

# **Cooperation, Transformative Learning and Socio-Ecological Flourishing: Fostering the Basis for a Sustainable and High Well-Being Future**

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## *Abstract*

Transformative learning, as based on the work of Edmund O'Sullivan, builds on the insights of people like Thomas Berry and Joanna Macy to clarify areas in which the educational project can participate in the "great turning" towards a sustainable future marked by time rich, high well-being and low carbon societies. In doing so, O'Sullivan's work encourages educators to form critical but normative commitments to social justice, substantive peace and ecological health. Working from a transformative learning perspective and building on ecological concepts related to cooperation, this presentation will look at how imaging humans as cooperative beings and emphasizing the benefits of cooperation in terms of social and ecological flourishing can help mitigate the educational project's contribution to present unsustainable practices by discerning, challenging and otherwise removing the socio-cultural underpinnings for ecologically harmful acts committed by humans. This more theoretical discussion will be grounded with reference to (1) Robert Owen and the cooperative movement and (2) a transformative learning methodology for teaching history, which builds upon the work Ken Osborne and Elise Boulding, to demonstrate the significance for socio-ecological flourishing of emphasizing cooperation while telling the story of humanity on this planet.