

Exploring the impact of higher education experiences on the sustainability attributes of students

Kerry Shephard (HEDC), John Harraway (Mathematics and Statistics), Mick Strack (Surveying), Brent Lovelock (Tourism), Liz Slooten (Zoology), Sheila Skeaff (Human Nutrition) and Tim Jowett (HEDC, and Mathematics and Statistics). All from the University of Otago

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The context for this research

HE responses to sustainability issues

The challenge for Higher Education is to better understand what and how our students are learning and how this links to what and how we teach

Researchers at the University of Otago have been exploring how to benchmark and monitor changes in the sustainability attributes of students

Our disciplines and cohorts of students; surveying, human nutrition, tourism, zoology, statistics; 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012?

What is the New Ecological Paradigm Scale? What sort of data does it reveal?

Our research processes and methodologies; anonymity, means, linear mixed-effects model, multinomial logistic regression modeling

Analysis of means for the 2009 cohort

Analysis using linear mixed effects modeling

Analysis using multinomial logistic regression modeling

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About the NEP

1. We are approaching the limit of the number of people the earth can support.
2. Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to meet their needs.
3. When humans interfere with nature it often produces disastrous consequences.
4. Human ingenuity will ensure that we do NOT make the earth unliveable.
5. Humans are severely abusing the environment.
6. The earth has plenty of natural resources if we just learn how to develop them.
7. Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist.
8. The balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of industrial nations.
9. Despite their special abilities humans are still subject to the laws of nature.
10. The so called “ecological crisis” facing human kind has been greatly exaggerated.
11. The earth is like a spaceship with very limited room and resources.
12. Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature.
13. The balance of nature is delicate and very easily upset.
14. Humans will eventually learn enough about how nature works to be able to control it.
15. If things continue on their present course we will soon experience a major ecological catastrophe.