

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

2E – Ocean Literacy for All

Chair: Mônica Mesquita, MARE/Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Session Abstract:

The Ocean Literacy for All session is proposed to share in the international scientific community the experience of the Ocean Literacy Observatory - OLO, developed in the Costa de Caparica / Portugal and integrate it with new perspectives for its collaborative expansion. OLO is a research lab integrated in the research group Estuaries and Coastal Areas of the Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre – MARE, at *Universidade NOVA de Lisboa*. In OLO the scientific community is also constituted by the non-part (Rancière, 1995) of society – a research innovation. In this space, the work is developed with civil society in search of alternatives to current models of human coastal development. OLO aims at the joint and critical transdisciplinary construction of local intellectual diversity. The transdisciplinary relationship and the encounter of cultural diversity are presented as foundations of OLO via a multidisciplinary research team that works with an integral (Acosta, 2016) and holistic (D'Ambrosio, 2001) perspective. This session comes with some of its diversity showing a new potential for active critical participation and empowerment of members of coastal communities, privileging the intellectual instruments, via an alternative to the current development of the relationship between society and the sea. The meeting of diversity is thus explored in order to collectively re-signify the role of the academic / scientific community in society and encourage communitarian participation in the management of coastal resources through a dialogical process embedded in local ocean literacy.

Looking for sustainable “alternative to development”: between the fishing community and academic community

Veronica Albanese, Universidad de Granada, Spain presented by Mônica Mesquita

Abstract:

The Ocean Literacy Observatory – OLO, is a research group of MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre of Portugal. Research people from both academic community and local community constitute it, specially the fishing community of Costa de Caparica, a village in the South of Lisbon. The aim of the group is a dialogical construction of a complex and systemic ecological knowledge, intertwining the local ecological knowledge (LEK) of the fishermen and the technical ecological knowledge (TEK) of the academy for a better understanding of the local consequence of global environmental problems. The research, carried out with a critical ethnographical methodology (Thomas, 1993), pointed different possible fronts of action.

The fishermen present a critical vision of the restrictive legislation towards artisanal fishing, in presumed defense of the marine environment and the tourist enjoyment of the coastline, without taking into consideration the knowledge of the fishermen and the needs for survival of the artisanal fishing. So it is necessary that the legislative authority became aware of these needs and reconsider some of these restrictions.

The academic community pointed out the danger of contamination of the recent using of materials derived from plastic in the artisanal fishing: the nets, the ropes, the buoys; as well as the using of old tractors in the beach. On the one hand, the fishermen showed the advantage of these new materials compared on the one used previously: first of all they do not rot, as the cotton and the cork, and they are cheaper. From these observations it arises the need of

develop a new materials, there are biodegradable but at the same time with particular properties that make them suitable for use in fishing.

On the other hand, there exist calls for projects witch official aims are to support fishing activities, where fishermen could ask for found to update or maintain their machinery. But the reality shows that fishermen are systematically excluded from the possibilities of requesting these funding because 1) the technical language of these calls is not in the range of the majority of fishermen 2) the calls (even the local ones) do not take into account the particular conditions of the local artisanal fishing.

In the first case it is necessary to organize support to make fishermen be able to present projects. OLO is trying to do this job even if it misses much human resources. In the second case it is necessary that the institutions, which manage these fund gain access to greater knowledge of local demands and realities. Again OLO is opening spaces where these institutions and the legislative authorities could listen to the fishermen voices.

There is still a long way to go, but this research shows how a participatory and critical research with local communities for proactive goals is the answer to identify and realize sustainable alternative to development.

References

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Local fishing arts, and dialogue to an environmental communitarian education

Sílvia Franco, MARE Centre, New Lisbon University, Portugal

Abstract:

The fishermen in Costa de Caparica / Portugal, share their concern with the lack of dialogue in decision making processes with impact in local fishing arts. Those impacts are felt in professional practices and, consequently, on arts, socioeconomic and cultural conditions. However, the concerns expressed regard, in a global sense, local environmental sustainability.

Urges to rethink the way in which entities with the power to decide, acknowledge real implications of their decisions. Urges to identify and accept the potential of listening to and cooperate with who deal everyday with practical issues such entities theorize about.

To support present and future reflections on this matter, may it occur in Costa da Caparica or another place, Ocean Literacy Observatory (OLO) brings forward local fishermen concerns in a bottom-up research, that approaches local/ traditional and technical/academic knowledge, to strengthen the local fishing communities in a shared purpose. This shared purpose set the prime tone to unite a community internally divided, so Costa de Caparica fishing community highlights the urgent need to develop dialogue tools to work around the divergences and face the converging concerns to common sustainability.

Therefore, this presentation brings up the reflection on decision making processes and how collaborative governance methodologies based on dialogue between local/traditional knowledge and technical/academic knowledge, on a inter/intracommunity bases, could have a positive impact on environmental sustainability through communitarian empowerment.

Ecological mobility for the local fishing - a collective study

Flávio Mendes, TCTR *Brand Entertainment* – Portugal

Abstract:

The TCRT is a new enterprise created to develop in Portugal a structure of connection between society and environment, in which the diversity of the intellectual capital work as the main tool of the sustainable development of natural capital, in its multiple context. In the Society and Sea, the TCTR shares its collective study in progress of a part of the urban area of the Blue Coastal - Portugal: the city of Costa de Caparica. The fishing community founded this city more than three centuries and the artisanal fishing is present as an economic lever. The tradition of the fishing arts is on the roots of the local practices, along with technological innovation.

Working in a collaborative movement with OLO-Ocean Literacy Observatory, the TCTR bases on participatory methodologies (Thomas, 1993; Castells, 2009) to promote dialogical constructions among local, traditional, technical, and scientific ecological knowledge aiming a construct a deep and collective understanding of the environmental consequence of the current practices of artisanal fishing, concerning to its mobility. Here, the mobility is understood as a democratic inclusion tool of the "come and go", in physical or intellectual path. The TCTR searches the encounter between mobility and the science field, to work on improvement of coastal resources management in parallel with the dignity of human life of coastal zones, and centered itself on the human being relations with the social time, the economic space, the environment, and the displacement, face on the diversity of realities and holographic perceptions of society. The TCTR has been promoted the comprehensiveness to the technological access opportunities focusing on coastal sustainable physical movement and on diversity of local information about "come and go" and "know / recognize" the natural and intellectual local capital.

For TCTR, the success of this study is based on the transformative potential that collectively constructed knowledge has for sustainable development in resource management (Dumay, 2016) and, particularly at the local level, the importance of multiplicity of knowledge is recognized not only as a determining factor but also as an integral part of ecosystem sustainability in the long term (Tengö et al., 2017).

References

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