



ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

News Bulletin
3 September 2025

Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,

This News Bulletin includes:

- Call for ITD Alliance Leadership Board and President Nominations.
- ITD Alliance Events: October General Assembly meetings (9 & 10 October).
- Member Publications: 7 publications, 8 members.
- Conference News: Call for sessions, 2026 Conference for Advancing the Participatory Science (CAPS2026), 26-29 May 2026.
- Relevant Events:
 - Communicating Science for Policy in a Populist World Workshop, George Mason University, USA, in person and online, 8 September 2025.
 - 'Educating for Societal Transitions' *Higher Education Research & Development* Special Issue Launch Webinar, online, 11 September 2025.
- Call for Chapters: Handbook on Flourishing by Design in (Un)Conventional Workplaces.
- About this News Bulletin.

Members are invited to engage with the community through the News Bulletin by contributing questions or announcements. See "About this News Bulletin" below.



Call for ITD Alliance Leadership Board and President nominations

Are you interested in:

- **Shaping the direction** of the only global professional society representing collaborative modes of research and education, especially inter- and transdisciplinarity?
- **Strengthening the visibility, capacity, and interconnectedness** of inter- and transdisciplinary communities around the world?
- **Ensuring that the priorities and perspectives of your region are represented** in the activities and policies of the ITD Alliance?


If so, nominate to stand for election to join the Leadership Board or become President of the ITD Alliance! (Self-nominations only.) [View details of the call and process](#). **Closing date: 10 September, 2025.**



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 (nominations open now until 10 September). 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-assembly-2025-reporting-and-elections/>.



Member publications

We are pleased to announce seven new publications by eight 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.

Member author(s): Alex Baumer, Giedre Kligyte, Susanne Pratt

Citation: Kligyte, G., Pratt, S., van der Bijl-Brouwer, M., & Baumer, A. (Eds.). (2025). Educating for Societal Transitions. [special issue]. *Higher Education Research & Development* 44(6). <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cher20/44/6>

Description: The special issue of *Higher Education Research and Development* (HERD) on Educating for Societal Transitions, discusses working across disciplinary boundaries on real-world challenges as one of the signals of change in higher education (highlighting inter- and transdisciplinary approaches). The issue was co-edited by Giedre Kligyte, Susie Pratt, Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer, and Alex Baumer from the Transdisciplinary School at the University of Technology Sydney, an ITD Alliance institutional member. Of the 17 contributions, at least five focus specifically on transdisciplinary education.

* Special Issue launch event on 11 September 2025. See details in Relevant Events below.

Member author(s): Kareem Buyana

Citation: Buyana, K., Walubwa, J., Mukwaya, P., Sseviiri, H., Byarugaba, D. and Nsangi, G. (2025). The role of visual ethnography in co-producing climate information services in cities. *Global Social Challenges Journal*, 4(1), 63-82. <https://doi.org/10.1332/27523349Y2025D000000041>

Description: Co-production of climate information services using visual ethnography could increase societal usability of climate science, and can make societal knowledge on risks and responses accessible and usable across different science disciplines. Based on case study findings from Kampala city in Uganda, local-level framings of climate risks and responses were grouped into exploratory and intersectional framings. The transdisciplinary potential of visual ethnography permits interactional framing of converse

stakeholder views come through on the discourse about confronting global challenges like climate change and urbanisation.

Member author(s): Stephen Crowley

Citation: Crowley, S., Gonnerman, C., & Robinson, B. (2024). Conceptual Ecology for Interdisciplinarity. *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, 42(1-2), 75-104. [Open Access, Online publication: 25 July 2025] <https://interdisciplinarystudies.org/vol42-conceptual-ecology-for-interdisciplinarity/>

Description: We propose a framework on interdisciplinarity to address the disagreement about concepts of interdisciplinarity by drawing on ideas from philosophy of biology. Our conceptual ecological approach supports a productive conceptual pluralism, taking these concepts as tools shaped by the niches that they occupy - a pluralism that is organized and can help to address practical issues. A case study on the Toolbox Dialogue Initiative, a philosophical method for facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration, illustrates this approach. Finally, we highlight the theoretical and practical benefits of adopting a conceptual ecological approach to interdisciplinarity.

Member author(s): Machiel Keestra

Citation: Keestra, M. & Schmidt, J.C. (2024). Pluralism, Reflexivity and Critique: Introduction to the Special Issue on Philosophy of Interdisciplinarity. *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, 42(1-2), 1-20. [Open Access, Online publication: 25 July 2025] <https://interdisciplinarystudies.org/vol42-pluralism-reflexivity-and-critique-introduction-to-the-special-issue-on-philosophy-of-interdisciplinarity/>

Description: We introduce this Special Issue on Philosophy of Interdisciplinarity by contending that with its conceptual and functional heterogeneity, interdisciplinarity presents a relevant challenge and opportunity for philosophy, with a key role for its dimensions of plurality as opposed to monism, reductionism and scientific unification. All 11 philosophical articles include an analysis of one or more practical examples of actual interdisciplinary research and are organized under four headings: Plurality of Concepts and Notions, Plurality of Integration, Plurality and Normativity, and Plurality by Valuing Diversity. The editors hope that this collection will advance a philosophy of interdisciplinarity that will critically and reflexively guide inter- and transdisciplinary practice towards a more societally relevant and robust practice, while it may also change the role philosophy can have for the sustainable future of our knowledge societies.

Member author(s): Machiel Keestra

Citation: Keestra, M. & Dieleman, H. (2024). Conceptual Resisting the Imperative of Integration: Epistemic Injustice, Resistance and Openness in Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research. *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, 42(1-2), 75-104. [Open Access, Online publication: 25 July 2025] <https://interdisciplinarystudies.org/vol42-resisting-the-imperative-of-integration-epistemic-injustice-resistance-and-openness-in-inter-and-transdisciplinary-research/>

Description: Resisting the 'imperative of integration' and responding to epistemic injustices, extra-academic stakeholders in inter/transdisciplinary research often engage in forms of epistemic resistance. We highlight these in case studies of autistic persons and of indigenous communities upholding 'Buen Vivir' in contrast to sustainability and conclude by advocating for epistemic humility and strategies like dialogue and imagination to address these injustices.

Member author(s): Bethany Laursen

Citation: Laursen, B. (2024). Integrative Topologies: Customizable Models for Crossdisciplinary Knowledge Integration. *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, 42(1-2), 75-

104. [Open Access, Online publication: 25 July 2025]

<https://interdisciplinystudies.org/vol42-integrative-topologies-customizable-models-for-crossdisciplinary-knowledge-integration/>

Description: This article describes a new tool for clarifying complex (multi-part or multi-step) integrations. The tool is called an integrative topology, which visualizes the shape of an integrative pathway. Example topologies include the weave, zipper, and chain. The article presents the tool along with example uses for crossdisciplinary research and practice.

Member author(s): Julie Mennes

Citation: Weber, E., & Mennes, J. (2024). Interdisciplinary Research and Integration in Social Robotics. *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, 42(1-2), 75-104. [Open Access, Online publication: 25 July 2025] <https://interdisciplinystudies.org/vol42-interdisciplinary-research-and-integration-in-social-robotics/>

Description: This paper presents a case study of integration in interdisciplinary research aimed at developing technical artifacts. Examining the development of *Probo*, a social robot for robot-assisted therapy, it shows how interlocking disciplinary contributions triggered iterative cycles in which novel research was conducted within the participating disciplines.

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



Conference news

Call for sessions, 2026 Conference for Advancing the Participatory Science (CAPS2026), 26-29 May 2026

The 2026 Conference for Advancing the Participatory Science ([CAPS2026](#)) will be held online 26-29 May 2026. The CAPS Program Committee invites submissions for sessions that advance a proposed topic of importance in the field. Three session types can be proposed: [Symposia, Topical Discussions, and Collaborative Sessions](#). Proposing a session is your opportunity to elevate the issues you care most about, build collaborations, and share your unique perspective with the broadest possible audience. Convening a session can showcase your leadership in the field and/or to spark new connections and future collaborations.

Deadline for session proposals: 17 October 2025.

A separate call for individual presentations will be released in early December.

View details on call for sessions and submission instructions:

<https://participatorysciences.org/conferences/caps-2026/call-for-sessions/>



Relevant events

Communicating Science for Policy in a Populist World Workshop, George Mason University, USA, in person and online, 8 September 2025

What happens when science meets policy in a populist age? Join leading international experts for a global workshop on Mon. Sept. 8th (9 am-noon ET, Washington, DC, USA) with in-person and Zoom participation options. Explore the role of civic science practices in shaping the future of evidence-informed policy.

15 speakers and panelists will present 3 thematic talks and international panels on 5 regions. The workshop agenda with speaker information can be found on the registration pages.

Date: 8 September 2025

Time: 9 am - 12 noon, ET

Register for in-person participation (Fuse Building, Arlington, VA):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-science-for-policy-in-a-populist-world-tickets-1508077413139>

Register for online participation: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-workshop-communicating-science-for-policy-in-a-populist-world-tickets-1508079669889>

'Educating for Societal Transitions' *Higher Education Research & Development* Special Issue Launch Webinar, online, 11 September 2025.

Higher Education Research & Development (HERD) invites participants to a webinar in association with the release of the special issue, '[Educating for Societal Transitions](#)', guest edited by Dr Giedre Kligyte, Dr Susanne Pratt, Dr Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer, and Dr Alex Baumber, from the Transdisciplinary School, University of Technology Sydney, an ITD Alliance institutional member, along with HERD's Professor Stephen Marshall. The launch event provides an opportunity to engage in discussion with the authors.

Date: Thursday, 11 September 2025

Time: 17:00 AEST

Duration: 90 minutes

Zoom link: <https://zoom.uts.edu.au/j/86932422971>



Call for chapters

Call for chapters, Handbook on Flourishing by Design in (Un)Conventional Workplaces

Dr Jenna Mikus, an ITD Alliance member and transdisciplinary researcher and strategist who bridges architectural science with wellbeing science and who leads the Harvard-affiliated Human Flourishing Network Flourishing by Design (FxD) special interest group, is lead-editing an upcoming Handbook on Flourishing by Design in (Un)Conventional Workplaces in the coming year. This call for chapters is seeking contributors to interrogate a variety of perspectives that speak to activating flourishing in the context of work. For more details, see the [call for chapters](#) and the [submission form](#). Deadline: 22 September 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) 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 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/>.