

Curio Challenge



You are warmly invited to take part in the Curio Challenge. The curio challenge has been devised as a means of thinking through how sustainability can be integrated into the curriculum within and across disciplines. We are thinking primarily of *environmental* sustainability but often broader understandings of sustainability integrally relate to that theme.

We thought that a potential way into this would be for people to choose artefacts or symbols which they feel represent the connection between their subject discipline and sustainability. We are calling these 'curio', the word defining objects which are "unusual or intriguing" and which evoke curiosity. Our hope is that staff from all subject disciplines will participate in the challenge, especially staff from those subject disciplines not obviously related to environmental sustainability.

The objectives of the challenge are to

- engender rich discussion about ways of meaningfully integrating sustainability into different disciplines (particularly those not obviously associated with environmental sustainability);
- support interdisciplinary curriculum design relating to sustainability;
- enrich our notions of sustainability through the understandings that different disciplinary areas bring to it.

How the challenge works

1. Pick an artefact/symbol which represents, for you, meaningful connections between your **subject discipline** and **environmental sustainability**. This is a 'curio' challenge so anything goes: equations; antikythera (clue: go analogize!); Stradivarius violins, etc. Find a visual means of representing a chosen artefact through, for example, graphics or photographs. Symbols will act as representations in themselves.
2. Write a short paragraph saying who you are (which faculty/school/discipline you are in), a brief description of what you teach/research and a description of your artefact/symbol, if it is not obvious. You should give sufficient information for someone unfamiliar with your disciplinary area to try and work out what connection you have made (you may like to give related clues);
3. Write a short précis (300 word max) where you discuss the connection(s) the artefact or symbol represents for you. You may also like to describe any ways the connections you make (might) inform(s) your teaching. Your précis will be metaphorically locked away until

you feel someone has worked out the connection you have made, or has made a connection that you had not thought of but which you find inspiring/useful etc.

Please use the template at [this web address](#) to do this and send it on to Susan Brown: susan.a.brown@manchester.ac.uk .

Alternatively come along to the Community of Practice meetings for others to engage in your challenge.

4. You should try and 'unlock' at least two artefacts/symbols from other individuals/groups. You can find the artefacts here: <https://esccommunity.wikispaces.com/Curio+Challenges>

We hope the Curio Challenge may promote stimulating, interdisciplinary discussion.

May the Challenge commence!