



ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

News Bulletin
18 November 2024

Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,

This News Bulletin includes:

- ITD24 conference reports.
 - Early Career Researchers Working Group
 - Toolkits & Methods Working Group
 - Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group
- ITD24 conference feedback.
 - #itd24 on LinkedIn
 - Participant perspectives
- Consult the Community.
- About this News Bulletin.

Editor's Note: Future News Bulletins will include additional ITD conference reports, feedback, and links to official photos as they become available. We would like to include your perspective! Please send a few lines about your experience of ITD24 to Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org).



ITD24 conference reports

Early Career Researchers Working Group

- We organized a networking event before the start of the conference to talk about future plans of the WG and gathered interest and ideas for how to think about where we will go. The virtual coffees seem to be of help to our community so we will be continuing these regular meetings.
- We continued this discussion with a different group of people interested in the working group on Friday during the ITD Alliance networking event. We will be working on a “ITD PhD supervision dialog guide” to help students and supervisors navigate the challenges that arise for an ITD PhD at the start of the PhD journey. This will be a collaborative effort between all three existing WGs.

- We hope to extend the invitation to join the WG to a global community of ECRs by linking to the network of ITD Alliance researchers working in Asia and gathering interest for a collection for the *Global Social Challenges Journal*.
- We organized the closing plenary of ITD24 as a storytelling platform where ECRs can see their own challenges revealed in the paths of those who have succeeded in having an ITD career.

Visit the [Early Career Researchers Working Group](#) online to learn more and get involved.

Toolkits & Methods Working Group

At the ITD24 conference, the [Toolkits & Methods Working Group \(WG\)](#) shared their latest article on toolkitting, with a special focus on bridging Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD) and Science & Technology Studies (STS). They scoped upcoming initiatives, including a meet and greet event for WG members and the expansion of their toolkit inventory to include integration-specific toolkits and methods. This latter project will be a collaboration with the [WG on Integration Experts & Expertise](#). Additionally, the group showcased their interactive document from the [Quality & Rigour Project](#), seeking feedback from conference participants to enhance its development and invite people to join the discussion.

Visit the [Toolkits & Methods Working Group](#) online to learn more and get involved.

Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group

The Working Group organised several sessions at the ITD24 conference, ranging from two networking events to a poster exhibition, a training session and several interactive workshops. In the two networking events, the Working Group identified four topics to focus on until the next ITD26 (?) conference:

- **Methods and Tools for Integration:** Identify integration-specific methods & tools that integration experts should know about.
- **Magic and Value of Integration and Integration Experts:** Make the value of integration (beyond magic) and integration experts in research organisations visible and tangible.
- **Learning, Teaching and Training on Integration:** Examine, create and document (academic and extra-academic) learning, teaching and training on integration.
- **Topography of Roles of and for Integration in and outside Academia:** Develop a topography of roles and competencies to accommodate space for ITD roles within the existing academic ecosystem and beyond.

If you are interested in joining discussions on one of these topics, please contact: sabine.hoffmann@eawag.ch.



ITD24 conference feedback

#itd24 on LinkedIn

Thank you to those participants who shared their experiences of the ITD24 conference on social media. It was really heartening to see so many posts and comments on the great energy and knowledge sharing and connections that were happening!

See posts and photos from participants using the hashtag [#itd24 on LinkedIn](#) to get a sense of the conference (or to re-live your experience and continue your connections)!

Participant perspectives

Below you will find initial feedback we received from participants. We welcome your perspective for inclusion in the next News Bulletin! If you are interested, send a few lines about your experience of ITD24 to Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org).

Doriam Camacho Rodríguez, Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia Campus Santa Marta, Colombia

<p>Gracias a #ITD24 por permitirnos ampliar nuestros conocimientos sobre investigación transdisciplinaria. Fue muy enriquecedor conversar con investigadores de diferentes países y disciplinas. El lugar del evento fue inspirador para generar diálogo en torno a la evolución de la ciencia y la tecnología.</p> <p>Espero poder acompañarlos en un próximo evento y poder contarles los avances en investigación transdisciplinaria en Colombia y América Latina.</p>	<p>Thanks to #ITD24 for allowing us to expand our knowledge of transdisciplinary research. It was very enriching to talk with researchers from different countries and disciplines. The event location was inspiring to generate dialogue around the evolution of science and technology.</p> <p>I hope to be able to accompany you at an upcoming event and to be able to tell you about the advances in transdisciplinary research in Colombia and Latin America.</p>
---	---

Dr. Guadalupe Peres- Cajias, Universidad Católica Boliviana, Bolivia

Thank you ITD24 for this wonderful week of learning. Thank you for letting me share my work with you. It was an honour to come from Bolivia to be part of the ITD Global Conference. I am proud to be part of the ITD Community. Let's continue to strengthen our transdisciplinary path. Let's continue to open trails to innovative proposals for development. Let's keep the collaborative work that add so much. My special thanks to the Crea Project and the Universidad Católica Boliviana from Bolivia that allowed me to be here with the support of the VLIR UOS from Belgium.

Kirsi Cheas, FINTERDIS, Finland

The conference was really amazing in many ways, and the networking event itself was so wonderful! I was very pleased that the conference had participants from so many different countries and regions, and the dialogue mostly seemed very open and respectful. But I also encountered some situations which reinforced geopolitical hierarchies. Kudos to South African scholar, Dr. Stephanie Briers, who spoke up about the fact that Africa is a heterogeneous continent with lots of diverse and valuable knowledge of its own, and experts from the North should be more considerate of this when discussing "co-production" of knowledge with African partners. Moreover, observations by Asian scholars about their regions resembled my research findings concerning Central America: there is a lot of creative collaboration and integration of ideas across fields and professions that occurs organically, but they don't necessarily call it inter- or

transdisciplinarity. When the conference organizers referred to “our community,” these observations made me wonder: who exactly is included in the “we”?

President’s note: Many thanks for these reflections and for the many e-mails plus comments on social media. For those of us who were not there, these have helped bring the conference to life. Kirsi’s reflection raises two important questions for the ITD (and related boundary spanning) community about who ‘we’ are and how we support each other’s learning. I hope such questions will lead to an ongoing discussion, maybe in one of the existing or proposed new working groups! I want to comment briefly on the issue of supporting each other’s learning. Given that none of us and no team can ever know or do everything that’s necessary when dealing with a complex societal or environmental problem, we are always operating in a state of imperfection. For me that means constantly learning about other, often more fit-for-purpose, ways of doing things. And that’s the joy of researching complex problems. It’s also about teaching and sharing what we know with those who might benefit from it, and doing so in a way that is kind and supportive. Such teaching is, I think, even harder than on-going learning. As a step in supporting each other’s learning and teaching, the news bulletin is trialling a new addition “Consult the Community,” where you can post requests for help and share what you know.



Consult the Community

This section of the ITD Alliance News Bulletin aims to provide a space to support each of our learning and teaching. If you are stuck finding information you need, the community may be able to help. Thanks to Mattia Gallotti for starting the process. There’s an initial response and additional responses are welcome and will be published in future news bulletins. Please email Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org) with your response or question for the community.

Question

I’m currently working on the syllabus of the first ever course on Integration to be offered at the London Interdisciplinary School (LIS) in 2025. Do you know if there’s something like a “repository” of case studies of integrative research? I’ve come across a few studies framed in terms of integration, but no explicit articulation of what makes them cases of integrative research. Also, I don’t seem to be able to find agreed upon cases of integration of artwork with scientific practice.

Mattia Gallotti, Associate Professor, Head of Research & Development, The London Interdisciplinary School

Response #1

The book that comes immediately to mind is Repko, AF, Newell WH and Szostak, R (2012) *Case Studies in Interdisciplinary Research*, Sage. For art-science integration, check out the work of new leadership board member, Diaa Ahmedien, starting with “A successful model of integration in an art-science project” <https://i2insights.org/2021/01/19/art-science-integration/>. You might also see if something catches your eye when your scroll through all the i2Insights blog and repository contributions on integration: <https://i2insights.org/category/main-topics/integration/>.

Gabriele Bammer, Professor of Integration and Implementation Sciences, The Australian National University



About this News Bulletin

This weekly News Bulletin focuses on the activities of the ITD-Alliance and its members. We also welcome contributions that may interest members such as policy news in education, funding and research, opportunities (including prizes and visiting fellowships), and relevant conferences and conference reports. Contributions welcome!

Please send contributions to Caryn Anderson caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org at least a week before you would like to see them published. We aim to publish weekly, but the day may vary.

The News Bulletin is sent to all members of the ITD Alliance and to interested colleagues who have joined the mailing list at <https://itd-alliance.org/newsletter>. Feel free to share the News Bulletin with anyone who may be interested.

Explore past newsletters on our website: <https://itd-alliance.org/newsletter/>.