Responsible education for sustainable development: Creating a pedagogic approach which reflects the complexity of the vision

Svetlana Cicmil, Katie Collins and Richard Ecclestone

(supported by MSc and MBA students and the SD teaching team)
UWE, Bristol, UK

“From Millennium Development, to Sustainable Development Goals”
A Vision for Responsible Management Post -2015

2nd Annual Conference PRME Regional Chapter UK and Ireland,
29 – 30 June 2015, Glasgow Caledonian University
Dialoguing with a polyphony of voices

Curriculum design & regulations

struggle to get to grips ...

identities (professional, social/public, inner Self)

need for informed personal stance

realistic, practical and cautious

be true and honest

is it okay to feel anxious?

enlightenment, spirituality and intellectual challenge

triple bottom line as a ‘soothing’ solution

affirmation that the subject is complex

assessment

learning outcomes

Accreditation

business school ethos

Structural Complexity

feeling angry and powerless

The meaning of sustainability has been hijacked/lost

Cicmil, Collins & Ecclestone, 2015
The vision of sustainable development

• It is a complex issue and multiple definitions are inevitable

• Each can be justified and argued for and each is valid

• What ultimately differentiates them are two things: the values underpinning the argument and the level of analysis

• By mapping the terrain conceptually at a meta-level beyond the language / common terminology (Fig. 1), we create space for a dialogue about complex challenges and realities of life we share on the globalised Earth

• thus remaining responsible, inclusive, transparent and relevant

• We achieved a much smoother (although not without any tensions/struggle) ‘implementation‘ of multi-disciplinarity in teaching SD through multi-community (cross-UWE) partnering based on dialogue
Global Ethics
Values, priorities, choices, culture, identity, power, global justice, rights, wisdom
What is good or bad? How should we live our lives?

Risk
What is at risk? Who risks? What is risky?
Vulnerability and resilience

Ecology
Balanced ecosystem: humans+non-human nature; natural resources; biodiversity; life-supporting system

Economy
Contemporary socio-economic order; indicators of growth; development; technology and science; finance and fiscal policy; shareholders expectations; other sectors

Cicmil, Collins & Ecclestone, 2015