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A Story About Knowledge

A Learning Tool to Engage with Illustrated Storytelling in Law and Global Studies

Illustration by
Valentina Russo

With a Story Inspired by Arctic Indigenous Stories

Aracne editrice

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Summary

A Story About Knowledge. A Learning Tool (LT) to Engage with Illustrated Storytelling in Law and Global Studies

The purpose of this book is to provide junior and senior scholars in law and global studies with a LT that brings together conventional and unconventional teaching methods through illustrations and conveys a message to a broad audience, be it indigenous or non–indigenous. The story of this book is a story combining an illustrated and written story. First, Valentina Russo created her illustrated version by looking at the learning materials of the University of Arctic (UArctic, training module 4, 2020 on traditional knowledge by Gord Bruyere and Einar Bergland). Second, the authors of this book rewrote the story inspired by Valentina's illustration *A Story about Knowledge*. In their understanding and interpretation, the story focuses on knowledge search as an interactive process involving detachment, positionality, silence, and protection. One of the protagonists and problem–solvers of the story is the mole — without eyesight and yet with a great vision about where to search for and how to protect knowledge. The vision of the mole has also benefited thanks to the other animals' vain efforts of individual search, which are overseen by the trickster.

The authors are indebted to Val Napoleon and Rebecca Johnson, Indigenous Law Research Unit, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, who trained them on indigenous law and methodology and gave them special permission to engage with the materials adopted in the conversation. The handbook is inspired by the learning material: Gender Inside Indigenous Law Toolkit, ILRU, Faculty of Law, University of Victo-

ria. Furthermore, it is complemented by an illustrated silent book (forthcoming in 2021, illustrator: Valentina Russo; project developers: Arianna Porrone, Margherita Paola Poto, Valentina Russo), and is part of a wider project of a story of stories, containing narratives on the symbiotic relationship that governs communities and nature.

Readers are welcome to add their reflections, sensibly print one copy of the book if they wish, color, doodle, and apply other art journaling techniques of their choice. Colored pencils can become an indispensable complementary tool. Law and art are restoring therapies.

On the Authors

Arianna Porrone (Ph.D. student, University of Macerata, Italy) is a feminist storyteller, an adventurer, and a researcher at the Department of Political Science, Communication and International Relations, University of Macerata, Italy. Her main research interests include political ecology, environmental justice, the environmental humanities, and storytelling as a means and research methodology, as well as ecofeminisms and feminist critical theories. Her Ph.D. research focuses on understanding power and gender dynamics in knowledge creation within the current international environmental governance realm and aims at exploring ontological pluralism as a way forward able to reconcile human and more–than–human concerns.

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Margherita Paola Poto (Prof. Dr., University of Turin, Italy) is a mum, an ally of the Earth, and a researcher at the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (Romssa/Tromsø). Her research interests include ocean governance, climate change, and Indigenous law, comparative administrative law, environmental law and sustainability, and Arctic governance. She is particularly interested in the development of new methodological approaches to the field of law that encompass Indigenous methodologies, intra–comparative analysis, community, and gender–based research.

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Illustration 1. Valentina Russo's CV.

Valentina Russo Art and beautiful things are her passion. She has loved drawing, painting and sewing since she was a child and she has dedicated her studies to these activities. After a few experiences in different fields, she decided to start working on her personal project: spreading love and happiness all around the world with cute and colorful illustrations.