

Regional sustainability : tools for integrated governance

Citation for published version (APA):

Grosskurth, J. (2008). *Regional sustainability : tools for integrated governance*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Roquefort Ontwerpers. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20081209jg>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2008

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20081209jg](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20081209jg)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Propositions accompanying the dissertation
Regional Sustainability: Tools for integrated governance

1. The availability of appropriate sustainability assessment tools decreases with the increasing systemic depth of a research question. (This dissertation)
2. If the process of conducting a sustainability assessment is less important than its final outcomes, then the ambiguity, normativity and subjectivity of sustainability have probably been neglected in that assessment. (This dissertation)
3. Solving persistent problems requires the implementation of solutions, of which it is impossible to know the wider consequences. An upshot of this is that the sustainability transition is unlikely to be smooth. (This dissertation)
4. The structure of a system is a more relevant determinant of its long-term behaviour than the current value of its elements. Unfortunately, it is easier to explore and manipulate the elements of a system than its structure. (This dissertation)
5. When quantitative methods deliver expected results, this is interpreted as a sign that the model is correct. When participatory methods deliver expected results, this is seen to indicate a lack of innovation.
6. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) correlates strongly with most measures of sustainability. In some cases the correlation is strongly positive, in others it is strongly negative. This confirms that GDP is not an appropriate lever for achieving sustainability.
7. The concept of Intelligent Design satisfies Ravetz's criteria for applying Post Normal Science: facts are uncertain, values are disputed, stakes are high, and decisions urgent.
8. The world would be more sustainable if people understood the exponential function.
9. It is much easier to measure happiness than it is to measure sustainability.
10. The combined GDP of Sub-Saharan Africa will continue to outgrow the world economy for at least 10 years.
11. Losing one glove is certainly painful, but nothing compared to the pain of losing one, throwing away the other, and finding the first one again. (Piet Hein: Words – Grooks & Gruk)