

Andrew Pickup Award- Internship Summary Report

As part of my research for my dissertation named “The Three Spheres of Motivation: Using a Transformation Framework to Establish Key Motivators for Climate Action”, I undertook a month-long placement at cCHANGE, a transformative climate action organisation co-founded by Nobel Laureate Karen O’Brien and Linda Sygna. Known for its groundbreaking work on transformational climate action, cCHANGE emphasizes the interconnected roles of personal, political, and practical spheres of transformation in achieving sustainability. This placement provided me with an opportunity to delve into the organization’s innovative approaches, contribute to its impactful projects, and gain valuable insights into the application of transformational frameworks in education and community engagement.

As O’Brien and Sygna are experts on sustainable societal transformations, I initially planned to interview the cofounders to gain their perspectives on the potential for education to contribute to the transformation. These plans took place when the project intended to qualitatively assess why climate change education is absent from mainstream climate change literature, such as the IPCC reports and UNEP gap reports. Before commencing the placement, the project changed direction due to the overambition of the initial plan. This meant that no primary research was carried out during the placement. However, working alongside O’Brien, Sygna, and others at cCHANGE introduced me to a conceptual framework called the Three Spheres of Transformation, which became foundational in the project's new direction.

The Three Spheres framework was created to help understand and guide transformation, especially in sustainable development. It offers a way to conceptualise how change must occur across various societal domains and stresses the importance of integrating efforts across these domains for effective and lasting transformations.

After meeting with cCHANGE employees, working on projects utilising the Three Spheres, and being directed to the literature on transformation, my understanding of the potential importance of involving all three spheres and seeing people as “agents of change” rather than “subjects to be changed” in creating transformative change grew. I applied the theory to my interest in climate change education, realising that it is likely that education must provide more than practical knowledge to motivate students to act. Hence, the dissertation aimed to establish key motivators for climate action and assess whether they can be instilled into students through education.

Working on projects with the employees of cCHANGE allowed me to see the Three Spheres put into action. After being introduced to the Three Spheres and how cCHANGE

consults with other organisations, I was given the responsibility of writing a preparation report for an upcoming collaboration cCHANGE had with a large climate communications organisation called GRID Arendal. In this project I had to use my newfound knowledge on the Three Spheres and use examples of past collaborations to inform my report. With some guidance from the main employee working on the collaboration, I successfully completed the report and gained valuable insights into how organisations can utilise valuable knowledge such as cCHANGE's deep understanding of transformation to assist other organisations in meeting their goals. I could then apply this knowledge to my on project, allowing me to successfully explore how motivation for climate action can be transformed through educational reform.

As well as contributing hugely to the successful completion of my dissertation, the placement had a significant impact on my personal and professional development. For example, when working on any project targeting transformations towards sustainability, I can utilise my knowledge of the Three Spheres framework to help plan an effective strategy. Having a strong grounding in an effective framework such as the Three Spheres has proven to be a bonus in job interviews I've had since the completion of my degree.

Furthermore, the placement was the first experience I have had working at a sustainability focused organisation, the type of organisation I hope to work for in my career. I gained hands-on experience in bridging the gap between theory and practice, particularly in the context of education and community engagement. I also developed stronger analytical and communication skills, which were honed through active collaboration with experts in the field. On a personal level, the experience deepened my understanding of the interconnectedness of personal, political, and practical actions in driving sustainability. It also reinforced my belief in the transformative potential of education as a catalyst for climate action as this is one of the key areas that cCHANGE specialise in and advocate for.

Looking ahead, the knowledge and skills I acquired during my internship at cCHANGE will serve as a foundation for my aspirations to work on projects that inspire widespread motivation for climate action. I am particularly interested in exploring how educational policies and community-led initiatives can foster the values and capacities needed for sustainable transformations. This experience has equipped me to advocate for sustainability, design impactful programs, and collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders.

In conclusion, my placement at cCHANGE was an enriching experience that allowed me to engage deeply with the principles of transformational climate action. Through the resulting research from the placement and the project support I offered during my time

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there, I not only contributed to the organisation's impactful work and but also gained valuable insights into my research and honed vital skills and knowledge that will guide my future endeavours in climate change and sustainability. This internship reaffirmed my commitment to using education and community engagement as powerful tools to drive meaningful change.

Finally, I want to thank everyone involved with the Andrew Pickup Award, including Andrew himself, who have all contributed to me and many others gaining valuable experiences such as this one. It has already been transformative for me and I will be forever grateful for your work that made this possible.