

Respecting the Rights of Future Generations

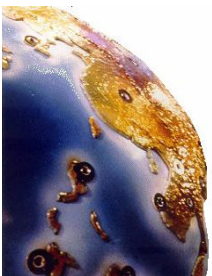
Promoting Intergenerational Justice and Solidarity through the Popularisation of Science

Jean-Paul De Lucca

FUTURREG Inter-regional Workshop
Scanning Science Popularisation Futures
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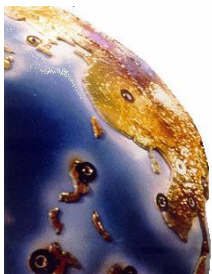
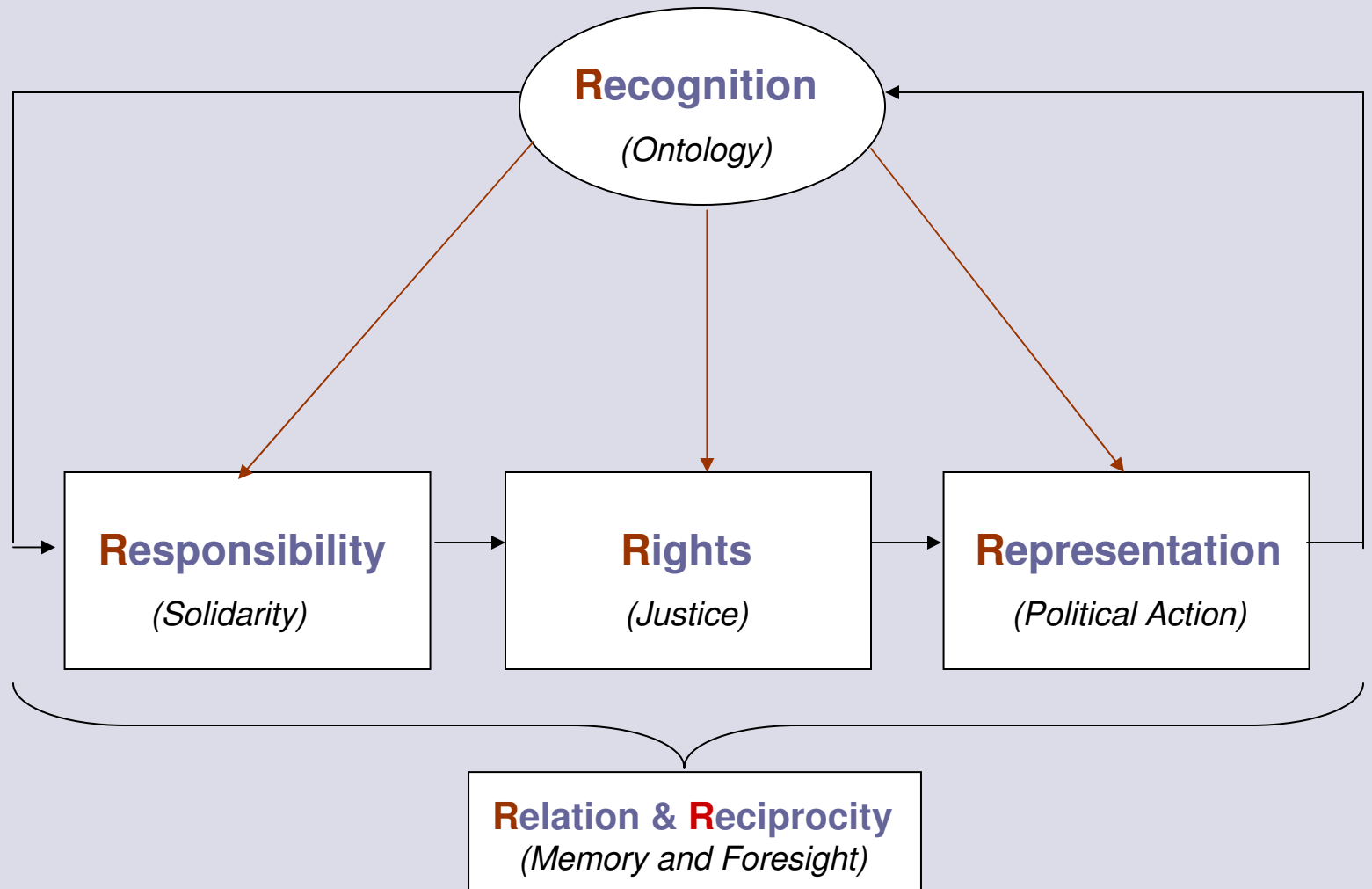


- ✦ Ethical Considerations
- ✦ Key Global Issues
- ✦ Institutionalisation of Intergenerational Justice
- ✦ Science and Future Generations



Ethical Considerations

The 6 R's of Future Generations



What Future Generations should expect

John Rawls

in *A Theory of Justice* (19) and *Political Liberalism* (1993):

Just Saving Principle

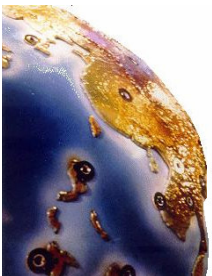
- [1] preserve the gains of culture and civilization
- [2] maintain intact those just institutions that have been established
- [3] put aside in each period of time a suitable amount of real capital accumulation

Edith Brown Weiss

in *In Fairness to Future Generations* (1989):

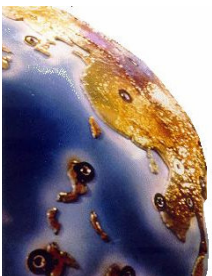
Extends the **Principle of Intergenerational Equity** to include:

“each generation leave to its successor a planet in at least as good a condition as that generation received it”



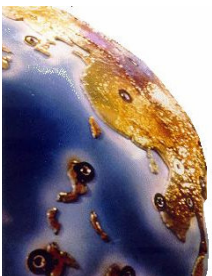
Pressing Issues

- ✿ Climate Change
- ✿ Genetic Pool
- ✿ Marine Resources and Ocean Governance



Climate Change and Future Generations

- The **Time Horizon** – Long-term effects
- Risk of **Irreversible harm**
- **Intragenerational motivation** is low
- **Environmental, Economic, Political** and **Ethical** aspects.

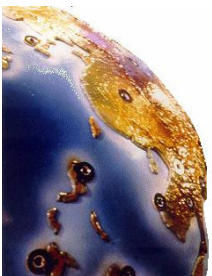


Genetic Heritage & Future Generations

UNESCO Declaration on Our Responsibility Towards FGs (1997)

Article 6 - Human genome and biodiversity

The human genome, in full respect of the dignity of the human person and human rights, must be protected and biodiversity safeguarded. Scientific and technological progress should not in any way impair or compromise the preservation of the human and other species.



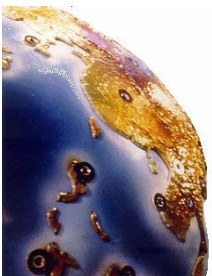
Ocean Governance & Future Generations

Concept of the Common Heritage of Mankind

Arvid Pardo's address to the UNGA in 1967 outlined

"the unique opportunity to lay solid foundations for a peaceful and increasingly prosperous future **for all peoples.**"

Followed by the "***Pacem in Maribus***" conferences in Malta which articulated the responsibility of present generations towards future generations and called for a supra-national institutional set-up.



Ocean Governance & Future Generations

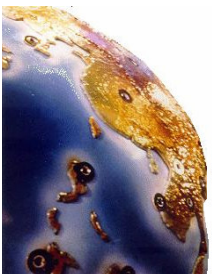
Articles 136 & 137 of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea

The seabed in all high seas is to be regarded as common heritage.

Key elements:

1. Active Management
2. Equitable Sharing
3. Peaceful Purposes
4. Non-appropriation
5. **Enjoyment by present & future generations.**

UNCLOS: an example of the institutionalisation of Intergenerational Justice and Solidarity (through the International Seabed Authority).

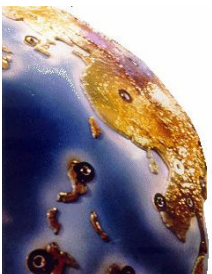


International Law & Future Generations

Intergenerational Solidarity, Equity and Justice

The principle of ***Intergenerational solidarity / equity / justice*** is still debatable and open for discussion [Birnie and Boyle (2002), 92] even though it underpins a number of international treaties as well as domestic policies and legislation in a variety of fields.

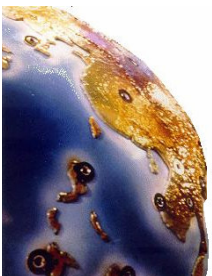
e.g. Rio Earth Summit Declaration & Agenda 21
Universal Declaration on the Human Genome



Institutionalising Intergenerational Justice

Principles of Intergenerational Justice can be translated into concrete action in various ways, e.g.:

- **Legislative initiatives** (e.g. stronger constitutional obligations & development of international law)
- **Policy initiatives** (grounded in intergenerational responsibility e.g. SD strategies)
- **Structures** (Government and Parliamentary structures, NGO lobby groups, International entities etc.)



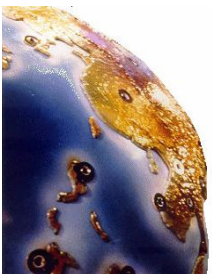
Science Popularisation & Future Generations

Scientific (*knowledge*) and
Technological (*capacity*) development
=
greater responsibility for future generations

Values in Science – “**For the Good of Humanity**”

THE WEALTH OF SCIENCE

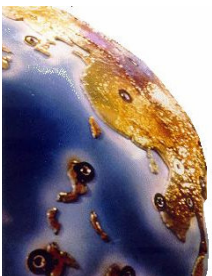
Knowledge Capital
Economic Capital
Environmental Capital



Respecting and Promoting the Rights of Future Generations

Strategic shift which integrates and increasingly relies upon bottom-up approaches to institutionalisation. This requires people who can articulate and promote the need for institutionalisation of IGJ at local, regional and national levels and in different fields of human activity

Ownership and awareness: Involve the Scientific Community, Civil Society and NGOs, state and parastatal institutions and agencies etc.



*“If you cannot realise your plans
then you should get to know the future
while considering the past
and recognise the latent through the evident.
Planning in this way will lead to understanding”*

*Mo Di (5th century BC),
Chinese philosopher*

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