OVERVIEW

Transdisciplinary Research at the Science | Society Interface

Leuphana University Lüneburg is pleased to invite you to the 5th Td Summer School in Lüneburg, Germany. The Td Summer School offers a 5-day intensive training (Td Training Module) on transdisciplinary research preparing researchers and practitioners for transformative research on societal challenges at the science | society interface. Both, theoretical and methodological foundations as well as experiences in designing and implementing transdisciplinary research processes will be gained.

A special focus is on broadening the participants’ disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective towards a transdisciplinary approach and on enabling practitioners to elaborate their role in transdisciplinary research processes. Subsequently, a 2-day special training on photographic research practice in transdisciplinary projects through Generative Picturing will be offered (Special Training) in cooperation with the Paulo Freire Center in Vienna and ipsum, an association for intercultural dialogue, art and education. Bringing together scientists and practitioners in the Td Summer School allows for experiencing multiperspectivity and a joint elaboration of roles, tasks and responsibilities in cooperative research and transformation of societal challenges.

Training Objectives
— Understanding the emergence of transdisciplinary research in the context of societal changes
— Getting familiar with different transdisciplinary research methodologies and process designs
— Acquiring competences in methods for inter- and transdisciplinary research: mutual learning and knowledge integration methods, methods of boundary-work, validation and assessments
— Exploring how to broaden the participants’ disciplinary and interdisciplinary research by adopting principles of transdisciplinary research
— Identifying different functions of transdisciplinary processes and roles of involved parties

Target Group
The Td Summer School addresses researchers and practitioners (for example, policy makers, managers from industries, the public sector, NGO representatives) from all disciplines and societal fields as well as graduate students with research experience who want to develop their research and professional activities at the science | society interface towards transdisciplinary approaches.

Td TRAINING MODULE (28 AUG – 02 SEP)

During the Td Training Module we will provide both, theoretical foundations and practical experiences in designing transdisciplinary research processes. You will gain insights in different methodologies and frameworks, principles and design elements of transdisciplinary research and get an overview on methods of inter- and transdisciplinary research. During two days we will elaborate case study designs in small groups. It is our overall objective to create strong links to your professional fields and will therefore select the cases based on suggestions from the participants.

For program details see:
» www.leuphana.de/td-training
Photographic Research Practice in Transdisciplinary Projects: Generative Picturing

In Paulo Freire’s concept, dialogue is based on the complementary elements of action and reflection that constitute praxis as transformation. In the Special Training this concept will be transferred to the impact of visual research methods in transdisciplinary projects. Working with photography and the different roles that can be taken in that context allows for a reflection of images of self and other. This reflection can spark off critical discussions of apparently clear answers. Especially in situations of cultural difference, such as development and sustainability research or projects in the field of intercultural communication, photographic practice with all its interaction levels – acting, perceiving, reading and communicating – can be used to approach questions, topics and knowledge that are relevant to the people involved. Exploring the inbetween through photographic research practice in situations of cultural difference allows for critically reflecting on societal conditions, taking action and experiencing alternative forms of knowledge generation.

Training Objectives

— Experiencing photography as a means of expression, dialogue and research.

— Learning about divers visual approaches in the field of social science that can be useful in transdisciplinary projects.

— Focusing on research elements such as process-orientation, iteration, participation and performativity in order to open up a research space in which the interpretative authority does not remain within the realms of scientists alone.

— Experiencing Generative Picturing as an approach for research and mutual learning that goes beyond procedures of pure depiction and production of evidence.

Paulo Freire Center Vienna

The Paulo Freire Center for Transdisciplinary Development Research and Dialogical Education in Vienna was founded in 2004. The Paulo Freire Center offers space for the reflection of political practice. It considers practice (action and reflection) in research, education and politics as part of a process, which ultimately aims at the abolition of oppression. The Paulo Freire Center advocates knowledge as public property.

ipsum

ipsum is an association that works on an international level in the field of intercultural dialogue, art and education. ipsum-projects mainly focus on exchange through pictures, images, views and stories within and beyond cultural boundaries, thus providing a polylogic platform to learn about and from each other. ipsum was founded in 2003 and realized projects in several countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

TRAINERS

— Prof. Dr. ULI VILSMAIER, Leuphana University Lüneburg // Junior Professor for Transdisciplinary Methods and member of the Center of Methods and Institute of Ethics and Transdisciplinary Sustainability Science.

— Prof. Dr. DANIEL J. LANG, Leuphana University Lüneburg // Professor for Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research and Dean of the Faculty of Sustainability.

— Dr. BIANCA VIENNI BAPTISTA, Universidad de la República, Uruguay // Assistant Professor for Interdisciplinary Studies and Leuphana University Lüneburg // Post-doctoral researcher in interdisciplinary studies at the Center of Methods.

— VERA BRANDNER, University of Vienna and Leuphana University Lüneburg // Lecturer and PhD project on photographic practice in situations of cultural difference; photographer; head of the NGO ipsum implementing intercultural projects through photography.

— Dr. GUIDO CANIGLIA, Leuphana University Lüneburg // Post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Ethics and Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research.

— REBECCA FREETH, Leuphana University Lüneburg // PhD project on epistemic living spaces in Sustainability Science // Member of the Center of Methods and researcher with the Leverage Points Project for Sustainable Transitions; facilitator in South Africa.

— ESTHER MEYER, Leuphana University Lüneburg // PhD project on discourses of transdisciplinary Sustainability Science; Member of the Center of Methods and Institute of Ethics and Transdisciplinary Sustainability Science.

ORGANIZATION

Key Dates

28 Aug  — Opening event (starting in the evening)
29 Aug – 02 Sep — Td Training Module
03 Sep – 04 Sep — Weekend Program
05 Sep – 06 Sep — Special Training Module (starting in the evening)

We offer scholarships for participants with low economic resources. If interested, please contact us.

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT

Due to a limitation of participants to 25, we ask you to send us your CV, motivation and outline of your current professional activities until 14 June 2016 to td_training@leuphana.de.

Your participation will be confirmed until 21 June 2016.