



# ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for  
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

## News Bulletin 4 February 2026

**Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,**

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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

### Organizational Change for ITD Working Group, Third Workshop, Online, 18 February 2026

The [Organizational Change for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity \(ITD\)](#) Working Group of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD Alliance) will host a third workshop online on 18 February 2026. The major theme this time is to develop suggestions for the upcoming conference ITD27.

We are looking at topics from this WG tailored to the ITD community at large and also to possibly engage external stakeholders to come to the conference (could be funders, research managers, societal partners). The workshop will, as per tradition, touch base on all three segments of this WG: "the common room", "the library", and "the impact project".

Workshop Format:

- **The Common Room:** Connecting, touching base and sharing.
- **The Library Project:** Collecting, sharing and annotating useful resources.
- **The Impact Project:** Actively advocating and impacting the role of ITD in policy-making, research funding and publishing.

See details on formats and aims for each theme on the [Organizational Change for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity \(ITD\)](#) working group web page.

**Date & Time:** 18 February 2026, 9:00-10:30 CET ([convert to your time zone](#))

**Location:** Online (link sent to registered participants), Open to all

**Sign-up:** <https://doit.medfarm.uu.se/bin/kurt3/kurt/8897680>

Recordings of previous workshops are available at: <https://itd-alliance.org/working-groups/organizational-change-for-itd/>

### "Lessons learnt for leading transdisciplinary centres and programs", Webinar, Oceania Regional Network, February 27, 2026

Leading transdisciplinary centres and programs comes with a range of challenges, including supporting researchers and students to navigate across, between and beyond disciplines, building relationships and engagement methods with a range of stakeholders, collaborators and decision makers, and embracing knowledges and knowledge systems that are diverse, and sometimes divergent. Peat Leith, outgoing Director of the Valuing Sustainability Future Science Platform at CSIRO, and Lorrae van Kerkhoff, Director of the ANU Institute for Water Futures, at The Australian National University, will each share 5 lessons from their experience, in brief scene-setting presentations. They will then engage in a dialogue, which will be broadened out to include the audience. Moderation will be by Giedre Kligyte of the Transdisciplinary School at the University of Technology Sydney. 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.

**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2026

**Time:** [Convert to your time zone](#); Perth: 9.30-11am, Canberra: 12.30-2pm, Fiji: 1.30-2pm, New Zealand: 2.30-4pm

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

**“The (re)generative uncertainty of transdisciplinary transformative research processes for sustainability”, Webinar, Toolkits & Methods Working Group, 2 March 2026**

Transdisciplinary transformative sustainability research has seen a growing proliferation of toolkits aimed at supporting knowledge co-creation and intentional change toward just and sustainable futures. Yet, the assumptions and organizing principles underlying these toolkits remain poorly synthesized. Through an abductive category-level analysis, we identify two dominant organizing logics, functions, and process phases, and reveal convergence toward three overarching “doings”. These doings address relationships, knowledge, and inner worlds as interdependent dimensions of transformation. Speakers Andra Milcu of the Kassel Institute for Sustainability and Angela Moriggi of the University of Padova argue that transformative tools are defined less by their epistemic outputs than by their enactment within reflexive, value-driven research processes, contributing to an extended methodology of transformative sustainability research that embraces uncertainty as a generative force. Presentations will be followed by Q&A and an interactive discussion. A recording will be available from the Toolkits & Methods Working Group web page after the event.

For speaker biographies and information about working group activities and avenues for collaboration and participation, please visit the [Toolkits & Methods Working Group](#) web page. Please also feel free to [contact the co-coordinators](#) Mahsa Motlagh, Keisha Taylor, and Christine Hobelsberger should you have any questions or if you would like to collaborate on this topic or future activities of the Toolkits & Methods Working Group.

**Date & Time:** Monday, 2nd March 2026, 3 pm - 4:30 pm Central European Time, CET ([Convert to your time zone](#))

**Location:** Online, Open to all

**Join via Zoom:** <https://uni-kassel.zoom-x.de/j/9745432074?omn=65934548327>

**Recording and slides available, “Philosophical Perspectives on Inter- and Transdisciplinarity: Pluralism, Reflexivity, and Critique”, ITD Alliance & INSciTS, January 22nd, 2026**

The first webinar of the ITD Alliance & INSciTS Joint Seminar Series, “Philosophical Perspectives on Inter- and Transdisciplinarity: Pluralism, Reflexivity, and Critique”, was held on January 22nd, 2026. It was based on a special issue of the journal *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies* focusing on the philosophy of interdisciplinarity. The panel was made up of the special issue editors, Dr. Machiel Keestra and Dr. Jan Cornelius Schmidt, and one of the contributors, Dr. Bethany Laursen. The panel discussed the themes of the articles in the special issue as well as each panelist’s contribution. The questions for the panelists ranged from Keestra’s ideas on epistemicide, Laursen’s theorizing about topologies of integration, and Schmidt’s arguments for more philosophical interpretations of problem-focused interdisciplinary research.

[View the recording](#). Download presentations slides from the ITD Alliance [Events](#) page.

## Recording available, ITD Value Project Workshop 2, 27 January 2026

The second workshop of the ITD Value Project of the Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group of the ITD Alliance brought together 17 participants (10 returning and 7 joining for the first time) on 27 January 2026, online. Building on earlier conversations about the challenges faced by integration experts, and drawing on relevant scholarly work, participants worked in breakout rooms to share stories of integration in practice, explaining the value created across cognitive, emotional and social dimensions. Emerging themes centred around creating conditions of trust, supporting confidence in partnerships through relational work, and fostering shared understanding through "boundary objects" and "third spaces". The workshop concluded with updates on the proposed addition of an integration-expertise role to the CRediT contributor taxonomy, along with an invitation to contribute to the evolving project roadmap.

[View the recording of the workshop.](#) Learn more about the [ITD Value Project](#).



## Member news

### ETH Medal awarded to Lisa Deutsch for her PhD thesis at Eawag and ETH Zurich

ITD Alliance member Lisa Deutsch, who undertook her PhD with ITD Alliance institutional members Eawag and the Transdisciplinary Lab at ETH Zurich, has been awarded the prestigious ETH Medal. Every year, ETH Zurich awards the ETH Medal for outstanding masters and doctoral theses, based on recommendations from international reviewers. Lisa Deutsch received the award for her doctoral thesis entitled "[Practising integration in inter- and transdisciplinary research: The role of enabling conditions and integrative leadership](#)", which is the first transdisciplinary-focused thesis to receive the medal. [Read details about Lisa's award.](#)

In addition to her award-winning research, Lisa illustrated her findings with a series of cartoons (developed with Christof Stückelberger and ITD Alliance member Sabine Hoffmann) entitled "[How interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary integration will fail for sure](#)". The scenes depicted invite readers to rethink their own research behaviour, in a humorous way, and to discuss with team members how ITD research can be jointly and successfully implemented in practice. The images are available for use under a Creative Commons license.

Lisa played a significant role in the development and success of the [Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group](#) of the ITD Alliance, including co-authoring publications with Working Group members. Join us in offering our congratulations to Lisa on this honour and our thanks for her contributions to the ITD Alliance.



## Member publications

We are pleased to announce three new publications by four ITD Alliance members. The full list of publications (beginning in late 2024) is sortable and searchable on the [Member Publications](#) web page. Congratulations to our members.

**Member author(s):** Rick Szostak

**Citation:** Szostak, R. (2026). **A call for a more assertive interdisciplinarity.** *Frontiers in Education, 11* (1694738). <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2026.1694738>

**Description:** This article is part of the research topic "Interdisciplinarity in University Education." I urge the community of scholars of interdisciplinarity to be more assertive about the existence and value of interdisciplinary methodology. I briefly describe the nature of interdisciplinary methodology, and show that we can already point to exemplars of excellent teaching and research. [Open Access]

**Member author(s):** Stefanie Burkhart, Flurina Schneider

**Citation:** Burkhart, S., Schneider, F. (2026). **Whose knowledge counts for transformative change? – Operationalizing epistemic justice for transdisciplinary knowledge co-production.** *Environmental Science & Policy, 176* (February 2026), 104322.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2026.104322>

**Description:** The concept of epistemic justice can support transformative endeavors of transdisciplinary knowledge co-production. To make the concept tangible for transdisciplinary research and practice, we synthesized how epistemic justice has been conceptualized and operationalized in transdisciplinarity and conservation contexts so far. As a result, we offer a framework providing entry points for systematically reflecting on how to approach epistemic justice along different dimensions along transdisciplinary co-production processes. [Open Access]

**Member author(s):** Hussein Zeidan

**Citation:** Zeidan, H. (2026). **It's time to call transdisciplinarity's bluff.** *Global Social Challenges Journal*. Advance online publication.

<https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/gsc/view/journals/gscj/aop/article-10.1332-27523349Y2025D000000066/article-10.1332-27523349Y2025D000000066.xml>

**Description:** Transdisciplinarity is widely celebrated yet remains conceptually vague and rhetorically repetitive. Beneath optimistic publications lie unspoken frustrations about its tensions and contradictions. This provocation revisits its dominant narratives, questions its assumptions, and calls for a more reflective, ethically grounded, and rigorous engagement that situates transdisciplinarity within broader debates on knowledge, power, and science's moral responsibilities. [Open Access]

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



## Member course

**Summer School, Co-creating Transformative Knowledge: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research in Practice, Transdisciplinarity Lab, ETH Zurich, 24 to 28 August 2026**

The [Cultural Studies of Science and Technology Group](#), at the [Transdisciplinarity Lab at ETH Zurich](#), an ITD Alliance institutional member, is accepting applications for the [Summer School "Co-creating Transformative Knowledge: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research in Practice"](#), to held in Zurich from 24 to 28 August 2026.

Framed within the [ENHANCE Alliance](#), (the European Universities of Technology Alliance) the Summer School supports Masters and PhD students and early-career researchers in co-creating socially relevant knowledge together with societal actors. Through hands-on

tools and collaborative experiments, participants explore challenges in designing and conducting research that meaningfully responds to societal needs.

**Details:**

- Open to: Masters and PhD students and early-career researchers
- Period: 24 – 28 August 2026
- Onsite: ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Language: English
- ECTS credits: 2
- Excursion: Visit to a real-world lab
- Fees: No participation fees (lunches provided)
- Accommodation: Participants are required to arrange their accommodation. ENHANCE students may apply for a scholarship to cover travel expenses and accommodation.

**Application:**

- *Period:* 01.02.2026 - 30.04.2026 via the [Summer School webpage](#)
- *Documents:* short CV and one-page motivation letter
- *Notice of acceptance:* 15 May 2026

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cloe Compagnoni, Teaching Assistant at [tdlab-summerschool@ethz.ch](mailto:tdlab-summerschool@ethz.ch).



## Relevant events

**“(i2)Insights on Professionalization of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Careers”, INTEREACH webinar celebrating the 10th anniversary of i2Insights blog and toolkit, Online, 10 February 2026**

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-1:00 PM ET ([convert to your time zone](#)), “(i2)Insights on Professionalization of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Careers” with ITD Alliance members Bianca Vienni-Baptista (ETH Zürich) and Michael O'Rourke (Michigan State University).

**Where:** <https://duke.zoom.us/j/97938305083>

To mark the 10th anniversary of the [Integration and Implementation Insights \(i2Insights\) blog and toolkit](#), hosted by ITD Alliance President, Gabriele Bammer, and Peter Deane of The Australian National University, the Interdisciplinary Integration Research Careers Hub ([INTEREACH](#)) is dedicating its 2025-2026 webinar series to celebrating the blog's content and collectively taking stock of all it has contributed toward the formalization of integrative skillsets and transdisciplinary approaches to addressing complex challenges. Each webinar will spotlight a theme from i2Insights.

See the [full list of dates, themes and speakers](#), many of whom are ITD Alliance members. View recordings of previous webinars in the INTEREACH [webinar series archives](#).



## Fellowship opportunity

### Science Policy Fellowship, Gulf Research Program, National Academies, USA/Gulf Region

The US National Academies is accepting applications for the Gulf Research Program's Science Policy Fellowship, which offers early-career scientists and engineers the opportunity to hone their skills by applying them in real-world policy settings that support Gulf Coast communities and ecosystems.

With the guidance of a mentor, fellows delve into activities like policy development, evaluation, restoration planning, grants management, and stakeholder outreach and learn what it takes to make scientific information not just useful but useable. Meanwhile, host offices get a talented technical expert with a fresh perspective and a new network of contacts across the Gulf region. Fellows who have completed a MA, MS, or MPH/MSPH degree or who are currently enrolled in a doctoral program will receive an annual stipend of \$63,800. Fellows who have completed a PhD, ScD, EngD, MD, DrPH, or DVM will receive an annual stipend of \$69,300.

**Deadline:** February 26, 2026.

**Program details:** <https://www.nationalacademies.org/programs/GULF-GULFEO-14-01>

**Submit application:** <https://grpfellowships.smapply.io/>



## Call for abstracts

### Call for abstracts, "The Democratic Turn in University STEM Education" Panel, Fourth International Conference of the journal *Scuola Democratica*, Italy, 1-4 September 2026

Two ITD Alliance members, Kylee Goode and Ilija Rašović of the University of Birmingham, an institutional member, along with Lola Lilensten of the Institut de Recherche de Chimie, Paris, are chairing panel [I.09. The Democratic Turn in University STEM Education](#) (call details available at the link) as part of the [Fourth International Conference of the journal \*Scuola Democratica\* "Learning for Democracy/Democracy for Learning"](#) to be held at Sapienza University of Rome, 1–4 September 2026. They are welcoming abstract submissions of up to 500 words for presentations for this panel.

[Submit your abstract](#) by 28th February 2026.

Abstract acceptance decisions will be communicated on 15th March 2026.



## 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.
- Member publications – Announce recent publications highlighting inter- or transdisciplinarity or boundary crossing or collaborative research and practice.

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/>.