

EXPERIENTIAL ORIGAMI

TRANSCENDING THE CLASSROOM -
TRANSFORMATIVE
INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN THE
WILD

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CONTENTS

A few principles that I work by...

What comes in (finding and drawing threads together)

What we do in the classroom

What goes out (encouraging students to value themselves and their ideas beyond our interactions)

Final thoughts

MY CONTEXT

I am a Principal Teaching Fellow leading a programme called Change Makers at Imperial College, London

Students from any discipline can take my modules for degree credit or extra credit

Imperial College is a STEMMB institution with undergraduates in science, engineering, maths, medicine and business

LIVE, LOVE, LEARN

<http://www.livelovelearn.education>

All Change
Makers modules
use the Live, Love,
Learn pedagogical
principles in
every classroom
activity and
assessment:

Live – prior learning, individual and collective experiences are valued as a foundation for new knowledge and understanding of the lived world

Love – empathic engagement with others critically anchors learning to the real, messy, intricate needs of individuals and communities around the world

Learn – challenging, active learning is vitally pursued to create independent, critical thinkers who approach complexity with confidence and self-awareness

CHANGE MAKERS AIMS TO...

... create students who engage their whole personhood in their work to create change in the world

We have a range of interdisciplinary modules tackling

global challenges (Global Challenges, Global Village, Sustainable Futures)

personal challenges (My World)

activism and change management (Anatomy of Change, User Experience)

global collaboration (Lessons From History)



WHAT COMES IN...

I am concerned with decolonizing the curriculum and our approach to what counts as valid information and knowledge and valuing their experiential qualities

A good annotated bibliography entry will consist of:

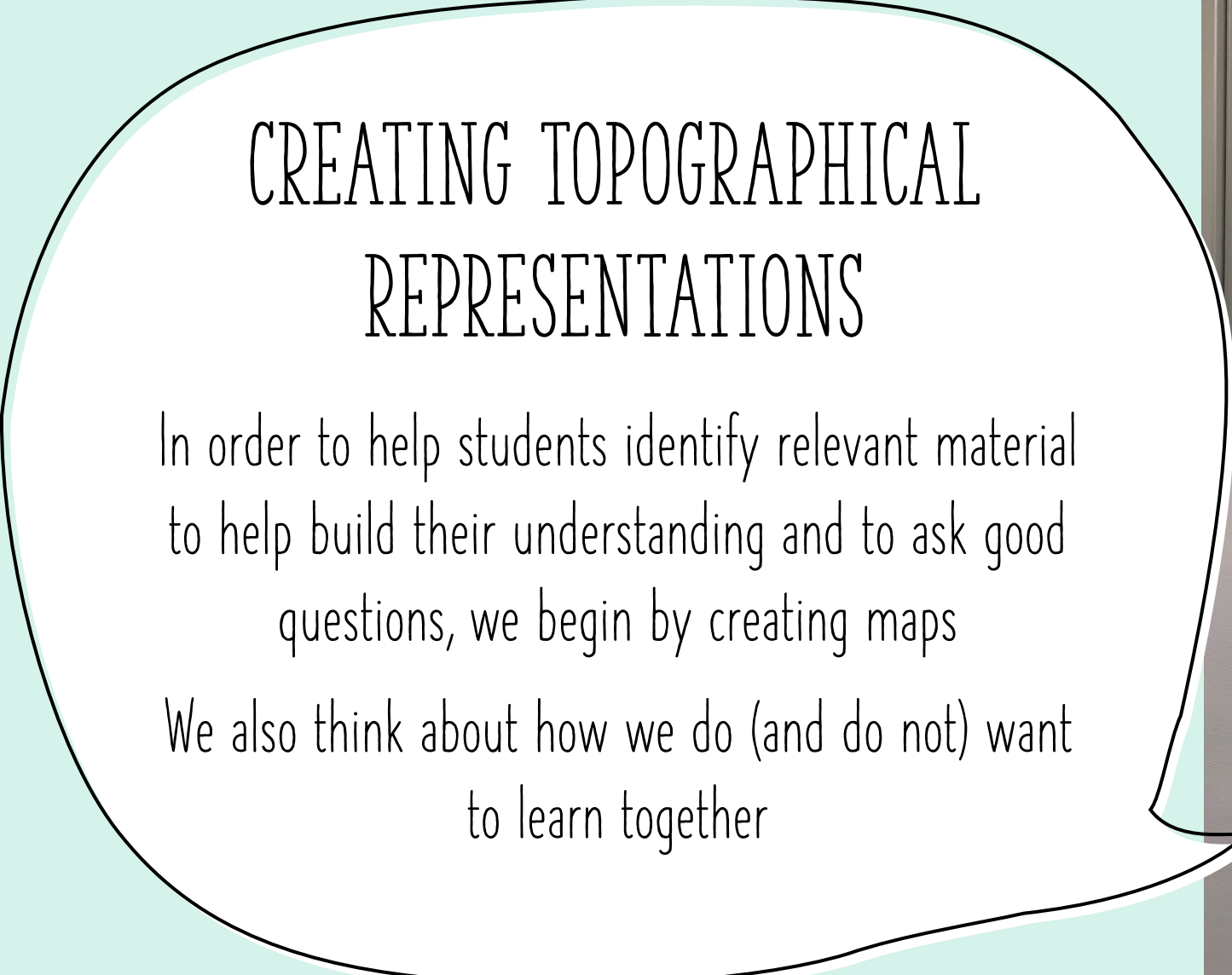
- 1) The title of the source
- 2) Full reference of link to source
- 3) The author of the source – along with a reflection on the author's authority and perspective on the events and what they had to gain by creating the source
- 4) A reflection on the type of evidence presented (primary, secondary or tertiary) and the value of the evidence
- 5) A brief summary of the main content of the source
- 6) How your understanding of the events has been changed/developed by the source
- 7) What value the source has to help develop an understanding of the event
- 8) How you felt while accessing the source – was it interesting, inspiring, difficult to read/understand, annoying, boring

DEMOCRATISED KNOWLEDGE AND EMPOWERED RESEARCH

We have no reading lists and provide no suggested readings

We support students to co-create team and class knowledge bases and annotated bibliographies

For each source we ask the students to document:



CREATING TOPOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS

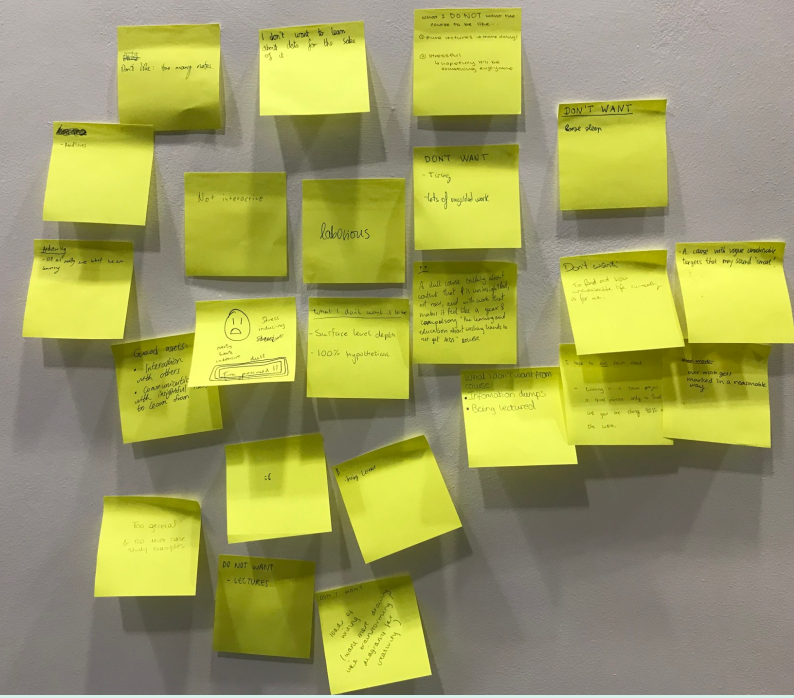
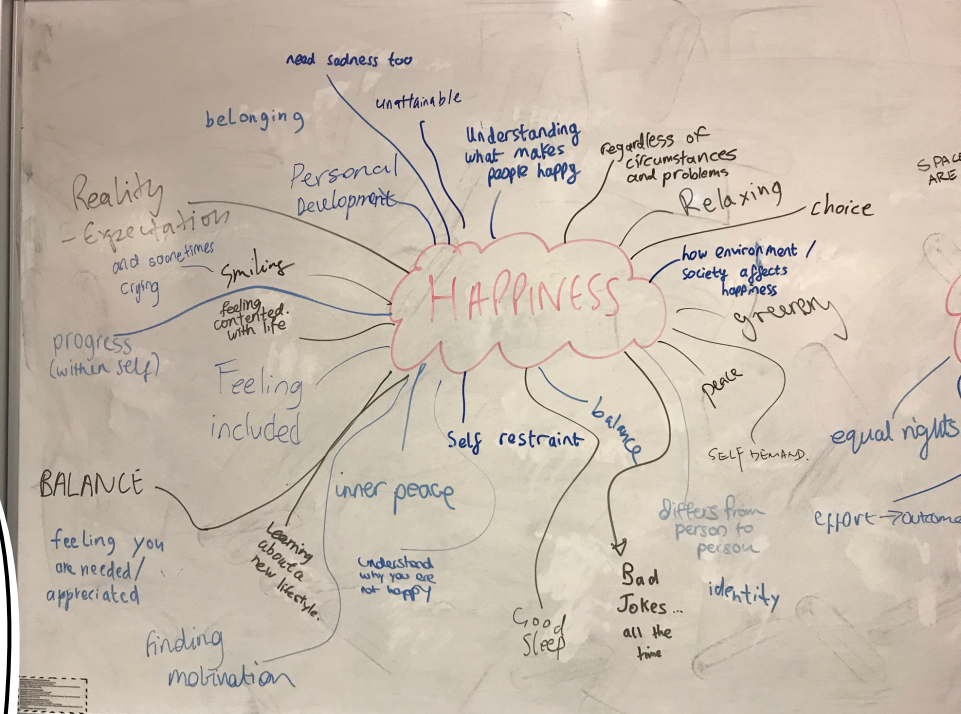
In order to help students identify relevant material to help build their understanding and to ask good questions, we begin by creating maps

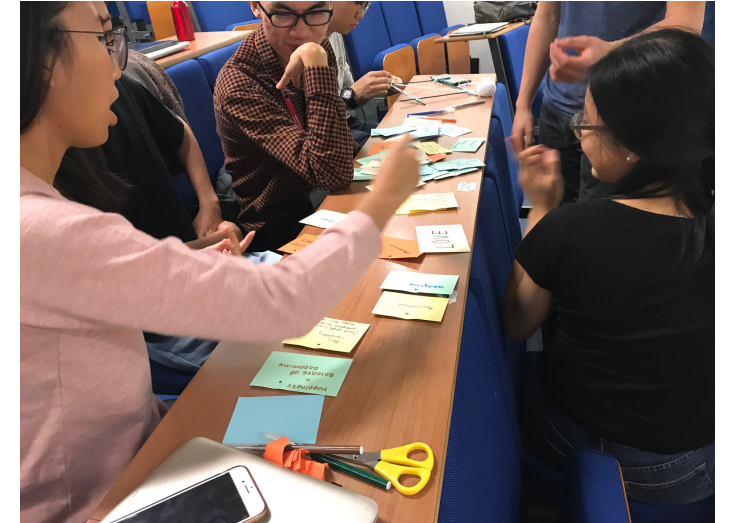
We also think about how we do (and do not) want to learn together

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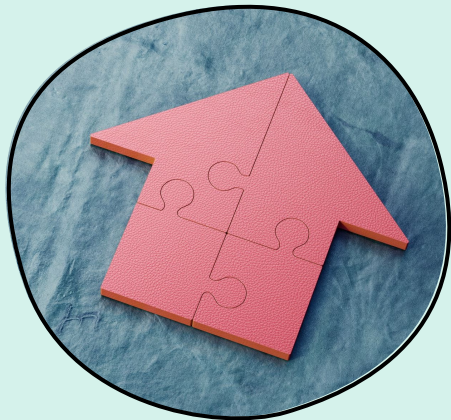
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CONTAINING AND DECONSTRUCTING DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE AND
PERSPECTIVES

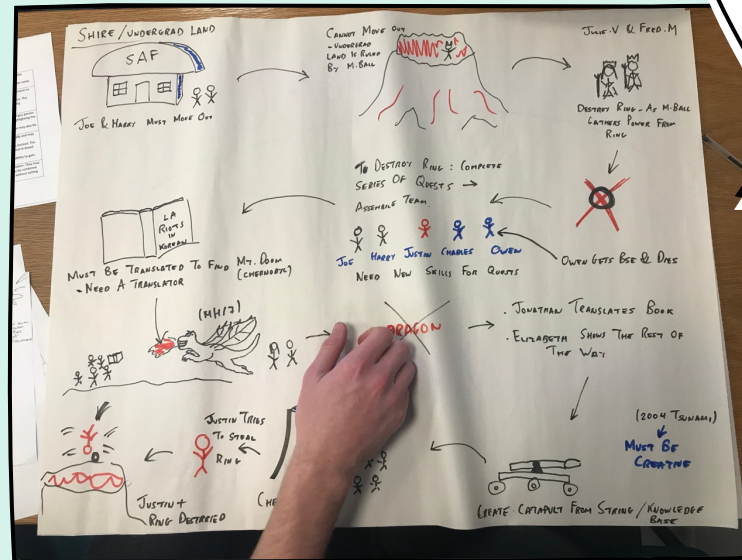
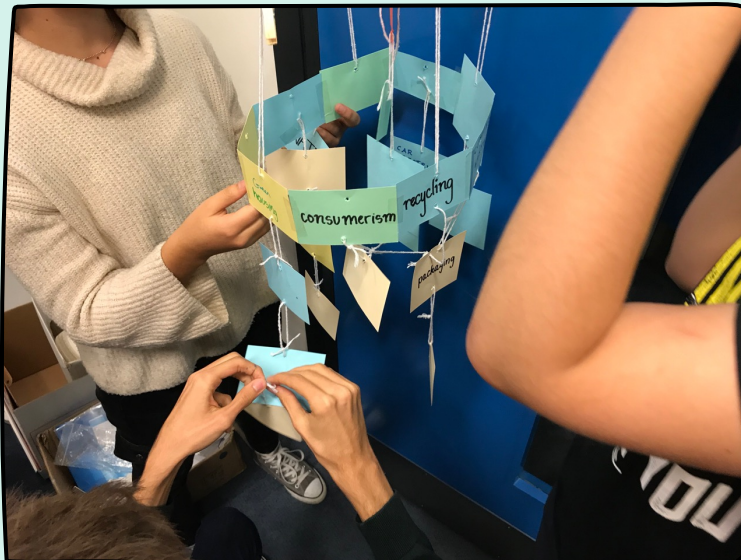
MOVING BEYOND THE
JIGSAW RECONSTRUCTION



MODELLING THE NEXT
STEP WITH THE IDEA
OF HOLDING 'TENSION'



RECONSTRUCTION - NEW UNDERSTANDINGS AND NEW (AND BORROWED) TOPOGRAPHIES





TRANSCENDING THE 'DISCIPLINE'
OF INTERDISCIPLINARY

WILDING THE
EXPERIENTIAL
ELEMENT



INGOLD'S 'WAYFARING'

"lives are led not inside places but through, around, to and from them, from and to places elsewhere ... [human existence] unfolds not in places, but along paths" (Ingold 2011: p148).

"knowledge [...] grows with the maturation of his own person along the paths he threads through the ground" (Ingold, 2015: p148)

due at the end of the 3rd week: 25/01! repaired fulfillment 3rd - missing success of sustainability

Sustainability - reducing food globalism

Currently, 20% of UK greenhouse gases are associated with food production, distribution & storage, of which 25% ends up as food waste. Furthermore, 83% of world agricultural land goes toward meat & dairy production.

Decreasing food waste & waste from THEORY

Food packaging, decreasing distance of distribution, & decreasing costs associated with mass monocultures would be hugely impactful on the carbon footprint of both individuals & societies & would allow local management of waste products & bettering of crop type to diet of climate.

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

One result in imagination or no action being taken whatsoever.

IDEAS

Knowledge: plans specific, attainable goals

UNDER DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

mandates different needs for food products

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

distance of distribution & associated carbon emission costs

IDEAS

urban areas are more densely populated so not enough space for traditional agricultural practices

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

initial setup cost fulfilled

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

throughout prevented - similar to equalized price

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

equalized price (reasonable) substantial shift in economic policy

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

working together to figure out best ways to make problems

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

* policies that & waste (government, institutional)

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

* changes in individuals meat & waste & meat & dairy consumption

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

also agriculture developed

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

distribution is less unsustainable

PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

stable urban populations

IDEAS

finding for going, educated farmer

IDEAS

finding for sustainable alternatives

IDEAS

finding for K&D of alternatives

IDEAS

increased tax on unsustainable goods & services

IDEAS

advocate concepts of sustainability

IDEAS

subsidize local setup costs

IDEAS

subsidize for sustainable goods

IDEAS

increased tax on unsustainable products

IDEAS

increased tax on unsustainable products

IDEAS

commitment to integrate top-down & bottom-up mechanisms

IDEAS

media coverage

IDEAS

platforms to share ideas & data

IDEAS

plastic ban

IDEAS

restaurant waste ban

IDEAS

propaganda & education to meat & dairy

IDEAS

cannot buy plastic packaging

IDEAS

educate themselves on meat & dairy

IDEAS

recycling & composting

IDEAS

roof farming

IDEAS

vertical warehouse farming

IDEAS

use unused/intrastore food

IDEAS

packaging is sustainable

IDEAS

change to non-fossil fuel vehicles

IDEAS

optimize logistics to reflect demand

IDEAS

rethink - optimized - food in place it needs to be

IDEAS

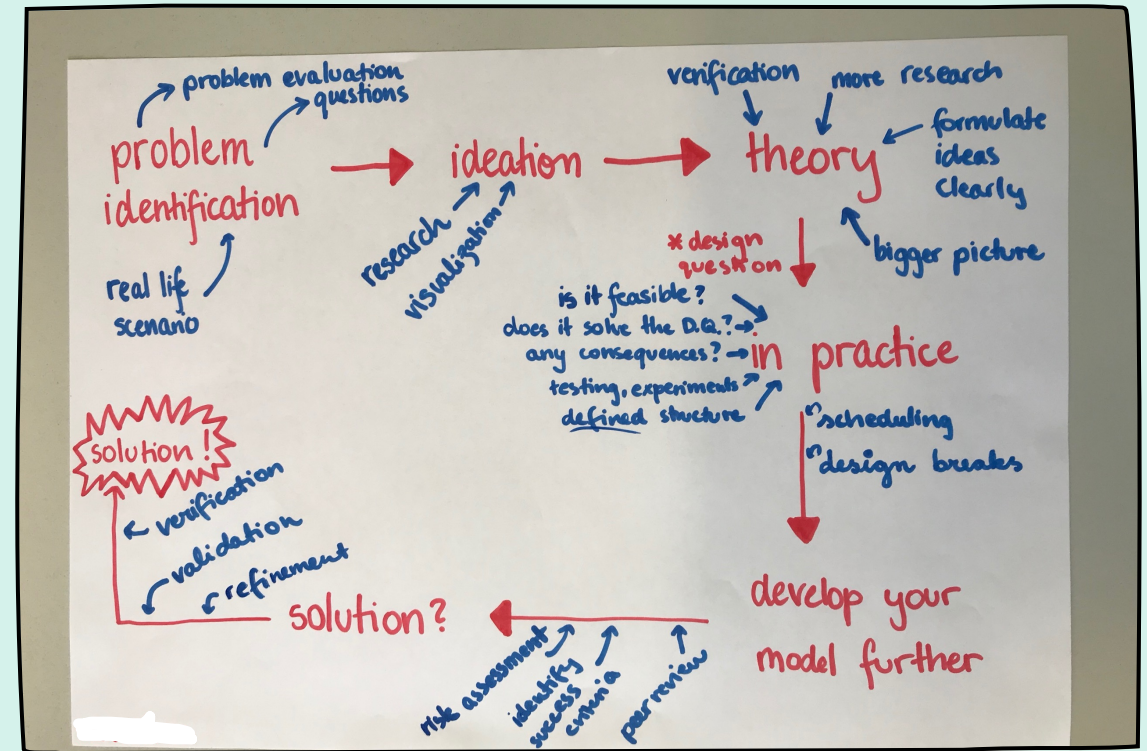
wide variety of food available in small shops etc

IDEAS

discourage expectations of unsustainable produce

max 3 words process that & outcome

Key: * = lack of, * = creation



Connecting young nature volunteers

Problem

Young people are not engaged in the local environment. They are not aware of the local environment. They are not aware of the local environment.

Ideation

Young people are not engaged in the local environment. They are not aware of the local environment. They are not aware of the local environment.

Steps

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Questions

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BENDING AND FOLDING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Martha bending time and place between the classroom and an NGO

Community activities at Woodford Hall Park

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Legacy - First edition published!

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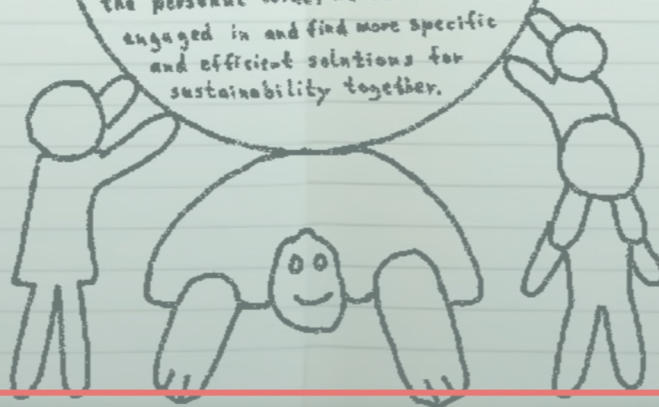
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BENDING AND FOLDING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Poitr seeing his values lived in
another's shoes

SUSTAINABILITY
means striving for
a shared quality of life
that we can uphold across future
generations. We advance this process
by limiting the damage we inflict upon
our social and natural environment.
By working decentralised starting at
the personal level, we become more
engaged in and find more specific
and efficient solutions for
sustainability together.



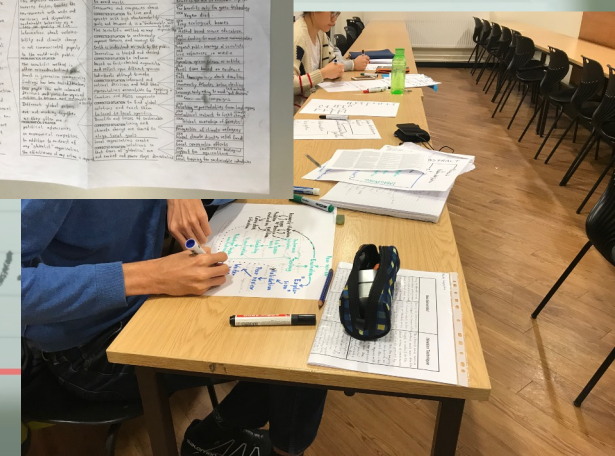
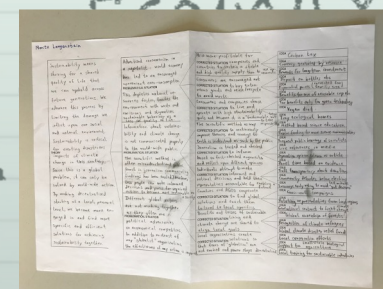
PERSONAL

Find out how I can give my life meaning
beyond my existence by protecting/preserving
the natural beauty of our planet I am a
product of.

meat replacement
plant-based diet
mediterranean diet
vegetarian
vegan
food waste
voice
personal footprint
stress
enjoy
foldage space
public transport
lifestyle
take train
composting
biodegradable
minimalism
tiny house
downscaling
single-use plastics
bring own bugs
reusable container
tuna yoghurt packaging
disposable packaging
local & organic food
natural food
buy in bulk
zero waste
glass jars
shampoo bottle

POLICY

reserve
fuel resources
savings
forever
NGO
desire
sustain
environment
mass extinction
international
nature
limit
plastic bans
protection
Partners Climate Agreement
EU
regulations
safeguard
science funding
government
representatives
taxes
subsidies
remove economic barrier
for acting sustainably
carbon tax
renewable energy
exchange
aggressive
economy of flow of services
incentives
rewards



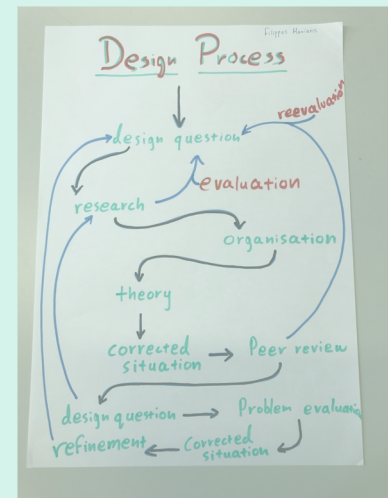
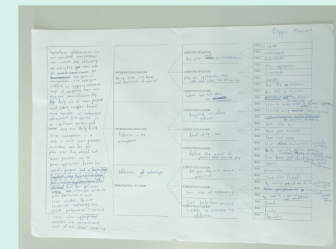
POLANYI'S KNOWLEDGE

"Tearing away the paper screen of graphs, equations and computations, I have tried to lay bare the inarticulate manifestations of intelligence by which we know things in a purely personal manner" (Polanyi, 1958: p64)



BENDING AND FOLDING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Leon's abandonment of tables and
charts



BENDING AND FOLDING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Garrett's bereavement story time

Female university student, 20, dies in "crush" outside nightclub after 'metal barrier falls over in huge queues'

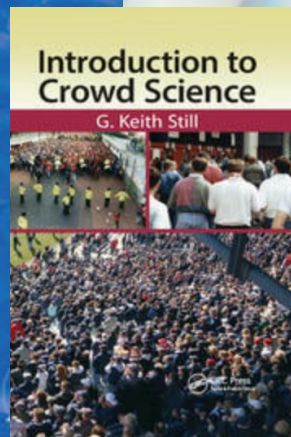
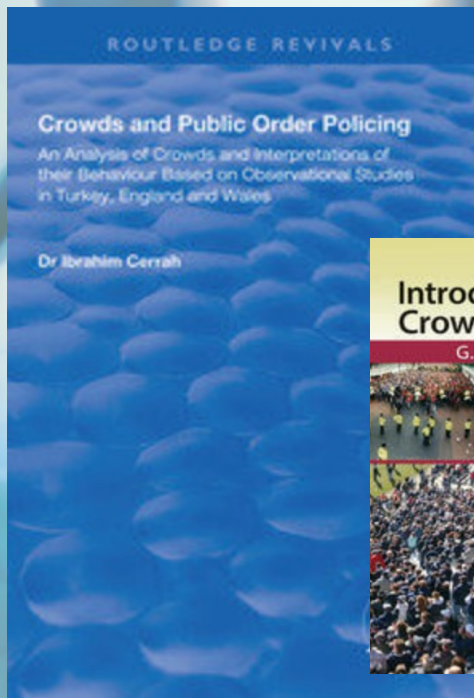
The woman, who went to Durham University, was fatally injured outside the Missoula nightclub and a witness described seeing her blood pouring everywhere


By **Joshua Taylor**, Deputy Head of News
09:48, 8 Feb 2018 | UPDATED 13:57, 8 Feb 2018



Tragic nightclub incidents in the UK that claimed young people's lives

Parents pay tribute to Durham student who died in nightclub crush





"I wanted to do something that would involve the pages of my planner. I wanted to showcase these pages as a token to the time and consistency I'd put into my project over the span of the four weeks, as well as putting a creative spin on them at the same time. In the end, I decided that origami would be the perfect way to transform the pages into a tangible sculpture, while allowing glimpses into the past 4 weeks of my life by reading the folded surfaces of the paper. I really enjoyed the process of making this little fleet of paper boats, and as I folded I found myself reading back over things I'd accomplished, and reflecting on everything I'd done during that time.

Perhaps a part of me was initially reluctant to start tearing the pages from my journal and folding them up: "what if I want to read back over them?", I found myself thinking. But I realized then that I had no need to read over them, and that my memories and reflective notes were enough. Cliché as this may sound, I realized that it was more important to me to spend time planning for the future, than looking back over the past. And thus, my fleet of origami happiness set sail."

Alice, April 2023

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