



LEIBNIZ ENRICHMENT 2025

Transdisciplinarity as integral part of research practice in spatial sciences



January 28-29, 2025



Großer Besprechungsraum, 4th floor, ARL-Geschäftsstelle, Vahrenwalder Str. 247, 30179 Hannover

■ Day 1 | 28.01.2025

- 13:15 - 13:30** Arrival and Registration
- 13:30 - 13:40** Welcoming and introduction
- 13:40 - 14:00** Participant introduction round
- 14:00 - 16:00** Lecture with discussion:
“Creating space for transdisciplinary research”
by apl. Prof. Dr. Ulli Vilsmaier, Responsive Research Collective, Switzerland
- 16:00 - 16:20** Coffee Break
- 16:20 - 17:20** Group work: exploration of participants’ research related to transdisciplinarity
- 17:20 - 17:30** Wrap up of the day and preview of the next day
- 19:00** Joint dinner

■ Day 2 | 29.01.2025

- 09:45 - 10:00** Arrival to the venue
- 10:00 - 12:45** Workshop on transdisciplinary research methodologies:
“How to conduct transdisciplinary research: principles, practices and procedures” by Ulli Vilsmaier
- 12:45 - 13:30** Lunch Break
- 14:00 - 16:00** Excursion

■ Workshop Description

Transdisciplinary research is gaining increasing importance in tackling pressing problems of our times. It provides great opportunities for spatial sciences that not only seeks to understand and explain spatial phenomena, but also to contribute to transformations of concrete situations, as transdisciplinary research allows for creating space where knowledge production, action and collective learning are entwined. As collaborative mode of research for complex problems it involves different disciplines, societal domains and communities. Its methodological approaches aim at mobilizing different perspectives and resources and allow for pursuing multiple objectives, such as epistemic objectives, the improvement of a situation, or organizational procedures.

However, despite its huge potential, transdisciplinarity remains a significant challenge in academia and holds the potential of becoming the next buzzword and oxymoron. Instead of celebrating a reunification of the separated spheres of 'science and society', it is necessary to clarify crucial questions related to our understanding of research and whom to consider a researcher, the specific epistemic qualities of data gathered with scientific methods and through everyday experiences, as well as the role of academics in societal transformations, to name just a few of the issues at stake.

With this workshop we invite you to engage in the discussion! We offer a space for

- clarifying terminology (multi-inter-pluri-trans...), epistemological questions and different boundary-crossing and boundary spanning methodological approaches;
- exploring the character and potential of your envisioned or on-going research related to transdisciplinarity;
- discussing the role(s) of spatial scientists and other representatives of diverse sectors and communities in spatial research, and
- connecting with other workshop participants to create and enrich communities of transdisciplinary research practices in the Leibniz Association.

■ Lecturer

Ulli Vilsmaier is a Geographer by training and an internationally experienced expert in inter- and transdisciplinarity. She is specialized in designing, accompanying, implementing and evaluating boundary-crossing research and develops methods for boundary work and integration. She has large experience with research and higher education development worldwide and particular interest in transformations of academic institutions. Her dialogue orientation aims at personal and professional growth of people and communities while constituting spaces for intercultural and inter-institutional learning and transformative research (Source: [Microsoft Word - CV_Vilsmaier_2024.doc](#)).

■ Dinner (Tuesday night)

Our joint dinner will take place at the restaurant Spandau. The restaurant serves fresh and international cuisine and will offer us a selection of vegetarian and vegan dishes that evening. The ARL will cover the cost of one main course for all participants. The drinks, unfortunately, should be covered from your pocket. The Spandau is located in the Nordstadt of Hanover. Due to the nearby Leibniz University, this part of town is particularly popular with students. So, after dinner, you can explore the nightlife in the many bars and cafés nearby. But the Spandau itself is also a popular place to enjoy a drink. The nearest underground/light rail line station is “Christuskirche”. Lines 6 and 11 will take you to the city centre.

www.spandauprojekt.de

■ Excursion

For our excursion we will visit the PLATZprojekt in Hanover Linden. This project is a real-life laboratory that aims to create a new community in the urban space. In essence, it offers a place for people to get creative, try out new ways of living in a city and be part of a solidary and sustainable community. During the tour, we will get to know the project, its goals and background as well as the people behind it. In particular, we will also get a look at how it is designed as a (transdisciplinary) scientific project and what experiences the participants have gained.

Most of the tour will take place outdoors. Very warm and weatherproof clothing is strongly recommended!

www.platzprojekt.de

■ How to get to the ARL

The ARL is situated in the North of Hannover. By Public Transport you can reach the ARL as follows: At the main station, head towards Raschplatz/Nordostausgang and use the escalators to the lower level. Take the subway/light rail line 1 with destination “Langenhagen” and get off at “Kabelkamp” (7 stops). Travel time: 10 minutes. Coming from the city center, cross Vahrenwalder Straße to the left in the direction of travel and turn left at the main entrance of the TessnerOfficeBuilding (TOB) until you reach the passageway into the inner courtyard. Cross this and enter the building via the staircase E/F opposite. The ARL office is located on the 4th floor, to the right of the elevators.

