Must implementation lead to fragmentation?

Giving substance to sustainable development by combining action oriented, totalizing and reflexive research

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Björn-Ola Linnér
Dep. of Water and Environmental Studies/
Swedish Institute for Climate Science and Policy Research
Linköping University
The sustainable development hypothesis

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The sustainable development hypothesis

• The pillars environmental protection, social and economic development entail each other. ”You can’t have one with out the other”.

• If one pillar is left out it will lead to ruin (planetary, ecological, social and/or economical).
Sustainable Development an hypothesis?

• The notion that environmental protection and social and economic development are intrinsically linked and possible to achieve globally and simultaneously, is still to proven.

• The ”only answer” or covert ”neo-imperialism”? 
The role of Science for Sustainable Development

• "[T]he sciences are increasingly being understood as an essential component in the search for feasible pathways towards sustainable development."

   (Agenda 21, Chapter 35)

• The sciences are increasingly being understood as an essential component in the search for understanding various values, presuppositions and interests in discourses of sustainable development.
The sustainability fragmentation

A flora of prefix/suffix sustainability characterizes sustainable development research:

- sustainable ecology
- social sustainability
- economic sustainability
- sustainable growth
- urban sustainability
- sustainable forestry
- sustainable urbanisation
- etc.
Prefix/suffix sustainability

• An indication of a fragmentation of sustainable development implementation?

• Contradictory to the integrated rationale behind sustainable developments three pillars environment.
Reflexivity

• A key concept in knowledge production.
• Implies self-referring, a consideration of one's own discourse, one's own presuppositions.
• All knowledge is produced in a specific social context which effects what knowledge is called for and produced.
Sustainable Development

A multifaceted and ambiguous concept