

Indigenous Science

Small group discussion 1.24.19

**1. How does Hobson
define Western science?**

**Why does he say that
traditional science is often
critiqued as non-scientific?**

Is this critique fair?

2. How does Hobson define traditional knowledge? What essential fact about traditional knowledge is often overlooked? Why is this often missed fact significant?

3. What has traditional knowledge contributed to Western science? Provide specific examples.

4. Hobson asserts that “An effective system must be developed to collect and classify native knowledge” so that Western scientists can work with native communities. The ICSU report suggests that Traditional science has much to contribute to our understanding of the world. What are the pitfalls of integrating these two AoKs? Are Western science and traditional science compatible? What would be the result of Hobson’s effort if successful?

5. Western science is directly responsible for the climate change and its consequences and yet indigenous peoples are some of the most vulnerable and least capable of adaptation to the ecological changes that result (due to sea level rise, changes in precipitation patterns, wildfires and drought*).

What is the ethical obligation of our society to take traditional knowledge more seriously in light of this? Can it be argued that Western science has created a catastrophe that we are obligated to solve by looking outside our current paradigm?

***"Climate change and indigenous peoples" from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues" 2008.**