

# The ITD Alliance Early Career Working Group

Global Alliance for  
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

## Existing Working Groups



### Toolkits&Methods

This working group focuses on toolkits & methods to support interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary processes in research, practice or education.



### Early Career Inter- and Transdisciplinarians

This working group is in process to be fully associated with the ITD Alliance.



### Integration Experts

This working group is in process to be fully associated with the ITD Alliance.

# What we do

We co-imagine and help develop career pathways for ITD researchers from diverse backgrounds through mutual learning.

Current focus:

1. Organization of **monthly Virtual Coffees** with ITD ECRs globally (8 meetings 2022-2023)
2. Co-creation of „**Handbook for ITD ECRs**“ from the perspective of ECRs and supervisors

Future development:

**Peer and connecting to institutional support of global ECRs in ITD from underrepresented regions of the world**

# The ITD ECR Handbook (in progress)

## **Vision:**

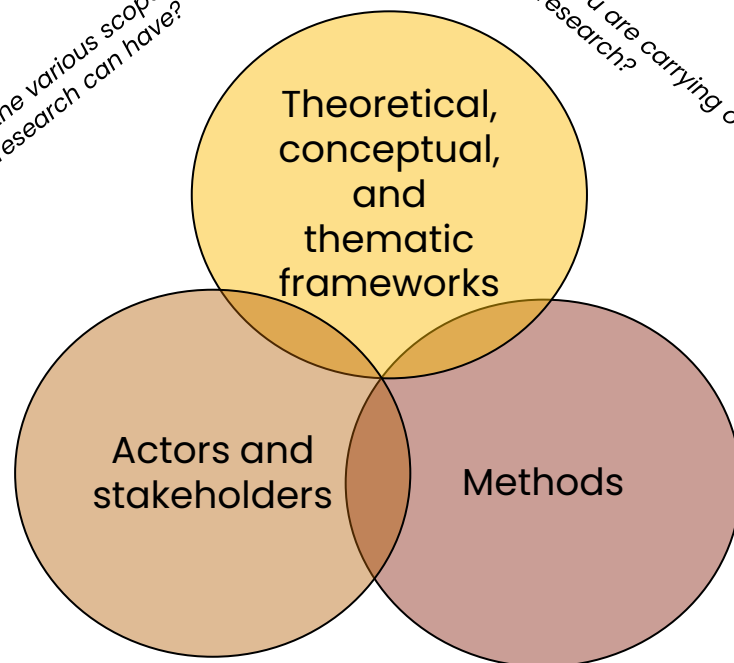
A living guide through an ITD PhD/PostDoc process co-created for and by ECRs

## **How:**

- Questions collection over a period of 1.5 years during virtual coffees
- Answer by other ECRs and senior researchers over time asynchronously

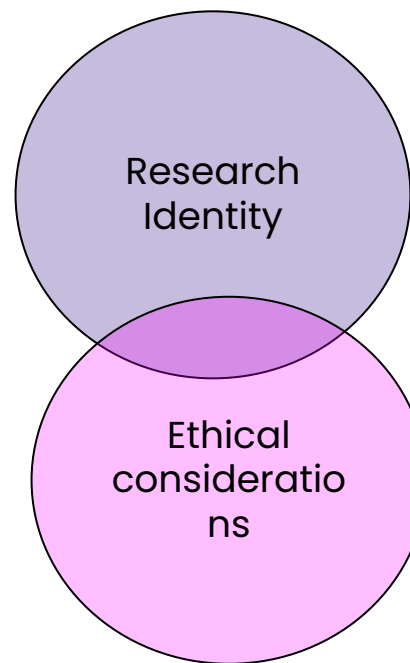


*What are the various scopes that ITD research can have?*



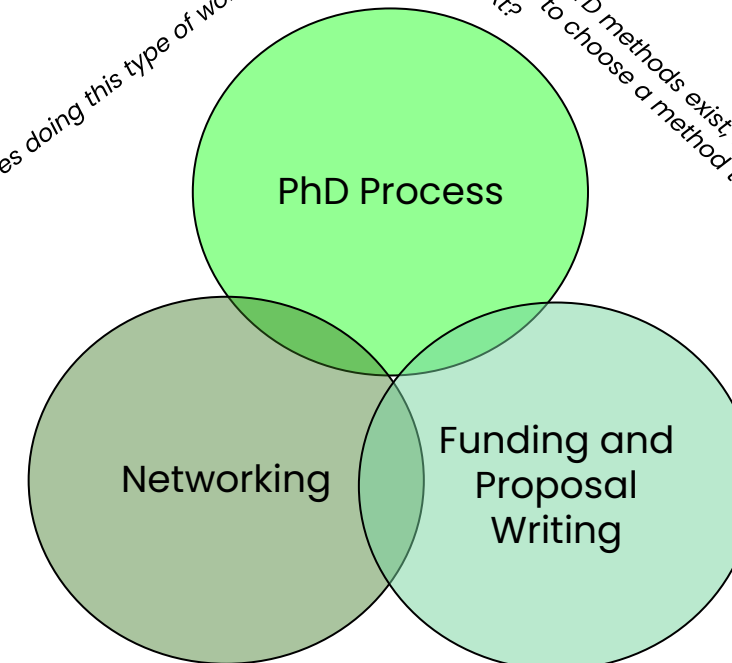
*How do you know you are carrying out inter- or transdisciplinary research?*

*What should I consider in the first year of my PhD?*



*How do I determine what is a "legitimate" approach while doing ITD research?*

*What does doing this type of work feel like?*



*Which ITD/TD methods exist, how do I use them, and how to choose a method that fits my context?*

*What are the ethical considerations when conducting ITD, but especially TD research?*

*What to consider when writing ITD proposals and where are opportunities to submit them (on a national, European, and international level)?*

*What do you do when your collaborator (or supervisor) has a different point of view as you in terms of "what is science"?*

## Actors and stakeholders

- Researchers...
  - as **critical friends** to encourage reflexivity
  - as **reflexive facilitators** (Fazey et al., 2018)
  - **“insider-outsider”**
  - as epistemologically agile
  - as grounded in methodology
- Different perspective
  - Understand their perspective and share your perspective
  - Seek common ground
  - Ask questions (deep listening)

## Theoretical, conceptual, and thematic frameworks

- Differentiation between TD and action research

Action research	Transdisciplinary research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reflection upon a particular action</li><li>- Problem-solving through useful and actionable knowledge production</li><li>- Focus – problem space</li><li>- Work closer with local communities</li><li>- <i>Action-for-knowledge</i></li><li>- Contexts where action is a priority</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reflection upon work approach</li><li>- Systems approach analysis</li><li>- Problem-solving approach</li><li>- Focus – domain</li><li>- Work closer with government departments</li><li>- <i>Knowledge-for-action</i></li><li>- Advisory reflective contexts</li></ul>

(Nikulina, 2023)

- TD research is a **subset** of a (complementary) range of participatory research approaches

## Methods

- There are a **variety of toolboxes** with ITD and TD methods (i.e., Studer & Pohl, 2023, Shape ID toolkit etc.)
- How to adapt methods to use cases
- Reflexivity in teaching as a main “selling point” of TD learning
- Adapting design processes, living labs, prototyping, and systemic design to TD research

→ **Looking to connect to the “Toolkits and Methods” group!**

## Research Identity

- **Self-identification** as an ITD research is needed in many contexts
- Getting **a sense of belonging** to a well-defined academic community while doing ITD work at the same time
- The **boundary** between interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary researchers is hazy for most
- ITD looks and feels different depending on which institution you work in → learning to connect beyond your own group

## Ethical considerations

- **Internal ethics**
  - Good research practices
  - Open science
  - FAIR principles: findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reuse
  - GDPR
- **External ethics**
  - Relationship between science and society
  - Public good
  - Co-production of knowledge
  - Misuse

## Networking

- (TD-related) conferences
- Summer and winter schools
- Journals open to ITD work
- Social media (how to manage/customize according to your own needs)

## PhD Process

- What should I consider in the first year of my PhD?
  - Understand TD
  - Advisor selection
  - Reflection and integration skills
  - Time (and expectation) management
  - Cultivating flexibility
- What should I consider in the last year of my PhD?:
  - Maintain regular communication with your supervisor
  - Manage stress and self-care
  - Reflect on the journey

## Funding and Proposal Writing

- Horizon opportunities
- COST-ACTION
- Talent funding
- Country specific geared towards ITD research
- Starting small...
- Starting with teaching...



# Next steps

## Vision: Building a global support system

- Working with global scholars from underrepresented regions
  - Access to publications
  - Peer writing support
  - Sharing diverse journeys

→ Suggestions for other ideas?



**Get in touch with us!**

BinBin J. Pearce  
[b.j.pearce-1@tudelft.nl](mailto:b.j.pearce-1@tudelft.nl)

Irina Dallo  
[irina.dallo@sed.ethz.ch](mailto:irina.dallo@sed.ethz.ch)