



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



Scenario planning

Simulated hindsight

Wicked Ways with Research Data Management
<http://www.shef.ac.uk/is/research/projects/wickedways>

The concept

- Assuming:
 - We are in the future
 - There are different resolutions (end states)
 - There are many hypothetical occurrences (events)
- How did the world become this way?

The process

1. Conventional Wisdom Scenario
 2. Scenario preparation
 3. Presentation of scenarios that lead to an end state
 4. Discussion of the end state system and conclusions
- Three groups
 - Each group gets an end state
 - And a pile of event cards
 - Including jokers



Step 1

Conventional Wisdom Scenario

How likely is this event to happen?

1. Likely
2. Unlikely
3. Not sure



Step 2

Scenario preparation

- Form three groups by joining participants from other institutions; each group gets a different end state
- **Create a timeline:**
 - Select the events that *must* and *must not* happen to reach your end state
 - Use your jokers
 - Glue your event cards on your sheet in the form of a timeline
 - Include your *must not happen* events on the sheet
- **Create a scenario:**
 - Go beyond recitation of events but create a rich narrative ,a story
 - Outline such things as key actors; their motivations, actions, timing of actions, and lack of actions; key conflicts between stakeholders and how these are resolved; etc.
 - Presentation of the scenario should take 5 to 10 minutes
 - Start by introducing your end state
 - Otherwise there is no prescribed format



Step 3 and 4

Presentation of scenarios that lead to an end state

Discussion of the end state system and conclusions

- How are the different scenarios related?
What are the differences and similarities?
- What can we learn from this (e.g. policies, specific actions)?
- How useful is this tool?



Why use this tool?

- A solution-oriented approach to a Wicked Problem
- Could you imagine doing this?
 - Individually
 - As a team, e.g. an RDM project team
 - In a workshop or other community event