



# ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for  
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

*The ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network presents:*

## **"Grappling with Transdisciplinarity: Tips and Challenges"**

*A dialogue between Allan O'Connor and Allanah Ryan*

**Allan O'Connor**  
Adelaide University  
Australia



**Allanah Ryan**  
Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa  
Massey University  
New Zealand

**July 31, 2025**

*The 60-minute webinar will be followed by a 30-minute open discussion - a "Talanoa" - where you can connect with others across Oceania who are passionate about inter- and transdisciplinarity.*

### **Webinar Details**

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2025

Time: [Convert to your time zone](#)

- Canberra: 12.30-2pm
- Adelaide: 12-1.30pm
- Fiji and New Zealand: 2.30-4pm

[Register at Humanitix](#) (Zoom link sent to registered participants)

### **Description**

As the leadership of universities and related organisations increasingly embraces transdisciplinarity in research and teaching as a way of tackling complex societal and environmental problems, what does it mean for those on the ground who are tasked with introducing transdisciplinary approaches? Adelaide University in Australia (which is newly established from an amalgamation of the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide) and Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University of New Zealand are leading institutions addressing these challenges. Allan O'Connor and Allanah Ryan are heading up the change processes and have rich experience to share. They will make brief scene-setting presentations about their university's context and approach to transdisciplinarity, what their institutions "have going for them," and the main challenges, along with how they are addressing them. They will then engage in a dialogue, which will be broadened out to include the audience.

### **ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network**

Contact: [info@itd-alliance.org](mailto:info@itd-alliance.org) Web: <https://itd-alliance.org/oceania-regional-network/>

Moderation will be by Gabriele Bammer, President of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD Alliance). This hour-long webinar will be followed by a 30-minute open discussion – a Talanoa – where you can connect with others across Oceania who are passionate about inter- and transdisciplinarity.

A recording of the webinar will be available from the ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network web page after the event.

## Speakers

**Allan O'Connor** is Professor of Enterprise Dynamics at the at the University of South Australia. Allan was independently recognised in 2020, 2021, and 2022 by The Australian newspaper as a leader in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation research. Allan teaches in and contributes leadership for the undergraduate Bachelor of Business (Innovation and Entrepreneurship) program. Allan has co-authored Entrepreneurship: Theory, Process and Practice, contributing to the 3rd, 4th and 5th editions. Currently, as part of the merger activities between UniSA (the University of South Australia) and the University of Adelaide, and the formation of Adelaide University, Allan is leading the development of one of six core courses for whole of university delivery, in the domain area of Entrepreneurship and Design Thinking. [Online profile.](#)

**Allanah Ryan** is Associate Director Sustainability at Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University. She is co-lead for a project to develop a new university-wide transdisciplinary qualification at Massey. Previous roles as an academic and Head of School of a large multi-disciplinary social science School have included contributions to a report on 'Catalysing Interdisciplinary Research at Massey University' (2017) and supporting the development of cross-disciplinary teaching within the School of People, Environment and Planning. Allanah has a long-standing interest in the intersection between transdisciplinary research, teaching and engagement with the wider community through living lab projects. [Online profile.](#)

## ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network

Inter- and transdisciplinarians often have a hard time finding each other to share insights and experiences. The [ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network](#) provides regular online networking opportunities (talanoa), following stimulating webinars that aim to showcase some of the best educational and research practices in the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia. We also ensure that the unique characteristics of the Oceania region are represented on the global stage. [Visit the network web page](#) and subscribe for notice of future activities.

We are grateful to [NITRO-Oceania](#) (Network of Leaders of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research Organisations – Oceania) for support.

[Register to participate](#) in the “**Grappling with Transdisciplinarity: Tips and Challenges**” webinar, July 31, 2025.