

This ARC research is concerned with responses to climate change and variability at the local scale. It critically investigates tensions, synergies and potentialities between local governance agencies' formal policies and innovations by local groups and NGOs. It develops ways of identifying and implementing responses that are socially innovative and capacity building.

Creatively participating in local adaptation initiatives enables us to collectively re-imagine our experience of and responses to climate change, laying the foundation for new possibilities of socially innovative adaptation that leads to transformative change.

Framing participatory politics for local adaptation

Social innovation – meets felt needs; reconfigures social/institutional relationships; leads to empowerment; scaling potential

Redefining risk and response-ability – moves away from technical responses to risk and sees it more as an opportunity for collaborative shared action

Making new connections – sharing ideas and skills, diverse groups and things

The importance of stories – gives shape to participatory politics and emergent contexts for action

Key Themes

- >Building and bridging the knowledge base
- >Bringing missing actors to the table
- >Working together differently
- >Making and breaking connections
- >Realizing transformative potential

But is this enough?

Do these transformations lead to substantial change? Or do these small practices feed into the neoliberal trope of resilience?



A common world is not something we come to recognize, as though it had always been here (and we had not until now noticed it). A common world, if there is going to be one, is something we will have to build, tooth and nail, together.

Bruno Latour

Socially Innovative LOCAL CHARTE

Stories and Practices from Australia

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