking (not consensus) for multiple knowledge cultures
The collective learning cycle

DESCRIPT

IDEALS
What should be?

FACTS
What is?

ACTION
What can be?

IDEAS
What could be?

DEVELOP

DESIGN

DO

Wicked Problem

Knowledge cultures:
- Individual
- Community
- Specialist
- Organisational
- Holistic
The Human Capacity for Transformational Change

The Future of the Collective Mind

Valerie A. Brown and John A. Harris
The future of the collective mind

The collective mind asks questions that access all ways of knowing:

Physical
Social
Ethical
Aesthetic
Sympathetic
Personal
Reflective

Brown VA and Harris JA 2014
The human capacity for transformational change.
*The Future of the Collective Mind*
Routledge In press
A transformation science

Collective questions for transdisciplinary research:

- personal
- physical
- social
- ethical
- aesthetic
- sympathetic
- reflective questions

Example: City of Kunming, Yunnan, China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL: research framework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL: size, population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL: customs, laws, roles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETHICAL: aims, values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AESTHETICS: design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYMPATHETIC: family, friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFLECTIVE: collective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transdisciplinary research for a collective future will:

- Answer all seven collective questions
- Explore self-organising systems
- Draw on conscious and more-than-conscious minds
- Be based in collective learning
Emeritus Professor Valerie A. Brown AO, PhD
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References:
Brown VA, Harris, JA and Russell JV. 2010
*Tackling wicked problems through the transdisciplinary imagination.*
London, Earthscan.

Brown VA, and Lambert JA. 2013

Brown VA and Harris JA. 2014
*The human capacity for transformational change: the future of the collective mind.*

http://www.I2Sconference.org