Research Integration Using Dialogue Methods

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Research on real-world problems—like restoration of wetlands, the needs of the elderly, effective disaster response and the future of the airline industry—requires expert knowledge from a range of disciplines, as well as from stakeholders affected by the problem and those in a position to do something about it. This book charts new territory in taking a systematic approach to research integration using dialogue methods to bring together multiple perspectives. It links specific dialogue methods to particular research integration tasks.

Fourteen dialogue methods for research integration are classified into two groups:
1. Dialogue methods for understanding a problem broadly: integrating judgements
2. Dialogue methods for understanding particular aspects of a problem: integrating visions, world views, interests and values.

The methods are illustrated by case studies from four research areas: the environment, public health, security and technological innovation.

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http://epress.anu.edu.au/dialogue_methods_citation.html

Researchers across a broad range of disciplines and domains of enquiry are increasingly engaged with dialogue-based approaches as a means of improving the integration, relevance and impact of research in tackling applied problems – this is certainly the case in sustainability science. Success is strongly dependent on selecting the right approach for the issue at hand. This can be challenging for disciplinary experts with limited experience in integration. This book is a clear, concise and highly accessible resource. It contextualises each approach in the broader domain and provides summaries and case study descriptions of each approach that clearly illustrate their fitness for purpose. In short it is an ideal resource for researchers and practitioners seeking best practice.

Daniel Walker, Acting Chief, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Canberra, Australia

Most writers on dialogue advocate one favourite approach. This book is different: it reviews a broad range of methods, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses. It provides useful tables to compare methods at a glance, and each method is presented very accessibly with a step-by-step description, practical examples and references to further reading. It is a great resource for both newcomers to dialogue methods and experienced researchers who want a window on less familiar approaches. In future years, there will be well-thumbed copies on many of our shelves.

Gerald Midgley, Senior Science Leader, Institute of Environmental Science & Research, Christchurch, New Zealand

An invitation to contribute

If you are involved in research using dialogue to bring together disciplinary and stakeholder knowledge to improve understanding and action on complex real-world problems, we would like to hear from you!

The intention of the current book is to be a first step in developing a comprehensive compilation of dialogue methods for knowledge synthesis in a research context, as well as illustrative case studies. We are looking for methods and cases that we may have missed in our review of the published literature, as well as those which are in the grey literature and unpublished. We are also interested in your ideas about how the methods can best be classified and differentiated.

You can contribute on-line, by e-mail or by telephone interview. For more information, please see http://i2s.anu.edu.au/projects/dialogue-methods