

ISALAB, TRANSDISCIPLINARY SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



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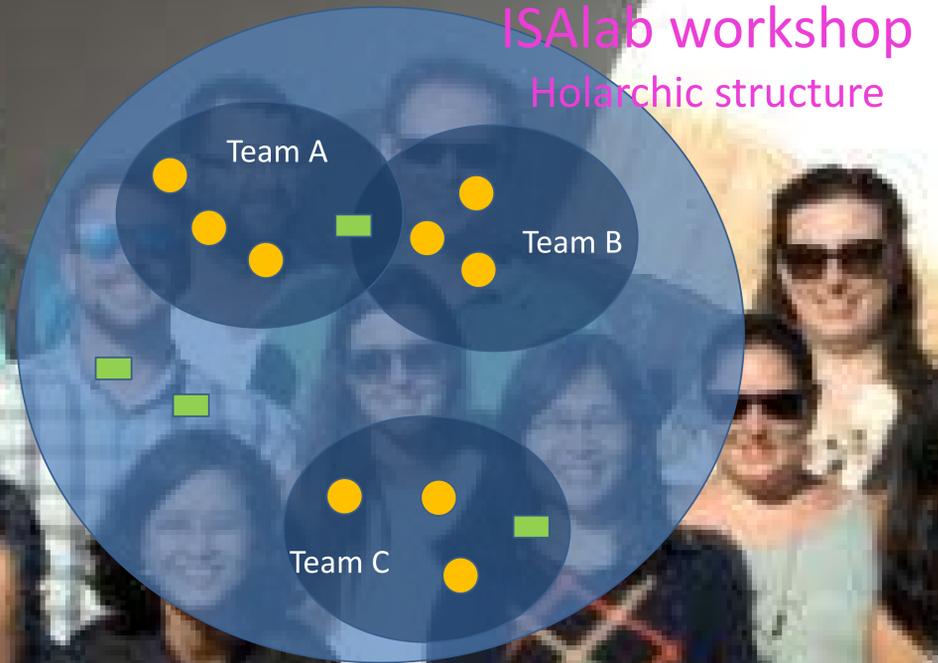
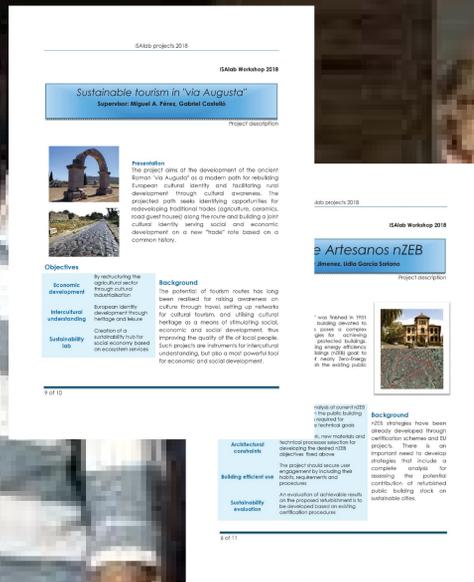
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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the experiences on a series of 'Interdisciplinary Sustainability Assessment Laboratory (ISALab)' workshops, which took place over a week at Universitat Politècnica de València during April 2017 and June 2018. The workshops drew together students from a range of disciplines from across engineering and science, law and the social sciences and from a range of countries and backgrounds, including North and South America, Europe and Asia. It also facilitated a rich co-creative learning environment as it was led by (engineering) academic faculty from across Europe (Spain, UK, Netherlands and Ireland) as well as North America (Canada), as well as local experts who helped provide participants with appropriate context and guidance. The workshops culminated with a number of research proposals based on sustainable circular economy principles from respective student groups, where they outlined an integrated development plan for selected real life local projects which, on the second year, led to real projects developed in full in a cooperative way by the students as their final Master thesis.

WORKSHOP DESIGN



Real Project as thesis

Interdisciplinarity

Multi-level interaction

Faculty development and collaboration

One team for Project Individual original thesis

CONCLUSION

Overall the workshop, like a wonderful piece of improvised jazz came together for a terrific final crescendo of creativity and innovation. The journey however, was none less thrilling, in part because of the open ended and uncertain nature of the project, for students and faculty alike. Formal and informal student feedback was generally universally positive (while containing some useful feedback suggestions), and the feedback of the following student reflected the general tone:

"We did not have a single team leader. We were all leaders at different stages of the workshop and that worked very well for me. I also think that the faculty did a good job of supervising our team work without narrowing down the scope of our brainstorming sessions.

The TED talk video played during one of the afternoon sessions resonated strongly with me and I thought that it was very useful in helping us build on top of each other's ideas instead of simply discarding them as 'wrong' or 'outlandish'.



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