



# ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for  
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

News Bulletin  
6 August 2025

**Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,**

This News Bulletin includes:

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  - Report & Video: Grappling with Transdisciplinarity: Tips and Challenges
- Member Publications: 2 publications, 1 special issue, 1 free chapter, 9 members.
- Courses:
  - Member course: 7<sup>th</sup> TERRA+ School, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) and Future Earth Japan Global Hub, Japan.
  - Avances en Investigación Transdisciplinaria sobre el Cambio Ambiental Global en América Latina y el Caribe / Advances in Transdisciplinary Research on Global Environmental Change in Latin America and the Caribbean
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*Members are invited to engage with the community through the News Bulletin by contributing questions or announcements. See "About this News Bulletin" below.*



## ITD Alliance events

**ITD Alliance General Assembly meetings (focused on reporting and elections) scheduled for 9 & 10 October 2025**

The second General Assembly for 2025 will be for financial and other reporting, as well as elections to the Leadership Board (with nominations opening in mid-August). Agenda papers will be sent out in mid-September and, after the meetings, there will be a two week online voting period. For more information, see: <https://itd-alliance.org/general-assemblies-2025/>.

**Report & Video: Grappling with Transdisciplinarity: Tips and Challenges, Webinar, ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network, 31 July 2025**

The Oceania Regional Network hosted a very successful webinar, which featured short presentations from, and then a dialogue between, Allan O'Connor of Adelaide University in Australia and Allanah Ryan of Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University of New Zealand, who are leading change processes to help their institutions embrace transdisciplinarity (explicitly or implicitly), especially in education. Audience members shared interests and perspectives during question time and in the concluding Talanoa (open discussion).

View the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1t3dGKvrmE>.  
Learn more about the [Oceania Regional Network](#).



## Member publications

We are pleased to announce two new publications by four ITD Alliance members. The full list for late 2024 and 2025 publications is sortable and searchable on the [Member Publications](#) web page. Congratulations to our members. This is followed by Information about a new journal special issue, for which four ITD Alliance members are authors and/or editors. Finally, there is information about access to a free downloadable book chapter for ITD Alliance members.

**Member author(s):** Giedre Kligyte, Jacqueline Melvold, Susanne Pratt

**Citation:** Kligyte, G., Melvold, J., Pratt, S., & Bowdler, B. (2025). Educating for sustainable and equitable futures: A transdisciplinary future-making capability framework. *Futures*, 103665. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2025.103665>

**Description:** The paper synthesises diverse education literature and frameworks to present a Transdisciplinary Future-making Capabilities Framework. Drawing on Sen's and Nussbaum's theorising, capabilities are seen as contextual and relational – as opportunities converted to functionings. Eight transdisciplinary future-making capabilities for complex challenges and systems transformation are articulated and defined. The paper demonstrates how transdisciplinarity expands existing approaches to educating for sustainable and equitable futures.

**Member author(s):** Roderick Lawrence

**Citation:** Lawrence, R.J. (2025). Paths to Transdisciplinarity: Reconnecting Pathways and Positionality, *World Futures*, 81(5), 329-348.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02604027.2025.2483133>

**Description:** Transdisciplinarity is evolving with multiple pathways that coexist. This article considers paths as metaphors for helping to better understand multiple definitions and interpretations of transdisciplinarity that coexist and do not necessarily converge. Path metaphors enable reflexive thinking and dialogue between people on different paths about global understandings of complex societal challenges.

View the [Member Publications](#) web page and submit your publication to share.

**Special volume of *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies* on Philosophy of Interdisciplinarity, Association for Interdisciplinary Studies, four ITD Alliance member authors/editors**

Volume 42 of *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, a peer-reviewed publication of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (an ITD Alliance institutional member), is a special collection of articles on "[Philosophy of Interdisciplinarity](#)"—11 articles written by scholars representing eight countries—Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, The United States, and Uruguay. The issue was Guest Edited by Machiel Keestra, an ITD Alliance member, and Jan Schmidt. Four authors are ITD Alliance members (Stephen Crowley, Machiel Keestra, Bethany Laursen, Julie Mennes). Congratulations to our members!

**Free chapter for ITD Alliance News Bulletin subscribers**

The introduction chapter of *Key Texts on Interdisciplinary Higher Education*, by ITD Alliance member Iris van der Tuin (announced in the 24 June 2025 News Bulletin), is available free until 1 September 2025 for the ITD Alliance community through this link: [Introduction: Working from an integrationist vision in: Key Texts on Interdisciplinary Higher Education.](#)



## Courses

**Applications open, 7<sup>th</sup> TERRA+ School, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) and Future Earth Japan Global Hub, Japan, 4-9 December 2025**

Applications are now open for the [7th TERRA+ \(Transdisciplinarity for Early Career Researchers in Asia+\) School](#), an intensive short-term course on transdisciplinary research for early career researchers and practitioners across Asia. Hosted by the [Research Institute for Humanity and Nature](#) (RIHN, an ITD Alliance institutional member) and [Future Earth](#) Japan Global Hub, this year's TERRA+ School will take place in person in Kyoto, Japan, from December 4–9, 2025, alongside RIHN's International Symposium on Capacity Building for Green Transformation on December 10-11. The course is free. Limited travel grants are available.

Deadline: 20 August 2025

View [course details and application](#) information.

## **Avances en Investigación Transdisciplinaria sobre el Cambio Ambiental Global en América Latina y el Caribe / Advances in Transdisciplinary Research on Global Environmental Change in Latin America and the Caribbean**

ITD Alliance Leadership Board member Dr Basirat Oyalowo spoke at the launch of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) self-managed online course on Advances in Transdisciplinary Research on Global Environmental Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (Avances en Investigación Transdisciplinaria sobre el Cambio Ambiental Global en América Latina y el Caribe).

Este plan de estudios utiliza diversos recursos de aprendizaje para presentar a los participantes la investigación transdisciplinaria (TD) orientada a ofrecer soluciones en el contexto del cambio ambiental global (CAG) en América Latina y el Caribe (ALC). Al diseñar este curso, consideramos la colaboración de la investigación transdisciplinaria como una práctica social compleja fuertemente moldeada por los contextos locales y sus diversas condiciones políticas, económicas, culturales y ecológicas. A diferencia de otros planes de estudio, éste diseño se basa en un trabajo de campo intensivo a nivel del terreno. La evidencia empírica que fundamenta este plan se colectó en países previamente identificados como ejemplos de trabajo transdisciplinar en la región. Ésta característica hace de este plan de estudios una herramienta de aprendizaje aplicable y auténtica que captura las oportunidades y desafíos de las personas y los equipos interesados en abordar desafíos ambientales globales a escala local, regional y nacional.

This curriculum utilizes multiple learning resources to introduce participants to solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary (TD) research in the context of global environmental change in Latin America and the Caribbean. In designing this course, we consider transdisciplinary research collaboration as a complex social practice heavily shaped by local contexts and their diverse political, economic, cultural, and ecological conditions. Unlike other training programs, we draw upon ground-level fieldwork and country-case evidence, which makes this learning design applicable to individuals and teams interested in tackling global environmental challenges across local, regional and national scales.

For more information see: <https://moodle.iai.int/>.



## **Opportunities**

### **Postdoctoral Fellow, Transdisciplinary Approaches to Energy Transition, Education, and Complexity, University of British Columbia, Canada**

Applications are invited for a full-time Postdoctoral Research Fellow to join the Accelerating Community Energy Transformation ([ACET](#)) initiative at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver. This position offers the opportunity to collaborate with leading researchers, policymakers, and communities on advancing sustainable energy transitions. Working under the supervision of Prof. Naoko Ellis (Engineering) and Dr. Derek Gladwin (Education), co-leads of the [Systems Beings Lab](#) and the [Collaborative Transdisciplinary Cohort on Energy Transition](#), the fellow will contribute to transdisciplinary research at the nexus of energy transition, education, communication, and systems change. Key responsibilities include leading publications and funding proposals, designing workshops and engagement activities, co-developing energy literacy initiatives, and mentoring students. Applicants should hold a recent PhD to a related field,

with demonstrated experience in transdisciplinary research, strong collaboration skills, and interest in community-engaged, systems-focused approaches to societal transitions.

Deadline: August to October 2025 -- depending on successful applicant.  
For more details and application instructions, see the [position description](#).

### **Call for Demonstration Sites, Systems That Can Learn, Adapt, and Transform, Asia Science Mission for Sustainability**

The [Research Institute for Humanity and Nature](#) (RIHN, an ITD Alliance institutional member) is a key player in the Asia Science Mission, which is excited to launch a "[Call for Demonstration Sites](#)" under the [Asia Science Mission for Sustainability](#), part of the International Science Council's global [Science Missions for Sustainability](#). This is a moment to rethink how science is done, connected, and mobilized to tackle Asia's toughest sustainability challenges through real-world collaboration and systems innovation. Place-based initiatives across Asia are invited to co-design and implement integrated, science-based solutions addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, water insecurity, and ecosystem degradation, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Why join?

- Co-create actionable, systems-level solutions
- Access scientific mentorship and global visibility
- Join a vibrant regional network of demonstration sites
- Receive support (including funding) for co-design and implementation

Deadline for Expressions of Interest (EOI): 16th August 2025 (23.59 GMT).  
View details in the [Call for Demonstration Sites](#). The EOI template can be downloaded and submitted [HERE](#). Inquiries: [asiaregion@futureearth.org](mailto:asiaregion@futureearth.org).



## **Calls for papers**

### **Call for papers, Special issue on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Interdisciplinary Studies, *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies***

*Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, published by Association of Interdisciplinary Studies (an ITD Alliance founding member), has announced a call for articles that are grounded in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) literature, while also reflective of the diversity of thought, intellectual history and broad-based experiences of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) IDS programs. Historical analyses and future-facing visions are especially encouraged. Authors may explore how the legacy of HBCU education has informed the emergence and evolution of interdisciplinary approaches, or how current and future IDS initiatives can respond to societal, technological, and cultural shifts. This is an opportunity to collectively reimagine interdisciplinary studies as a dynamic force for academic innovation and institutional transformation in Black higher education.

Deadline for abstracts: 31 August 2025

Details on the call and submission procedures: <https://interdisciplinarystudies.org/call-for-papers-on-hbcus-and-ids/>

## **Call for proposals, Systematic Review Methods for Synthesizing Evidence from Diverse Approaches to Research to Inform Change Efforts in Complex Educational Systems, 2026 *Review of Research in Education* (RRE)**

Undergirding the coordinated design for the [Review of Research in Education \(RRE\)](#) 2026 and 2028 is the argument that syntheses of evidence from diverse approaches to research are vital for furthering the kind of knowledge that enables sustainable change in complex educational systems. *Systematic reviews* support the development of evidence syntheses that are methodologically explicit and accountable for the knowledge they produce. For *RRE 2026*, the editors (Pamela Moss, an ITD Alliance member, and Louis Gomez) are seeking proposals for critical comparisons of existing systematic review methods and for methodological extensions and innovations that can broaden the range of purposes served or the types of evidence incorporated. This will lay groundwork for *RRE 2028*, when they will invite systematic reviews to illuminate how different components of educational systems can interact to enable and constrain sustainable change in addressing focal problems or learning opportunities.

The full Call for Proposals, with submission guidelines, is linked [HERE](#).  
For preliminary questions, email [RREeditor@AERA.net](mailto:RREeditor@AERA.net) with 2026 RRE in the subject line.



## **Conference news**

### **Abstract book from 47<sup>th</sup> Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference (AIS25) now available**

The [47<sup>th</sup> Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference \(AIS25\)](#) was organized by the University of Oulu (an ITD Alliance member) and the Oulu University of Applied Sciences in Finland from 4-6 June 2025. The conference gathered over 300 participants from 22 countries. The abstract book of the AIS25 Conference includes descriptions of all sessions and abstracts of all presentations held in the conference. Session descriptions have been listed under their respective themes. Abstracts have been included beneath the sessions they were presented in. Information about the session conveners and abstract authors can be found in the abstract book.

[View the abstract book.](#)

### **Early bird registration, Action Learning Action Research and Participatory Action Research World Congress 2025, 3 locations and dates (face to face and online), September 2025**

The 11th Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA) and 15th Participatory Action Research (PAR) World Congress September 2025 is scheduled for 3 locations with both face to face and online components. The theme is "Putting Global Collaboration at the Heart of Action Research". In the current world environment, there is an even greater need for national and international collaboration to solve today's challenges. To lead by example, ALARA is collaborating with the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, the University of Technology Sydney in Australia and Medici di Makati College in Philippines to present this World Congress.

Dates and locations (face to face and online):

- Auckland, NZ: 18-19 September 2025
- Sydney, Australia: 23-24 September 2025
- Manila, Philippines: 30 September-1 October 2025

Deadline for early bird registration: 15 August 2025

Congress details and registration: <https://www.alarassociation.org/events/world-congresses/alara-world-congress-2025>



## About this News Bulletin

This News Bulletin focuses on the activities of the ITD Alliance and its members.

Members are encouraged to engage with the community through the News Bulletin by contributing to sections of the bulletin (these do not appear in every issue):

- Consult the community – Ask questions of the community and respond to member questions to support our teaching and learning, as individuals and as a community.
- Member conferences and events – Announce inter- and transdisciplinarity related events hosted by you or your institution.
- Member news – Share news of inter- and transdisciplinarity related reports on activities, awards you have received or other good news.

We also welcome contributions that may interest members such as:

- Opportunities for consulting or employment, grants and prizes or visiting fellowships
- Policy news in education, funding and research
- Conference calls and reports
- Journal calls for submissions to special issues related to inter- and transdisciplinarity.

Please send contributions to Caryn Anderson ([caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org](mailto:caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org)) at least a week before you would like to see them published. We aim to publish every two weeks, 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>. To be sure News Bulletins don't end up in a spam folder, add [info@itd-alliance.org](mailto:info@itd-alliance.org) to your contacts list. Feel free to share the News Bulletin with anyone who may be interested.

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