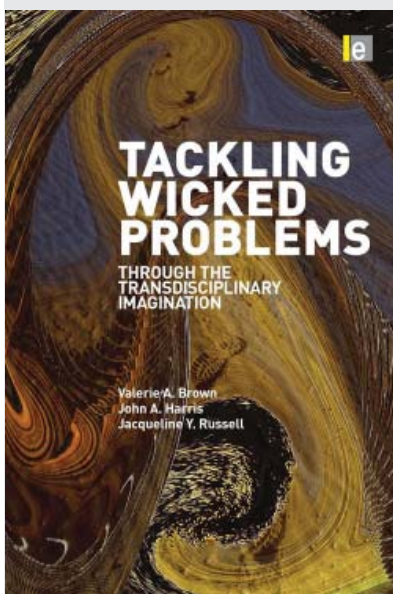


Tackling Wicked Problems

Through the Transdisciplinary Imagination

edited by

Valerie A. Brown, John A. Harris, Jacqueline Y. Russell



Classification | Sustainability
Research methods

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I am really delighted to see a work that provides a philosophical foundation for Post-Normal Science, while enriching and expanding its vision. Valerie Brown and her colleagues--really comrades--have achieved the new synthesis for a scientific practice that is so necessary for the current age. At last there is a statement for science that leaves behind the linear logic and truncated self-awareness that was the heritage of Descartes. With its themes of plurality, paradox, complementarity and ethical commitment, *Tackling Wicked Problems* provides the means for science to make a creative response to the challenges of our time.'

Jerome Ravetz, James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization, University of Oxford, UK

From climate change to GM foods, we are increasingly confronted with complex, interconnected social and environmental problems that span disciplines, knowledge bases and value systems. This book offers a transdisciplinary, open approach for those working towards resolving these 'wicked' problems and highlights the crucial role of this 'transdisciplinary imagination' in addressing the shift to sustainable futures.

Tackling Wicked Problems provides readers with a framework that will guide the design and conduct of their own open-ended enquiries. In this approach, academic disciplines are combined with personal, local and strategic understanding and researchers are required to recognise multiple knowledge cultures, accept the inevitability of uncertainty, and clarify their own and others' ethical positions. The authors then comment on fifteen case studies which provide real life examples of how researchers have engaged with the opportunities and challenges of conducting transdisciplinary inquiries.

The book gives those who are grappling with complex problems innovative methods of inquiry that will allow them to work collaboratively towards long-term solutions.

About the Editors

Valerie A. Brown is Director of the Local Sustainability Project, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University; and Emeritus Professor of Environmental Health, University of Western Sydney.

John A. Harris is a university academic, outdoors educator, and former Head of School of Environmental Science, University of Canberra.

Jacqueline Y. Russell has recently completed a highly-regarded PhD thesis on transdisciplinary frameworks. She is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the Research School of Social Sciences.

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