

Inspiring resources, movies, courses, and reads

This document summarizes excellent resources that are available to learn about the role of landscapes and narrative.

Little has been written exclusively around how Ontario's narratives are shaping Ontario's landscapes. This collection draws on a number of sources related to these topics: the role of narratives in general, the role of landscapes in general, managing landscapes for mitigating the planetary crisis.

Articles

Title	Year	Author and publisher	Comment
<p>Leadership in the age of complexity: From heroes to hosts</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Margaret Wheatley, published in Resurgence Magazine, Winter 2011</p>	<p>For too long, too many of us have been entranced by heroes. Perhaps it's our desire to be saved, to not have to do the hard work, to rely on someone else to figure things out. Constantly we are barraged by politicians presenting themselves as heroes, the ones who will fix everything and make our problems go away. It's a seductive image, an enticing promise. And we keep believing it. Somewhere there's someone who will make it all better. Somewhere, there's someone who's visionary, inspiring, brilliant, trustworthy, and we'll all happily follow him or her. Somewhere...</p>
<p>How to change narratives with hope</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Thomas Coombes, Medium</p>	<p>Populist politicians are known for pushing the boundaries of acceptable speech: making "politically incorrect" statements, or "telling it like it is". In doing so, politicians get free publicity and shift the "Overton window" of what is considered "common sense" in public discourse. In other words, they frame the debate and control the narrative.</p> <p>Using these techniques, well-planned campaigns can shift formerly unthinkable and radical ideas into what become regarded as sensible and popular, to the point that the pressure for them to become policy becomes irresistible.</p>
<p>The Post-Hope Philosophy A Counter Narrative of Climate Resilience in an Eco-Apocalyptic Era</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Sage Wylder</p>	<p>Interview with William and Marisha Thomas</p>

<p>Why we need new narratives and strategies to save the environment</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>Fernanda Marin</p>	<p>The fatalist-gloomy-future narrative around climate change hasn't been compelling to mobilise enough individuals and communities for change. In response, new organisations are emerging with positive narratives and more complex strategies to tackle 'the problem' of our generation.</p>
<p><u>To change the world, transform narrative oceans</u></p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Bridgit Antoinette Evans, Medium</p>	<p><i>Short article that builds on a larger study on how to change outdated narratives in pop culture, From Stories to Systems - Pop Culture Collaborative</i></p>
<p>Evidence-based hope to help fight the environmental crisis</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Elin Kelsey</p>	<p><i>Warning to stay away from counterfactual hope (or wishfull thinking) and base hope narratives on sound science</i></p>
<p><u>Other Species are Essential Workers, Whose Economies Enfold Our Own</u></p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Didi Pershouse</p>	<p><i>"These essential workers get no pay, no health insurance, no workers' compensation if they are injured... Yet they build the infrastructure, and provide the goods and services that underpin every economy on Earth."</i></p>

<p>Sustaining Hope in Uncertain Times</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Dane Jensen</p>	<p>It's easy in these difficult, uncertain times to lose hope. But allowing yourself to sink into a funk can affect your professional and personal lives. What's more, there's an alternative: a process that involves imagining a plausible positive future, identifying steps to achieve it, and viewing inevitable setbacks as inflection points when you can reset your course.</p> <p><i>Critique by Carol Sanford (podcast). Six problems:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Imaging vs. imagining – article's "imagining" aims at a positive frame around our current circumstances. Imaging looks through everyone's eyes on the entire system.</i> 2. <i>Problem of attachment to one's ideas, biases and images.</i> 3. <i>Anthropocentric:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Not nested within human relationships (individualistic)</i> b. <i>Projection of us onto the world, anthropocentric.</i> c. <i>Understand human's particular role within nature through our consciousness.</i> 4. <i>Self-actualizing rather than system actualizing!</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Fragmenting approach that is about us feeling better, rather than a better system.</i> b. <i>Meaning stems from supporting a system, not oneself fabrication of an idea.</i> 5. <i>Setting a goal is not self actualization of one's "essence"</i> 6. <i>Self efficacy – learning how to figure out the process, not the having answer.</i>
<p>Fourteen Recommendations on Living Beyond Collapse-Denial</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Jem Bendell</p>	<p>Recommendations for people experiencing difficult emotions in face of societal collapse. Based on Jem looking back over the 4 years since he had begun to accept that near term societal collapse would be likely, or even inevitable. This was in my long essay called "After Climate Despair".</p>

Movies and documentaries

Title	Year	Description	Comment
<p>Twenty-First Century Enlightenment - Matthew Taylor (11 mins)</p>	2010	<p>Matthew Taylor explores the meaning of the RSA's strapline '21st Century Enlightenment'. How might this idea might help us meet the challenges the world faces today, and what role can be played by organisations such as the RSA?</p>	<p>Short drawing presentation on the role of Narrative. Good introduction!</p> <p><i>"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!"</i></p>
<p>Facing Future Presents: The Voices of Four Young Activists – Listening to Grief and Courage (24 mins)</p>	2021	<p>Young people are the ones on whom the burden of the climate crisis will fall. Their future is questionable. Will it be filled with famine and chaos, death and destruction? Or will humanity rise to the occasion, become less materialistic and more collaborative, less self-centered and more altruistic?</p>	<p>In this deeply moving session, we listen to the hearts and souls of four extraordinary young women who have committed to being present to their feelings in the face of this existential challenge. Moderated by Rupert Read, it is a powerful statement of vulnerability that speaks of the overwhelming grief that so many young people are feeling. For more information on the state of our planet visit the FacingFuture Library at https://facingfuture.earth/library</p>
<p>The Man Who Planted Trees ... (30 mins)</p>	1987	<p>A wonderful animation of the fictional short story by the French writer Jean Giono. 1987. A parable about the relationship between man and nature, an exemplary story about the human capacity to achieve any goal that is set.</p>	<p>On one hand, this story demonstrates that the search hope in a degrading environment is by no means a new phenomenon. On the other hand, it also demonstrates the agency of individuals who act on what they know must be done.</p>
<p>The man who grew his own Amazon rainforest - BBC World Service (5 mins)</p>	2020	<p>A corner of the Amazon that had been cleared and used as farmland has been restored to rainforest. The man who owns it, Omar Tello, gave up his job as an accountant and spent 40 years recreating a patch of pristine forest in Ecuador, stretching just a few hundred metres in each direction. He's trying to encourage other landowners to do the same, so they can turn the tide of deforestation.</p>	<p>Watch more videos of people fixing the world here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list...</p>

<p><u>Youth Talk About Climate Collapse</u></p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>This film tells the story of a 13-year-old boy who sensed the depth of the ecological and climate crisis. By expressing his sadness, Oskar started a chain reaction so that his fellow students began to grapple with the potential collapse of societies due to climate change. By challenging the school curriculum, to learn what really matters to his future, Oskar offers a message for all of us.</p>	<p>The implications for adult solidarity with young people become clear - to support them and society in adapting emotionally and practically to the disruptions ahead, as a complement to bold carbon cuts and drawdown. You can see Oskar's own short film "Sandcastle" at https://youtu.be/Wx4OKWXz7PE</p>
<p><u>2040</u></p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Concerned about his young daughter's future, filmmaker Damon Gameau travels the world in search of new approaches and solutions to climate change. He meets with innovators and changemakers in many fields to draw on their expertise.</p>	<p>This movie is an excellent attempt to create a positive narrative, with many strategies that address landscape regeneration in agriculture, gardening, urban design.</p>
<p><u>Breaking Boundaries: The Science Of Our Planet</u></p> <p>10-min summary as shown at Glasgow climate talks</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>David Attenborough and scientist Johan Rockström examine Earth's biodiversity collapse and how this crisis can still be averted.</p> <p>A 10-minute cut of the film was live-streamed on Earth Day 2021 at the <u>President Biden's Virtual Leaders Summit on Climate</u>, just before Pope Francis' speech.</p>	<p>Two leading scientists and narrators create concern and focus on solutions.</p>
<p><u>Hope in a world of crisis: Water cycle restoration</u></p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>TedX talk. Zach Weiss, an ecological warrior, emphasizes the tendency of the western world to practice symptom-based medicine. He stresses that there are actionable steps each of us can take to lessen the effects of climate change by shifting our efforts from symptom-based action to truly understanding the root cause.</p> <p>See also: <u>2-hour webinar</u></p>	<p>Crisp summary on Zach Weiss' educational and inspirational work around the terrestrial water cycle and larger ecosystem regeneration.</p>

<p>Desert or Rainforest</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>This video features a truly remarkable project that provides a pathway for restoring ecosystems and cooling our climate. Do we want to create desert or rainforest? It sounds too simple to be true, but the choice truly is ours to make. Even during the extreme heat and horrific bushfires of 2020 in Australia, this project provided a refuge of cooler temperatures, humidity, and productivity. What's so remarkable about this project is that it wasn't previously a rainforest. This rainforest was by choice, carefully co-created by humans.</p> <p>This project, led by Walter Jehne, shows how humans can be a positive force in increasing planetary health and the stability of our climate. Forests cool our climate and generate more consistent rain. We can create forests, even in dry, hot, and arid landscapes, by working with water and soil conservation.</p>	<p>Through decentralized water retention, reforestation, revegetation, agroforestry, syntropic agriculture, regenerative agriculture, cover cropping, permaculture, and water and soil conservation - we can make these changes on our landscape for a more abundant and prosperous future.</p> <p>Truly hopeful narrative how humans can actively restore landscape health. The Australian bushfires in 2020 revealed the power of intentional regeneration.</p>
<p>5 Most Epic Earth Healing Projects</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Permaculture instructor Andrew Millison reveals his picks for the 5 most epic Earth healing projects in the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project 1: Arvari River Restoration · Project 2: The Chikukwa Project Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svj3O... · Project 3: GRAVIS Jodhpur Project Website: https://www.gravis.org.in/ · Project 4: The Loess Plateau Footage from "Hope in a Changing Climate" by John D. Liu: https://youtu.be/bLdNhZ6kAzo · Project 5: The Paani Foundation https://www.paanifoundation.in/ · Bonus: Regenerative Resources: https://regenerativeresources.co/ 	<p>Crisp summary of several large-scale landscape transformations. Inspirational - scale is possible, if communities make it their shared priority.</p>

The Biggest Little Farm	2020	<p>A couple are followed through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate they purchase begins to thrive and its transformed.</p>	<p>Excellent story telling about the difficulties of regenerative farming</p>
<p>Other movies, highly recommendable:</p>			
Kiss The Ground	2020	<p>Activists, scientists, farmers, and politicians turn to regenerative agriculture to save the planet's topsoil, and combat climate change.</p>	<p>This movie overcomes political polarization and instead focuses on the most overlooked ecosystem: soil. Especially agricultural soils contribute greatly to carbon sequestration but ultimately to almost all other aspects of landscape regeneration.</p>

<p>Livestock on the land</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>In broad-brush, Livestock on the Land is a story about regenerative grazing and its promise for the Iowa landscape. Up close, however, it's a story about people – the farmers driven by love of family, land and livestock to seek more resilient solutions, and the community that emerges when livestock are on the land.</p> <p>The film goes beyond the science to show how livestock are central threads connecting people, diversifying farms, protecting soil and water, and anchoring rural communities.</p> <p>When livestock leave, so do the people. Livestock on the Land shows the reverse: how livestock can re-people our rural communities by giving farmers a chance to get started, grow businesses, provide for their families, work together and bring back the next generation to sustain the cycle.</p>	<p>This movie addresses the role of livestock in our landscapes - their potential for soil regeneration, bringing back biodiverse habitat, but also fostering rural communities. It also draws a clear line between industrial animal production practices that degrade our landscapes, and regenerative practices that restore these.</p> <p>Livestock is a contentious issue in the climate debate. Better than any other movie, the Practical Farmers of Iowa address the complexity of this debate without polarizing.</p>
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<p><u>Symbiotic Earth</u></p> <p><u>How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution</u></p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>Symbiotic Earth explores the life and ideas of scientific rebel Lynn Margulis who challenged entrenched theories of male-dominated science. As a young scientist in the 1960s, Margulis was ridiculed when she first proposed that symbiosis – when organisms live and work together — was a key driver of evolution, but she persisted. Through numerous collaborations she caused a seismic shift in our understanding of life.</p> <p>Margulis’ symbiotic narrative presents an alternative to the destructive worldview that has led to climate change and extreme capitalism. With James Lovelock she developed the Gaia Theory that all life is interconnected and interdependent. Her vision offers bold insights into health, society, and nature, and inspires creative approaches to our pressing environmental and social crises.</p>	<p>The idea of symbiotic living and the self-regulating forces of this planet are inextricably linked to microbiologist Lynn Margulis, who contributed much of the science to Lovelock’s Gaia hypothesis.</p> <p>This movie provides the scientific foundation for the paradigm of regeneration - while not directly talking about landscapes, the core concepts that this movie presents are the building blocks of all other regeneration sciences.</p>
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<p><u>Mother Trees and the Social Forest.</u> <u>Susanne Simard</u></p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Forest Ecologist Suzanne Simard reveals that trees are part of a complex, interdependent circle of life; that forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground mycorrhizal networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities, and share and exchange resources and support. Simard's extraordinary research and tenacious efforts to raise awareness on the interconnectedness of forest systems, both above and below ground, has revolutionized our understanding of forest ecology. This increasing knowledge is driving a call for more sustainable practices in forestry and land management, ones that develop strategies based on the forest as a whole entity, not on trees as isolated individuals.</p> <p>Dr. Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia and the author of "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest" (pub. 5/4/21).</p>	<p>Like Symbiotic Planet, this movie provides a foundation for the idea of symbiotic life on Earth.</p>
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<p>Reviving Rivers - Rajendra Singh</p> <p>Singh's TedX Talk</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Can we revive our rivers and landscapes? Can we bring water back to regions that have been desertified? Yes we can, and this example shows us how. Drought and water scarcity are now issues all around the world. Cities are running out of water, landscapes are engulfed in flames, and every year drought, flood and fire become more common and severe. Despite the huge amount of energy and money that has been put into developing elaborate water systems, the distribution and availability of water seems to continue getting worse. The engineered solutions that nations around the world have pursued, while solving our immediate needs, have made the long term outlook even more bleak. The best solutions we've found have come from people living close to their landscape, dependent on the health of their land for their own survival.</p>	<p>Rajendra Singh leveraged community to revive landscapes. His work is an excellent example of "leadership as host" - instead of solving problems for the community (an approach that seems to not work), Rajendra works with communities to empower them, inspire thousands of local leaders, and foster landscape renewal through communities.</p>
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<p>How to green the world's deserts and reverse climate change Allan Savory</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>Ted Talk. "Desertification is a fancy word for land that is turning to desert," begins Allan Savory in this quietly powerful talk. And terrifyingly, it's happening to about two-thirds of the world's grasslands, accelerating climate change and causing traditional grazing societies to descend into social chaos. Savory has devoted his life to stopping it. He now believes -- and his work so far shows -- that a surprising factor can protect grasslands and even reclaim degraded land that was once desert.</p>	<p>There are several debates about his claims around "reversing" climate change with landscape management. This one claim may be an exaggeration, and Savory is not denying the role of carbon and fossil fuel emissions. Savory's idea of regenerating degraded ecosystems using livestock has been proven by incountable practitioners and is especially effective in dryland ecologies.</p>
<p>Fools & Dreamers - Regenerating a native forest</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>The incredible story of how degraded gorse-infested farmland has been regenerated back into beautiful New Zealand native forest over the course of 30 years. Fools & Dreamers: Regenerating a Native Forest is a 30-minute documentary about Hinewai Nature Reserve, on New Zealand's Banks Peninsula, and its kaitiaki/manager of 30 years, botanist Hugh Wilson. When, in 1987, Hugh let the local community know of his plans to allow the introduced 'weed' gorse to grow as a nurse canopy to regenerate farmland into native forest, people were not only skeptical but outright angry – the plan was the sort to be expected only of "fools and dreamers".</p>	<p>Short and crisp true tail of an extraordinary person's life. Less about community than about the vision of an individual.</p>

<p><u>Sara Scherr on how to work on landscape scale regeneration on 1000 landscapes for 1 billion people</u></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>After five years Dr Sara Scherr, agricultural and natural resource economist, President, CEO and founder of EcoAgriculture Partners, comes back on the podcast to share about 1000 landscapes for 1 Billion people and much more. 5 years ago in conversation with her, we talked for the first time ever about stranded assets in agriculture.</p>	<p>Excellent podcast!</p>
<p><u>Living the Change: Inspiring Stories for a Sustainable Future</u></p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>Living the Change is a feature-length documentary that explores solutions to the global crises we face today – solutions any one of us can be part of – through the inspiring stories of people pioneering change in their own lives and in their communities in order to live in a sustainable and regenerative way. Directors Jordan Osmond and Antoinette Wilson have brought together stories from their travels, along with interviews with experts able to explain how we come to be where we are today. From forest gardens to composting toilets, community supported agriculture to timebanking, Living the Change offers ways we can rethink our approach to how we live.</p>	<p>Focuses on individual lifestyle choices rather than community-level actions. Useful to inform individuals and fill ‘change’ with content, but not focusing on the core leverage point identified for landscape regeneration.</p>

<p>Aluna - An Ecological Warning by the Kogi People</p> <p>https://www.alunathemovie.com/</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>Aluna means "conscience ". Enter the last theocratic chiefdom in America, hidden for centuries on a mountain in Colombia. The Kogi have made this amazing documentary to help us understand how to avoid the destruction of the world that they are trying to protect, and of ourselves. To continue spreading the Kogi warning of an ecological disaster, we have now made Aluna available for free in 15 different languages</p>	<p>Realising that their warning in 1990 was not fully grasped, the Kogis become more proactive. Even though their civilisation has never used wheels or created writing, they diligently study film cameras and train their own indigenous film crew.^{[7][8]} The Kogis ask Alan Ereira, whom they allowed to film their 1990 message, to assist. The Kogi Mamos decide that there will be "no more secrets": They want to demonstrate their planetary healing sciences in front of the cameras to the modern world and show visible and measurable results.^[9] They also wish to teach other people how to conduct these sciences in order to heal the world. They speak with modern scientists in the belief that they have a different science to show them.^[10]</p>
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<p>The Art of Life</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>A documentary about the art of living outside of conventions, in deep integrity with one's essence. Featuring Michael Behrens. Subtitled in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, Russian, Turkish. By the team that brought you https://www.TheWisdomOfTrauma.com.</p> <p>As a rising star in the field of abstract mathematics, Michael discovered that he could see beauty and pattern where others could not. But his path was not to be inside academia, or even inside society. He went on a grand adventure to unify his Buddhism with his ability to see an expanded view of reality. He created beauty in a place where nobody else would, and made his friends amongst dolphins.</p>	
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Books

Title	Author	Date	Description
<p>Hope Matters. Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis</p>	<p>Elin Kelsey</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p><i>Hope Matters</i> boldly breaks through the narrative of doom and gloom that has overtaken conversations about our future to show why hope, not fear, is our most powerful tool for tackling the planetary crisis. Award-winning author, scholar, and educator Elin Kelsey reveals the collateral damage of despair—from young people who honestly believe they have no future to the link between climate anxiety and hyper-consumerism—and argues that the catastrophic environmental news that dominates the media tells only part of the story. She describes effective campaigns to support ocean conservation, species resilience, and rewilding, demonstrating how digital conservation is helping scientists target specific problems with impressive results. And she shows how we can build on these positive trends and harness all our emotions about the changing environment—anger and sadness as well as hope—into effective personal and political action.</p> <p>Published in Partnership with the David Suzuki Institute</p>
<p>The Sacred Balance. Rediscovering Our Place in Nature,</p>	<p>David Suzuki</p>	<p>2013</p>	

<p>Braiding Sweetgrass</p>	<p>Robin Kimmerer</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise.</p>
<p>Scripture, Culture, Agriculture - An Agrarian Reading of the Bible</p>	<p>Ellen F. Davis</p>	<p>2009</p>	<p>This book examines the Christian theology and ethics of land use, especially the practices of modern industrialized agriculture, in light of critical biblical exegesis. Nine interrelated essays explore the biblical writers' pervasive concern for the care of arable land against the background of the geography, social structures, and religious thought of ancient Israel. This approach consistently brings out neglected aspects of texts, both poetry and prose, that are central to Jewish and Christian traditions. Rather than seeking solutions from the past, Davis creates a conversation between ancient texts and contemporary agrarian writers; thus she provides a fresh perspective from which to view the destructive practices and assumptions that now dominate the global food economy. The biblical exegesis is wide-ranging and sophisticated; the language is literate and accessible to a broad audience.</p> <p>Quote: “Agrarians are committed to preserving both communities and the material means of life, to cultivating practices that ensure that the essential means of life suffice for all members of the present generation and are not diminished for those who come after. Agrarianism in this sense is, and has nearly always been, a marginal culture existing at the edge or under the domination of a larger culture whose ideology, social system, and economy are fundamentally different. So agrarian writers, both ancient and modern,</p>

			always speak with a vivid awareness of the threat posed by the culture of the powerful.”
<p>The Secret Wisdom of Nature - Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things – Stories from Science and Observation.</p>	<p>Peter Wohlleben</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Peter Wohlleben takes readers on a thought-provoking exploration of the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible. In this tour of an almost unfathomable world, Wohlleben describes the fascinating interplay between animals and plants and answers such questions as: How do they influence each other? Do lifeforms communicate across species boundaries? And what happens when this finely tuned system gets out of sync? By introducing us to the latest scientific discoveries and recounting his own insights from decades of observing nature, one of the world’s most famous foresters shows us how to recapture our sense of awe so we can see the world around us with completely new eyes.</p> <p>Published in Partnership with the David Suzuki Institute</p>

<p>The Monarchy of Fear - A Philosopher Looks at Our Political Crisis</p>	<p>Martha Nussbaum</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Although today’s atmosphere is marked by partisanship, divisive rhetoric, and the inability of two halves of the country to communicate with one another, Nussbaum focuses on what so many pollsters and pundits have overlooked. She sees a simple truth at the heart of the problem: the political is always emotional. Globalization has produced feelings of powerlessness in millions of people in the West. That sense of powerlessness bubbles into resentment and blame. Blame of immigrants. Blame of Muslims. Blame of other races. Blame of cultural elites. While this politics of blame is exemplified by the election of Donald Trump and the vote for Brexit, Nussbaum argues it can be found on all sides of the political spectrum, left or right.</p> <p><i>“Hope swells outward, fear shrinks back.”</i></p>
<p>Winning the Story Wars</p>	<p>Jonah Sachs</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>Story wars are all around us. They are the struggle to be heard in a world of media noise and clamor. Today, most brand messages and mass appeals for causes are drowned out before they even reach us. But a few consistently break through the din, using the only tool that has ever moved minds and changed behavior—great stories.</p> <p>With insights from mythology, advertising history, evolutionary biology, and psychology, viral storyteller and advertising expert Jonah Sachs takes readers into a fascinating world of seemingly insurmountable challenges and enormous opportunity.</p>

<p>How Organizations Develop Activists: Civic Associations and Leadership in the 21st Century</p>	<p>Hahrie Hahn</p>		<p><i>"Anger mobilizes, hope organizes."</i></p>
<p>Three books address the specific topic of Ontario's landscapes:</p>			
<p>The Once and Future Great Lakes Country: An Ecological History Review.</p>	<p>John Riley</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p><i>John Riley investigates the history of Great Lakes landscapes, from before first contact until today and tomorrow. This long read is meticulously researched by one of the most prolific ecological authors of Canada. Truly mind opening!</i></p>
<p>Two Billion Trees and Counting The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz</p>	<p>John Bacher</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p><i>John Bacher gives a detailed account of Zavitz' legacy in Ontario's tree planting program, inspired by the devastating landscape degradation during the 1920s and 30s.</i></p>
<p>The history of roadside tree planting in Ontario</p>	<p>Maple Leafs Forever</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p><i>Terry Schwan is a semi-retired forest consultant from Hanover, Grey County. He was winner of the Maple Leaves Forever / Ontario Envirothon Leadership Award in 2020.</i></p>

Academic papers

<p>Hinkel J, Mangalagiu D, Bisaro A, Tàbara JD. Transformative narratives for climate action. <i>Climatic Change</i>. 2020 Jun;160(4):495-506. (online)</p>	<p>Overview article that focuses on transformative narratives for climate action that highlight economic and other opportunities in climate action. The narratives have been co-developed and empirically validated in the GREEN-WIN project, an international transdisciplinary research collaboration supported by the EU from September 2015 to December 2018, which involved 16 project partners and 25 supporting organisations from UN agencies, civil society, financial institutions, universities and think tanks around the world.</p> <p>The transformative narratives developed are built around win-win strategies (WWS), which are practicable solutions that provide near-term economic benefit to individual businesses, municipalities or countries, and at the same time contribute to meeting climate mitigation, adaptation and other sustainability goals. At the micro level, WWS include green business models and, at the macro level, green growth policies. An example of the latter is an investment-oriented climate policy that switches the European economy to a pathway with higher growth, lower unemployment and lower emissions.</p> <p><i>Comment: Scenarios that there are no win-win strategies is not discussed in this paper; maybe the win win focus is too rosy to be real!</i></p>
<p>Deep Adaptation: A Map for Navigating Climate Tragedy, Updated version of 2018 paper. Jem Bendell 2020</p>	<p><i>Not an article of hope – but about acceptance of inevitable societal breakdown. How would we live if we accepted this as reality? This controversial article that was refuted by the scientific community, because the premise of the author is that breakdown is inevitable.</i></p> <p>“to anticipate collapse does not mean giving up; it simply means continuing to push for what’s best while also preparing for the worst” (source)</p> <p><i>However, a life strategy that assumes societal collapse leads to deep adaptation, and a shift toward a regenerative lifestyle that meets mitigation and adaptation targets. Maybe the acceptance of collapse is the only way to avoid collapse?</i></p>

<p>Our future in the Anthropocene biosphere. Folke C, Polasky S, Rockström J, Galaz V, Westley F, Lamont M, Scheffer M, Österblom H, Carpenter SR, Chapin FS, Seto KC. Our future in the Anthropocene biosphere. <i>Ambio</i>. 2021 Apr;50(4):834-69.</p>	<p><i>Excellent and recent joint article of academic heavy weights in the Earth System Science movement. In short: Humankind faces three behemoths simultaneously: Climate change, biosphere degradation, and record-high inequality. These must be tackled simultaneously, and this can only happen by changing the way we think.</i></p>
<p>De Meyer K, Coren E, McCaffrey M, Slean C. Transforming the stories we tell about climate change: from 'issue' to 'action'. <i>Environmental Research Letters</i>. 2020 Dec 23;16(1):015002 (online)</p>	<p>By some counts, up to 98% of environmental news stories are negative in nature. Implicit in this number is the conventional wisdom among many communicators that increasing people's understanding, awareness, concern or even fear of climate change are necessary precursors for action and behavior change. In this article we review scientific theories of mind and brain that explain why this conventional view is flawed. In real life, the relationship between beliefs and behavior often goes in the opposite direction: our actions change our beliefs, awareness and concerns through a process of self-justification and self-persuasion. As one action leads to another, this process of self-persuasion can go hand in hand with a deepening engagement and the development of agency—knowing <i>how</i> to act. One important source of agency is learning from the actions of others. We therefore propose an approach to climate communication and storytelling that builds people's agency for climate action by providing a wide variety of stories of people taking positive action on climate change. Applied at scale, this will shift the conceptualization of climate change from 'issue-based' to 'action-based'. It will also expand the current dominant meanings of 'climate action' (i.e. 'consumer action' and 'activism') to incorporate all relevant practices people engage in as members of a community, as professionals and as citizens. We close by proposing a systematic approach to get more reference material for action-based stories from science, technology and society to the communities of storytellers—learning from health communication and technologies developed for COVID-19.</p>

Vigliano Relva J, Jung J. Through the Eyes of Another: Using a Narrative Lens to Navigate Complex Social-Ecological Systems and to Embrace Multiple Ways of Knowing. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 2021:975.

[\(online\)](#)

Many social-ecological issues are characterised by a multiplicity of stakeholder voices with often fundamentally divergent values, beliefs or worldviews. Those differences in perspective can be also viewed as different narratives on individual, community and cultural scales that both express and reinforce people's identity, value system and manifested behaviours. Navigating between those narratives requires approaches that facilitate the co-existence of multiple ways of knowing. The currently dominant knowledge production system of Western scientific knowledge often fails to meet those challenges due to its positivist and reductionist tendencies. However, embracing a co-existence of knowledges isn't just necessary from a pragmatic perspective to adequately engage in those situations, but also represents an ethical imperative that includes acknowledging the colonial and oppressive history of Western scientific knowledge toward other knowledges, especially regarding Indigenous knowledge production systems. We propose adopting a narrative lens as a metaphor for embracing multiple ways of knowing and being as narratives play a key role for human cognition, communication and in shaping and expressing fundamental values at different levels. Using an example of contested narratives from a fisheries management conflict, we illustrate how narratives can help to develop a richer understanding of social-ecological conflicts. We also reflect on some narrative discourses commonly used in marine science that stem from the binary nature-culture divide prominent in Western scientific knowledge and discuss their implication for hindering sustainable ocean governance. Furthermore, we demonstrate how storytelling methods can be used to surface and share those narratives and to unravel the underlying values and fundamental beliefs and to re-shape them. The narrative lens we propose is suitable under multiple simultaneous disciplinary homes including Indigenous methodologies and systems thinking. They share the key features of having a holistic and relational approach that recognises the co-existence of multiple ways of knowing and being and use self-reflection as key for critical engagement with the situation and to surface and acknowledge one's own internal narratives. This represents no exhaustive review of narrative inquiry, but a reflective journey illustrating how engaging with narratives can facilitate knowledge co-existence including different ways of relating to human and non-human beings.

*"We think we tell stories, but stories often tell us, tell us to love or hate, to see or be seen. Often, too often, stories saddle us, ride us, whip us onward, tell us what to do, and we do it without questioning. The task of learning to be free requires learning to hear them, to question them, to pause and hear silence, to name them, and then become a story-teller." —Rebecca Solnit, *The Faraway Nearby*.*

Moezzi M, Janda KB, Rotmann S.
Using stories, narratives, and
storytelling in energy and climate
change research. *Energy Research &
Social Science*. 2017 Sep 1;31:1-0.
([online](#))

Energy and climate change research has been dominated by particular methods and approaches to defining and addressing problems, accomplished by gathering and analysing the corresponding forms of evidence. This special issue starts from the broad concepts of *stories, narratives, and storytelling* to go beyond these analytic conventions, approaching the intersection of nature, humanity, and technology in multiple ways, using lenses from social sciences, humanities, and practitioners' perspectives. The contributors use stories as data objects to gather, analyse, and critique; stories as an approach to research an inquiry; narrative analysis as a way of crystallising arguments and assumptions; and storytelling as a way of understanding, communicating, and influencing others. In using these forms of evidence and communication, and applying methods, analytical stances, and interpretations that these invite, something new and different results. This essay is a brief introduction to how, in our view, stories and their kin fit in energy and climate change research. We outline the diversity of data, approaches, and goals represented in the contributions to the special issue. And we reflect on some of the challenges of, and possibilities for, continuing to develop 'stories' as data sources, as modes of inquiry, and as creative paths toward social engagement.