

Abstract: “Love cannot be priced”: Emotion, Narrative, and Environmental Policy
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This presentation explores Australian essayist William Lines’s notion that there are certain phenomena that simply cannot be grasped with traditional economic measurements or formulas—trying to do so (as we are often compelled to do in Western societies) leads us to miss some of the most fundamentally meaningful aspects of the phenomena we wish to describe and evaluate. Lines argues that we need “a particularising language” to characterize and defend what we love. Essentially, he's echoing what many writers and humanities scholars have long argued—that narrative discourse (story) is an essential means of expressing human values (including environmental values) because of its capacity to tease out the emotional dimension of these values. Recent work by legal scholars, philosophers, economists, and psychologists corroborates this perspective.