

Dimensions

Richard John O'Brien Perry

From the 333 speakers that spoke, around 12 % addressed the dimensions with 7 % addressing Values and Cultural Diversity: Indigenous Knowledge and Culture and around 5 % addressing Aesthetics, Ethics and Emotional Dimensions. Which, is interesting as it echoed a discussion with Bob Jickling over lunch the other day, when he commented that very few people are working the space of environmental education and ethics.

From the outstanding plenary sessions, there were some moments that resonated particularly strongly with Dimensions. Mirian Vilela, for instance asked "what are we missing if we have no values?" And Eureka Rosenberg emphasised the need evaluation. Both of which are very valid yet perhaps very difficult when it comes to the Dimensions cluster.

From the parallel sessions, there were talks ranging from "Indigenous knowledge and climate change" by David Zandvliet and Shannon Leddy to "analytical heuristics for Environmental ethics" by Bob Jickling to "Creating your own Environmental Comic Strip" by Rohan Chakravarty.

Yet, even with such wide-ranging diversity there were a few common themes:

- 1.The indispensable value of Indigenous knowledge,
- 2.Intergenerational transfer of indigenous wisdom,
- 3.The importance of values, and the
- 4.Incredibly power and utility of aesthetics

One presentation struck a chord with delegates, it was Purnima Devi Barman and her work to save the endangered Hargila stork. Purnima was able to adapt the local tradition of hosting baby showers for humans and apply this cultural tradition to the Hargila stork. In doing so, she was able to educate, raise awareness and change community attitudes from one of loathing to love for the stork. A remarkable story of conservation.

As we move forward, let us embrace these diverse perspectives and methods. Let's integrate them into our curricula, research, and policies, to forge a path towards a more inclusive and effective environmental education.

There is huge potential in Values and Cultural Diversity: Indigenous Knowledge and Culture to inform and educate, and enormous power in Aesthetics, Ethics and Emotional Dimensions to sway and influence. Together, these perhaps under-represented tools in the arsenal of environmental educators deserve further investigation.

As Bob Jickling commented, few people are looking at dimensions and there are even fewer tools available for those that are, so perhaps greater focus is required on supporting the dimensions.