



ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

Dear ITD-Alliance Members and Colleagues

This newsletter contains:

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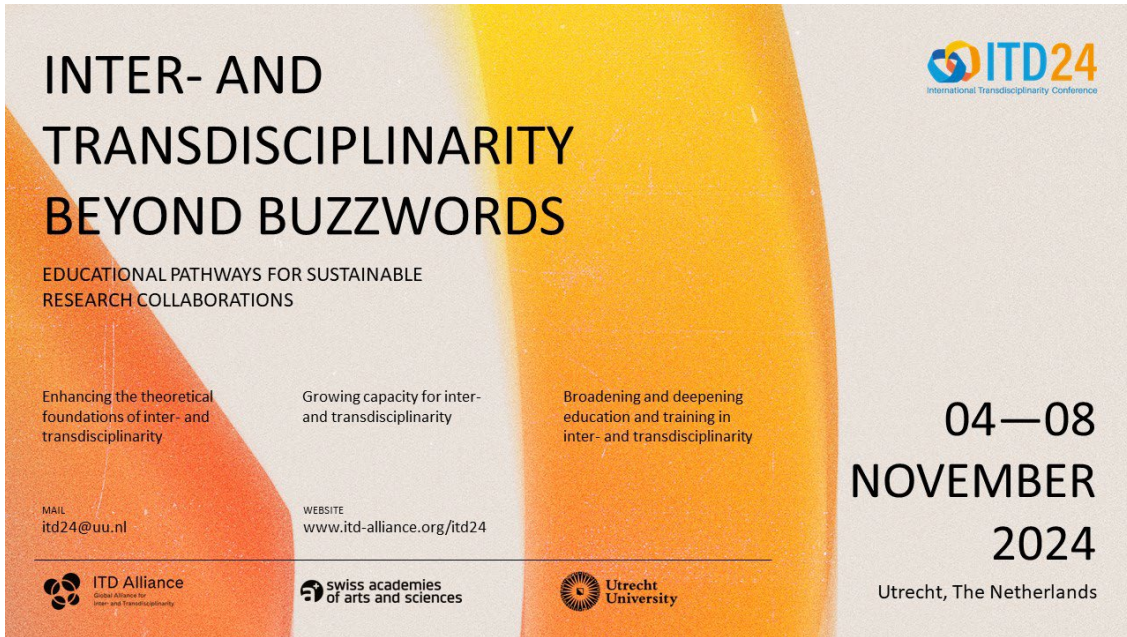
Editorial

Welcome to the first newsletter of the ITD-Alliance for 2024. Our aim is to complement *td-Info* [[link](#)] as the go-to places to find out what's happening in inter- and trans-disciplinarity and related collaborative boundary-crossing approaches. As well as highlighting activities of the Alliance and its members, this newsletter will concentrate on finding out what's happening globally in relevant education, funding and research policies, events and activities.

We are, therefore, looking for country correspondents! If you have your finger on the pulse of what's happening in your country or region and would like to be a regular correspondent for the ITD-Alliance Newsletter, do get in touch (Gabriele.Bammer@anu.edu.au). Please also send me other information that you would like included in the newsletter. We aim to publish bi-monthly.

In operating globally, we need to find ways to be accessible in many different languages. Right now we don't have funding for translations and fortunately artificial intelligence (AI) translation programs keep improving. While English will still be the main language we use, we invite those of you who are not native-English speakers to submit in the language you are most fluent in and we'll publish in that language, plus an English translation. We are also using this principle in the operation of the Leadership Board (see the Leadership Board report below). We also welcome reflections and suggestions. As a starting point, it is worth revisiting Tilo Weber's insightful commentary on language use at the 2017 ITD conference [\[link\]](#)

Gabriele Bammer
President, ITD-Alliance
8 February 2024

The poster features a background with abstract orange and yellow curved shapes. The main title is in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it is a subtitle in smaller capital letters. Three columns of text describe the conference's goals. On the right, the dates and location are prominently displayed. At the bottom, logos for the ITD Alliance, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, and Utrecht University are shown.

**INTER- AND
TRANSDISCIPLINARITY
BEYOND BUZZWORDS**

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE
RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Enhancing the theoretical
foundations of inter- and
transdisciplinarity

Growing capacity for inter-
and transdisciplinarity

Broadening and deepening
education and training in
inter- and transdisciplinarity

04—08
NOVEMBER
2024

Utrecht, The Netherlands

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WEBSITE
www.itd-alliance.org/itd24

ITD Alliance
Global Alliance for
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

swiss academies
of arts and sciences

Utrecht
University

ITD24 - International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2024, Utrecht, the Netherlands, November 4-8 <https://itd-alliance.org/itd24/>

The abstract submission system (conftool) opened on December 8 and exciting abstracts have already been submitted. **Your contributions are highly welcome - deadline for abstract submission is 29 February.** [Read more about the Call, format for submission and the submission process on the conference website.](#)

The first keynote speaker has been announced: Mieke Bal, cultural theorist, critic, video artist, and curator, will speak about her concept of 'Inter-ships'. The title of her keynote is: ***Inter-ships: On Being In-Between in Cultural, Disciplinary, Subjective and Medial Encounters.*** Mieke Bal has published over 40 books and her view of interdisciplinary analysis in the Humanities and Social Sciences is expressed in what she has termed "cultural analysis" and through "travelling concepts".

[Read the full abstract of her keynote on the ITD24 website.](#)

A [preliminary timetable](#) is also available.



ITD Alliance

News from the Leadership Board

At the November 2023 General Assembly five members were re-elected for another two-year term (Steve Fiore, Alexandra Lux, Basirat Oyalowo, Theres Paulsen and Ulli Vilsmaier); two new members were elected (María Perevochtchikova and Mariana Pereyra), along with the new president (Gabriele Bammer). They join three members elected at the 2022 General Assembly (Helena Guimarães, Ria Lambino and Jason Prior). You can find more information about the members of the Leadership Board on the “About” page of the ITD-Alliance website [link to <https://itd-alliance.org/about/>]. Tobias Buser has been reappointed as Executive Secretary for another two year term.

Between us we represent nine countries, speak 11 languages and have experience living in 17 countries, with even wider cross-cultural collaborative experience. We are connected to a wide range of other professional associations and networks.

To accommodate different time zones and availability, four meetings were held in December 2023 to include all the leadership board members. We developed working guidelines (available on request) that operationalize the by-laws of the ITD-Alliance, including an agreement that members can

communicate in the language they are most fluent in, if desired. Two meetings were held in January and included discussions of two proposals for partnerships, along with internal matters.

News from the Working Groups

The ITD-Alliance has three working groups: on toolkits and methods, on early career researchers and on integration experts and expertise [Add links]. All three working groups provided detailed reports at the 2023 General Assembly and are busy preparing submissions to the ITD 2024 conference. The working groups on toolkits and methods and on integration experts and expertise record meetings so that members who cannot attend can stay in touch with proceedings; access is available via the convenors.

News from the toolkits and methods working group:

- a detailed report was published in the November 2023 newsletter.
- January 22 saw an online discussion on 2024 activities for the project "[Methods of knowledge integration in inter- and transdisciplinary research - what about epistemology and rigour?](#)" organized by Antonietta Di Giulio and Bethany Laursen
- Core working group members submitted a journal article on toolkit development for peer review in late December

Contact: Bethany Laursen (laursenb@umich.edu)

News from the early career researchers (ECR) working group:

This working group co-imagines and helps develop career trajectories for ITD researchers from diverse backgrounds through mutual learning. Current activities are

- monthly virtual coffees with ITD ECRs globally. **Next virtual coffees are on 7th March, 2nd April, 6th May, 5th June 2024, all taking place 15:30-16:30 CET - You are warmly invited to participate, please contact BinBin Pearce.**
- co-creating the „Handbook for ITD ECRs“ from the perspective of ECRs and supervisors. ECRs have provided questions about what they are most concerned and uncertain about in their PhD/Postdoc journeys and these provide the basic structure and content for the handbook. The answers to these questions have also been sourced from ITD researchers at various levels of experience and diverse backgrounds. A first draft of this handbook will be made available in the next month.

Contact: BinBin Pearce (B.J.Pearce-1@tudelft.nl)

News from the Integration Experts and Expertise working group:

- In 2023, the working group held workshops to develop theories of change to institutionalise integration experts and expertise in Aeschiried, Switzerland (February, 10 participants, with 2 follow-up international workshops with 60 participants) and Utrecht, the Netherlands (October, 25 participants). The working group also held two informal exchanges with 40 participants to discuss innovative teaching and learning formats in May and November 2023. Conceptual work developing a typology of integration experts and expertise was also commenced.
- In 2023, the working group also published an i2Insights blog post [The Aeschiried Integrators \(2023\) “Towards a Theory of Change to institutionalise Integration Experts and Expertise”](#) and submitted an entry Hoffmann, Deutsch, O’Rourke (2024) “Integration Experts and Expertise” to the Elgar Encyclopedia of Inter- and Transdisciplinarity edited by Frédéric Darbellay.

- On January 19, 2024 Bianca Vienni Baptista and Sabine Hoffman led the third informal exchange of innovative teaching and learning formats group to discuss potential joint submissions for the ITD 2024 conference

Contact: Sabine Hoffmann (Sabine.Hoffmann@eawag.ch)



Policy and Funding News

Policy News: “Times Higher Education has partnered with Schmidt Science Fellows with the aim of developing a new ranking measuring universities’ contribution to interdisciplinary science.”

The data portal (via the World University Rankings data portal) for the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2024 is open until 30 March. “The ranking will be published in autumn 2024”

(presumably this is the northern hemisphere autumn!). For more information see: [\[link\]](#)

For a critique by Christopher Daley and Linda Hantrais, see: [\[link\]](#)

Funding News: In December 2023 the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission published a new [Foresight report](#), which will inform the next Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe (2025-2027) and the future landscape for Research and

Innovation in the European Union. It also affects other countries, whose researchers may collaborate with those in Europe. More mobilisation of international collaboration is a key take-away from the report, which also calls for more open and flexible approaches, as well as addressing emerging challenges. Eleven potential disruptions across four clusters are explored: the global landscape, technology and society, society and nature, and social and value changes. "These areas encompass a range of challenges and opportunities, from geopolitical reconfigurations and climate change to emerging global commons and the transformative potential of artificial intelligence" [[link](#)]

If any ITD-Alliance members are interested joining forces to develop Alliance input in into this process when appropriate, please contact Gabriele.Bammer@anu.edu.au

Education News

Video: The what and how of transdisciplinary (TD) learning [[link](#)]

This video is of an excellent webinar organised by the [tdAcademy](#) in December 2023 and featuring four fellows:

- Gemma O'Sullivan (Utrecht University) started the presentation with an overview of the current state of TD education. Her research into TD educational practice proposes a U-shaped educational model for TD wherein the development of key competencies (knowledge integration and activism) depend on a base of intrapersonal, interpersonal and cognitive competencies.
- BinBin Pearce (tuDelft) presented developments of TD learning and education emerging within a design and engineering context in higher education.
- Ulrike Zeshan (University of Central Lancashire) showcased examples from real-life settings to demonstrate that Serious Games offer a

holistic way of activating competencies necessary for TD practice. A game framework licenses responses beyond the intellect and the dynamics of communication and social interaction are very different from conventional meetings or classes.

- Jillian Student (Wageningen University and Research) shared her experiences of developing intra- and inter-university TD learning at her university. She presented an overview of insights learned from the group's site visits to the tdAcademy institutes and universities in 2023.

The slides from the presentations are also available at: [\[link\]](#)



Five Calls for Participation and/or Contributions

CALL #1 **CETRAD TD Summer School** with ITD Alliance Leadership Board member M^a Helena Guimarães, Executive Secretary Tobias Buser, and guest contributors. 15 to 18 of May, UTAD, Vila Real, Portugal.

In the CETRAD TD Summer School we explore transdisciplinary research as an approach to addressing societal challenges. The Summer School allows to deeply engage with transdisciplinary research, and to test and reflect how transdisciplinary approaches can be implemented in your field of interest. It provides a structure for transdisciplinary research projects, and enables to actively apply the main phases and key steps involved in

tackling complex problems through research, as well as to test methods and to engage in conceptual reflections. Small group work, individual application of key steps, exercises and reflections across all participants will enable an active collaborative and individual learning journey into the fascinating and challenging field of transdisciplinary research. This Summer School is for you, if you

- are interested to explore and apply transdisciplinary research approaches and methods in your current or future projects,
- are conducting your PhD, Postdoc research, or contribute to a collaborative research project that addresses societal challenges

Interested in participating? Please send an email to tobias.buser@itd-alliance.org and we keep you updated and let you know when the registration opens.

CALL #2 PARTICIPATION WELCOME: El Espacio Interdisciplinario de la Universidad de la República (Udelar), convoca a la participación del **Cuarto Congreso Latinoamericano de Investigación y Educación Superior Interdisciplinaria (IEI2024)** a llevarse a cabo del 23 al 26 de julio de 2024 en Montevideo, Uruguay. El Congreso de Investigación y Educación Superior Interdisciplinaria (IEI) constituye un espacio latinoamericano donde intercambiar sobre el abordaje de problemas cuyas soluciones están más allá del alcance de una sola disciplina. Este evento ofrece una instancia para el intercambio de experiencias, el debate y la búsqueda de soluciones a estos desafíos, permitiendo así avanzar en la resolución de problemas que requieren la conjunción de múltiples perspectivas. El IEI 2024 coincide con el 15 aniversario del Espacio Interdisciplinario y nos brinda la oportunidad de compartir los avances y las estrategias que numerosos grupos inter y transdisciplinarios llevan adelante en investigación, docencia y extensión en Uruguay.

Fechas importantes:

Recepción de resúmenes del 24 de noviembre 2023 al 15 de marzo de

2024.

Inscripciones del 15 de febrero al 26 de julio de 2024.

Por más información: congresoiei2024.ei.udelar.edu.uy

*The Interdisciplinary Space of the University of the Republic (Udelar) calls for participation in the **Fourth Latin American Congress on Interdisciplinary Research and Higher Education (IEI2024)** to be held from July 23 to 26, 2024, in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Congress on Interdisciplinary Research and Higher Education (IEI) is a Latin American space for exchanges on the approach to problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline. This event offers an opportunity for the exchange of experiences, debate, and the search for solutions to these challenges, thus allowing progress in resolving problems that require the conjunction of multiple perspectives. IEI 2024 coincides with the 15th anniversary of the Interdisciplinary Space and allows us to share the advances and strategies that numerous inter and transdisciplinary groups carry out in research, teaching, and extension in Uruguay.*

Important dates:

Receipt of abstracts from November 24, 2023, to March 15, 2024.

Registration is from February 15 to July 26, 2024.

For more information: congresoiei2024.ei.udelar.edu.uy

CALL #3 CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME: **Session on “Boundary workers: facilitating dialogue between science and technology studies and scholarship on interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity” at the 2024 European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)** in Amsterdam, July 2024. Organised by Bianca Vienni Baptista, Isabel Fletcher, Ulrike Kuchner and Maria Goñi. Contributions are welcome to explore the many conceptual and methodological intersections between STS and inter- and transdisciplinary scholarships. We will discuss their mutual enrichment to the advancement of transformative research. Deadline is February 12th. More information: [[link](#)]

CALL #4 PARTICIPATION WELCOME: **Project on the formation of a systems transdisciplinary worldview in the higher education system** (2023-2026) organized by member of the ITD Alliance Vladimir Mokiy from the non-profit organization Institute of Transdisciplinary Technologies (Russian School of Transdisciplinarity); in cooperation with non-profit organization [CIRET](#). Applications are open to potential collective members until September 30, 2024. For more information contact vmokiy@yandex.ru

CALL#5 PARTICIPATION WELCOME: The INTEREACH Community of Practice [webinar series](#) for the 2023-2024 academic year is focused on the theme of **"I want to be a professional Arrow when I grow up": Pathways and opportunities for a new workforce**. INTEREACH was formed with dual missions to develop the profession and provide professional development for those wanting to make a career out of integrative work, or in our INTEREACH parlance, "being the arrow" that connects and synthesizes across boundaries. This series explores the evolving field(s) of integrative work, including sessions about explicitly integrative roles, storytelling about career trajectories across multiple sectors, and opportunities for training in the methods undergirding this work. Webinars are recorded for those unable to participate in the live online sessions.

News from Asia

NEWS ITEM #1: **The fifth TERRA (Transdisciplinarity for Early career Researchers in Asia) School** was held in November 2023 in Kyoto, Japan. Co-organized by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature and the Future Earth Japan Global Hub, the course brought together 17 early career researchers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Mongolia, Taiwan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Korea, Japan, and Canada in a five-day program. Participants were introduced to principles, tools, methodologies, and

practice of transdisciplinary research by engaging in dynamic dialogues, interactive workshops, and a field visit, and they generated four seed ideas for transdisciplinary project proposals. Brief reports from some of the students are available at: [\[link\]](#) TERRA School is an annual event and reports can be found at: [\[link\]](#)

For more information contact ITD-Alliance Leadership Board member, Ria Lambino (ria.lambino@futureearth.org).

NEWS ITEM #2: The blog and repository, Integration and Implementation Insights (i2Insights; <https://i2Insights.org>), was delighted to publish first contributions from Sri Lanka and Indonesia in January, see

Knowledge translation and multilingualism by Chalani Ranwala [\[link\]](#)
and

Challenges in knowledge translation: a Global South perspective by Fajri Siregar [\[link\]](#)

Chalani Ranwala's contribution was the 500th blog post published by i2Insights.

News from Oceania

NEWS ITEM #1: NITRO-Oceania, the Network of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research Organisations – Oceania, held a successful seminar in December on “Interdisciplinary Early Career Researchers – Perspectives and Potential Partnerships” by Dr Rachel Kelly, Knowledge Broker at the Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania, Australia. For anyone interested, the video is available at [\[link\]](#)

NEWS ITEM #2: NITRO-Oceania is also awaiting the results of two Australian government enquiries, the Australian Universities Accord and Refreshing Australia's National Science and Research Priorities and National Science Statement, to which it made submissions. To see the submissions

and for more information on the enquiries see [[link](#)]

News from Portugal

The first Transdisciplinary Conference at Évora University was held in October 2023 to discuss with the community how to increase the use of TD in university teaching and research activities. The ITD Alliance member, MED – Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development and TdLab, joined forces with the Instituto de Investigação e Formação Avançada (Institute for Research and Advanced Training - IFFA) of the University of Évora to run the conference.

Around 60 participants joined a range of activities including:

- a presentation by guest speaker, Professor Christian Pohl, from TdLab at ETH Zurich, on “Implementing Transdisciplinarity in a University Setting”
- introduction of a variety of transdisciplinary projects at Évora University, covering a range of subjects including fire management, urban regeneration, preservation of archaeological artifacts, or blotting sands in manuscript archives. While these topics may seem unrelated, they all share a common goal: the integration of diverse knowledge to identify problems and seek for solutions
- a World Café discussion to delve into teaching and research of transdisciplinarity at the higher education level. Participants were divided into groups, where they shared insights on the advantages of transdisciplinarity, the challenges associated with implementing it at Évora University, and strategies for enhancing its implementation.

A comprehensive report summarizing the key findings and conclusions was delivered to the rector of Évora University and in 2024 further activities will be developed including a transversal course for PhD students about transdisciplinarity.

Do you know someone who might be interested in this newsletter? Please share it with them. someone has passed this newsletter to you and you would like to join our mailing list, please subscribe here: <https://itd-alliance.org/newsletter>
