



# ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for  
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

## News Bulletin 18 March 2026

**Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,**

This News Bulletin includes:

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  - Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellowship 2027, Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences, Germany.
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  - Registration open, Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching UK, University of Edinburgh, 15 April 2026.
- Call for Papers:
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- 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.*



## ITD Alliance events

Recording available, "The (re)generative uncertainty of transdisciplinary transformative research processes for sustainability", ITD Alliance Toolkits & Methods Working Group, 2 March 2026

[View the recording](#) on the Alliance Toolkits & Methods Working Group web page.

In this webinar hosted by the ITD Alliance [Toolkits & Methods Working Group](#), "The (re)generative uncertainty of transdisciplinary transformative research processes for sustainability", 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 were followed by a Q&A. [Contact the co-coordinators](#), Dr. Keisha Taylor, Dr. Mahsa Motlagh, and Dr. Christine Hobelsberger to learn more.



## ITD27 Conference

**Keynote speakers for the first day of ITD27: International Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD) Conference, University of Évora, Évora, Portugal, 31 May – 4 June 2027**

We are pleased to introduce the keynote speakers of the first day of the ITD27 Conference, titled "*Bridging Knowledge and Networks: Inter- and Transdisciplinarity for Transformative Change*", who will provide food for thought on the overall question: [What is transformative transdisciplinarity?](#)

We are pleased to confirm:

**David Ludwig**, of the Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation (KTI) Group of Wageningen University and Research (WUR) in The Netherlands, is a philosopher and transdisciplinary researcher focused on questions of social-environmental change and justice. He is the co-author of the recent book titled *Transformative Transdisciplinarity* and has recently co-authored a post on the Integration and Implementation Sciences Insights (i2Insights) toolkit entitled, "[Moving from epistemic paternalism to transformative transdisciplinarity](#)".

**Harini Nagendra** is Director of the School of Climate Change and Sustainability at Azim Premji University, India. Harini is an environmental scientist focused on urban ecology and sustainability highlighting the importance of urban ecosystems in contributing critical ecosystem services for human well-being, especially of marginalised communities, filling an important gap for the Global South.

Learn more about these dynamic colleagues on the [ITD27 website](#) and join us for the conversations, insights, and networking in Portugal! We will continue to introduce you to ITD27 keynote speakers and panellists in the ITD Alliance News Bulletin over the coming months. Details will be available immediately on the ITD27 website.



# ITD Alliance new and renewing members

One of the goals of the ITD Alliance is to encourage and support networking among members. In this section we introduce our newest members and highlight our current members who have renewed since the 21 January 2026 News Bulletin. Thank you!

## New Institutional Members

- The Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures at WashU (Washington University in St. Louis), USA (<https://transdisciplinaryfutures.wustl.edu/>)  
*Our thematic research collaborations consist of faculty from at least three distinct units, undergraduate and graduate students, and external partners. Through The Incubator, teams receive funding to 1) foster imaginative new partnerships, 2) offer academic and public programming and 3) create new undergraduate and graduate courses.*
- Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands (<https://convergence.nl>)  
*Urgent and complex societal challenges require fundamentally new forms of cooperation that transcend boundaries between institutes and disciplines to create new perspectives and solutions. For this reason, TU Delft, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Erasmus MC have joined forces in Convergence. Convergence is committed to combining institutional strengths, knowledge and methods in research and education to address issues related to climate change, sustainability, pressure on the healthcare system, urbanisation and digitalisation. The delta around Rotterdam is our living lab. Together with societal and private partners, we are building a robust ecosystem for research and innovation.*
- UCL Centre for Transdisciplinary Research (University College London), UK (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/environment-energy-resources/environmental-design/research-ucl-institute-environmental-design-and-engineering/systems-thinking-and-transdisciplinarity/ucl-centre-transdisciplinary-research>)  
*The Centre for Transdisciplinary Research helps researchers and practitioners work together to address issues that no single field can solve alone. Complex challenges such as climate change and health inequality, among many others, demand new ways of working. Communities, policymakers and funders increasingly expect research that is collaborative, relevant and actionable. The Centre helps researchers meet this need - linking theory and practice to create research that makes a difference.*

## Renewing Institutional Members

- Espacio Interdisciplinario, Universidad de la República (UDELAR), (Interdisciplinary Space, University of the Republic), Uruguay (<https://www.ei.udelar.edu.uy>)  
*The Interdisciplinary Space is a transversal structure to the entire academic organization of the University of the Republic that promotes interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach. The Space is responsible for managing competitive funds for interdisciplinary collaborative projects in research, teaching, and outreach. In addition, there are core academic programs of interdisciplinary higher education, training in tools for interdisciplinary teamwork, and instances of discussion of strategies and results of interdisciplinary projects.*
- ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany (<https://www.isoe.de/en/>)  
*ISOE is a leading non-profit and non-university institute for transdisciplinary sustainability research. Since 30 years, the Institute has carried out problem-oriented research providing support for decision-makers and viable concepts for the future directed at policy makers,*

*the civil society and enterprises – both at regional and international level. Further, ISOE is actively engaged in teaching inter- and also transdisciplinary concepts and methods at different Universities.*

*For a full list of institutional members of the ITD Alliance, visit the public [Members page](#).*

## **New and Renewing Individual Members**

### *Asia*

- Yuko Onishi, Doshisha University and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan\*

### *Europe*

- Matthias Bergmann, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Joe Binetti, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Eline Boezelman, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Nikki Brand, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Stefanie Burkhart, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Frédéric Darbellay, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Rico Defila, University of Basel, MGU, Research Group Inter-/Transdisciplinarity, Switzerland
- Antonietta Di Giulio, University of Basel, MGU, Research Group Inter-/Transdisciplinarity, Switzerland
- Steven Flipse, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Herco Fonteijn, Maastricht University, The Netherlands
- Fanny Frick-Trzebitzky, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Maria Garcia-Martin, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Switzerland
- Petia Georgieva, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Dženeta Hodžić, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Thomas Jahn, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Vanessa Jaiteh, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Wendy Jansen, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Bettina König, Universität Kassel, Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement in der internationalen Ernährungswirtschaft, Germany
- Michael Kress-Ludwig, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Chantal Krumm, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Tatiana Lukyanova, Institute of Transdisciplinary Technologies, Russia
- Alexandra Lux, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Catherine Lyall, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- Vladimir Mokiy, Institute of Transdisciplinary Technologies, Russia
- Gemma Moore, UCL Centre for Transdisciplinary Research (University College London), UK\*
- David Osrin, UCL Centre for Transdisciplinary Research (University College London), UK\*
- Antoinette Oudshoorn, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Marianne Penker, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
- Sam Riedijk, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Natalia Rodriguez Castañeda, University of Copenhagen, Department of Science Education, Denmark

- Flurina Schneider, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Milan Slat, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany
- Pauline Tan, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
- Lena Theiler, ISOE - Institute for Social-Ecological Research, Germany\*
- Sabine Toussaint, LMU Munich, Office for Research Association Management, Germany
- Ruth Unstead-Joss, UCL Centre for Transdisciplinary Research (University College London), UK\*
- Simon Vakeva-Baird, UCL Centre for Transdisciplinary Research (University College London), UK\*
- Puck van de Bovenkamp, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*
- Claudia Villani, Accademia di Belle Arti di Palermo, Italy
- Stein Wetzer, Convergence Alliance, The Netherlands\*

#### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Ana M Corbacho, Espacio Interdisciplinario, Universidad de la República (UDELAR), Uruguay (Interdisciplinary Space, University of the Republic), Uruguay\*
- Ana Gretel Echazú Böschemeier, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil
- Mariana Pereyra Pérez, Espacio Interdisciplinario, Universidad de la República (UDELAR), Uruguay (Interdisciplinary Space, University of the Republic), Uruguay\*

#### *North America*

- William Acree, The Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures at WashU (Washington University in St. Louis), USA\*
- Teri Balser, University of Calgary, Canada
- Michael Frachetti, The Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures at WashU (Washington University in St. Louis), USA\*
- Susanne Moser, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting, USA
- Linda Samuels, The Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures at WashU (Washington University in St. Louis), USA\*
- Crickette Sanz, The Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures at WashU (Washington University in St. Louis), USA\*
- Joe Steensma, The Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures at WashU (Washington University in St. Louis), USA\*
- Carol Williams, University of Wisconsin - Madison, USA
- Kitty Wooley, Senior Fellows and Friends, USA

#### *Oceania*

- Annette Bos, Monash University, Australia
- Hevi Kurnia Hardini, University of Tasmania, Australia
- Deborah Hill, University of Canberra, Australia
- Natalia Radywyl, RMIT University, Australia
- Melissa Robson-Williams, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand (Aotearoa)

#### *Sub-Saharan Africa*

- Adey Desta, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Felix Kwabena Donkor, University of Education, Winneba-Ghana, Ghana

Learn more about your fellow members and connect with them through the Member Area of the ITD Alliance website. [Log in](#) (members only) to view the [Individual Member Profiles](#).



## Member news

### **Katrine Ellemose Lindvig leads 4-year SPINE Project to strengthen collaborative infrastructure**

ITD Alliance member Katrine Ellemose Lindvig leads a newly launched project, [SPINE](#) – *Strengthening Pathways and Infrastructures for Navigating Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Existing Academic Structures*. This Lundbeck Foundation-funded project runs from 2026–2029 from the Department of Science Education at the University of Copenhagen.

SPINE explores the collaborative infrastructures – including institutional practices, training environments, and support systems – that enable interdisciplinary research within existing academic structures. While the tools to be developed are broadly applicable across interdisciplinary research environments, the project focuses on areas where collaboration is particularly challenging: the divide between clinical and basic biomedical research, interdisciplinary doctoral education, and early-career research pathways.

The project will map international literature and case studies to identify initiatives, programmes, and research environments with strong infrastructures for interdisciplinary collaboration. Using ethnographic and participatory approaches with researchers, students, and institutions, the project will co-develop adaptable “plug-and-play” tools to support collaboration across disciplines and contexts.

Katrine Ellemose Lindvig and her colleagues Natalia Rodriguez Castañeda (ITD Alliance member), Vera Spangler, and Pelle Boers, warmly welcome contact from projects or communities with experience in building collaborative infrastructures. Reach out if you have insights to share: [katrine.lindvig@ind.ku.dk](mailto:katrine.lindvig@ind.ku.dk).



## Member publications

We are pleased to announce two new publications by three 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):** Jana Theierfelder, Sabine Hoffmann

**Citation:** Thierfelder, J., Matthews, B., Risch, A.C., Hoffmann, S. (2026). **Muddling through: A typology of interdisciplinary research practices in environmental sciences.**

*Environmental Science & Policy*, 177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2026.104342>

**Description:** Drawing on empirical insights from an interdisciplinary (IDR) research program, the paper proposes a typology of IDR practices: (1) Ideal IDR; (2) Pragmatic IDR; (3) On-the-go IDR; and (4) Muddle through IDR. By contrasting IDR practices with ideal types from IDR scholarship, the paper provides actionable guidance for more effective IDR practices. [ Open Access ]

**Member author(s):** Sabine Hoffmann, Bianca Vienni-Baptista

**Citation:** Hoffmann, S., Vienni-Baptista, B. (2026). **Training integration in science, policy and practice: insights from designing and implementing integrative teaching and**

**learning.** *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 13(1).

<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-026-06523-6>

**Description:** The paper provides insights into how to effectively train inter- and transdisciplinary integration in higher education. It defines key competencies in integration, operationalizes these competencies through competence-oriented learning objectives, outlines teaching and learning activities, discusses learning outcomes and draws lessons learned on integrative teaching and learning. [ Open Access ]

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



## Chairs, job and fellowship opportunities

**The AXA Chairs for senior researchers to build and lead ambitious transdisciplinary research networks, two calls: worldwide and France**

**Deadline: April 9, 2026**

More information: <https://institution.axa-research.org/>

The AXA Chairs of the AXA Foundation for Human Progress are 5-year, high-profile grants supporting senior researchers to build and lead ambitious transdisciplinary research networks. The Chairholder is expected to act as a network leader and catalyst, coordinating a multi-partner consortium that co-designs, co-produces, and co-implements the research and its applications. The AXA Chair supports a single, coherent research program led by the Chairholder and implemented by a transdisciplinary network. It comprises two distinct categories:

1. **Global Category:** Supports international, transdisciplinary research networks addressing major risks and challenges at the intersection of:
  - Risks to People Health and Human Well-Being,
  - Risks to Societies, and
  - Risks to the Planet.
2. **Health in France Category:** Exclusively supports health related AXA Chairs network conducted with the leading institution in France, focusing on risks to human health and well-being (e.g. chronic and infectious diseases, mental health, environmental determinants of health, health inequalities, health systems resilience).

**Team Science Specialist, Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research, University of Michigan, USA**

**Deadline: 25 March 2026**

[View details and apply.](#)

The Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research ([MICHHR](#)), at the University of Michigan in the USA, is hiring another full-time Team Science Specialist. The specialist will develop, deliver and evaluate team science interventions, including facilitated experiences, trainings, tools, and resources, that are designed to enhance the productivity of cross-disciplinary research teams. Bethany Laursen, a long-time active member of the ITD Alliance and a Team Science Specialist at MICHHR, says “Come join our team as we propel the emerging field of translational science—and have fun doing it!”

## Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellowship 2027, Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), Germany

Deadline: 15 April 2026

[View details and apply.](#)

The Research Institute for Sustainability ([RIFS](#)) is an international, inter-, and transdisciplinary research institute in Potsdam, Germany. They are looking for international highly talented mid-career professionals, who have been working for at least ten years on issues related to sustainable development and have the potential to serve as change agents. They seek a researcher, an artist, or an expert from civil society or economy. Project proposals should address a pressing sustainability challenge or with focus on a so far under-explored aspect of sustainability, with the potential for long-term impact(s) beyond the fellowship period.



## Relevant course

**Autumn School 2026: Governance, Design and Delivery of Interdisciplinary Higher Education, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 21-25 September 2026**

Deadline: 1 June 2026

[View details and register.](#)

How can universities make interdisciplinarity work in practice? From 21–25 September in Copenhagen, the Autumn School 2026 explores the design, governance, and delivery of interdisciplinary education, addressing both the intellectual and institutional challenges of working across disciplines. The school is designed for those involved in higher education who want to support or drive interdisciplinary initiatives, including:

- Academic leaders responsible for interdisciplinary educational innovation
- Academic staff engaged in interdisciplinary teaching or programme development
- Doctoral supervisors and researchers working across disciplinary boundaries
- Professional staff supporting cross-faculty initiatives.

Participants will explore questions such as: How can different disciplinary traditions engage in meaningful dialogue? How should supervision be organised for interdisciplinary doctoral research? What counts as appropriate evaluation for interdisciplinary work?

The programme combines keynote lectures, masterclasses, workshops, and structured discussions, and marks the launch of the [SPINE](#) project (see above), which examines how infrastructures can support interdisciplinary research and collaboration.



## Relevant conference

**Registration open, Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching UK, University of Edinburgh, 15 April 2026**

[View details and register.](#)

Registration is now open for the [2026 Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching Conference](#), to be held on 16 April 2026, hosted by Edinburgh Futures Institute, at the University of Edinburgh. The conference theme is Interdisciplinary Pathways: Engaging Learners and Creating Opportunities. This year will focus on how interdisciplinarity can be supported, structured and created in different educational contexts, including those before and beyond higher education.



## Call for papers

**Call for Papers, National Interdisciplinary Education conference (NIE 2026), Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 29 October 2026**

**Deadline: 15 April 2026**  
[View call and submit.](#)

The National Interdisciplinary Education conference 2026 ([NIE 2026](#)) will take place on October 29, 2026 at Radboud University Nijmegen in The Netherlands. This conference seeks to explore how disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity intersect, conflict, complement, and co-evolve within the context of higher education teaching and learning. Iris van der Tuin of Utrecht University, an ITD Alliance institutional member, will be the plenary keynote speaker.



## 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/>.