

Embedding Sustainable Mindset Principles in enterprise education: a Toolkit for practitioners

University of Derby

16 JULY 2025

Barbara Tomasella, Senior Lecturer
Sustainable Business and Green Growth
Cluster, Derby Business School

(WELCOME FROM ORLA KELLEHER,
Senior Lecturer in Responsible Management
PRME Lead & PRME Midlands facilitator
Derby Business School)



Agenda of the day

- 10:05 – 10:15 | Introduction to the SMP-EEUK Project and Workshop Aims
- 10:15 – 11:30 | Embedding Sustainability Mindset Principles in Enterprise Education: Practical Experiences
- 11:30 – 11:45 | Comfort Coffee Break
- 11:45 – 12:45 | Developing and Measuring Students' Sustainability Competences & Mindset
- 12:45 – 13:30 | Networking Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:45 | Integrating SMP Tools in Assessment/Programs: Toward Authentic Student Evaluation
- 14:45 – 15:00 | Workshop Close & Next Steps (Followed by Optional Social Activity in Derby)

Project team and funders

Project Team

Barbara Tomasella (b.tomasella@derby.ac.uk) University of Derby (PRME SMP Working Group)

Anne Wylie (a.wylie@derby.ac.uk) University of Derby

Michelle Littlemore (michelle.littlemore@northumbria.ac.uk) Northumbria University

Richard Howarth (richard.Howarth@ntu.ac.uk) Nottingham Trent University

Catherine Brentnall (c.brentnall@mmu.ac.uk) Manchester Met University (EEUK Director)

Karen Cripps (kcripps@brookes.ac.uk) Oxford Brookes University (PRME Steering Group)

Orla Kelleher (O.Kelleher@derby.ac.uk) University of Derby (PRME Midlands)

Chris Moon (C.Moon@mdx.ac.uk) Middlesex University (EEUK Fellow)

Funders:

Enterprise Education UK (Impact Fund)

Pedagogic Research Cluster at University of Derby

PRME UK & Ireland (Innovative Pedagogy Competition)

PRME Links

[Responsible Management Education | UK & Ireland PRME](#)

I recommend you sign up to the PRME UK&I newsletter as that will keep you updated on events

For anyone wanting to know which PRME chapter to join, please look at the following link

[Local Networks | uki-prme](#)

Anyone wishing to join the PRME Midlands chapter, contact Orla Or Jay
Midlands Local Network Local Network Coordinators: Orla Keller & Jaliyyah Bello

Contact Details: ab0144@coventry.ac.uk and O.Kelleher@derby.ac.uk

About the Sustainable Mindset Principles

Also for anyone wishing to join the UN PRME Working Group on Sustainability Mindset led by Dr Isabel Rimanoczy see link here. You will see opportunities for attending training events on Sustainability Mindset Indicator and more.

[PRME Working Group on Sustainability Mindset | UNPRME](#)

Training to become a Sustainable Mindset education practitioner:

<https://www.unprme.org/prme-working-group-on-sustainability-mindset/sustainability-mindset-principles-action-lab-1-4/>

About the Sustainable Mindset Principles

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education for a Sustainable Society



This group is dedicated to empowering Enterprise Educators to play a key role in shaping a more sustainable future. By addressing the interconnected challenges of social, environmental, and ecological sustainability, the SIG supports educators in driving meaningful change and fostering innovative solutions.

Join here: <https://www.enterprise.ac.uk/sustainability-sig/>

EEUK Research Project background



Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education:

Guidance for UK Higher
Education Providers

January 2018



Education for Sustainable Development Guidance

March 2021



Subject Benchmark Statement

Business and Management

March 2023



TARGET

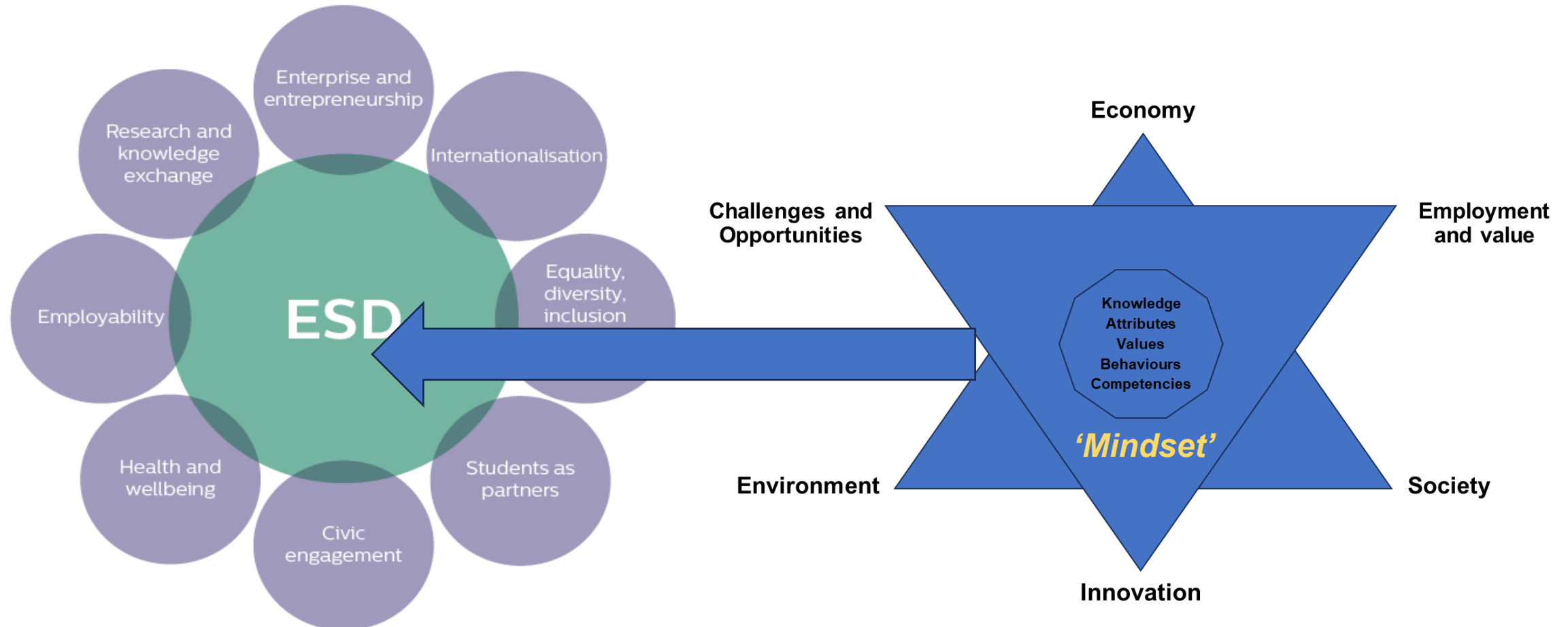
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**EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AND
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

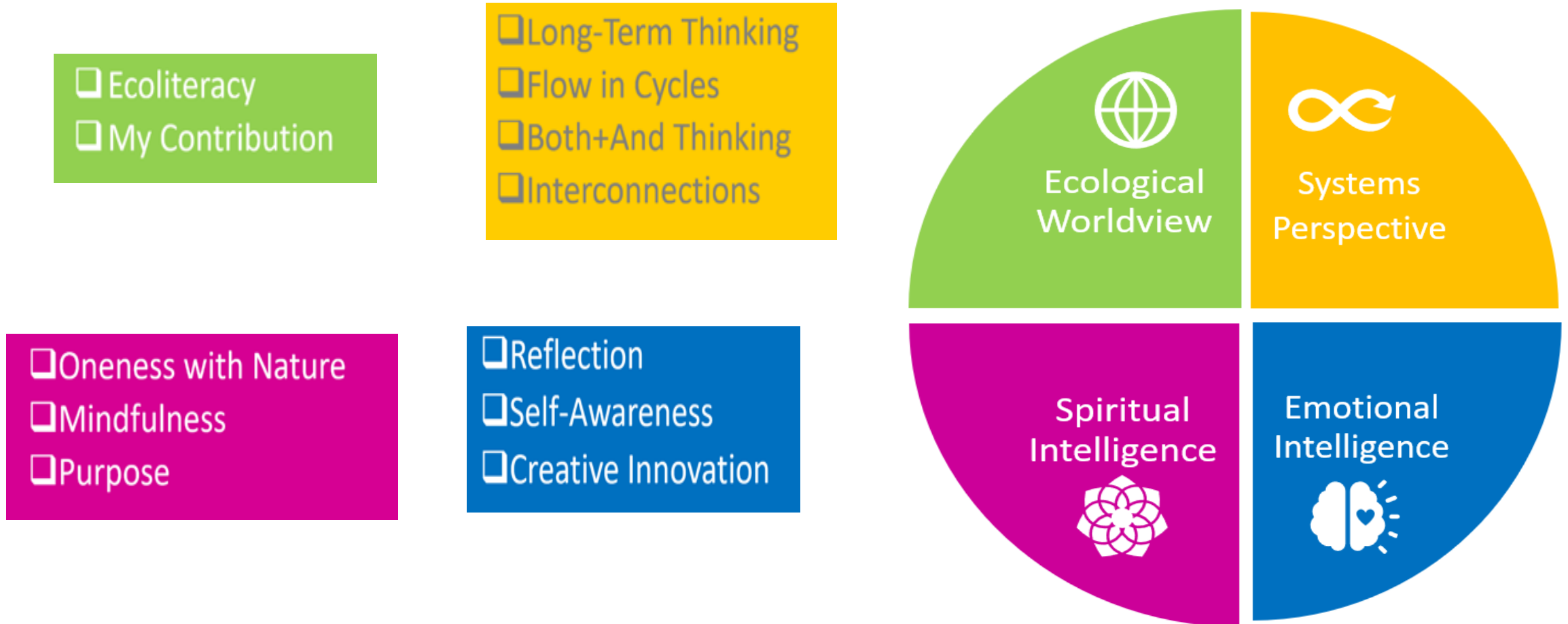
"By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles (...)"

Project Aim: Integrating EE and ESD



A Sustainable Mindset informed toolkit for Enterprise Education has various advantages and benefits (Moon et al., 2019; Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME), 2015; Rimanoczy, 2020; Rimanoczy & Ivanova, 2021; Tavanti et al., 2018), particularly in aligning the EE curricula to the Sustainable development goals

Sustainability Mindset – A way of thinking, being and behaving for the greater good



Positioning the Sustainable Mindset Principles within Enterprise Education

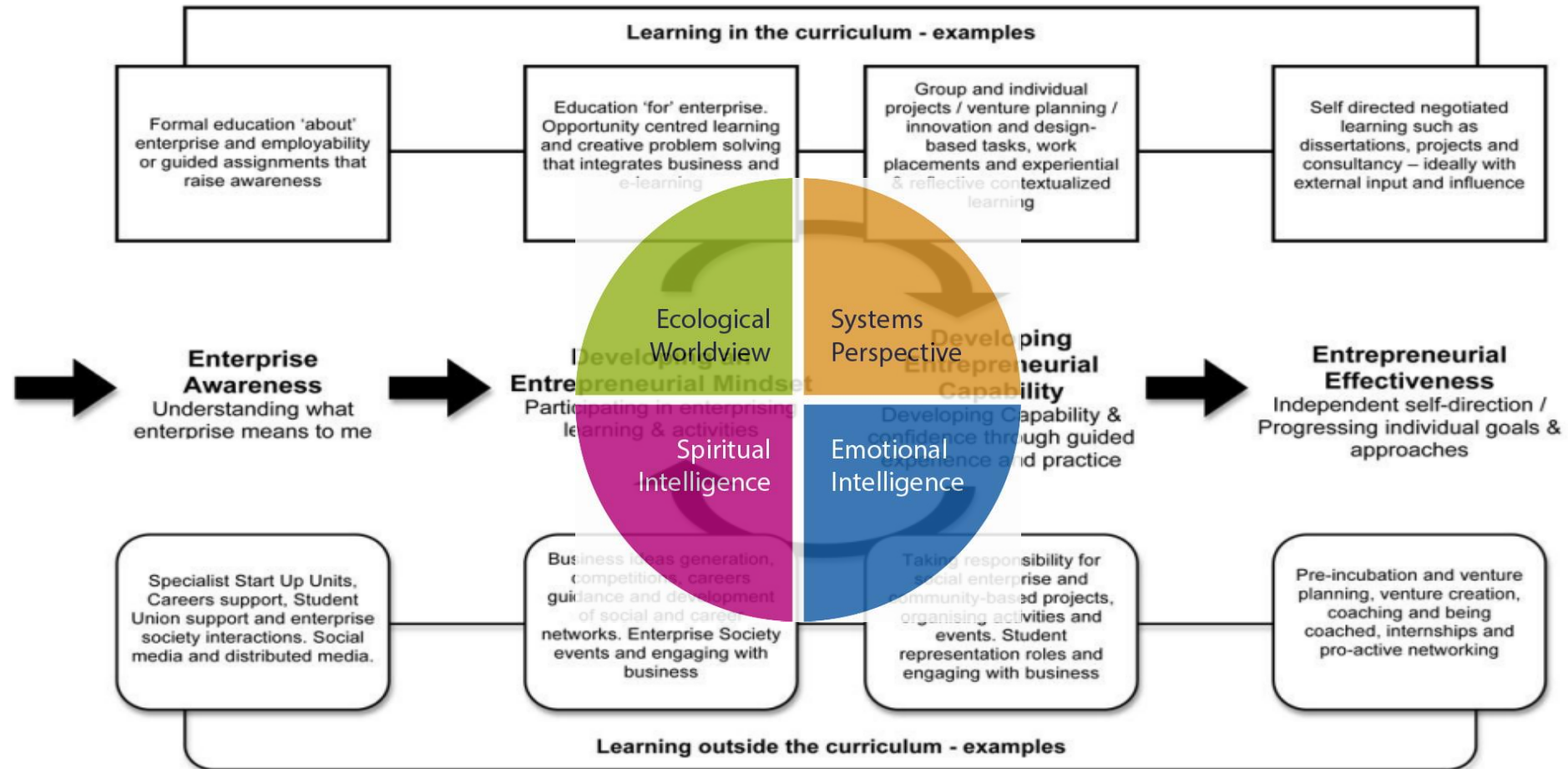


Figure 1: Developing entrepreneurial effectiveness

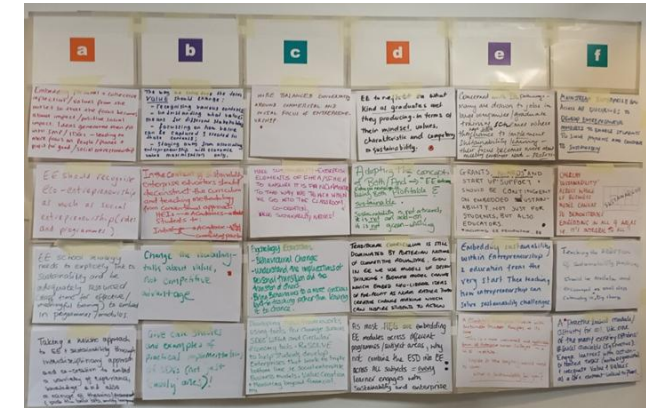
Methodology Overview

This study uses an **action research** approach, enabling iterative development, evaluation, and critical reflection on practice to bridge research and educational impact.

- It began with a **Systematic Literature Review** (SLR) of 199 peer-reviewed publications from Scopus (2007–2023), focused on entrepreneurial education and sustainability mindsets (Autumn 2023)
- Building on the SLR, **Phase 1 involved 2 workshops** (one onsite and one online) with 50+ enterprise educators to develop a toolkit of 10 active learning tools. Feedback informed refinement of the toolkit (Spring 2024)
- In **Phase 2, five tools were tested in UK HEI students** within the Business Management / Enterprise discipline. Pre- and post-questionnaires measured the development of students' sustainability competence, with 144 matched full responses (from a total of 266 pre and 181 post respondents). (Spring 2025)

Phase 1 of the Project: Creating an SMP toolkit for enterprise education

Barbara Tomasella, Senior Lecturer in
Marketing
Co-Lead Sustainable Business and Green
Growth Cluster, Derby Business School



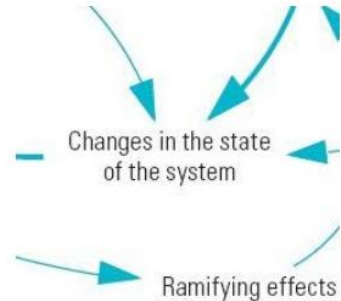
Mindset	Student drivers	Challenging conventions in EE	System levers	Where we deliver	How we deliver
Embed personal and collective reflection from the outset so focus becomes positive social impact	Connect EE to jobs with the opportunity to implement sustainability	Traditional curriculum is too narrow. Embed sustainability in all modules. Use real-world examples to engage students.	Grants, awards and support should be contingent on embedded sustainability	EE and ESO should be applied across all subjects - so that every learner engages with sustainability and enterprise	Give case studies and examples of practical implementation - not just the 'lucky ones'
A mandatory enterprise module with the SMP at its core. Include 'what is sustainability for you?'	Focus on behaviour change and personal decision making strategies	Change the vocabulary to social value not competitive advantage	Include sustainability into FHEA SPHE applications	Embed sustainability within EE from the start. Then teach how entrepreneurship can solve sustainability challenges.	Challenge sustainability across whole of business model canvas. Embedding in all areas to show its integral to all.
Maintain enterprise across all disciplines to develop entrepreneurial mindset to enable students to solve problems and contribute to sustainability	Use tools for change such as RESOLVE to help students develop enterprises that have positive social and environmental impact	EE should adopt the concept of Both and profitable and sustainable	Embed enterprise in relation to EE needs to explicitly link to sustainability and be an embedded, embedded module. Build into programmes and L2+ Embedding does not mean hiding, it needs to be explicit towards all and down to targets, ratings and accreditations	Teaching the adoption of sustainability practices should be modular and encouraging as small steps towards big change	Be holistic through interdisciplinary approaches and co-creation - use variety of experience, knowledge, range of theoretical frameworks, pick the best bits...
EE to reflect on what kind of graduates they are producing in terms of their mindset, values, characteristics and sustainability competency	EE should become more practice oriented	EE should recognise practice as fundamental. Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurship Education	EE should become more practice oriented	A practice based module activity for all, e.g. Erasmus+ to engage learners with action oriented tasks within organisations, and integrate value and values as a core element linked to plans	EE should deconstruct the curriculum
Apply psychology in education e.g. behaviour change, to understand personal attributes and the tensions of others, being behaviour to a more conscious level rather than being to change	The way we introduce the term value of entrepreneurship, integrating all business, understanding what value means to different stakeholders. Recognising that value can be expressed in a range of all these contexts. Recognising that entrepreneurship is a more conscious level rather than being to change				

Web of Life (Holism)	Climate activist (My commitment)
Dualism (Both and Thinking)	Integrative (Both and Thinking)
Generations (Living with Thinking)	Meaning (Thought)

SMP Toolkit



Ecological
Worldview



Systems
Perspective



Emotional
Intelligence



Spiritual
Intelligence

Sustainability Mindset Toolkit (published in Sept. 2024)

An overview of the 10 tools

DIMENSION: ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW

- Opening Minds to Change (aligned with the *My Contribution* principle)
- Reflexive Sustainability (aligned with the *Ecoliteracy* principle)

DIMENSION: SYSTEMS THINKING

- Both-And Thinking (aligned with the *Both-And Thinking & Cyclical Flow* principles)
- Make Your Place (aligned with the *Long-Term Thinking* principle)
- Leading Responsibly (aligned with the *Interconnections* principle)

DIMENSION: EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

- Career Storytelling (aligned with the *Self-Awareness* principle)
- Reflection Card Game (aligned with the *Reflection* principle)
- Game Changer Innovation Programme (aligned with the *Creativity* principle)

DIMENSION: SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE

- Higher-Level Values for a Sustainable Future (aligned with the *Mindfulness* principle)
- Purpose-Driven Enterprises (aligned with the *Purpose* principle)

Please **download the tools** here: <https://www.enterprise.ac.uk/develop/impactfund/>

Reflexive Sustainability (Seeing in new ways)

Sustainability Mindset Tool Kit – REFLEXIVE SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Mindset Principal Themes addressed:		Enterprise Educator Framework addressed:	
ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW Eco literacy SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE Long Term Thinking Interconnectedness EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Reflection		Raising awareness of enterprise and entrepreneurship and its value to the learner in their journey	
QAA Enterprise Themes addressed:		Group:	Learning Environment:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creativity and Innovation 2. Opportunity and recognitions, creation, and evaluation 3. Decision making supported by critical analysis and judgement 4. Implementation of ideas through leadership and management 5. Reflection and Action 6. Interpersonal skills 7. Communication and strategy skill 8. Data and digital skill 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups (3-5); number of groups decided by the number of 'perspectives' • Large Group final activity (all subgroups involved) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat floor teaching / collaborative space • Carousel tables (small group working)
Title: Reflexive Sustainability			
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide students with an opportunity to visualise and verbalise sustainability issues as a prompt to action • To provide students with an opportunity to reflect upon the perspectives and values of stakeholders • To develop a deeper understanding of a real contextual problem through the lens of sustainability 			
Overview: This workshop provides students the opportunity to take ownership of a real problem that they recognise from their lived experience. Using an auto-photography methodology as a prompt, the session uses student derived lived-awareness problem statements to initiate the activity (Thomas, 2009). Author: Dr Carys Watts Newcastle University, UK Carys.Watts@newcastle.ac.uk			



Practical experiences: SMP toolkit & other tools

10:15 – 10:45 | Carousel Session: Experience different SMP tools for enterprise education (Format: 2 x 15-minute slots; participants choose 2 slots to attend)

10:45 – 11:00 | Students' Voices: experience of the SMP informed classroom

11:00 – 11:15 | New Tool Showcase / 3 x 5 - minute elevator pitches with artifacts from presenters of other enterprise education tools

11:15 – 11:30 | Panel Discussion & Q&A / Moderated discussion with Session 1 presenters

Carousel Session: Experience SMP tools for enterprise education

(Participants choose 2 slots to attend: Slot 1: 10.15/10.30; Slot 2: 10.30/10.45)

Tables within this Active Room:

1. **Game Changer Innovation** (Creativity principle, Emotional Intelligence) with Dr Chinthaka Jay Aluthgama-Baduge, Senior Lecturer - Enterprise & Entrepreneurship, University of Derby (**TABLE 1**)
2. **Higher-Level Values for a Sustainable Future** (Mindfulness principle, Spiritual Intelligence), with Orla Kelleher, Senior Lecturer in Responsible Management, University of Derby (**TABLE 2**)
3. **Purpose-Driven Enterprises** (Purpose principle, Spiritual Intelligence): with Dr Thomas Long, Associate Professor in Sustainable Entrepreneurship, EDHEC Business School (Lille, France) (**TABLE 3**)

Tables Outside (in adjacent lobby area):

4. **Leading Responsibly** (Interconnections principle, Systems Thinking); with Michelle Littlemore, Assistant Professor in Project Management, Northumbria University (**TABLE 4**)
5. **Career Storytelling** (Self-Awareness principle, Emotional Intelligence); with Anne Wylie, Senior Lecturer in Business Management, University of Derby (**TABLE 5**)



Students Voices: experiences from the SMP informed classroom



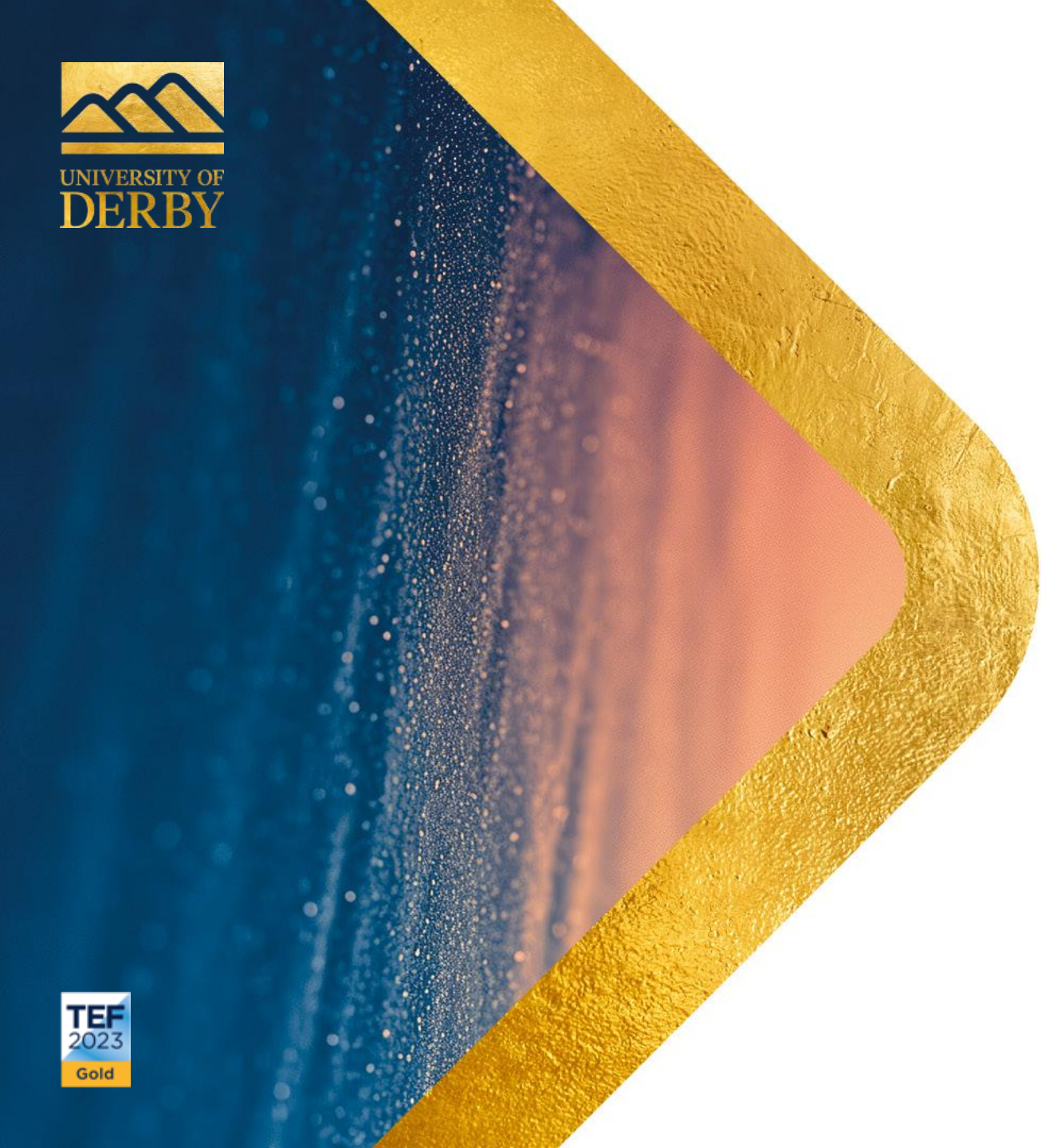


Ivan Zosimenko, Year 1 Business Management student



Other sustainability learning tools' showcase

1. Climate Fresk (Ecological Worldview) with Cristina Iodice, Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Ravensbourne University
2. LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® (Emotional Intelligence) with Dr Rebecca Beech, Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Oxford Brookes University
3. Using Systems and Design Thinking for SDG 11 (Systems Thinking); with Dr Sue Chui, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship, De Montfort University



Coffee break
(11.30 to 11.45 am)



Session 2: Developing and Measuring Students' Sustainability Competences & Mindset

11:45 – 12:00 | Quantitative Measurement Approaches in Business Schools: Testing the SMP Toolkit (Dr. Barbara Tomasella, Senior Lecturer, University of Derby.)

12:00 – 12:25 | Realist Approaches to Evaluating Sustainable Enterprise Education (Dr. Catherine Brentnall, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University)

12:25 – 12:45 | Exploring the connections between the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainability competencies and sustainability mindset (Dr Chris Ribchester, Associate Professor, University of Derby & Professor Ian Turner, University of Derby).

Phase 2 of the Project: Testing the SMP toolkit in the classroom

Overview of the Phase 2

Students' development was evaluated using UNESCO's eight key sustainability competences framework (Unesco, 2017)

Survey were collected during the academic year 2024-2025. Pre-Survey: 266 respondents; Post-Survey: 181 responses.

Students from diverse academic levels and world regions, all attending UK Universities and courses focused on entrepreneurship or employability.

Most tools in the SPM-EEUK toolkit were tested by at least one educator; Purpose, SDGs career storytelling, Leading Responsibly (Simulation), Game changer for Innovation, Card Game

Pre-Survey: Sust. Competences pre-activity

● Novice
 ● Basic awareness
 ● Moderate competence
 ● Advanced competence
 ● Fully competent

Systems thinking competency: I recognise and understand relationships, can analyse complex systems, can consider how...

Anticipatory competency: I understand and evaluate multiple outcomes, I can create my own vision for the future, I can apply...

Critical thinking competency: I question norms, practices and opinions; I reflect on my values, perceptions and actions; I take a...

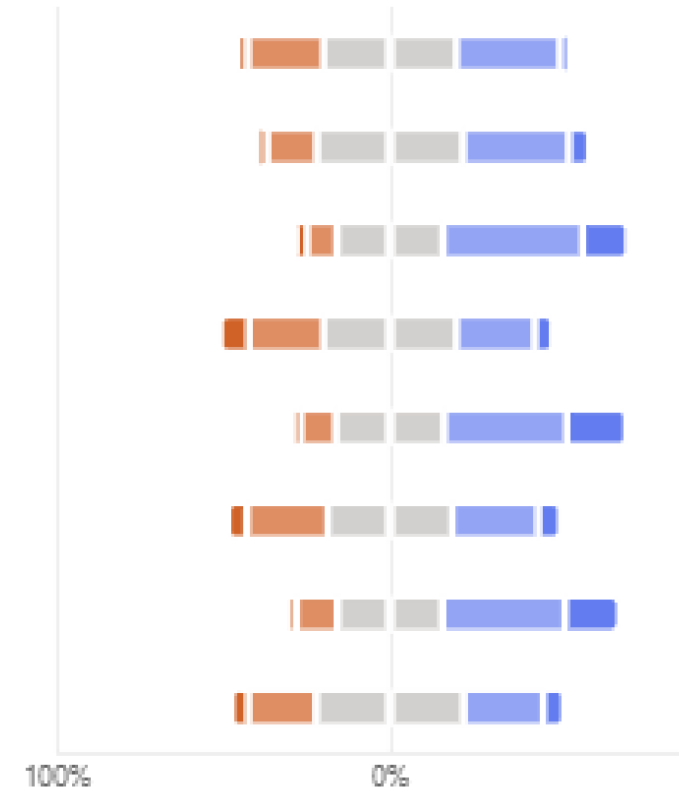
Strategic competency: I develop and implement innovative actions that further sustainable development at the local level.

Collaboration competency: I learn from others (including peers, and others inside and outside of my institution).

Integrated problem-solving competency: I apply different problem-solving frameworks to complex sustainable developme...

Self-awareness competency: I reflect on my own values, perceptions and actions; I reflect on my own role in the local...

Normative competency: I understand and reflect on the norms and values that underlie one's actions; I negotiate sustainable...



Post-Survey: Increased Sustainability Competence

● Novice ● Basic awareness ● Moderate competence ● Advanced competence ● Fully competent

Systems thinking competency: I recognise and understand relationships, can analyse complex systems, can consider how...

Anticipatory competency: I understand and evaluate multiple outcomes, I can create my own vision for the future, I can apply...

Critical thinking competency: I question norms, practices and opinions; I reflect on my values, perceptions and actions; I take a...

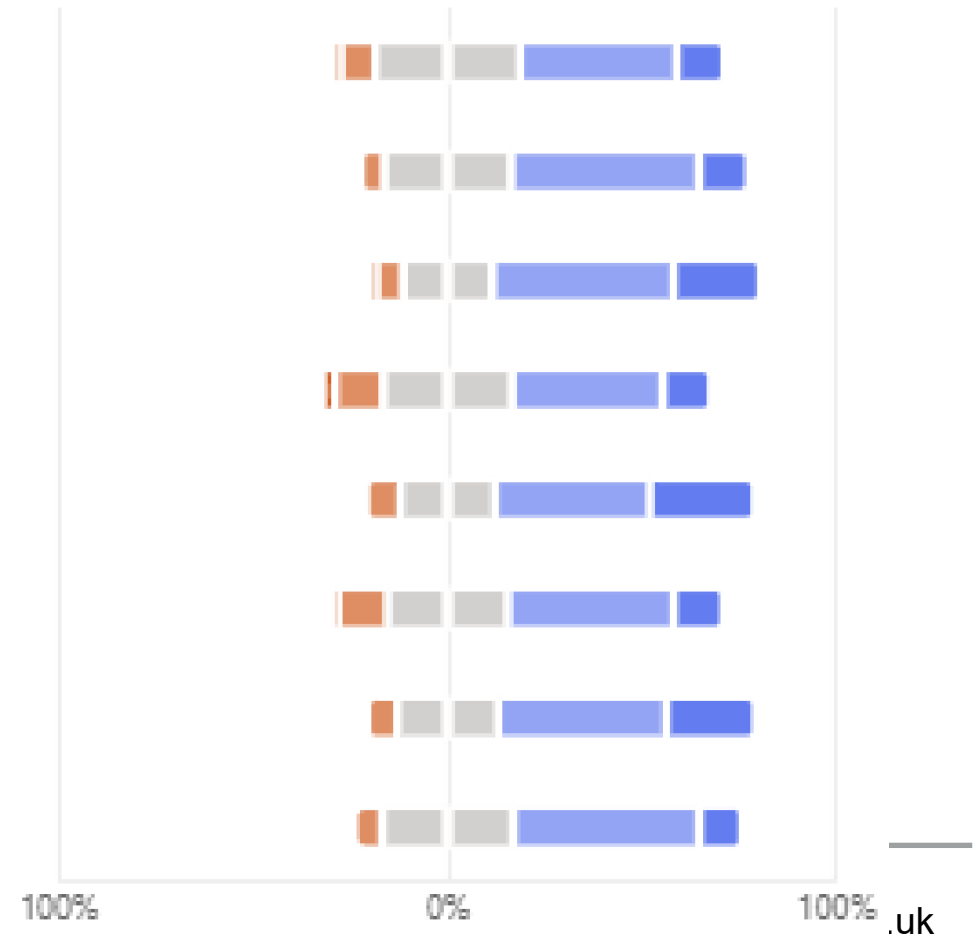
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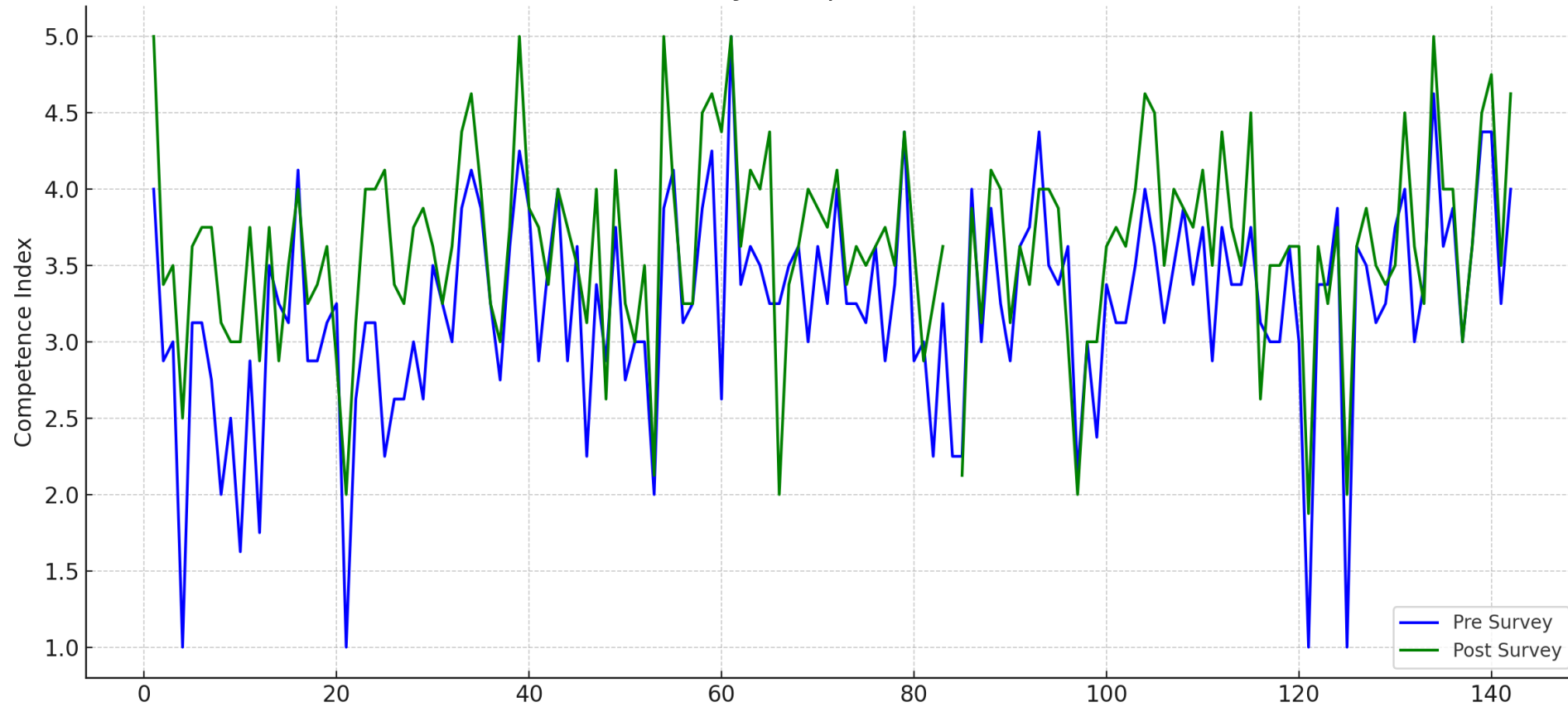
Integrated problem-solving competency: I apply different problem-solving frameworks to complex sustainable developme...

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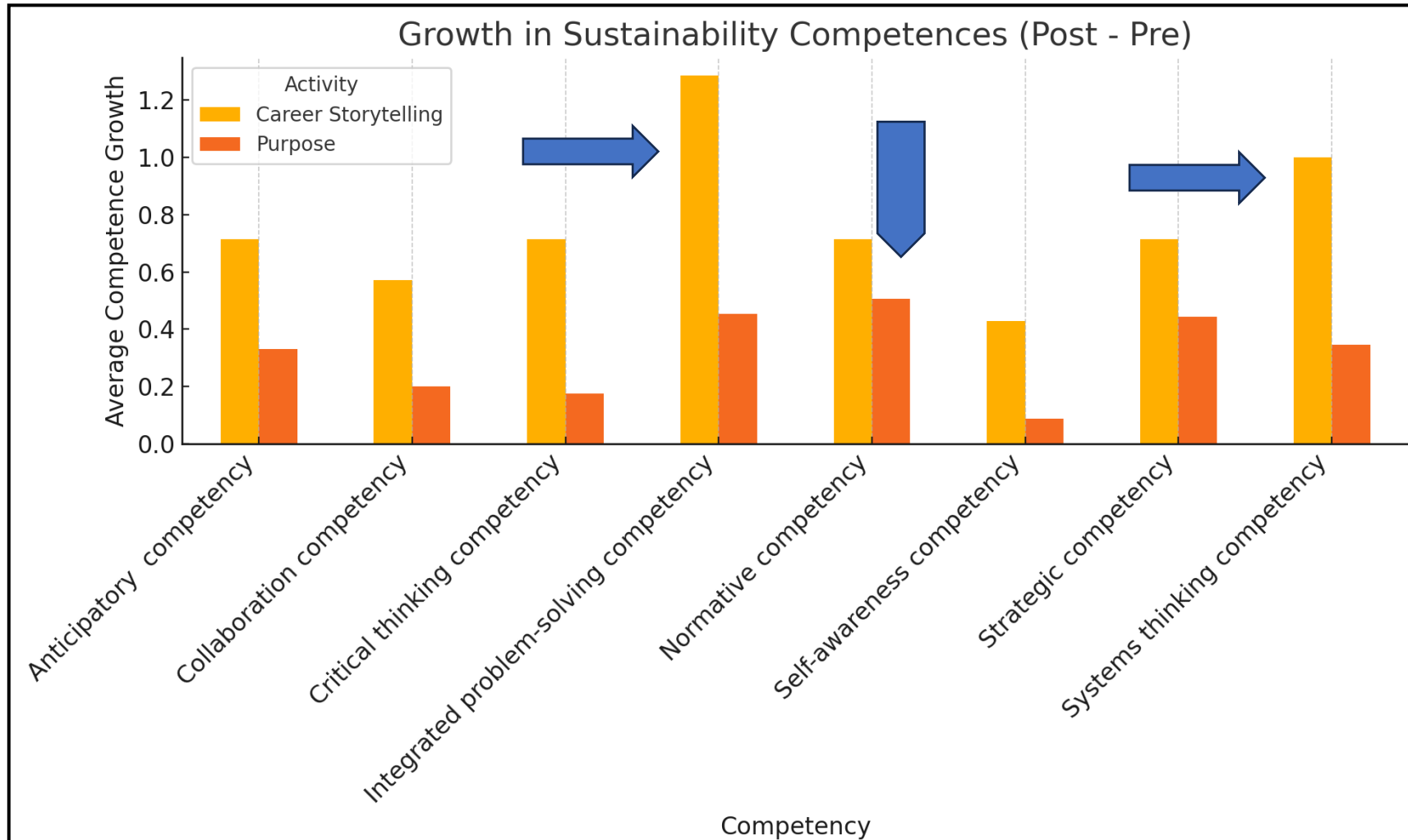
Normative competency: I understand and reflect on the norms and values that underlie one's actions; I negotiate sustainable...



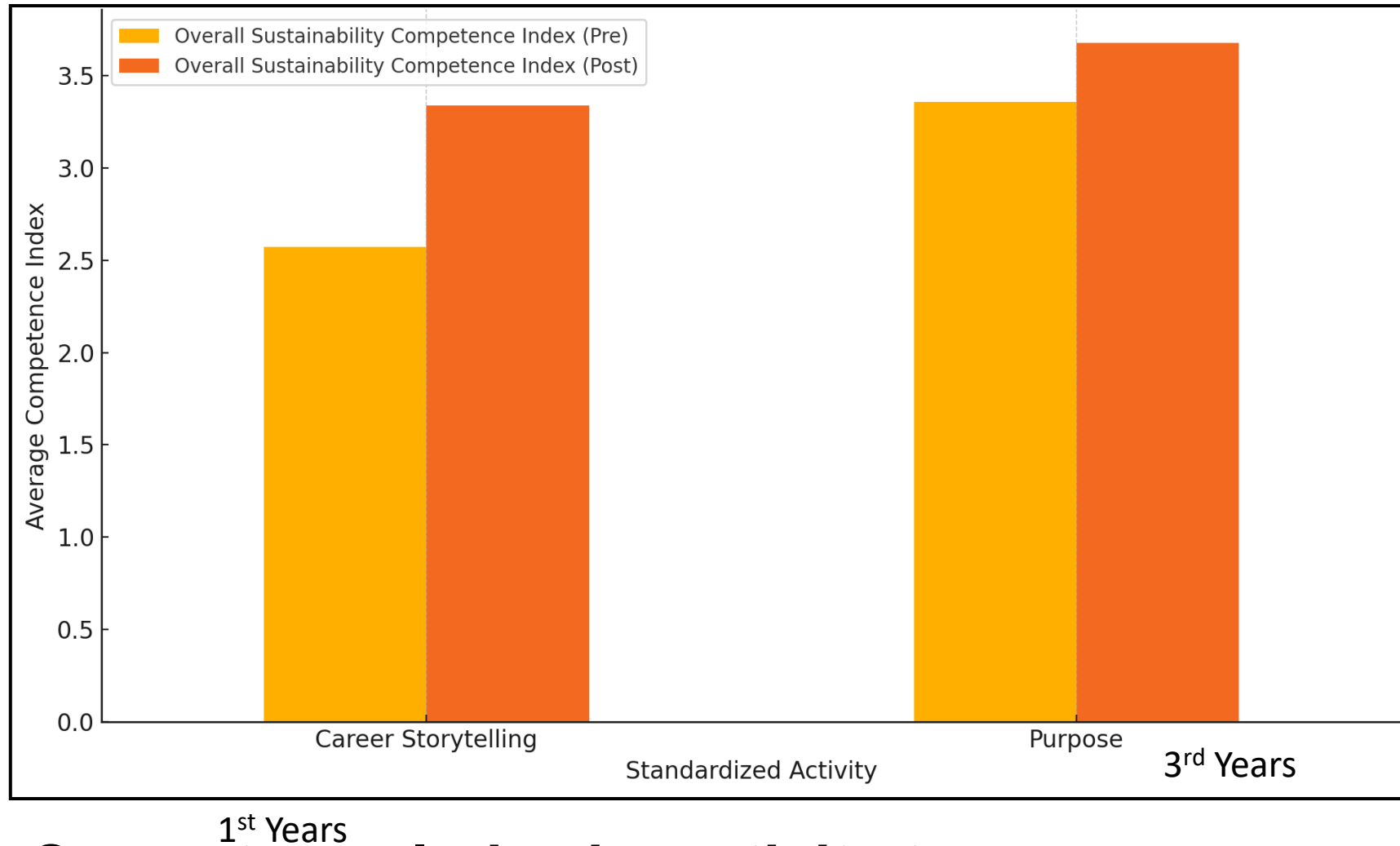
Overall Sustainability Competence Index (Pre vs Post)



144
students



Growth in Sustainability Competences



Competence Index by activity type

Conclusion and Reflections



- The use of sustainability mindset tools improved students' competencies.



- Qualitative feedback highlights greater alignment between values and professional aspirations.



- Students are better equipped to make responsible, impactful decisions for a sustainable future.

Realist Approaches to Evaluating Sustainable Enterprise Education

Dr Catherine Brentnall

Department of Strategy, Enterprise and
Sustainability



What is evaluation?

Backdrop - ‘What Works’ Approach to Evaluation

“What Works”



- “Decision making...informed by the best available evidence”
- 15 What Works Centres inc. ageing, homelessness, policing, well-being, local growth, education...
- Hierarchies of evidence approach
- 500 trials in total - 200 in education, 80% show *no effect* (Coldwell and Moore, 2024)

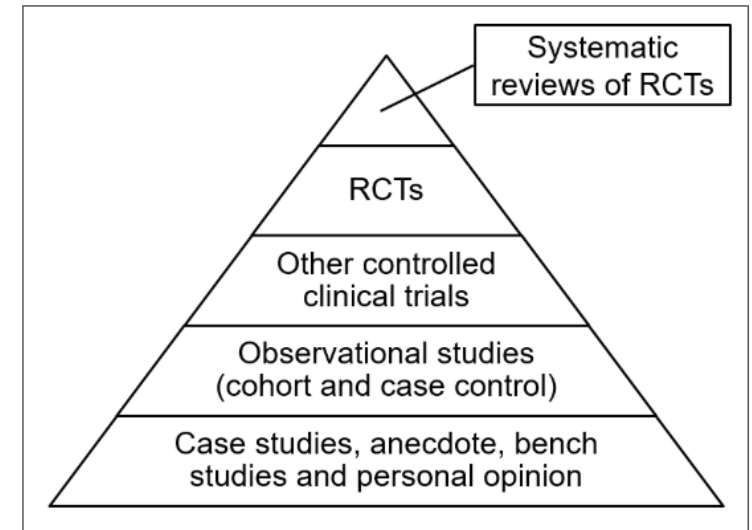
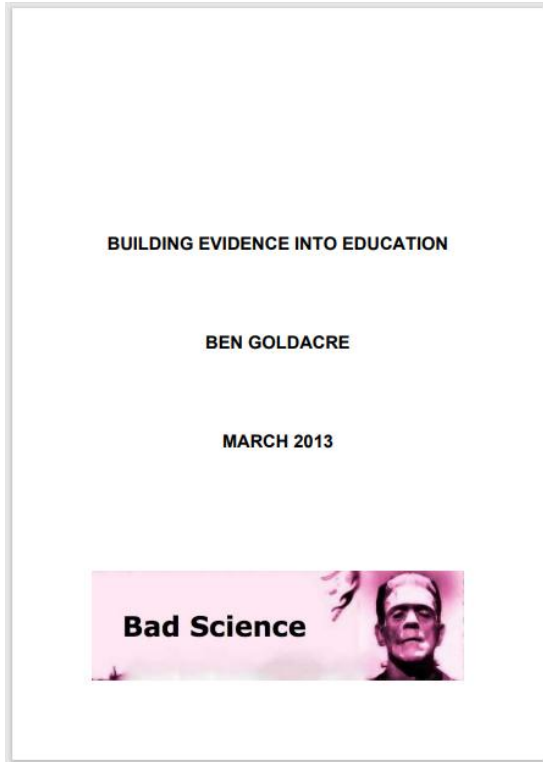


Figure adapted from Greenhalgh T. How to Read a Paper: The Basics of Evidence-Based Medicine. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated; 2010. Figure 2.1 A simple hierarchy of evidence for assessing the quality of trial design in therapy studies.



What is evaluation?



Evaluation is a **systematic determination and assessment of a subject's merit, worth, value or significance**, using criteria governed by a set of standards (American Evaluation Society, 2014).

Evaluation is also: a contested term, **methodologically eclectic**, pluralistic and mixed (Wanzer, 2021).

Philosophical Assumptions	Positivism	Realism
Ontology (nature of reality)	There's an objective reality, governed by natural laws...	Natural and social systems (and humans) exert their own powers
Epistemology (nature of knowledge)	'Facts' can be identified through cycles of observation of theory	Observations are filtered through the human brain (no final 'truth')
Role of evaluator and evaluation	Identify and report observable facts , ascertaining what works...	Work towards better understanding , ascertaining what works for whom, in what circumstances and why...

[See: RAMESES II Philosophies and evaluation design.pdf](#)

- Focuses on “what works, for whom, under what circumstances and why”
- Well established in health research and evaluation...
- Attracted Magenta Book supplementary guidance...

RAMESES II reporting standards for realist evaluations

[Geoff Wong](#)^{1,✉}, [Gill Westhorp](#)², [Ana Manzano](#)³, [Joanne Greenhalgh](#)³, [Justin Jagosh](#)⁴, [Trish Greenhalgh](#)¹

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PMCID: PMC4920991 PMID: [27342217](#)

Abstract

Background

Realist evaluation is increasingly used in health services and other fields of research and evaluation. No previous standards exist for reporting realist evaluations. This standard was developed as part of the RAMESES II project. The project's aim is to produce initial reporting standards for realist evaluations.

Frequently Asked Questions about Realist Evaluation

The RAMESES II Project



1. What is the difference between realist evaluation and realist synthesis?

Realist evaluation is, as the name implies, a form of evaluation. Data is collected from primary sources. This can include field research, interviews, focus groups and documentary analysis. Realist synthesis – also known as realist review – is a form of literature review. Realist review can use published peer-reviewed articles, evaluation reports, other grey literature, existing data sets (for example census information) and in some cases, interviews to supplement the literature. Many realist projects involve a mix of realist evaluation and realist synthesis. For more information, see 'What's in a Name' in this series.

“Causation is at the heart of realist evaluation. Causation is about examining 'what causes what to happen'”

This is an example of realists' recognition that in an open social system, there are multiple different causal mechanisms operating at different levels of systems. Those mechanisms interact in different ways in different contexts, which means that some people who experience poverty end up homeless. Furthermore, Fitzpatrick (2006) highlights that while positivists conceptualise poverty as a variable and measure what proportion of people experiencing poverty are homeless, realists ask 'what is it about poverty that could cause homelessness?' Thus, realists seek to explain what it is about poverty (context) that gives rise to a causal pathway (mechanism) which leads to homelessness (an outcome).

2. How does realist evaluation differ from other types of theory-driven evaluation?

Realist evaluation uses realist causal explanation, which asserts that outcomes are caused by underlying mechanisms rather than directly by the programmes themselves (See 'What is a mechanism?' in this series for further information). Whether or not these mechanisms operate depends on supportive or disabling contexts. Realist programme theory describes how the underlying mechanisms are expected to operate in different contexts and what outcomes will be generated if they do (or don't). Many other forms of programme theory do not address underlying causal processes. (See Funnell and Rogers, 2011 for examples of different kinds of programme theory).

3. Why would I want to use realist evaluation?

Realist evaluation is useful if you want to understand 'what works, for whom, under what circumstances and why?'. Realist evaluation is not required for evaluations that do not seek to answer questions about 'how' or 'why' programmes work the way they do.

4. What does the word 'causation' mean and why is it important in realist evaluation?

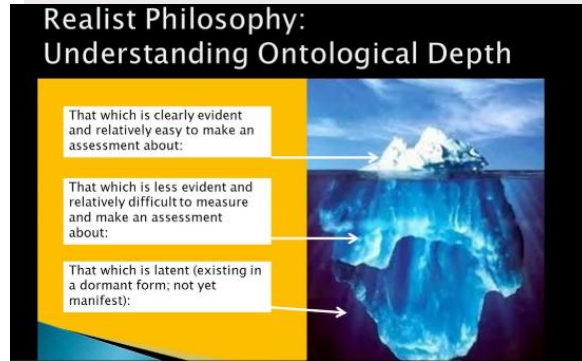
Causation is about 'what causes what to happen'. There are different understandings of causation in different evaluation paradigms. Some paradigms are based on what is called 'a successivist view'. In this view, a correlation between 'independent' variables (things that are varied or controlled – think 'input variables') and 'dependent' variables (the outcomes of interest) is examined. If the relationship is confirmed across many cases, causation is taken to be established. Realist evaluation assumes that there is something underlying



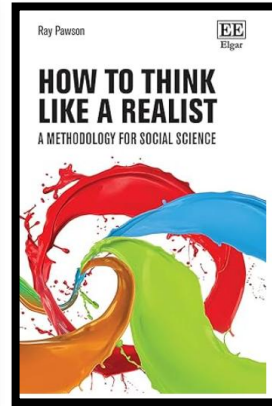
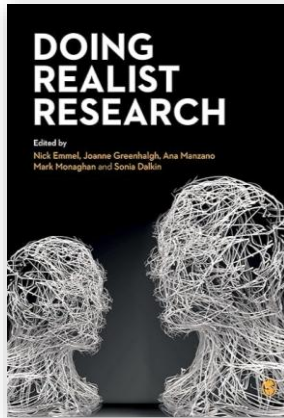
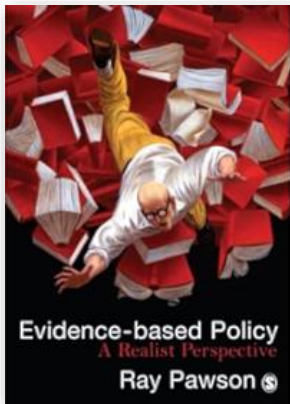
Magenta Book 2020

Supplementary Guide: Realist Evaluation

Realist Evaluation – In a nutshell...



[Justin Jagosh](#)



[Ray Pawson](#)

Resources and training for Realist Evaluation:

[The RAMESES Project FAQs](#)

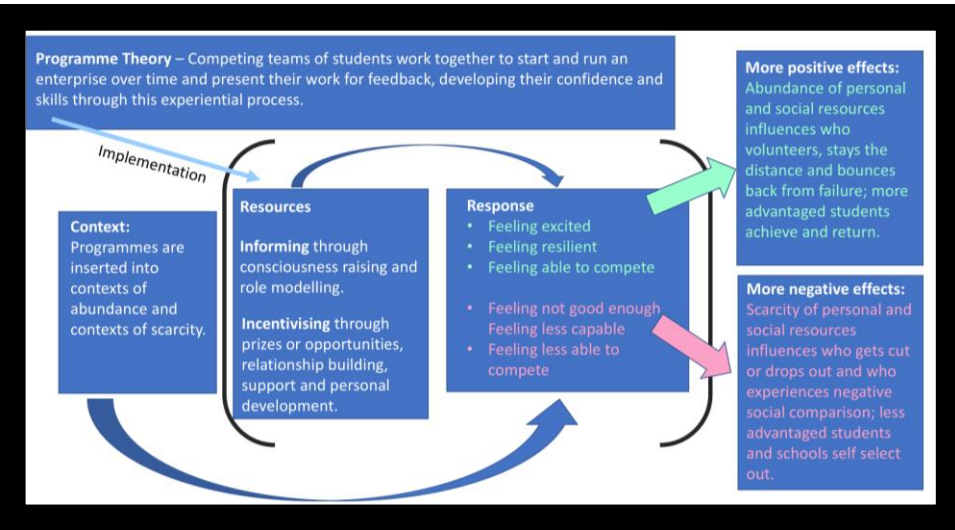
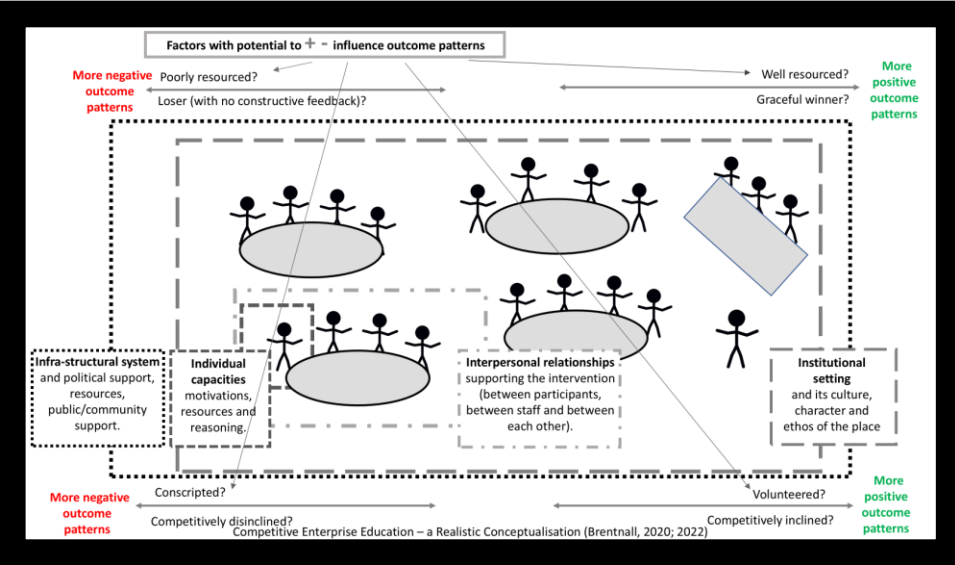
A fantastic JiscMail community: [The RAMESES Project list](#)

- Strong [Realist - **Depth/Layered**] philosophical underpinning
- Implicit/explicit critique of 'What Works' and move towards: *what works for whom and why?*
- Standards/creative adaptations
- Realist Interview and Retrodution
- Can address weaknesses in EE/SEE evaluation

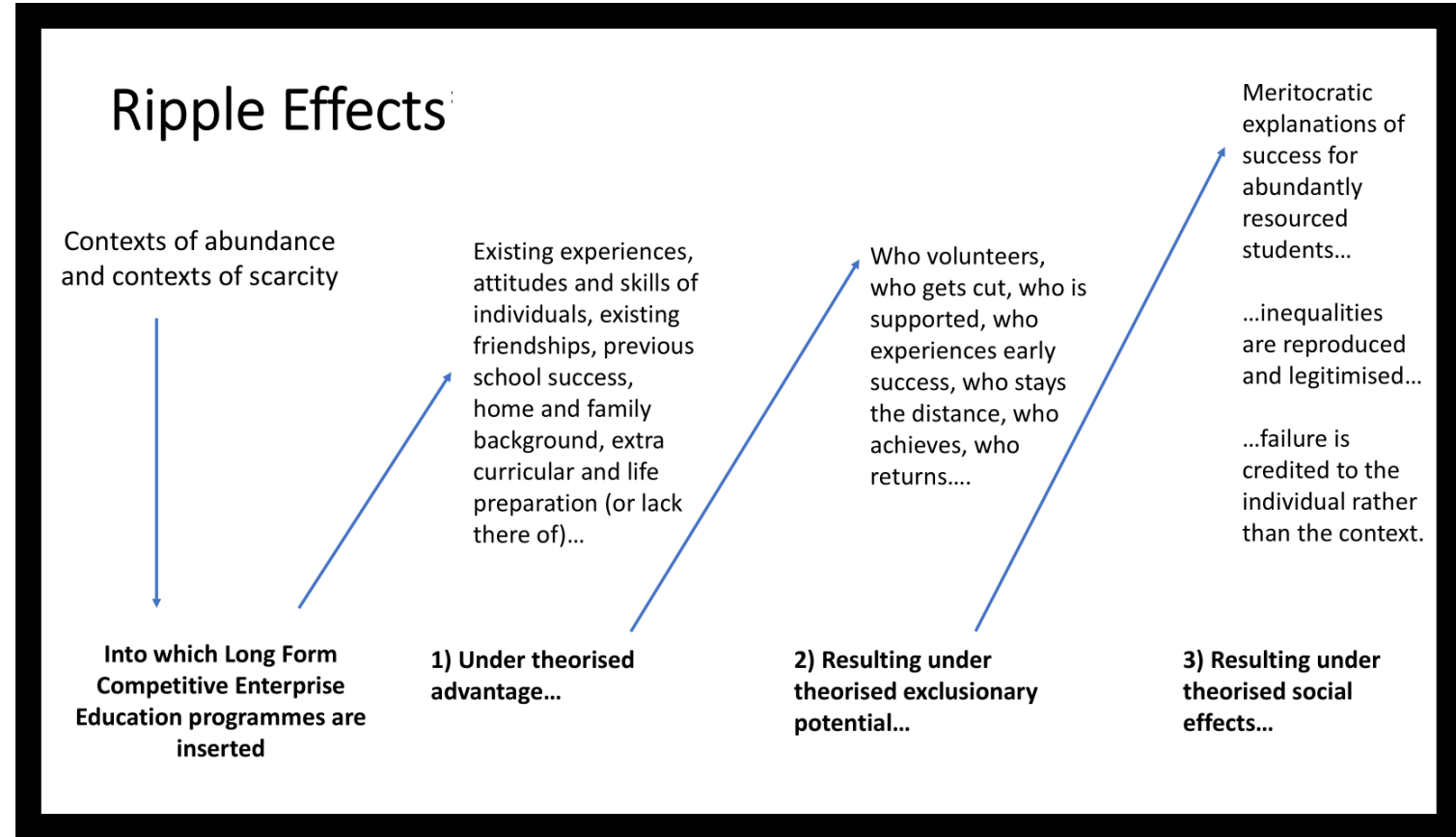
Where I've used it:

- Brentnall, C (2025). "Extracurricular **one day competitions** in enterprise and entrepreneurship education—theorising effects." *Entrepreneurship Education and Pedagogy* 8.1 (2025): 174-205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/251512742412630>
- Brentnall C., Lever, J., Downing, G. (2024). **Cooperative Business Impacts** – A Realist Perspective. Available at: [What's the evidence for cooperatives? - Co-operative Councils Innovation Network](#)
- Brentnall, C. (2022). Theorising **Competitive Enterprise Education** (2022). PhD Thesis, available at: <https://shura.shu.ac.uk/32081/>
- Brentnall, C. (2021). **Competitive enterprise education**: developing a concept. *Entrepreneurship Education and Pedagogy*, 4(3), 346-375. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2515127419900486>
- Brentnall, C., Rodríguez, I. D., & Culkin, N. (2018). The contribution of realist evaluation to critical analysis of the effectiveness of **entrepreneurship education competitions**. *Industry and Higher Education*, 32(6), 405-417. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0950422218807499>
- Brentnall, C., Rodríguez, I. D., & Culkin, N. (2018). **Enterprise education competitions**: a theoretically flawed intervention?. In *Creating Entrepreneurial Space: Talking Through Multi-Voices, Reflections on Emerging Debates* (pp. 25-48). Emerald Publishing Limited. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1108/S2040-72462018000009A002>
- Clegg, P., and Brentnall, C. (2018). Collaborate?! Why would I want to do that? Lessons from a **HEFCE Catalyst Project on Business Start-Up Collaboration**. IEEC, Oxford Brookes University.

- *Programme theory* is the theory (or set of ideas), about what a programme or intervention is *expected to do*...
- Often, the theories which underpin the use and propagation of interventions are not described and interventions are handed down to practitioners with the theory *implicit* in the organisation of the programme.
- A key task of the realist is to make this theory *explicit* (Pawson, 2006).



Programme theories (sets of ideas) *where they finished....*



Complex, non-linear, exploring contextual influences, positive, negative and ripple effects...

Programme theories (sets of ideas) *where they started....*

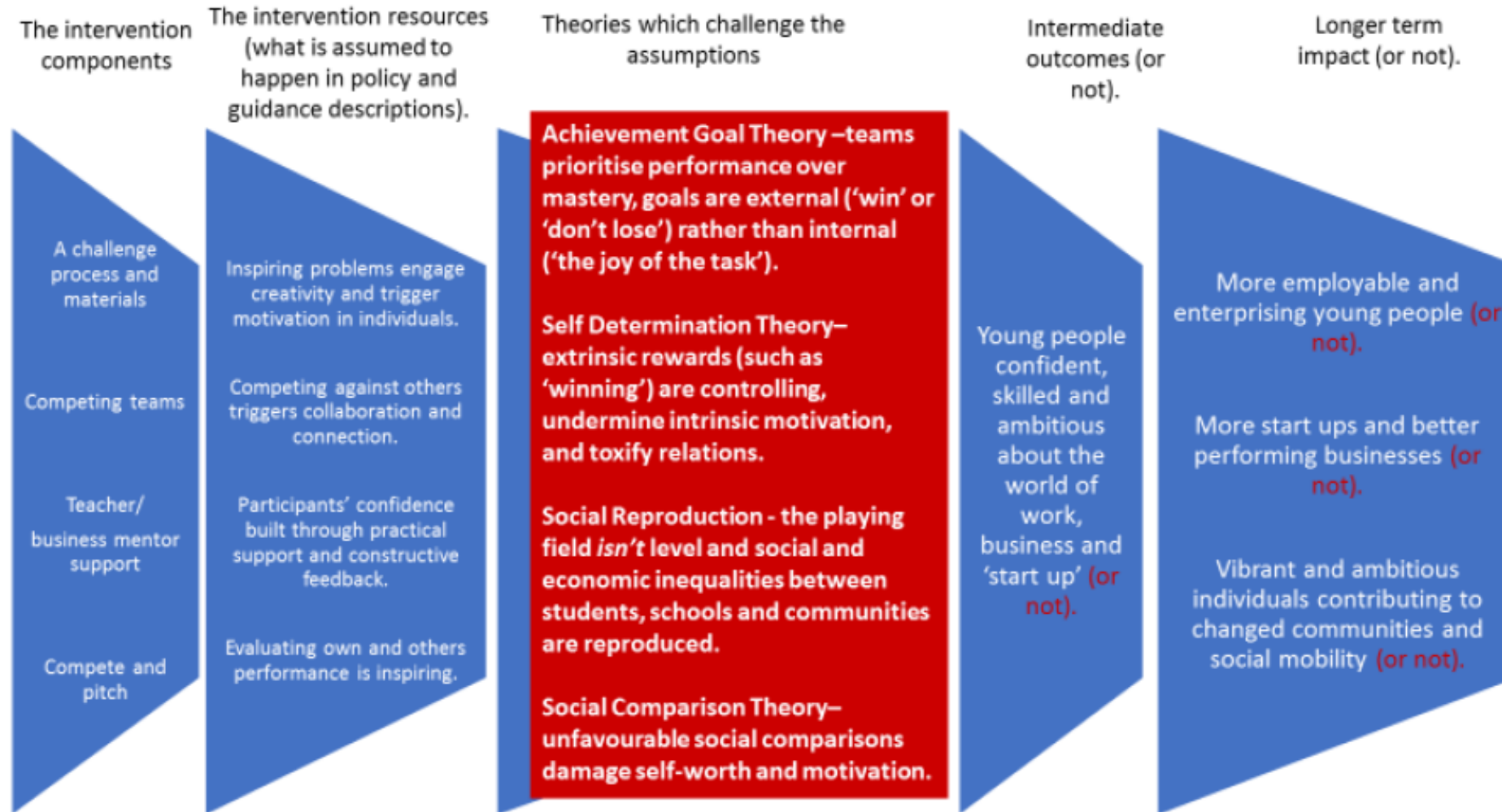


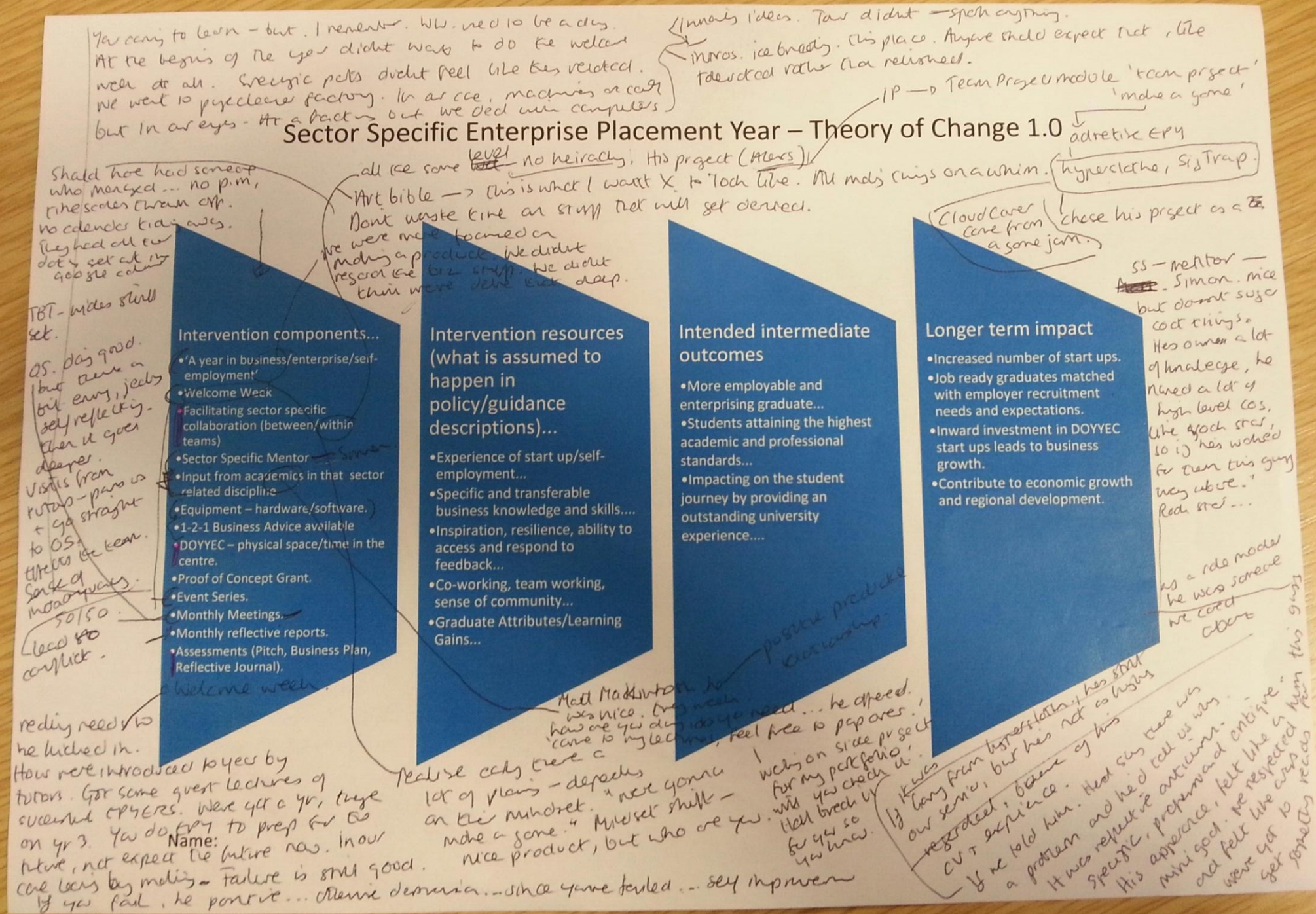
Figure 2 - Testing the programme theory for competitions in entrepreneurship education

HEFCE Catalyst Project

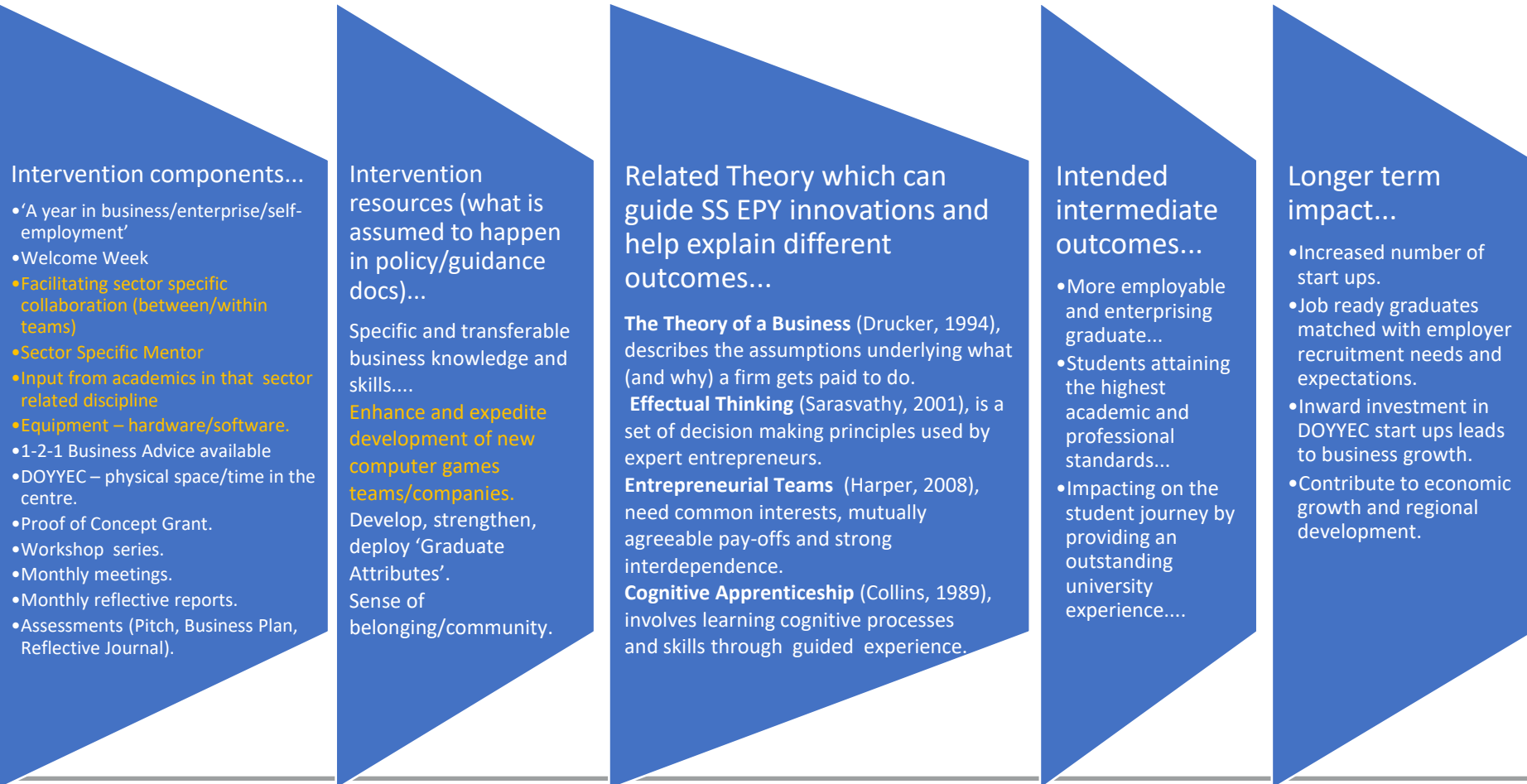
- Enterprise
Placement Year
aiming to
facilitate cross
sector
collaboration

- Programme
theory

- 6 interviews –
Shared the



Generic (and Sector Specific) Enterprise Placement Year – Programme Theory 4.0



An example from Sustainable Enterprise/Business Education

Intervention components...

- ESD Curriculum (Modules & Workshops & Asynchronous activities, SDGs, UNESCO competencies)
- Holistic design across modules – carefully sequential layering of knowledge, skills and capability
- Strategic involvement of senior sponsors for all participants
- Work-based assignments briefs
- SMI diagnostic (pre-programme)
- SMP integrated across programme as a personal growth feature
- Guest speakers and tutors with sustainability expertise

Resources the comp create (or not).

Deep, holistic and interconnected understanding of integrating sustainability across business and sectors

Work-based learning allowed live, experiential authentic learning in semi-consultancy role making direct changes in participants organisation

A deeper critique and evaluation of current mindset, purpose, values versus sustainable values (self, society & business)

Connection to emerging Industry practice & practitioners leading to new internal & external narratives

Intended intermediate outcomes...

- Upskilling talent from within to become sustainability leaders
- Increased number of responsible practitioners
- How and why of embedding sustainability (strategy-ops, marketing, finances, workforce)
- Sustainable change and innovation within the business
- Shift in values, purpose & longterm thinking both individually and organisationally

Longer term impact...

- Significant acceleration towards responsible business practice
- Low-Carbon emission industry
- More sustainable/social enterprise
- Transformation of profit-only ethos environmental/social paradigm
- Harmonious and regenerative relationship with the Earth
- Shift towards sustainable global economy
- Purpose of HEI evolves from utilitarian economic to progressing humanity, society in consideration of future generations
- Transformation in human consciousness towards higher values

Share the theory (with participants, practitioners, stakeholders and ask 'what's working (or not) and why?')

Realist introduction - resources -

[The "Context + Mechanism" Association: a Key Heuristic in Realist Evaluation \(youtube.com\)](#)

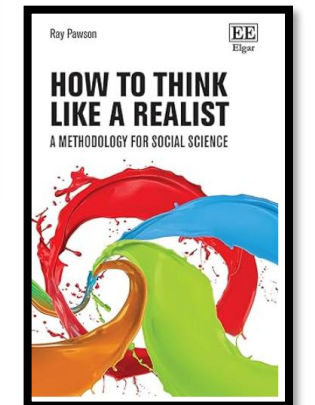
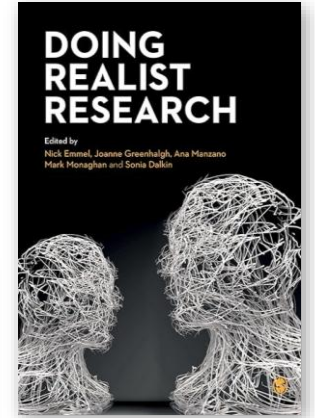
[\(936\) The Importance of Understanding Context: Realist Methodology for Public Health and Primary Care – YouTube](#)

[Retroductive Theorizing in Applied Scientific Realism \(youtube.com\)](#)

Resources and training for Realist Evaluation:
[The RAMESES Project FAQs](#)

A fantastic JiscMail community: [The RAMESES Project list](#)

Get in touch - c.brentnall@mmu.ac.uk



[Ray Pawson](#)



Exploring the connections between the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainability competencies and sustainability mindset



Professor Ian Turner



Associate Professor Chris Ribchester

Sustainability Mindset

- ☐ Ecoliteracy
- ☐ My Contribution



- ☐ Long-Term Thinking
- ☐ Flow in Cycles
- ☐ Both+And Thinking
- ☐ Interconnections

- ☐ Oneness with Nature
- ☐ Mindfulness
- ☐ Purpose



- ☐ Reflection
- ☐ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Creative Innovation





The five pathways to nature connection



1 Senses

Exploring and experiencing nature through all the senses



2 Beauty

Seeking and appreciating the beauty of the natural world



3 Emotion

Noticing and welcoming the feelings nature inspires



4 Meaning

Celebrating and sharing nature's events and stories



5 Compassion

Helping and caring for nature

Richardson, M., & Butler, C.W. (2022). *The nature connection handbook: A guide for increasing people's connection with nature*. United Kingdom.

Sustainability Mindset

- ☐ Ecoliteracy
- ☐ My Contribution



- ☐ Long-Term Thinking
- ☐ Flow in Cycles
- ☐ Both+And Thinking
- ☐ Interconnections

- ☐ Oneness with Nature
- ☐ Mindfulness
- ☐ Purpose



- ☐ Reflection
- ☐ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Creative Innovation



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-61167925>

'Clip from The Trials of Life: Finding Food', The Trials of Life, Finding Food, 11:10 13/09/2014, BBC2 England, 50 mins. 00:33:46-00:36:00. <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/clip/144884?bcast=114118376> (Accessed 01 Mar 2019)





Draw A Scientist Test

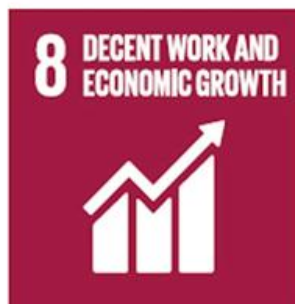
Devised by Chambers in 1983

Chambers was able to show that children began to develop stereotypical views of scientists from a very early age, with a progressively larger number of indicators appearing as the grades progress





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainability Mindset

- ☐ Ecoliteracy
- ☐ My Contribution



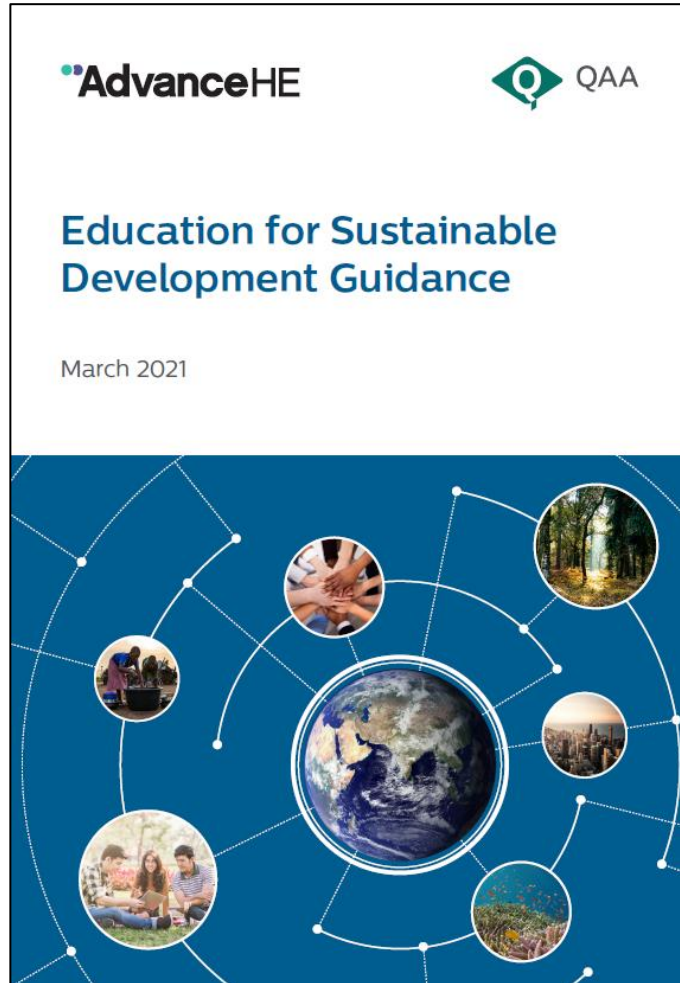
- ☐ Long-Term Thinking
- ☐ Flow in Cycles
- ☐ Both+And Thinking
- ☐ Interconnections

- ☐ Oneness with Nature
- ☐ Mindfulness
- ☐ Purpose



- ☐ Reflection
- ☐ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Creative Innovation

Competencies for sustainability literate graduates



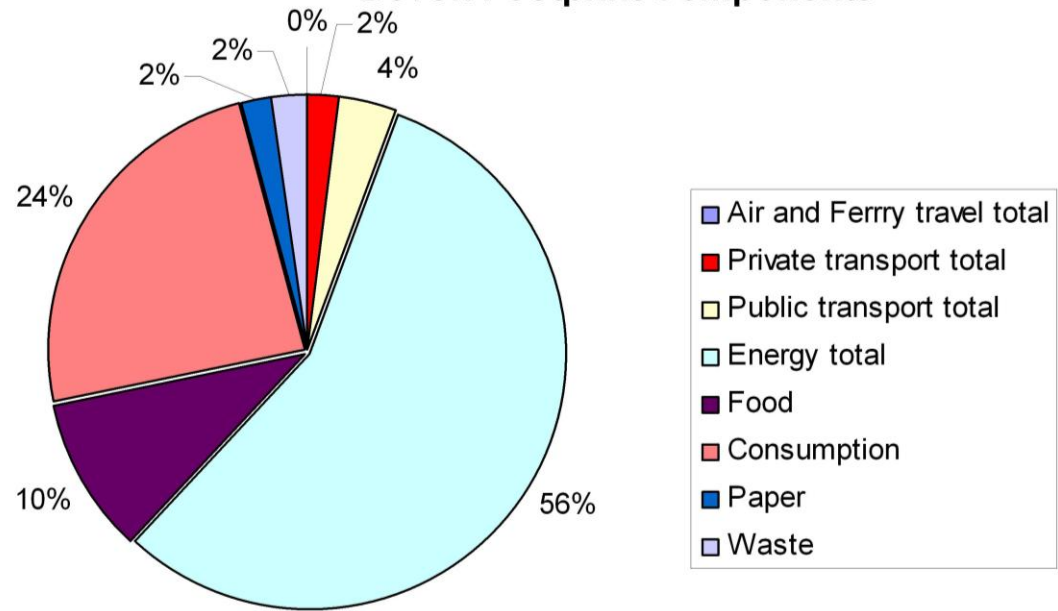
Advance HE/QAA, 2021

- **Ways of practicing** (Integrated problem-solving competency; Collaboration competency; Strategic competency)
- **Ways of thinking** (Critical thinking competency; Anticipatory competency; Systems thinking competency)
- **Ways of being** (Self-awareness competency; Normative competency)

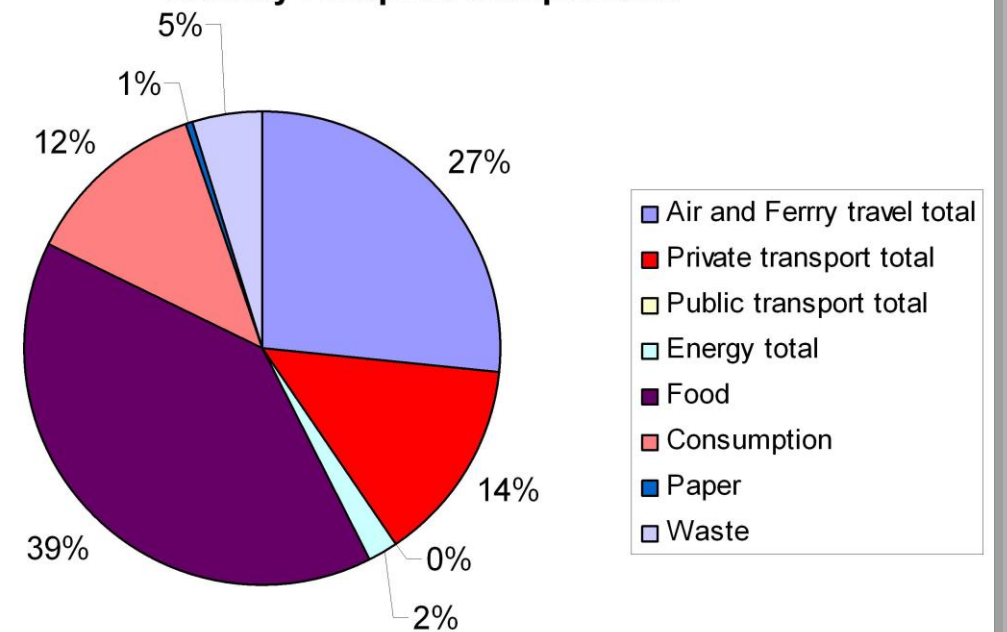




Devon Footprint Components



Norway Footprint Components



Sustainability Mindset

- ☐ Ecoliteracy
- ☐ My Contribution



- ☐ Long-Term Thinking
- ☐ Flow in Cycles
- ☐ Both+And Thinking
- ☐ Interconnections

- ☐ Oneness with Nature
- ☐ Mindfulness
- ☐ Purpose



- ☐ Reflection
- ☐ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Creative Innovation

Thank you



Lunch break
(12.45 to 13.30 pm)

Session 3 - Integrating SMP Tools in Assessment/Programs: Towards Authentic Teaching strategies

13:30 – 13:45 | Opportunities and challenges in embedding SMP tools and principles in assessment design (Orla Kelleher)

13:45 – 14:45 | Design & Share Session: Development of authentic teaching, learning and evaluation strategies to enrich one's own practice

14:45 – 15:00 | Workshop Close & Next Steps

Opportunities and challenges in embedding SMP tools and principles in authentic assessment design



Presenter:

Orla Kelleher
Senior Lecturer in Responsible Management
Programme Leader - MSc Sustainable & Ethical Business
Management
PRME Lead & Sustainability Champion
UN PRME Working Group on Sustainability Mindset
Derby Business School, University of Derby

What is the purpose of Higher Education today?

What challenges does that present for ESD, PRME & SMP?

What challenges (and opportunities) does it offer for assessment design?



Era	Purpose of Higher Education	Nature & Spirituality	Key Influences
Ancient (Egypt, China)	Serve religion, state and elite governance	Religion, humanity and nature tied to divine cosmic order	Temples, bureaucracy
Classical (Plato, Confucius)	Cultivate virtue and just leadership	Harmony with nature Exploration of divine principles & natural laws	Moral philosophy
Medieval (500-1800)	Theological and civic moral order	Seeking universal truth through faith and reason leading to separation of Church & State in Age of Reason	Clergy, Confucian exams
Industrial (1800-1950s)	Nation-building, scientific training, Science, Professionalism	Rise of secular education to meet industrial workforce needs, Nature seen as resource to exploit	Humboldt, state planners
Post-War (1950s–70s)	Modernization, State tool for industrial & scientific progress	Piuraistic allowing for diversity in secular and religious perspectives	Human capital theory
Neoliberal Globalization (1970-2000s)	Employability, economic growth, Individual Advancement	Focus on sustainability & interdependence with nature with recognition of a need of a shift in consciousness – rise of grand societal challenges	Markets, rankings
21st Century (Now)	Sustainability, ethics, global citizenship??	Attempt to reclaim moral purpose with shift away from profit-only motive & care for Mother Earth & future generations – Shift in VALUES	ESD, PRME, UNESCO, SDGs

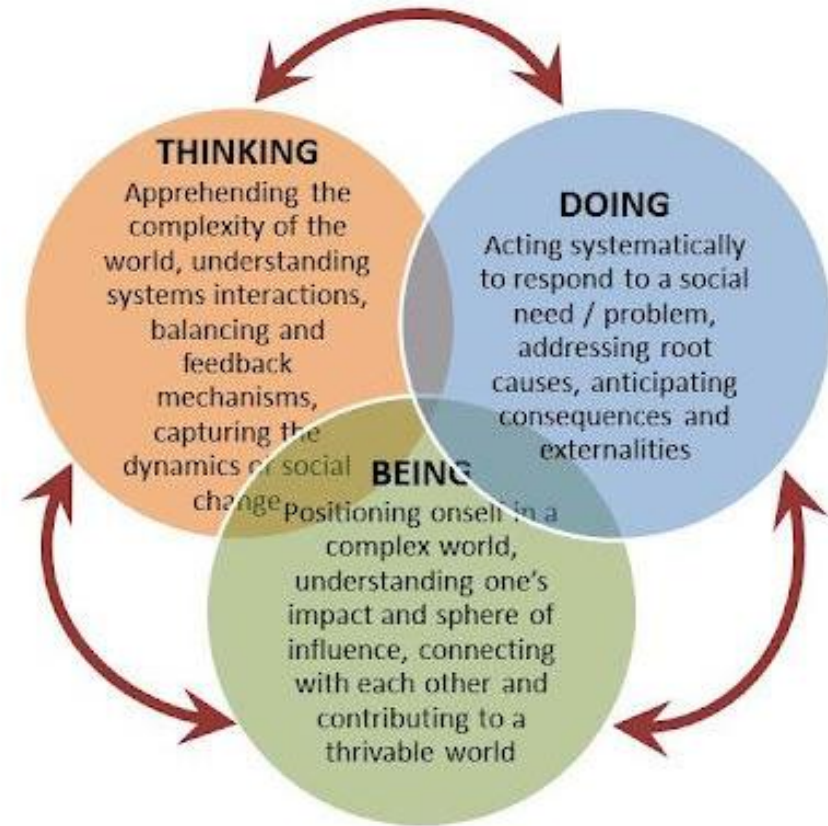
Addressing values and attitudes is highly problematic for higher education, yet is at the heart of education for sustainability (Gentile, 2017)

FOSTERING AN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENABLES TRANSFORMATION

‘Head, Hands and Heart dimension of sustainability learning (Sipos et., 2008)

- Knowledge (Thinking),
- Doing (Skills, Practical application)
- Being (Values, Attitudes, Positions)

(Rimanoczy & Ivanona, 2021; Rimanoczy, 2020;)

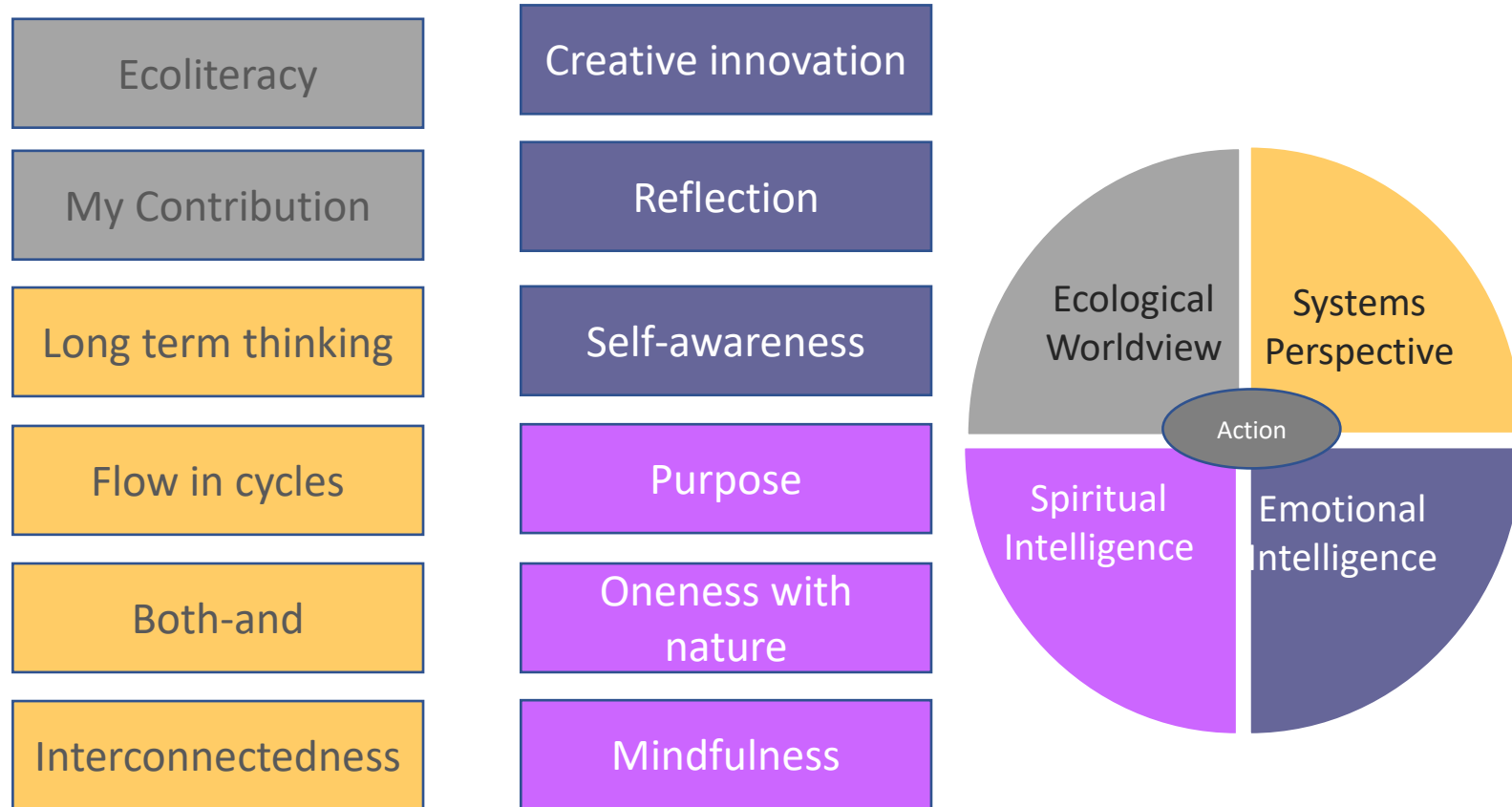


Opportunities & Challenges to embed SMP Tools in Summative Assessment:

MSc Sustainable & Ethical Business Management



The 12 Sustainability Mindset Principles



Sustainability mindset integration across programme

UNIVERSITY OF
DERBY

PG Cert

The Case for
Sustainable &
Ethical Business

- Reflective Portfolio
- Carbon Literacy Certification & Climate Fresk
- Sustainability Mindset

Sustainable &
Ethical Business
Strategy

- Responsible values and principles in business strategy
- Purpose – beyond profit

Leading Sustainable
& Ethical Change

- Responsible Leadership
- Values and consciousness for sustainable development

PG Diploma

Sustainable & Ethical
Business Operations &
Marketing

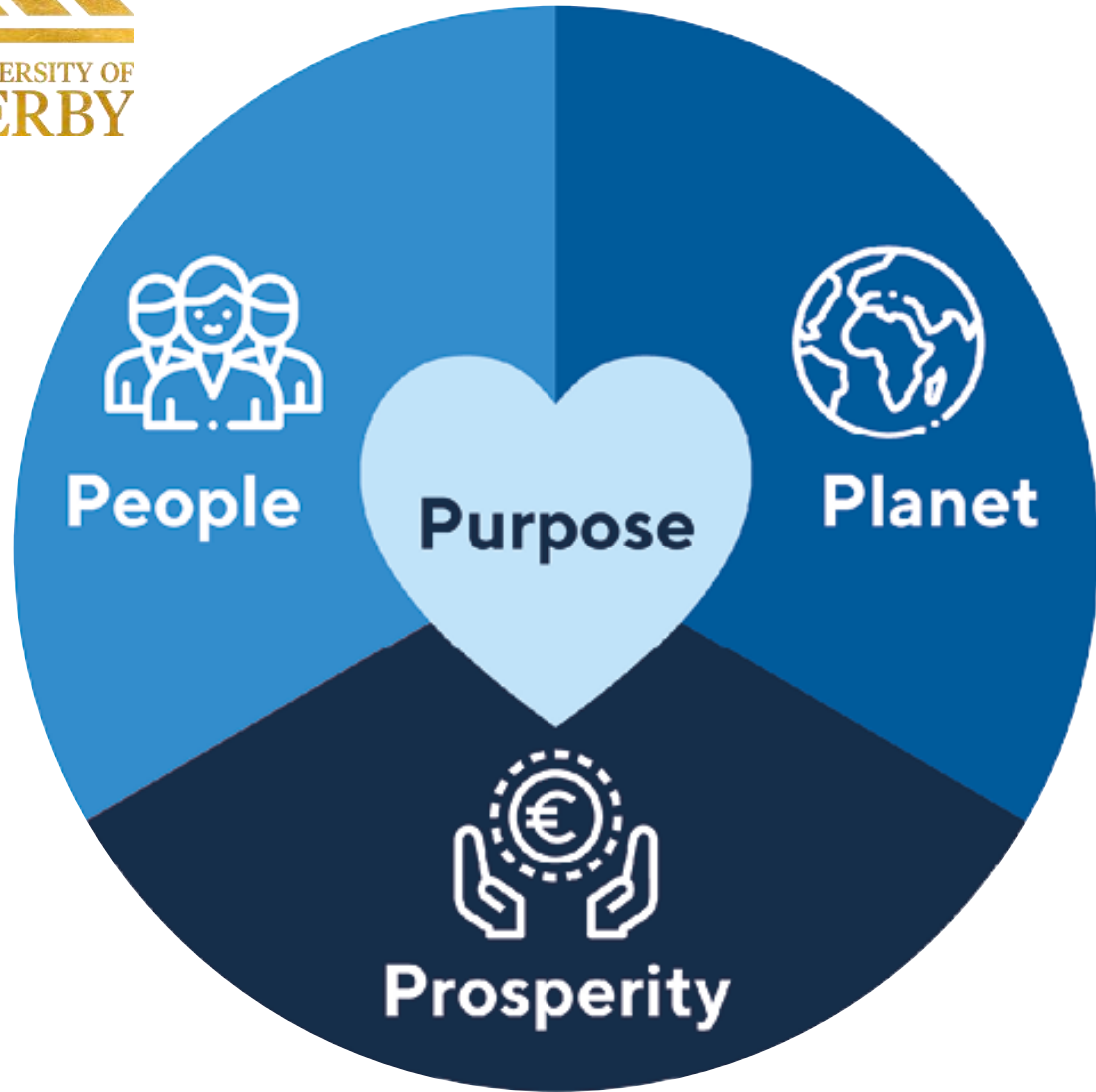
- Integration of responsible principles in business operations and marketing

Sustainable Workforce
And Wellbeing

- Nature connectedness
- Inter-connection between CSR and sustainability

Sustainable & Ethical
Finance & Accounting

- Responsibility in financial accounting and reporting
- Triple bottom line as new norm



Module Assessment

In each module, students were asked to evaluate why and how to embed responsible values and principles in their organisations or chosen sector

The Case for Sustainable & Ethical Business (20 credits)

CW1: Group(1) Presentation
**Analysis of world megatrends
including climate change and Net
Zero**

**Cw2: Reflective Portfolio – Carbon
Literacy Certification & Reflective
Statement**



*Why be
responsible as a
business or world
citizen?*

*What's my and
others
contribution +/-
?*

On successful completion of the module, you will be able to:

1. Critically analyse the mega trends, global drivers and critical reasons for sustainable, ethical and socially responsible business
2. Critically evaluate sectoral/organisational trends, challenges, barriers and opportunities in sustainable, ethical and responsible business
3. Critically reflect on the role of business and society as enablers in this global transition
4. Critically reflect on your mindset and role as a responsible practitioner and world citizen

Module Assessment

Component 1: Group Presentation

Weighting: 50%

Assesses Learning Outcomes: 1 and 2

CW1 Assignment

In groups of 3-4 persons, prepare a 20minute presentation that argues the case for embedding environmental sustainability, social responsibility and ethics within [tourism and hospitality] business practice today.

Includes Climate Science, Climate Fresk & Net Zero content to support megatrends analysis of world issues

Component 2: Reflective Portfolio

Weighting: 50%

Assesses Learning Outcome 3 and 4

CW2 Assignment

Given the imperative to address the Climate Emergency, this personal reflection invites you to ***critically reflect on the role of business and society in reaching Net Zero, and specifically the opportunity to critically reflect on your contribution as an individual*** in co-creating a positive, sustainable future. It also enables you to attain Carbon Literacy certification with the Carbon Literacy Project, as part of your reflective portfolio, if your submission is successful.

Reflective Portfolio

Includes **Carbon Literacy Evidence Form** and Individual Reflection & Artifact

Grading Rubric

Assessment criteria -
aligned with Sustainability
Competencies



Grade	Critical Thinking & Self Awareness competency	Normative competency & Self- awareness	Normative competency & Self-awareness	Academic rigour
	Critical thinking on role of business and society in Net Zero transition	Ability to reflect on the inner and outer moral, ethical and practical challenges to achieve true sustainability.	Critical reflection on the mindset and behavioural shifts needed to co-create a positive, fair and sustainable future	Ability to write academically and present a coherent written personal reflection

CW1 Learning Strategy: Focus on Thinking/Skills

- ☐ Ecoliteracy
- ☐ My Contribution



Climate Fresk
PESTLE & SWOT
Analyses

*"What is happening
in the world today
and its impact, now
and in the future "*

**Carbon Literate
Educator**
Bronze



CW2: Reflective Portfolio – **focus on Being/Doing**

This personal reflection portfolio (2000-2,250 words or equivalent) should include the following:

- Complete the **Carbon Literacy Evidence Form** to identify the most important changes business and society need to make to reach Net Zero and identify individual and group actions to reduce Carbon emissions (500-750 words or equivalent)
- Note: The Carbon Literacy Evidence form follows Carbon Literacy Project (CLP) requirements directly so it can be submitted directly to CLP.

Written Personal Reflection [Adapt to your context]

- Having completed the Carbon Literacy Evidence Form, critically reflect on the shifts in values, behaviours and lifestyle choices that society and business need to make to achieve a sustainable global economy, drawing from your personal and professional experience (400 words or equivalent).
- Critically reflect on the **moral and ethical challenges of responsible practice** today taking into consideration what is required to achieve true sustainability (400 words or equivalent).
- As a responsible practitioner and world citizen, critically on the **mindset shifts (e.g. values, qualities, behaviours or practices)** that you wish to cultivate in your own personal and professional life to help co-create a positive, fair and sustainable future (500 words or equivalent).

Written Personal Reflection [Adapt to your context]

"Create an artefact that encapsulates this mindset shift and the deeper 'felt' experience of this learning. This could be a story, picture, metaphor, video blog, poem, structure, personal vision or position statement. Include a narrative (200 words or equivalent) here that conveys what this artefact means to you".

- *[Introducing the use of Art, Imagination & Creativity to allow students to declare their own values and personal position when it comes to Mother Earth, Future Generations, etc]*



Examples of student assessment work





Tribute to Mother Earth 'Student Artifact'

She is wise and kind
She keeps things balanced, calm
and fair
Her forests cleans the air we breath
Her rivers and oceans quench our
thirst and soothes our aching
frames
Providing all our basic needs for
survival
She nurtures all, far & wide.



How can I respond to her endless gifts?

**Being Considerate:
Living in sync with her**



**Gratitude &
Respect**



**Collaborating with
other inhabitants in
fairness & with integrity**





Balance

Stewardship



“Oneness with Nature” SMP

Could Nature Connectedness be the best strategy for Pusterla?



Reflects sustainability values at the core



‘Easy’ structure to communicate



Trees are our raw materials = tangible element



Boost environmental & social impact opportunities

?

Is it too broad for application?

?

Will staff buy in and engage?

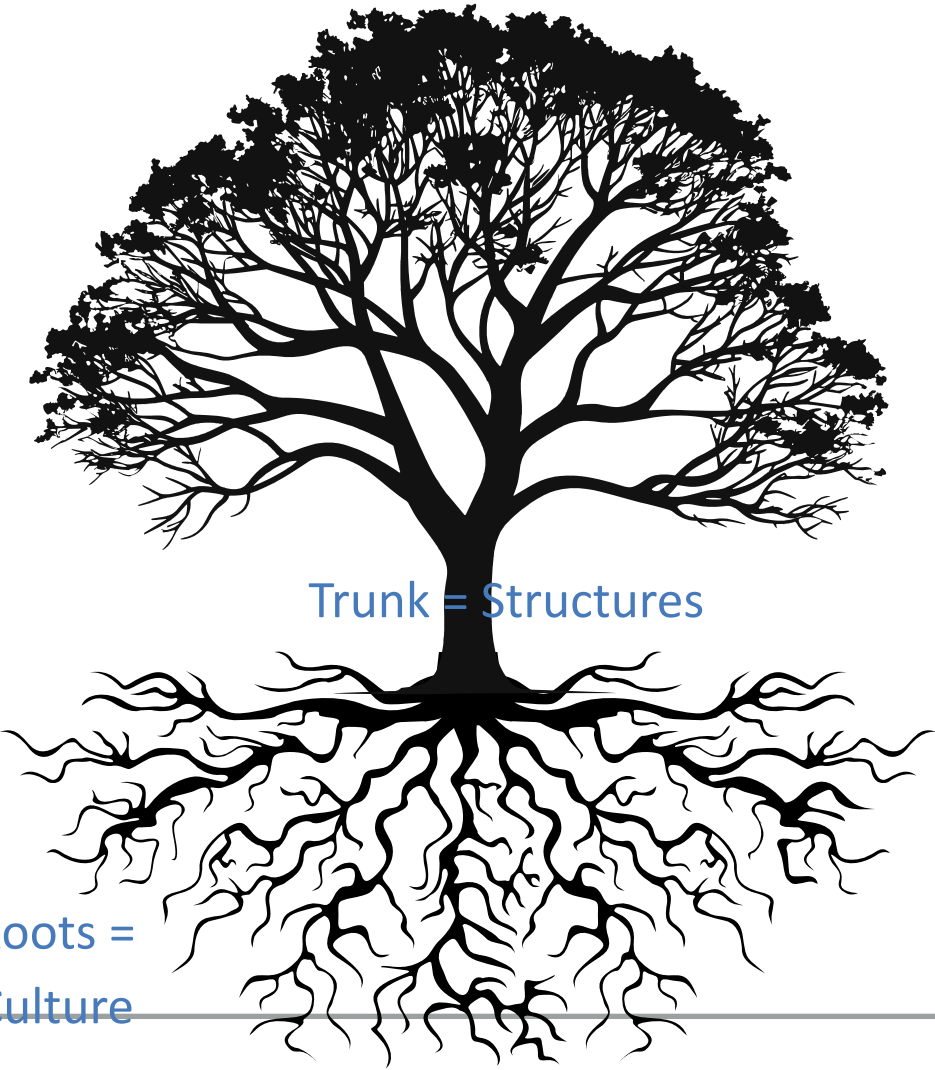
?

How can we reimagine ‘What beauty is’?

?

Quantitative v Qualitative measures

Crown = Staff



Trunk = Structures

Roots =
Culture

CW2 Learning Strategy: Focus on BEING - Use of reflection, critical evaluation of personal and societal values and use of art, imagination and creativity

Examples of learning activities that
supported the assessments

- ❑ Long-Term Thinking
- ❑ Flow in Cycles
- ❑ Both+And Thinking
- ❑ Interconnections

Contemplation of inter-
connectedness, current
situation and consideration
of future generations

- ❑ Reflection
- ❑ Self-Awareness
- ❑ Creative Innovation

Reflective / Reflexive practice
Self Discovery of Values
Personal Position-taking
Envisioning activities

- ❑ Oneness with Nature
- ❑ Mindfulness
- ❑ Purpose

Re-evaluation of purpose
Using 'art and imagery' to
surface feelings and values



MINDSET

What shift in mindset and human values will lead to a truly sustainable future and a better world?

Levels of Personal Consciousness



Schwartz defines values as desirable, trans-situational goals that serve as *guiding principles* in people's lives (Schwartz, 1992).

"Given free choice, healthy people tend to values truth, goodness and beauty... with a focus on *growth values*" (Fuer cited in Morgan 2012, p143)

Values are the answer to the question: "*In a world where you could choose to have your life be about something, what would you choose?*" (Wilson & Murrell, 2004, p.135).

Every human has an *essential inner nature or 'inner core'* of *natural inclinations, propensities, sentiments and potentialities* that are innate and also influenced by early childhood and life experience. These potentialities can be *actualized or not*. This inner nature has some characteristics that are species-wide and also unique to the individual (Morgan, 2012, p.156).

What are
values?

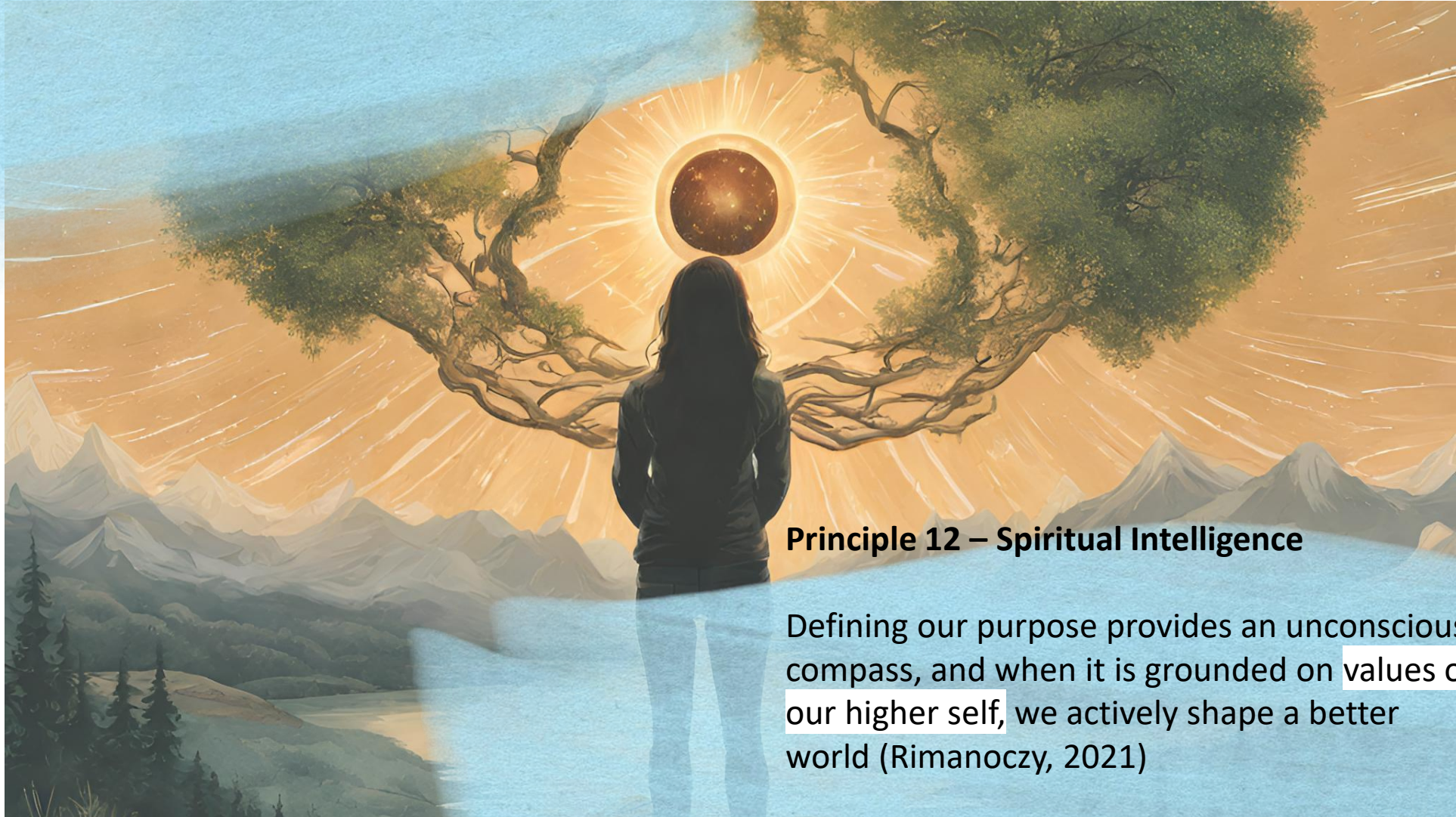
What are
higher level
values?

"..every day human acts are impressed by the *distinctly human spiritual core* that, though not perfect, is perfectible by acquired and infused *virtue*....."
(Acevedo, 2018, p.758)

"The distinction between *authentic values* and inauthentic values is one between values which are expressive of the primal drives of the organism and those which are anxiety-induced"
(Fuer cited in Morgan, 2012, p.146)

"Core values are the words that describe who you are and *what you stand for*"
Barrett, 2020

Purpose - What's your Why?



Principle 12 – Spiritual Intelligence

Defining our purpose provides an unconscious compass, and when it is grounded on values of our higher self, we actively shape a better world (Rimanoczy, 2021)

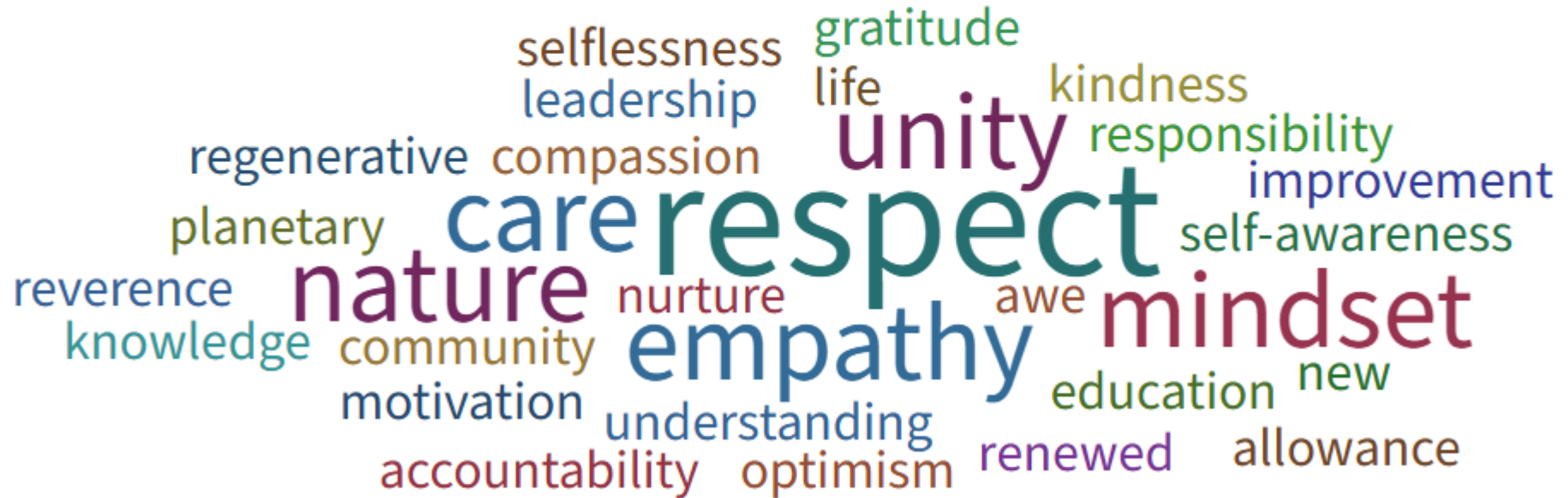
What is Spiritual Intelligence?



What qualities, values or attitudes do you choose to have in relation to Mother Earth?



What qualities do we need to grow to take care of Mother Earth?




A word cloud of various qualities and values. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with some words being larger and more prominent than others. The colors of the words vary, including shades of blue, green, purple, and brown. The words include: selflessness, gratitude, leadership, life, kindness, regenerative, compassion, unity, responsibility, improvement, planetary, care, respect, self-awareness, reverence, nature, nurture, awe, mindset, knowledge, community, empathy, education, new, motivation, understanding, accountability, optimism, renewed, and allowance.

What qualities, value(s) or attitude do you stand for in terms of sustainable development?



What shift in mindset, values, qualities and attitudes do we need to achieve a sustainable future?



A young child with light brown hair is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right. The child is wearing a light-colored, ribbed turtleneck sweater. The background is a dark, starry space with a large, detailed globe of Earth visible in the upper right. The globe shows continents and oceans. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**What qualities, values or
attitudes do you stand for
when it comes to future
generations?**

When considering Future Generations what qualities do we need?



A word cloud of various qualities and virtues. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with 'collaboration' and 'care' being the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'consideration', 'dialogue', 'open', 'compassion', 'sense', 'paternal', 'willpower', 'perseverance', 'listening', 'forgiveness', 'metacognition', 'self', 'adaptability', 'faith', 'humility', 'responsibility', 'productivity', 'maternal', 'empathy', and 'tenacity'.

perseverance compassion sense
willpower listening collaboration paternal
forgiveness care dialogue open
metacognition adaptability faith consideration
self empathy humility responsibility
tenacity maternal productivity

Learning Strategy: Attempt to balance Thinking, Doing & Being through the programme

- ☐ Ecoliteracy
- ☐ My Contribution

Carbon Literacy
Certification for students
in module assessment

- ☐ Long-Term Thinking
- ☐ Flow in Cycles
- ☐ Both+And Thinking
- ☐ Interconnections

Systems Thinking (across all modules)
Both+And Thinking &
Normative competency
explored in Stakeholder
Analysis & decision-making
scenarios / Simulations

- ☐ Reflection
- ☐ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Creative Innovation

Reflective reports
Values workshop
Purpose and values &
creative innovation in
strategy formulation

- ☐ Oneness with Nature
- ☐ Mindfulness
- ☐ Purpose

Nature Connectedness
Research
Re-evaluation of purpose
Using 'art and imagery' to
surface feelings and values



Next Steps?

Questions?



Thank you...!



Design and Share session

Embedding Authentic Strategies in Your Own Teaching Context

Format (5 groups of 5-6 people)

Step 1 – Individual Reflection (5–7 min)

Each participants reflects on **one key idea/tool** from the workshop they want to adapt in their own teaching practice to embed more authentic strategies.

Step 2 – Small Group Design Discussion (40–45 min)

- Each person shares their practice idea briefly in the group (2-3 minutes each/15-20 minutes)
- Collaborative/feedback discussion within your group (15 minutes)
- Each group feedbacks to the room a couple of actions (one "quick win" and one "ambitious goal" to share) and 1 common theme emerged in the group (1-2 min x group)

Step 3 – Individual Closing Reflection (10 minutes)

What is it that you want to bring forward in your practice as result of today?

What do you want to implement in your teaching practice as a result of today?

Aspects of SMP toolkit
at a programme level for
student journey

Thomas Long session on
purpose/purpose driven
business

Different ways to
connect students to
nature

Focus on employability
by talking about green
jobs.

Greater use of artefacts
in learning and teaching.

Embed the SMP
reflection into the
assessment

Promoting more sustainable
education Sustainable
entrepreneurship and
enterprise Evaluation
definitely

Lego session, design
thinking and systems
thinking Exposing students
to shocks/dark sides

What do you want to implement in your teaching practice as a result of today?

Evaluation and using realism in evaluations

Open a discussion with the students on their perspective on sustainability and what it means to them.

Explore students surface and deeper values as a starting point to SMPs

Review the evaluation of the modules..

Further develop the 'Being' aspects of the MSc. Consider how to evaluate the programme using the Realist Programme Theory. Deepen the work on Higher Values & Spiritual Intelligence.

Tool kit on ourpouse, career story telling and higher levels of values.

Change the assessment on my module and reevaluate the use of the SSDG's

Incorporate the use of artefacts and imagery into learning and assessment activities.

It was a wonderful experience to gather such insightful practise and create a network across different institutions. Also discussing the theoretical underpinnings of different toolkits.

learn many things. enjoyed the discussion on sust mindset will integrate system/desi thinking will try realist approach to sustainability; how to connect the sustainability module to the programme.

18



Next steps: joining the SMP-EE project

Phase 2 of the project (cont) – final data collection on student's sustainability competencies increase through using SMP enterprise education toolkit

We will also collect educators' feedback/debrief on their experience of using the SMP toolkit

Briefing webinar in early October 2025 to coordinate your contribution, should you wish to join the project and continue to test the SMP tools in the classroom



THANK YOU! We look forward
to see you at our next webinar



References and useful resources

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