HARMONICS
TOWARDS ENLIGHTENED EVALUATION

DESIGN FOR NEXT EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF DESIGN LA SAPIENZA, ROMA

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Developing Evaluative Framework

Supplement existing positivistic approach

Understand creative processes in socio-economic partnerships
To determine the significance, worth, or condition of usually by careful appraisal and study

Enable reflection and assist identification of future change

Webster 2017

Del Tufo 2012

Image Credit: GSA, Barthels 2016
EXISTING EVALUATION

Quantitative metrics, journal impact factors, rigid notions of accountability ... fight to gain ascendancy (Denzin 2009)
DESIGN AND CREATIVE ENTANGLEMENTS
MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE

Makes tangible the field of complex interactions between stakeholders in order to support an ethic: a decision-making process for the future that takes a 'whole world' approach, and encourages ownership of those choices'.

(McAra-McWilliam 2007)
• Creative exploration
• Iterative/grassroots
• Risk taking/uncertainty

• Long standing presence
• Capital generating
• Top-down organisation

• Limited accountability
• ‘art bubble’
• Always looking for new

• Regional difficulties
• Audit culture
• Is adaptable to change and iterative

• Looks for what practice is working and how that can be supported

• Can identify points of energy and influence and how they flow

• Observes repeated patterns in the system and their effects
Negative capability is to tolerate anxiety and fear, to stay in the place of uncertainty in order to allow for the emergence of new thoughts or perceptions.

Kenneth Eisold, 2000,
The Rediscovery of the Unknown, 65
'it makes manifest what is otherwise invisible. It extends the fields of visibility, and crafts new realities, and at least sometimes, it also does something that is even more artful. This is because it makes space for ambivalence and ambiguity’ (Law 2004: 90)
EVALUATION THROUGH MAKING
"There is a huge amount of creativity in both organisations and it’s how we join forces and meld that creativity for the wider socio and economic development of the Highlands and Islands".
• Evaluation ‘in the making’ through ‘pin-ups’

• Cyclical, but dependent on needs of projects

• Cross-disciplinary