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Newsletter #03/2025

As the days grow longer and the air warmer, May invites us to slow down, spend time outdoors, and enjoy the blossoming of early summer. It's a time of transition - and we're feeling that too, as we approach the end of the tdAcademy project.

With this, we share our last regular tdAcademy newsletter. For continued updates to insights, and capacity building from the community of transdisciplinary and participatory research, we warmly invite you to subscribe to the GTPF newsletter. Until the end of 2026, we will continue to keep you informed on the tdAcademy website about the follow-ups to our research - for example, upcoming publications.

Before we say goodbye, we still have highlights to share: We're proud that several of our tdAcademy team members have received recognition for their work by **GAIA Best Paper Award 2024** - congratulations to all of them! We are also delighted to share impressions from the first **GTPF conference** organized in cooperation with the tdAcademy.

In addition, this newsletter features **five new blog posts by our fellows** that offer a glimpse into their work. And in our Capacity Building section you'll now find a new **video series on Transdisciplinary Interface Management (TIM)** available to watch online.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce the next **Let's talk about it** session on **May 21, 2025**. And last, but not least: The **Call for Participation for PartWiss 2025** is open! Make sure to contribute with your ideas.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Update | End of tdAcademy project

The tdAcademy will complete its intensive research and networking efforts end of May 2025 after five years. Our website will continue to exist at least until the end of 2026, but there will only be occasional additions, as e.g. further publications of the tdAcademy team which are still in preparation or review. To facilitate the transition, we have compiled a short update about what the tdAcademy has achieved and how the different functions will be continued by the Society for Transdisciplinary and Participatory Research (GTPF).

Learn more

GTPF Newsletter | Subscribe here!

With the conclusion of tdAcademy as a vibrant platform for research and exchange on transdisciplinary and transformative research, much of what was initiated by tdAcademy continues to live on in the newly established GTPF community. Receive regular updates from the GTPF and the field of transdisciplinary and participatory research, as well as relevant job postings from our supporting members. This newsletter is currently published about once per quarter. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Subscribe here

Update | Looking back on the 1st GTPF Annual Conference

The first annual conference of the [Society for Transdisciplinary and Participatory Research e.V. (GTPF)](#) on April 2-3, 2025 offered an inspiring forum for exchange and networking under the theme "New horizons in transdisciplinary research". The event was organized in close cooperation with the research platform tdAcademy and offered presentations, lively discussions and valuable insights into the practice and theory of transdisciplinary work. Check out our short documentation with picture gallery and video of the welcoming speech by State Secretary Dr. Karl-Eugen Huthmacher.

Check out

Update | tdAcademy members winning GAIA Best Paper Award 2024

We congratulate our tdAcademy team member Daniel Lang for winning the *GAIA* Best Paper Award 2024 together with Oliver Parodi, Susanne Ober and Marius Albiez! Their paper, [Real-World Lab versus Real-World Experiment: What Makes the Difference?](#), was recognized for its outstanding contribution. In addition, GAIA's Editorial Board has given an honorable mention to further tdAcademy members Jasmin Wiefek, Emilia Nagy and Martina Schäfer for: [Formative evaluation of transdisciplinary research for systemic impact orientation in real-world laboratories](#).

Check out

Event | May 28 | Deadline: PartWiss 25 Call for Participation now online!

The deadline for submitting your proposals to the PartWiss 25 conference is fast approaching! PartWiss 25 is a conference for exchange on how transdisciplinary and participatory research projects, together with Citizen Science actors, can learn with and from each other to foster innovation and impact in science, politics, and practice.
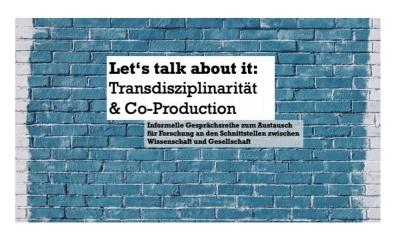
Submit your **proposals for sessions and workshops** by **May 28**. A second step in July/August will be open for applications for lectures, posters, exhibits, and performances.

Check out

Event | May 21, 16:30 – 18:00 | Let's talk about it: Boundary work in TDR

How do we draw boundaries in transdisciplinary research - and what happens when we cross them? In this next session of *Let's talk about it*, we welcome **Dr. Nikola Nölle** and **Miriam Welz** to provide insights on the often-invisible negotiations that shape collaboration between science and society. We want to bring some light to the black box of "boundary work". This informal dialogue series invites personal reflections and shared learning among researchers who work across disciplines and sectors. Please write to lets.talk@gtpf.science to register.

Read more

Update | Blog Post | Ways to Systematise Methods

As short-term fellow of the tdAcademy at the Oeko-Institute in March 2025, Julia Backhaus investigated the systematisation of methods for transdisciplinary research. The resulting taxonomy will support research in and on the Built and Lived Environment (BLE) at RWTH

Update | Blog Post | Building Infrastructure for Transdisciplinary Amplification Processes

What if the key to global sustainability lies in how we collaborate, document and learn? Luis explores how strategic infrastructures can boost transdisciplinary research - and how institutions can become hubs in a global network for transformative change. Luis Antonio

Aachen University. Starting with a collection of 33 methods contributed by BLE members, she aimed to systematize and structure these methods into a coherent framework in order to develop a prototype of the BLE toolbox. To ensure accessibility, a wiki approach is adopted in order to turn the toolbox into an open and living platform.

Learn more

Bojórquez Tapia from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) was a guest at ITAS – Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis – in February 2025. His research focuses on digital and institutional infrastructures that enhance the impact of transdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer.

Check out

Update | Blog Post | Training Experts to Facilitate Impactful Collaboration between Science and Practice for Sustainability

In this blog post, the tdAcademy fellow group "Training Program for Transdisciplinary Interface Managers (TIM)" outlines the development of a structured training initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration between science and practice. The program differentiates between institutional and project-level TI-Managers, providing tailored guidance for building supportive environments and fostering meaningful partnerships. Reviewed by an international panel of experts, the program was refined to ensure its relevance across various contexts. This is an early milestone in broader efforts to advance TIM training and build a community of practice on TIM.

Check out

Capacity Building | Video series "Evidence from the Field" on Transdisciplinary Interface Management (TIM)

The "Evidence from the Field" video series offers insights into Transdisciplinary Interface Management (TIM). Through real-world examples, the series highlights the challenges and practical solutions TI-Managers face in sustainability research and implementation. These contributions from tdAcademy fellows and further experts are a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and anyone involved in transdisciplinary work who wants to better understand how to bridge the gap between academic research and practical application.

Learn more

Update | Blog Post | Transdisciplinary Research and its Scientific Impact

The final report from the tdAcademy fellow group "Transdisciplinary Research and its Scientific Impact" investigates how transdisciplinary research (TDR) influences scientific knowledge production, particularly within sustainability and health research. Through bibliometric analyses and workshops, the study identifies key research communities and highlights that TDR is predominantly applied in isolated clusters, suggesting untapped potential for interdisciplinary integration. The findings underscore the need for enhanced collaboration between sustainability and health research to fully leverage TDR's capacity to address complex societal challenges.

Check out

Update | Blog Post | Transformative Potentials of Arts-based Approaches in Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research Collaborations

How can art help us tackle complex societal challenges and spark real transformation? In this blog post, tdAcademy fellow Dr. Iris Mencke shares insights from her fellowship at the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE), exploring the power of arts-based methods in inter- and transdisciplinary research. From visual storytelling to embodied practices, these creative approaches open up new ways of knowing, connecting, and learning. Discover why the arts deserve a stronger place in collaborative research for sustainability and change. A recording of her webinar on Arts-based Approaches will be online soon, too.

Learn more

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