

Paper Summary

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Title: Telling stories: Exploring the relationship between myths and ecological wisdom

Authors: Esther Eidinow

DOI: 10.1016/j.landurbplan.2016.04.014

Year: 2016

Publication Type: Journal

Discipline/Domain: Environmental Studies / Classics

Subdomain/Topic: Myths, ecological wisdom, scenario planning

Eligibility: Eligible

Overall Relevance Score: 90

Operationalization Score: 85

Contains Definition of Actionability: Yes (implicitly through ecological wisdom and its actionable transmission)

Contains Systematic Features/Dimensions: Yes

Contains Explainability: Yes

Contains Interpretability: Partial

Contains Framework/Model: Yes (scenario planning as mechanism)

Operationalization Present: Yes

Primary Methodology: Conceptual / Theoretical synthesis with illustrative case studies

Study Context: Interdisciplinary exploration linking classical mythology, indigenous knowledge, and environmental planning

Geographic/Institutional Context: Global, with case studies from Greece, Indonesia, and Borneo; Universities in the UK and US

Target Users/Stakeholders: Environmental planners, policymakers, indigenous communities, scholars

Primary Contribution Type: Conceptual framework and methodological suggestion

CL: Yes

CR: Yes

FE: Partial

TI: Partial

EX: Yes

GA: Yes

Reason if Not Eligible: n/a

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Telling stories: Exploring the relationship between myths and ecological wisdom

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****Discipline/Domain:****

Environmental Studies / Classics

****Subdomain/Topic:****

Myths, ecological wisdom, scenario planning

****Contextual Background:****

The paper bridges classical studies, indigenous ecological knowledge, and environmental planning to argue

****Geographic/Institutional Context:****

Global scope; cases from ancient Greece, Komodo Island (Indonesia), and Borneo. Author based at University of

****Target Users/Stakeholders:****

Environmental planners, policymakers, indigenous communities, academics across humanities and environmental

****Primary Methodology:****

Conceptual synthesis with illustrative historical and ethnographic case studies.

****Primary Contribution Type:****

Conceptual framework linking myth-making with ecological wisdom and operational suggestion for scenario

General Summary of the Paper

This paper proposes that myths function as repositories and transmitters of ecological wisdom, integrating

Eligibility

Eligible for inclusion: ****Yes****

How Actionability is Understood

Actionability is framed through the lens of ecological wisdom as both theoretical ideas (sophia) and practical

> “Myths... can provide a framework for... capturing ecological wisdom... [and] transmitting it as actionable

> “They are practical, they provoke action, and they shape our perception of the world” (p. 49)

What Makes Something Actionable

- Integration of theoretical and practical wisdom.
- Embedding knowledge in culturally resonant narratives.
- Ability to provoke context-relevant action.
- Retention of multiple perspectives and plurality of narratives.
- Connection to lived, practical experience and socio-political realities.

How Actionability is Achieved / Operationalized

- **Framework/Approach Name(s):** Myth-making; Scenario Planning.
 - **Methods/Levers:** Use of culturally embedded narratives; stakeholder engagement across knowledge systems.
 - **Operational Steps / Workflow:** Identify existing myths; preserve plurality; integrate via scenario planning.
 - **Data & Measures:** Narrative content, stakeholder perspectives, scenario quality metrics (information quality, relevance, etc.).
 - **Implementation Context:** Multi-stakeholder environmental planning, integrating indigenous and scientific knowledge.
- > “Scenario-planning... offers a mechanism for creating new myths... facilitating the integration of multiple knowledge systems.”
- > “Scenarios... encapsulate and transmit new information... developing shared mental models... and strengthening the capacity to act on them.”

Dimensions and Attributes of Actionability (Authors' Perspective)

- **CL (Clarity):** Yes — scenarios must have “ergonomic design” and coherent sequence (p. 51).
- **CR (Contextual Relevance):** Yes — myths emerge from and reflect local ecological and socio-political conditions.
- **FE (Feasibility):** Partial — implied in practical wisdom but not systematically defined.
- **TI (Timeliness):** Partial — responsiveness of myths to contemporary events noted (p. 48).
- **EX (Explainability):** Yes — myths' cultural logic and resonance explained via cognitive and aesthetic theory.
- **GA (Goal Alignment):** Yes — aligning myths with ecological wisdom goals and integrated planning objectives.
- **Other Dimensions Named by Authors:** Multiplicity; flexibility; integration without dilution.

Theoretical or Conceptual Foundations

- Aristotelian sophia and phronesis.
- Cognitive metaphor theory (Fauconnier & Turner).
- Indigenous knowledge integration literature (Bohensky & Maru, 2011).
- Scenario planning theory (Schwartz, Wack).

Indicators or Metrics for Actionability

- Narrative's ability to provoke action.
- Participant engagement and shared mental model formation in scenarios.
- Scenario attributes: vividness, coherence, plausible unexpectedness.

Barriers and Enablers to Actionability

- **Barriers:** Difficulty integrating diverse knowledge systems; risk of erasing local perspectives; dominance of Western knowledge systems.

- **Enablers:** Plurality of myths; culturally embedded narratives; scenario planning methodology.

Relation to Existing Literature

Builds on Xiang's (2014) ecological wisdom framework, expands by integrating classical and indigenous

Summary

Eidinow positions myths as dual carriers of theoretical and practical ecological wisdom, capable of making

Scores

- **Overall Relevance Score:** 90 — Strong conceptual clarity linking actionability to integrated theoretical
- **Operationalization Score:** 85 — Concrete mechanism (scenario planning) tied to actionability, with d

Supporting Quotes from the Paper

- "Myths... can provide a framework for... capturing ecological wisdom... [and] transmitting it as actionabl
- "They are practical, they provoke action, and they shape our perception of the world" (p. 49)
- "Scenario-planning... offers a mechanism for creating new myths... facilitating the integration of multiple
- "Scenarios... encapsulate and transmit new information... developing shared mental models... and stre

Actionability References to Other Papers

- Xiang (2014) on ecological wisdom.
- Bohensky & Maru (2011) on integrating indigenous and scientific knowledge.
- Schwartz (1996), Wack (1985a,b) on scenario planning.
- Schwartz & Sharpe (2010) on practical wisdom.