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Newsletter #02/2024

Spring is finally here - the sun is coming out, and nature is blooming. We hope you had a nice Easter holiday and were able to spend time with friends and family or simply enjoy some leisure time by yourself. In this issue, we have once again compiled a lot of material for you. You can expect some interesting news from our fellows: They will report on their latest activities and the experiences they have gained so far from collaborating with the tdAcademy. We have also released two new publications that you should definitely take a look at. We are excited to announce our third international summer school and look forward to receiving numerous applications from Master's students and PhDs. Last but not least, we are also very pleased to present new material in our capacity-building section.



Capacity Building | September 14-20 | International summer school on transdisciplinarity

This year, we are offering a summer school focusing on land use conflicts in the region of Alt Empordá, Spain. It provides Master's and PhD students from various disciplines with a great opportunity to gain insights into the fundamentals and challenges of transdisciplinary research and practice. Participants will acquire essential



Join now: Interesting working groups in the GTPF

tdAcademy has initiated the founding of the Society for Transdisciplinary and Participatory Research (GTPF, German speaking) in May 2023. tdAcademy members are also active in establishing working groups in the GTPF which pursue foci of different topic lines: Bettina Brohmann, Melanie Mbah and Regina Rhodius (Öko-Institut e.V.) are coordinating the working group on formats, methods and context which will exchange

knowledge on planning a transdisciplinary project, gain experience in the use of methods for transdisciplinary research, and gather insights for their own theses. The event is organized by ZTG (Martina Schäfer, TU Berlin) and ISST (Gemma Tejedor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) as part of the tdAcademy. Don't miss your chance – apply till April 30th!

[Learn more & apply](#)



Report | Discussion about 'good' transformations in Frankfurt

The two tdAcademy fellow groups, 'What is a 'good' transformation and who gets to define it?' and 'Improving critical social science skills in transdisciplinary transformative change initiatives,' met with members of the ISOE in Frankfurt in November 2023. Although the two fellow groups are officially separate working groups, they have decided that it makes sense to work closely together from an organizational and conceptual perspective. They used the meeting to discuss the definition of 'good' transformation, as well as enhancing critical social science skills in transdisciplinary transformative change initiatives. Read the full report to gain more insights into the main points and outcomes of their meeting.

[Read more](#)

experiences on how to select methods in a context-sensitive way. Martina Schäfer, Emila Nagy (both ZTG), Michael Kreß-Ludwig and Oskar Marg (both ISOE) are coordinating the working group on research impact which is taking up the subtopics of societal and scientific impact as well as impact-oriented project management. Please visit the [GTPF-website](#) for further information or contact the coordinators.

[Learn more](#)



Report | We talked about...dealing with feelings in transdisciplinary research

As part of the discussion series 'Let's Talk About It: Transdisciplinarity & Co-Production,' Nadin Gaasch (Science and Society Staff Unit) and Emilia Nagy (ZTG, both from TU Berlin) hosted an informal exchange on March 20, 2024. This time, the focus was on addressing emotions in transdisciplinary research processes and participatory transformation processes. The two invited discussion partners, Yvonne Siegmund (HafenCity University Hamburg/Academy for Spatial Development within the Leibniz Association) and Laura Brings (RWTH Aachen), enriched the exchange with their diverse experiences from research and practice. Dive into the report to learn more about the guests and their perspective on transdisciplinarity.

[Read more](#)



Report | Isabella Radhuber gives insights about her time as a tdAcademy Fellow

From September 2023 to January 2024, our fellow Isabella Radhuber visited the tdAcademy at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. During this period, she focused on studying the health impacts of climate change, conducting a literature review with a specific emphasis on the necessity of a transdisciplinary perspective. In her report, she provides insights into her activities and experiences during her fellowship and how her perspective on transdisciplinary research has evolved over time.

[Read more](#)



Capacity Building | New online course on narratives in sustainability transformations

The tdAcademy fellow group 'Promoting inclusion and transformative action through narratives in transdisciplinary processes' has developed an extensive collection of teaching and self-learning materials on narratives in sustainability transformations in collaboration with Anna Sundermann from Leuphana University Lüneburg. These resources include videos with theoretical insights, interviews with practitioners, and two case studies. The course is available in English and is freely accessible in our capacity building area.

[Check out](#)



Get to know the tdAcademy team...

In our 'Get to know the tdAcademy team' series, we offer you the opportunity to learn more about our team members, including those who have been with us from the very beginning. Today, we introduce our colleague Regina Rhodius (Öko-Institut e.V.) to you. Since the beginning of the tdAcademy, Regina has been involved in the development of innovative formats as part of topic line 4. Now, in funding phase two, she collaborates with

topic line 3 to focus on the contextual dependencies of formats and methods in transdisciplinary research.

[Read more](#)

Kny, J.; Nagy, E.; Schäfer, M. (preprint): Fostering reflective impact orientation in transdisciplinary research – a multi-method workshop format, *Methods X*, available at SSRN.

The primary objective of transdisciplinary research (TDR) is to contribute to the solution of complex ‘real-world’ problems by integrating heterogeneous knowledge and, thus, achieving societal effects. However, establishing a continuous impact orientation during TDR processes remains a challenge since tools that enable systematic reflection of societal effects within and beyond TDR projects are lacking. Josefa Kny, Martina Schäfer and Emilia Nagy developed and tested a workshop format including academic and non-academic TDR project team members. developed and tested a workshop format including academic and non-academic TDR project team members.

[Learn more & read the paper](#)

Wiefek, J.; Nagy, E.; Schäfer, M. (2024): Formative evaluation of transdisciplinary research for systematic impact orientation in real-world laboratories, *GAIA*, 33(1), 94–101.

There are few approaches to evaluating the societal impact of transdisciplinary research that assess and promote impact orientation while the project is still running. In this *Design Report*, Jasmin Wiefek, Emilia Nagy and Martina Schäfer present a framework for designing and conducting accompanying formative evaluation of impact-oriented transdisciplinary research in real-world laboratories. Examples from two research projects from the fields of biodiversity management and consumer logistics in rural regions illustrate the application of their evaluation design.

[Learn more & read the paper](#)

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