

ITD Alliance Leadership Board Elections, November 8 and 9, 2023

Candidate Profiles

Candidates representing an Institution

Alexandra Lux – ISOE – Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany

María Perevochtchikova – El Colegio de México A.C. (COLMEX), México

Mariana Pereyra - Interdisciplinary Space, University of the Republic, Uruguay

Stephen M. Fiore - University of Central Florida, USA

Theres Paulsen - Swiss Academy of Sciences SCNAT, Switzerland

Individual Candidates

Basirat Oyalowo - Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development, University of

Lagos, Nigeria

Ulli Vilsmaier - Responsive Research Collective, Switzerland

Dr. Alexandra Lux
ISOE – Institute for Social-Ecological Research



Function: Head of Knowledge Processes and Transformations Hub; Member of the Executive Board

Institution Represented: ISOE – Institute for Social-Ecological Research

Link to Websites:

<https://www.isoe.de/en/institute/team/team/person/alexandra-lux/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexandralux/>

Current Member of ITD Alliance Board

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

After some years in “doing transdisciplinary research” in the fields of water and biodiversity research, my research focus moved on to “reflecting transdisciplinarity”. In particular, I am interested in understanding the importance of integrative methods to strengthen (societal) effects of transdisciplinary research – including further developing of integrative methods and reflective procedures that guide transdisciplinary processes to support social-ecological transformations. Finally, I am engaged in accompanying research projects to facilitate their integrative efforts.

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

With the continuation of my involvement in the leadership board, I would like to focus on strategic networks, especially the formation of regional nodes. Further, with my 20 years of experience, I would like to contribute to strengthening the credibility and validity of transdisciplinarity by making the plurality of transdisciplinary approaches more visible and jointly exploring their commonalities and characteristics. Finally, I look forward to meeting inspiring people to broaden my own horizons.

PhD Researcher María Perevochtchikova
El Colegio de México A.C. (COLMEX)



Function: Researcher

Institution Represented: El Colegio de México A.C.
(COLMEX)

Link to Websites:

www.colmex.mx

<https://cedua.colmex.mx/personalacademico/perevochtchikova-maria/semblanza>

<https://mariaperevochtchikova.colmex.mx/>

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

For last 10 years, my participation and subsequent coordination of the national network “REDSOCIOECOS” in Mexico, has allowed me to learn and implement the ideology and forms of inter- and transdisciplinary research work (ITD) for socioecological studies, through collaboration with colleagues and people from other sectors, institutions, communities and countries. Also, I have participated and coordinated several scientific research projects and conferences under the ITD approach. Since 2019, I have been part of the Executive Committee of the National Strategic Program for Socioecological Systems and Sustainability, where I have participated in multiple activities (seminars, books, workshops and meetings) under the conceptual umbrella of ITD approach. Among other activities to highlight, there is my participation in the ITD-Alliance conference in 2021 and the contact established there with people interested in ITD ideas from different countries of Latin America (Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Mexico); and recently, my participation in the scientific committee of the Latin American node of the international PECS program (SARAS, Uruguay).

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

We can participate institutionally (COLMEX) in the activities of the ITD-Alliance. Promote ITD ideas in scientific participative research in Mexico y Latin America. And contribute to the formation of the Latin American node of ITD-Alliance for the promotion of inter and transdisciplinary research work at the regional scale.

Assistant Professor, Mariana Pereyra

Interdisciplinary Space, University of the Republic.



Function: Assistant Professor

Institution Represented: Interdisciplinary Space, University of the Republic. The Interdisciplinary Space, a transversal structure to the broad academic organization of the University of the Republic, promotes interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach.

Link to Websites:

<https://www.ei.udelar.edu.uy/>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/mariana-pereyra-327b1b42>

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mariana-Pereyra-3>

<https://sites.google.com/d/1Zj29qmXOMb5q55UlzIEdbKpUAb8pY3dH/p/16QV3syLXD0ZtZXWV7jtJTroSx7npcXWt/edit?pli=1>

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

My work related to interdisciplinarity focuses on teaching and research in interdisciplinarity. Regarding education, I focus on training university teachers from all areas of knowledge and undergraduate and graduate students in developing critical skills for working in interdisciplinary teams. As for research, my interest is in studying the characteristics that team members must develop for successful work. Also, in enhancing the interdisciplinary work of the centers and nuclei that are part of the Interdisciplinary Space through the organization of congresses, seminars, and workshops, as well as accompanying the research work carried out by students within the framework of the research lines of the EI groups. Two publications, one under review and one already published, show the work we have been doing in the Higher Education Interdisciplinary Program in the Interdisciplinary Space ([Google Académico](#), [ORCID: 0000-0002-5067-9440](#)).

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

We propose the following goals to contribute to the ITD Global Alliance:

Continuing the work already done by Ana Corbacho, my main goals are to focus on contributing to strengthening the Latin American community of academics interested in inter- and transdisciplinary processes. In 2016, the Interdisciplinary Space started the Latin American Meeting on Interdisciplinary Research and Higher Education (IEI), which took place in Montevideo. The second IEI was in Lima-Perú (2018), the third in México (2021), and in 2024 the Interdisciplinary Space will organize the 4th international meeting in Montevideo to consolidate the Latin American network. During the pandemic, Enlace-IEI began sessions to establish a way of operating, support the IEI2021, and hold the first cycle of virtual seminars dedicated to exploring aspects of the pandemic in Latin America. We trust we can serve in connecting the ITD Alliance, the IEI, and Enlace-IEI.

Contribute to the development of international training 'schools' in methodological approaches for inter and transdisciplinary higher education. We have already started with this line in the Interdisciplinary Space by working on a student exchange program with the University of Maastricht.

Contribute to strengthening the ITD community by promoting international online courses to connect students and professors in different countries for collaborative projects, broadening the possibilities of international exchange, contrasting local perspectives on complex problems, and developing shared understanding, language, or strategies.

Pegasus Professor Stephen M. Fiore
University of Central Florida



Function: Faculty member and laboratory director, supervising graduate students, and post-doctoral associates in interdisciplinary research; teaching graduate courses in the cognitive sciences.

Institution Represented: University of Central Florida

Link to Websites:

<https://csl.ist.ucf.edu/>

[https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=t3O2u3MAAAA
&hl=en](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=t3O2u3MAAAA&hl=en)

<https://ucf.academia.edu/StephenFiore>

Current Member of ITD Alliance Board

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

Dr. Stephen M. Fiore is Director, Cognitive Sciences Laboratory, and Pegasus Professor, Cognitive Sciences, Department of Philosophy and Institute for Simulation & Training at the University of Central Florida. He maintains a multidisciplinary research interest that incorporates aspects of the cognitive, social, organizational, and computational sciences in the investigation of learning and performance in individuals and teams. Dr. Fiore primarily studies complex collaborative problem solving in and how science teams learn from each other when working across disciplines.

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

Dr. Fiore is a founding board member and past-president of the International Network for the Science of Team Science (INSciTS) as well as a founding board member and past-president of the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGRoup). He also served as Chair of Outreach and Partnering Committee for INSciTS as well as chaired two conferences for the organization (2017; 2022). In that capacity, he helped raise nearly \$200K to support the conference. If elected, Dr. Fiore will work to partner the ITD Alliance with multiple organizations to develop an international network that integrates knowledge and best practices to improve collaborative research. He hopes to continue with the ITD Alliance board in capacity building activities and provide guidance on strategic planning for the organization and input to conference activities.

MSc ETH Environmental Sc. Theres Paulsen
Swiss Academy of Sciences SCNAT



Function: Head of Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net), Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Institution Represented: Swiss Academy of Sciences SCNAT

Link to Websites:

<https://transdisciplinarity.ch/en>

Current Member of ITD Alliance Board

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

The td-net addresses the concerns of researchers and research funders in the field of inter- and transdisciplinary research and teaching.

As a platform, td-net promotes mutual learning between inter- and transdisciplinary researchers and teachers across disciplinary, linguistic and national borders, thus contributing to the development of a professional community.

As a centre of excellence, td-net has expertise, methods and tools for the co-production of knowledge.

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

We strengthen research networks, organizations, individuals with interest in inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge co-production across the boundaries of all social sectors. td-net offers to provide the headquarters of the ITD Alliance.

Latest highlight: We are pleased to announce the upcoming International ITD Conference, almost a tradition and the cradle of the ITD Alliance. This time in cooperation with Utrecht University, who will be our conference partner and host in 2024.

Senior Lecturer, Basirat Oyalowo
Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development



Function: Senior Lecturer

Institution Represented: Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development, University of Lagos, Nigeria

Link to Websites:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/basirat-oyalowo-03588519/?originalSubdomain=ng>

Current Member of ITD Alliance Board

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

Basirat researches contemporary issues in housing studies, informality and urban sustainability, with an interest in comparative African studies.

She obtained a B.Sc in Estate Management from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Nigeria, a MA in Housing Policy and Management from the Northumbria University at Newcastle, Britain and Phd in Estate Management with specialisation in Housing Supply from the University of Lagos; where she also lectures. Since adopting a mixed-methods approach to her Phd work completed in 2018, Basirat developed an interest in transdisciplinarity and this has influenced her subsequent research activities. she constantly engages with civil society and government. She had interned in (then) English Partnerships (UK), supporting in the regeneration of two communities in NE England. She contributed chapters on housing and human capital development to the 25-year Regional Development Plan of the Ogun State Government of Nigeria. She was Lead Facilitator, Informality Discovery Working Group and later a member of the Strategy Writing Group for the preparation of the Lagos Resilience Strategy, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2019.

Since inception in 2014, she has driven the research agenda, network activities, training and learning programmes, as well as housing advocacy activities of the Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development (CHSD), University of Lagos. CHSD is a centre for research excellence for urbanisation and habitable cities, under the African Research Universities Alliance-UKRI-GCRF Partnership. It brings together a network of ten African research universities to engage in solving problems affecting African cities. CHSD's philosophy of operations is based on co-production. Capacity Building for enhancing

transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary skills has been the focus of its activities in recent years, and Basirat has been the driver for this approach.

Her current research activities include leading the Lagos Housing Domain research of the African Cities Research Consortium which is a collaborative focused on tackling complex problems in the continent's rapidly changing cities. Along with the Urban resilience working group at the University of Lagos, she has promoted the adoption of citizen scientists to carry out asset mapping exercises for the purpose of advocating for community facilities and services in informal communities in Lagos.

Recent contributions to the Transdisciplinarity literature include:

- (i) Reconceptualizing Stakeholders and Decentering Collaborations: Reflections from the Lagos Housing Sector in the book: [Handbook of Transdisciplinarity: Global Perspectives](#) (2023) edited by Roderick Lawrence
- (ii) [An Agenda for Transdisciplinary Research for Achieving African Higher Education's Third Mission.](#)
- (iii) Blog: [Setting an Agenda for Transdisciplinary Research in Africa.\(2021\)](#)

As a member of the ITD Leadership Board since 2021, Basirat organised the ITD Alliance Event at the Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2022 themed: African Perspectives in Inter- and Transdisciplinarity which was well attended.

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

- As the manager of a network of researchers in Africa's Built Environment, I intend to leverage on the existing interactions to deepen and expand the impact of the ITD Global Alliance in Africa.
- Support the creation of an African regional ITD Alliance hub to deepen outreach and impact, as well as establish collaborations.
- Contribute to the awakening of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research skills across all cadres of researchers in Africa, through well targeted capacity building programmes, knowledge co-production opportunities, exchange visits with peer institutions affiliated to ITD Global Alliance.
- Promote the recognition of Transdisciplinarity and interdisciplinary research in Africa's HE career reward system, leading to profound institutional reforms and wider uptake of Transdisciplinarity processes.

Apl. Prof. Dr. Ulli Vilsmaier
Responsive Research Collective



Function: apl. Prof. Dr.

Institution Represented: Responsive Research Collective, Switzerland

Link to Websites:

<https://responsiveresearch.org>

Email: vilsmaier@responsiveresearch.org

Current Member of ITD Alliance Board

Focus or key activities in collaborative modes of research:

Ulli Vilsmaier is a trained Geographer with international experience and expertise in inter- and transdisciplinary research, higher education and institutional transformations. She completed her PhD and worked at Salzburg University (2001-2011) where she initiated inter- and transdisciplinary study programs. From 2011 onwards she has been a member of the Interfaculty Methodology Center Leuphana University Lüneburg, the Faculty for Humanities and Social Sciences, and affiliated with the Faculty of Sustainability. She served as the President's Delegate for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity and has been involved in university transformations in different world regions. Recently she initiated the Responsive Research Collective, a group of scholars, educators, evaluators and organisational developers who provide support and accompaniment to people and institutions to transform research and higher education towards inter- and transdisciplinarity. Ulli's research focuses on designing, accompanying, and implementing boundary-crossing research and methods development for interface design and boundary work. She has led research projects in the areas of sustainability, higher education and university transformation while supervising PhD and Master thesis by social, cultural and environmental scientists, artists and designers across the areas of Sustainability Science, Geography, Education and the Humanities. Since 2012 she has been implementing the international Td Summer School – Research at the Science | Society Interface and provides training, support and accompaniment for universities, educational programs, and research units in the process of transforming towards inter- and transdisciplinarity globally. Ulli has been visiting professor and lecture at several Latin American and Caribbean Universities (with current affiliations in postgraduate programs at UNAM, ECOSUR and Mexico), in Georgia, Switzerland, Romania and Austria. Besides

her academic work, she has engaged in various civil society organizations, social movements and works closely with the Paulo Freire Center Vienna where she heads the scientific advisory board.

Goal(s) if elected for the Leadership Board of the ITD Alliance:

- As co-founder of the ITD Alliance, it is my profound wish to make the ITD Alliance a strong organisation that promotes and supports research and transforms higher education toward inter- and transdisciplinary institutions and practices, while also supporting members by strengthening professional identities with inter- and transdisciplinarity and supporting actions in transforming research and higher education in members' institutions.
- I am particularly concerned about bringing heterogeneous research and learning communities and traditions together from around the world to make the ITD Alliance a space for mutual learning and for tackling existing hegemonies between research cultures, ideas of knowledge and cognition, research, and who is considered to be a researcher.
- I consider it a key factor of success to make the ITD Alliance a space for intergenerational learning and coordinate action between members who belong to different generations as we act from different positions and are informed by different experiences of the current state of research and higher education.
- Specifically, I envision the ITD Alliance will develop regional centres around the world to promote inter- and transdisciplinary research and higher education linked to socio-cultural, political and economic conditions and research traditions
- Last but not least, I am convinced that a strong ITD Alliance can intervene in national and international research policies with the ITD Alliance growing as a space for developing strategies and tactics to foster transformation towards inter- and transdisciplinarity.