



Social and Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future

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Advance HE: Sustainability Symposium 2023



Outline

Introductions



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graph TD; A[Introductions] --> B[Rationale]; B --> C[Development process: Strengths & Challenges]; C --> D[Conference: Delivery & Outcomes]; D --> E[Lessons learned];
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Rationale

Development process: Strengths & Challenges

Conference: Delivery & Outcomes

Lessons learned

“What about if we...”

Connecting the dots, alignment of agendas

- Sense of community/shared values
- Development process, working within a diverse team with shared values
- Connecting dots, linking social and environmental sustainability/justice learning, understanding, alignment of agendas

We invited colleagues, academics and students to help us explore areas of alignment between environmental and social justice, highlighting research and teaching strategies that work at the intersection of these themes and sustainability, promoting the development of inclusive learning environments.



Making it happen

Opportunities

- Diverse team (Sustainability, BH365, Closing Our Gap, Us in the World, Global Majority Network, Interdisciplinary Research Network, People, Culture and Inclusion, Students' Union)
 - Shared values
 - Sense of community
 - Diversity of experience and expertise → 'walking the talk' of the conference
 - Different approaches, expectations, availability
- Collaboration: the sum is bigger than its parts...
 - Drawing on various strengths and interests



Making it happen

Challenges

- Enabling multiple voices during the conference
 - Equality, diversity, inclusion
 - Representation and belonging
 - Power imbalances
 - Diversity of voices/perspectives AND a coherent/fluent programme
- Different approaches, expectations, availability
- Structure of the event:
 - Rigidity v anarchy
 - Logistical/practical challenges that always follow from interdisciplinary, interdepartmental professional services AND academic and SU
 - Parallel sessions
 - Venues... and a pleasant stroll between them



Conference in practice



2022

To mark our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, we have created an interdisciplinary day that explores, analyses, and celebrates social and environmental justice and its application to providing a sustainable future.

Through presentations, workshops and interactive activities featuring academics, environmentalists, and individuals with lived experience, we have sought voices, images, words, and sounds that reflect what social and environmental justice means to us individually and collectively

Social and Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future



Conference
Programme

Conference

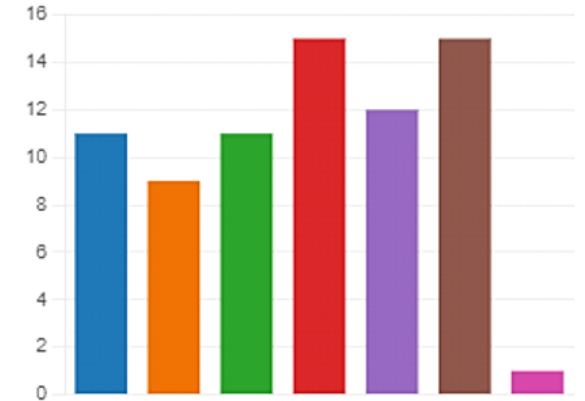
What worked well

- Administration
- Carrousel
 - Stands, games, informal activities
- Bringing staff, students and community together
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Good range of speakers and topics
- Promoting discussion and participation
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Inclusion in modules

5. What worked well? Tick as many as you wish

[More Details](#)

● communication	11
● venues	9
● organisation	11
● content of activities	15
● structure of the day	12
● variety of events	15
● Other	1



'Bringing staff, students and local community/residents together to discuss sustainability issues. Brilliant!'

'Relaxed atmosphere which encouraged comments and questions'

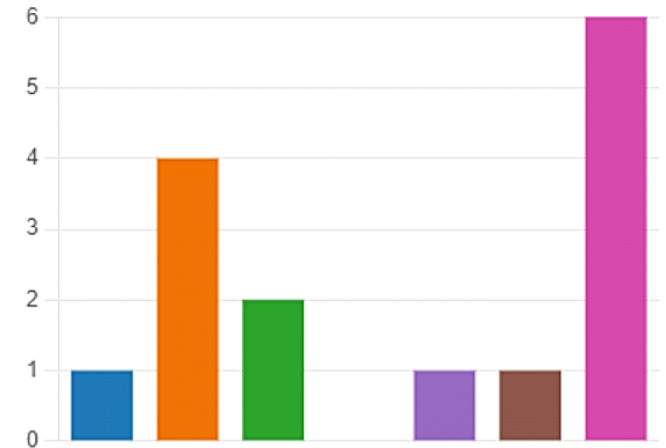
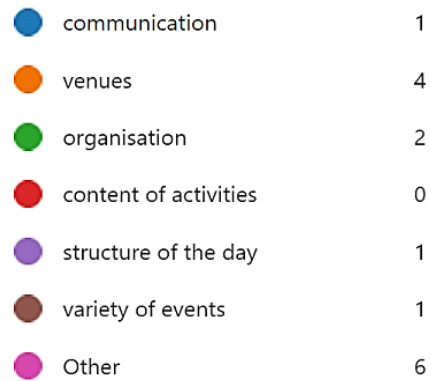
Conference

What did not work so well

- Logistic issues
 - Venues, IT
- All voices at the table
- Hybrid delivery
- When are 15 minutes not 15 minutes?
 - ...or how long is a piece of string?
- Student voices?

7. What did not work well?

[More Details](#)



'Difficult to attend sessions that are back to back if they are in different building on campus.'



Conference



Outcomes

- Strengthening of diverse networks
- Sharing of good practice
- Representation that inspires our diverse community of students and staff and promotes a sense of belonging
- 'Our vision for a just and sustainable future'
- [Social and Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future Conference programme](#)
- [Creating a sustainable future for all - Canterbury Christ Church University](#)

'The conference was exciting and provoking and this follow up summary with links is very helpful - thank you so much.'

Lessons Learned

- Logistical issues
 - Do have an administrator!
- Student and external partner involvement during development
- Embracing the ‘messiness’: wicked problems, lived experience
- Necessity of interdisciplinary approaches and multiplicity of voices to achieve the future we want



‘Needed more emphasis on action - all very well talking about the issues. But what can we do? This may have helped it feel more uplifting rather than depressing.’
‘Possibly with some kind of agenda to move forward on after the conference’

Conclusions

- Complexity and congeniality
- Many heads that look and think differently can be better than one
- Administration, administration, administration
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'It felt like a wonderfully creative approach to an Academic Conference and, despite the challenges of working across several areas, definitely benefited from having a collaborative approach.'

