

Adaptation ain't what it used to be

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From a personal perspective of nearly 30 years of research experience, I describe how climate change impacts and adaptation research has changed, from a relatively simple desktop exercise to a more complex collaborative endeavour, with a wider range of analytical tools, and a wider choice of future scenarios. There is an opportunity being offered by mapping these new, more complex information pathways, engaging a more diverse set of practitioners and researchers, each applying the tools of their trade. We could be pushing the boundary, bringing translated climate change information closer to arenas of decision making.

We need to translate climate scenarios beyond indicators of impact into *measures of adaptation effectiveness*. This would be a new conversation, challenging our assumptions about how our systems would operate in a future climate. In order to influence this dialogue in a meaningful way, the climate change damage report has to be compelling, evidence-based, but described in terms that will attract the attention of decision makers. We should be framing climate change response, including climate change adaptation, as a challenge to our collective abilities to share knowledge in more creative ways, to sustain this knowledge sharing in government, in academia, and in fields of professional practice.

If we can build long term networks and programs that could sustain shared learning endeavours, than we will create a legacy of learning experiences, like those of our ancestors who could adapt based on their own life experiences. Maybe it could be the start of a more mature dialogue on climate change, to enable future generations to be better prepared for what is to come.