

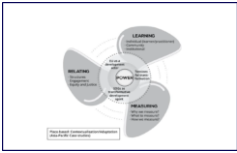
# **Graduate Student and Early Career Workshop TRANSFORMATIONS: PLACE, POWER AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Jean Monnet Sustainable Development Goals Network**

*[www.rmit.edu.au/sdgnetwork](http://www.rmit.edu.au/sdgnetwork)*



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# POWER in the Propeller



## Interrogating Power

“...indeed, power is at its most effective when least observable”

(Steven Lukes, 2005:1)

- Our conceptualisation of power:
  - Is everywhere (dispersed and subject-less).
  - Is fluid and relational.
  - Is productive – it produces reality.
  - Yes, is related to domination, suppression and harm – but this is only part of the story – it also produces good.
  - Is not necessarily based on intentionality.



# POWER in the Propeller



“We must cease once and for all to describe the effects of power in negative terms: it “excludes”, it “represses”, it “censors”, it “abstracts”, it “masks”, it “conceals”. In fact, power produces; it produces reality; it produces domains of objects and rituals of truth”

(Michel Foucault (1977) *Discipline and Punish*, p. 194).

- The only way to see *power* is to **assume that it is there** and **ask questions** to make it observable.
- This can be done via the Propeller’s fins – continual, progressive, iterative and reciprocal relating, learning and measuring...in reflexive and place-based ways.

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# Thank you.

**Jean Monnet Sustainable  
Development Goals Network  
Seminar Series**

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