

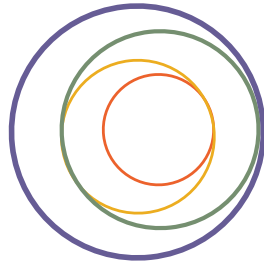
not a toolkit!

Fair Collaboration in Cultural Relations A ReflAction

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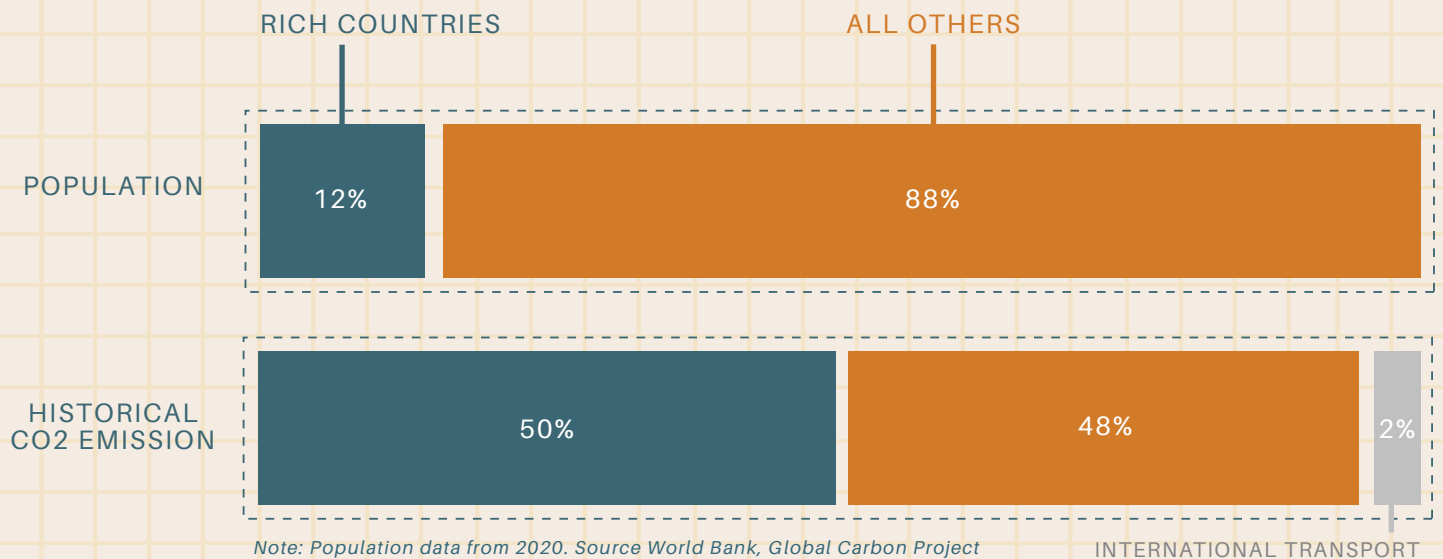


WAYS OF THINKING - CLIMATE EMERGENCY



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The values of fairness, connected to equity and justice are fundamental to how we understand and address the challenges of the climate emergency. Conceptions about fairness depend on the way that responsibility, capability and rights are being looked at by countries as we could again observe in the COP26.



The Global North of industrialised nations has historically contributed most to global warming. The USA, Canada, Japan and much of Western Europe account for 12 percent of the global population but are responsible for 50 percent of all the planet-warming greenhouse gasses released from fossil fuels and industry over the past 170 years. Climate change is rooted in the exploitation and degradation of the planet, people, cultures which were foundational principles of colonialism as mentioned in the **powerful speech by Vijay Praharsard at the COP 26**. The lack of acknowledgement of the historical causes is stopping to ensure climate equity.

Why is there not enough acknowledgement of the historical links between colonialism and climate change?

The impact of climate change are not felt in the same way by everyone. People in low income countries as well as indigenous populations are particularly affected by the effects of global warming. With economies changing to create a zero-carbon society, some industries will transform in a major way which will put workers in those industries at risk, push migration and create more inequalities.

? WHAT PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ARE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE WORLD PROTECTING? 6% LOOK AFTER 80% OF BIODIVERSITY

? HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD LIVE IN UNBEARABLE HEAT BY 2070? 3 BILLION

Therefore, one of the most critical issues at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow was whether and how the world's richest nations, given their historic responsibilities, should compensate nations for the damages caused by rising temperatures. The 'loss and damage' principle was recognised but failed to secure clear action by the rich nations. The fact that the rich nations did not commit to a dedicated new damages fund and increased funding for vulnerable countries is eroding trust between nations. Yet, trust is the key currency in international relations. There is no single other global issue which needs as much international collaboration as the climate emergency.

? HOW DOES THE LACK OF COMMITMENT AND ACTION FROM RICH COUNTRIES AFFECT CULTURAL RELATIONS?

? HOW CAN CULTURAL RELATIONS ORGANISATIONS HELP IN DEVELOPING TRUST IN A CONTEXT OF LOW TRUST?

Cultural relations organisations, even if they do not see it as their key mission, are in the best position to develop a global movement to frame climate change in new ways, do more to understand different worldviews and discuss historical legacies of climate change due to colonialism. With institutes and partners in over 100 countries, they can be a learning space and powerful platform to transform existing practices. They can demonstrate their relevance in the biggest human-to-human-to-planet challenges in the Anthropocene. Their cultural relations work can be linked to a 'caring paradigm' as the authors of the **'Emergencies, Emergences, Engagement: Cultural Relations and Climate Action'** propose, as cultural relations work implies an approach oriented by caring, learning and sharing based on deep listening and mutual respect within which participants are willing to be vulnerable, to be influenced and change in order to create trust, while acknowledging power relations.

- ? What would a 'caring paradigm' look like for cultural relations organisations?
- ? What would climate equity look like for artists of the Global South in international collaborations with the Global North?

The future is not the realm of a single civilisation or worldview but a domain of multiple potentials.

In the cultural relations context arts and culture have an essential role in achieving the necessary transformation to a more environmentally sustainable and socially just society by the interweaving of cultural and creative perspectives in our response to the climate emergency and by doing this in ways that are respectful of green practices. In 'Emergencies, Emergences, Engagement: Cultural Relations and Climate Action', Carla Figueira and Aimee Fullman are of the opinion that cultural organisations are an underutilised resource in addressing the climate emergency.

❓ How could cultural relations organisations use their privileged position as shapers and enablers of change to create better links between cultural and environmental policies?

❓ What sustainability frameworks are in place in cultural relations organisations to implement fair and green practices?

❓ What kind of work and approaches would cultural relations organisations need to prioritise to walk the talk on climate action? What work would need to happen on the ground and what work can happen digitally?

Arts and culture needs to be much more prominent in the infrastructure of the future of cultural relations, as the language of the arts can create empowering anti-dystopian narratives. More ideas from non-western knowledge systems are key as well as investing new ways of knowing, being, acting and doing. The arts can contribute towards a more embodied transformation as they can be a living practice for reflection, evaluation and action on climate change.

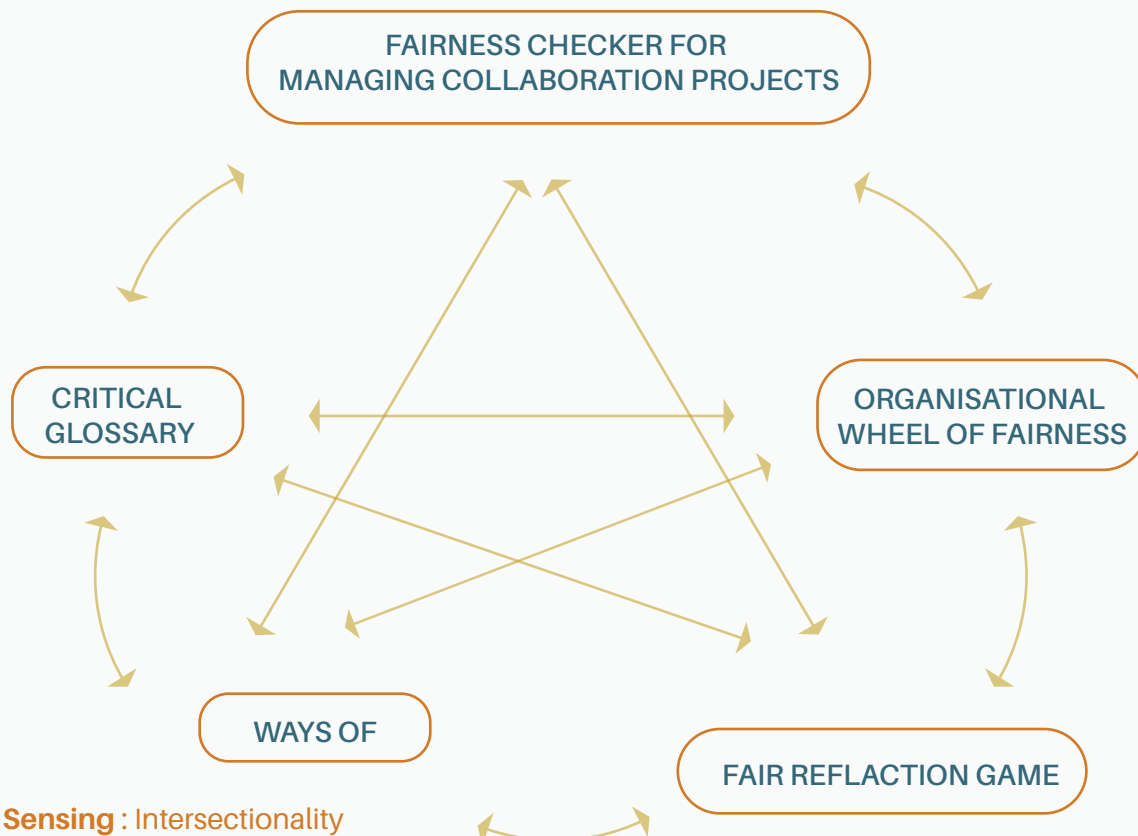
RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

- ***Open Letter to Jerome Bel*** is a letter written by the Mexican artist Lazaro Gabino Rodriguez as an answer to Jerome Bel's call to refigure the world of performing arts in the context of climate change, describing the Mexican artists' reality and what not flying would mean for him in these circumstances (infrastructure as in no extensive railroad system, funding, coproduction, partnerships, access to international work etc.) while it might not impact Jerome Bel's livelihood in the same way.
- ***Emergencies, Emergences, Engagement: Cultural Relations and Climate Action*** - the climate change connection, British Council 2021 is a very well researched article where the authors Carla Figueira and Aimee Fullman, based on previous work they did for their book 'Rethinking Cultural Relations and Exchange in the Critical Zone', expand on the critical role cultural relations can play in climate action. They taking on a caring paradigm and how cultural relations platforms can serve as useful points of participation in climate action focusing on greening of their organisations, diversifying their interventions and elevating their evaluations and learning by design.
- ***Julie's Bicycle*** started as a pioneer non-for profit- organisation to mobilise the cultural sector as early as 2007 championing climate fairness and justice across the cultural community and recognising the climate and ecological crisis has its roots in harmful systems and unfairly impacts those who have contributed least to its causes. Julie's Bicycle's call to action at the ***COP26 Culture: The Missing Link to Climate Action*** expands on the missing link between cultural and environmental policies.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

- ***The adapting our culture, a toolkit for a climate changed future (2021)*** by Creative Carbon Scotland is but one of the recent reports focusing on an adaptation plan, that is, different set of actions needed to address issues of climate change including avoiding the risk, reducing the extent of the risk, and transforming risk into an opportunity.
- A later publication ***Culture Shift Methodology for supporting arts and sustainability collaboration to tackle the climate emergency (2021)*** emphasizes that climate change is the most pressing issue of our time. It poses 'fundamental challenges to the ways in which we live'.

Each component of the *Not a Toolkit! Fair Collaboration in Cultural Relations - A ReflAction* is connected to all other components. After finishing your reflAction journey in this section continue journaling in the next part.



Sensing : Intersectionality

Thinking : Decolonisation & Racism

Doing : Fair Evaluation

Connecting : ReflAction

Sensing : Injustice

Thinking : Climate Emergency