

DOTS, is inclusive design the missing piece in the climate crisis?

About

Dr Dave Hockham and Dr Pamela Zigomo's broader work at the University of Greenwich, notably the "DOTS Knowledge Exchange" (Design through Open Third Space), offers a framework for creating equitable partnerships in various projects, including those focused on climate justice. DOTS is built around the principles of co-design, where lived experience is championed and power imbalances are addressed, enabling more inclusive and just project outcomes.



Work

In the context of climate action, DOTS emphasises the need for equitable partnerships between academia, communities and organisations. For example, in climate adaptation projects, DOTS facilitates knowledge exchange that prioritises the voices of those most affected by climate change, such as marginalised communities. By acknowledging the distribution of power, the approach ensures that these communities are not mere recipients of aid but active collaborators in designing sustainable and culturally relevant solutions.

This method directly challenges traditional, often hierarchical approaches to climate adaptation, promoting a more democratic and inclusive process. As a result, the DOTS framework can inspire international climate initiatives to rethink how they engage with local communities, ensuring that climate actions are not only sustainable but also equitable and just.

Dave and Pamela's work exemplifies how inclusive design principles can drive systemic change, bridging the gap between lived experience and academic expertise to address the global challenges posed by climate change. His research provides a valuable model for fostering more effective and equitable partnerships in climate action, ensuring that all voices are heard and that the distribution of power is consciously considered in decision-making processes.

SDGs

