MeCCSA 2020 - Paper proposal

Authors:
Dr Antonia Liguori (Loughborough University)
Professor Lindsey McEwen (UWE, Bristol)
Professor Michael Wilson (Loughborough University)
and the DRY Project consortium

Title
Co-designing an online 'Utility Tool' to bridge science and community knowledge through storytelling

Abstract

The often large gaps between the views of professional scientists and those of the general public (Funk et al., 2015), suggest that the public's science literacy leaves something to be desired (Crowther et al., 2016).
After having identified recurrent gaps between scientific and lay knowledge around drought risk in UK, the DRY Project team was involved in a complex participatory process to co-design with stakeholders from a variety of sectors an online 'Utility Tool' in which science and community knowledge were merged through storytelling.
DRY is a 4-year project, funded under the RCUK Drought and Water Scarcity Programme, with the aim of developing an evidence-based resource for drought risk management in which scientific data and multiple narratives are brought together to facilitate decision-making processes and improve community resilience.
Working from the premise that storytelling has value in enabling different forms of knowledge, inclusivity and capitals (Goldstein 2013; Constant & Roberts 2017; Valentine & Sadgrove 2014), this paper critically reflects on our learning experience around evolving approaches to facilitate stakeholders' engagement for the development of the 'DRY Utility Tool'.
It will explore in particular stakeholders' role in choosing and shaping the methodology and evaluating the two main tools: the 'DRY Story Bank' to make stories accessible, searchable and usable, and the 'DRY Story Map' to triangulate narrative, science and place.
It will also describe how developing those tools, revealed a critical tension around the interaction between facts and opinions, data and personal memories, and stimulated a deeper reflection on the beliefs that drive people's behaviours.

Presenting author bio
Dr Antonia Liguori is a Lecturer in Applied Storytelling. Her academic background is in History and Computer Science. Since 2008, she has been involved in a variety of international research projects to develop tools and methods to foster innovation in education; to explore the role of storytelling in today's digital world; to investigate and trial ways of using digital storytelling as a participatory methodology for inter-disciplinary research.
Over the past five years her research has been focusing on three main strands: applied storytelling on environmental issues; digital storytelling in (cultural/heritage) education;

storytelling and urban design. More recently, after having joined HEART – Healing Education Animation Research Therapy, she has been exploring digital storytelling as therapeutic intervention.

Before moving to the UK, she was the coordinator of the Multimedia Department at BAICR Sistema Cultura, in Italy, a consortium of five cultural institutions with the aim of contributing to the enhancement of the historical and cultural heritage through the use of innovative methodologies, communicative approaches and the creation of digital environments. She is also a journalist and a SEO manager.