

FFFS Episode 2: Science Is Useless!

EQUIPMENT:

- FFFS Titelschild
- BLOGLZ.DE Schild
- OHO Puppen

TEASER: (Kurzversion)

Often things like that happen: There is a sustainability project. Activists. And a scientist and wants to get engaged with the project. And the people in the project think: Yeah! Help is coming. But then they realize: The scientist is not a help. Because he or she is not in the business of sustainable change making. He or she is in the business of **researching** sustainable changemaking. Which is an entire different thing.

Script EP 2

Hi,

my name is Lars Zimmermann:

- title board -

And this is: FFFS - Fixing Funding for sustainability. Episode two.

- title board end -

And this episode has a very clickbaity title: It is called: Science is useless for sustainable change!

It is.

It's not.

It is.

It is.

Of course not completely. But more than you might think.

/// CUT ///

Not A Lot Of Funding For Sustainability

The main problem is, that we don't allocate really a lot or enough money for real sustainable change.

I live in Germany. And here we spend a lot of money for films [research & add number], for theatre [research & add number] and soon even for computer games [research & add number]! All of these things produce art – they produce results. State funded broadcasting too! They produce, what they get the funding for: movies, performances, games, radio and so on.

But we don't have anything like this for sustainability! I mean for real sustainability action. For groundwork. For people getting their hands dirty and trying to do really hard work.

Sure. There is money – there are budgets – going into sustainability. But if you look really closely you will notice that huge parts of it – if not the majority – goes into science! There are many ministries and researchers and research projects on sustainability. True. A LOT! There are even a bunch of places where you can study sustainability.

/// CUT ///

Science is useless for sustainable change

I <r quotes> hang out </r quotes> in the “sustainability world” for some time now, creating projects and meeting others with projects and I learned a bunch of things. And a really surprising unexpected thing was: How incredible useless scientists are for real sustainable change!

All the money that goes into science – and if it is the majority – is burned! It is not helping to make sustainable change.

/// CUT ///

First when I started my projects I was happy when there was a scientist popping up in a project. But now I think: Ough.

– make face palm –

Another one. Not helping. But killing my time. Scientists don't contribute to actual change!

/// CUT ///

Of course. It makes sense. As a scientist you are supposed to be objective! You can't be what you research. You have to be outside. You need to keep your distance.

/// CUT ///

And secondly: As a scientist you are trapped in the science system! And the currency of that system is not change. It is research papers!

You write about something. And when one paper is finished – one idea, one theses, one result – then you move on to create the next one – maybe an entire different one! You don't test your results. Or try to implement it.

If you do that... trying to implement – you are stupid! You risk your career.

Because working in science is really really hard. It is highly competitive. You have to work crazy hours. And produce papers – many of them. And if you don't – and you try to do some real change instead, you are unreasonable.

Science is a crazy treat mill. That spits out people that actually try to become activists – and push sustainable change!

And if you step out. There is no other funding opportunity. You crush.

/// CUT ///

Overresearched and underdeveloped

This is why sustainability is over researched but underdeveloped.

I got approached by several scientists that want to research sustainability and asking me to point out initiatives to them. There are so few, struggling hard, failing, not finding the money to work on their projects. And they are surrounded by the scientists like flies.

/// CUT ///

And I thought: Hey people. Don't! Don't produce a paper about the sad little pile that is there. Rather invest your time and help building it – make it bigger. Why research this. Build something instead!

But they can't. They are trapped in their system – science – that does not allow them to become really active if they want to be able to pay their rent and feed their kids. > If you try to give this planet a future you are likely to pay this with your own.

/// CUT ///

More Public Funding

Ok. How to fix this?

First of all. It is nothing wrong with science. It is beautiful. I am not an enemy of science! All the funding they have should stay there!

But we should be aware, that the money that goes into science for sustainability is not money that goes into sustainable change. And if we take that out of the sum. We see, how little funding there is for sustainability change.

/// CUT ///

And my proposition is that we need something like we have for movies and theatre. We need something money for sustainability activism! Activism! Utopia-production! Campaigning. Education. Work that is not businesses. That does not have to be self sufficient. Like movies, theatres and public radio wouldn't be the same if they would need to sustain themselves.

A Ministry for practical, applied sustainability.

Activism! Action! Not Science. Because science does not help.

/// CUT ///

Science is useless for change.

Reprise: Science is not useless

„Science is useless“ the title is a bit clickbaity. To get your attention. But of course it is not true. Science is important and can help:

- To evaluate solutions (what works and what not)
- To collect data to base solutions and decisions on.
- To collect and create knowledge for sustainable solutions: better tech!
- Talk to politicians (sometimes).
- And a bunch of other stuff too.

/// CUT ///

But the real fight or main for sustainability does not happen in these realms.

The real fight happens in the realm of convincing people. Getting their attention. Make things thinkable! Figuring out how to place a sustainable solution somewhere. Educate people. Developing products for the market. Hacking companies. Make it happen! That is where sustainability really happens. Well.

And in that realms it barely happens that science is a real help.

/// CUT ///

So let's allocate more funding for this!

And how to do that – for this I recommend to watch the other videos and follow this series called: FFFS - Fixing Funding For Sustainability!

Credits!

Ok.

My name is Lars Zimmermann.

And if you want to find out more about my work. And this video series. Visit my Website:

BLOGLZ

– Schild hochhalten. –

End remark

This video is licensed under CC-BY-ND! Because it reflects a point of view. However. Feel free to cut it together with other stuff. As long as you don't make me say things I have not said I will not come after you!

– END –

///// ADD SOMEWHERE:

(1) **SHORTER VERSION OF KEY POINT: / Mit Oho-Puppen spielen /:** Often things like that happen: There is a sustainability project. Activists. And a scientist and wants to get engaged with the project. And the people in the project think: Yeah! Help is coming. But then they realize: The scientist is not a help. Because he or she is not in the business of sustainable change making. He or she is in the business of **researching** sustainable changemaking. Which is an entire different thing.

(2) FÜGE HINZU (?) DASS DIE Wissenschaftler dann gern um die Welt fliegen. Tokyo, New Zealand, und dass dafür extra Budgets vorgesehen sind. Und es ist ja irgendwie auch schön so um die Welt zu fliegen... /// Eventuell eine Geschichte erfinden von einer Mutter mit 3 Kindern in einem Dorf, die ein Nachhaltigkeitsprojekte hatte aber kaum damit vorankam. Aber sie war umrundet von 10 Wissenschaftlern. Und als sie das Projekt einstellen musste, dann haben die Wissenschaftler darüber geschrieben, dass sie das Projekt einstellen musste. Und was getan hätte werden können, um das zu verhindern. Und dass sie dann auf teuren Konferenzen über den Fall bei Shrimps und Orangenschorle diskutieren. Bystanders! Vielleicht etwas weniger scharf.

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