OVERVIEW

Transdisciplinary Research at the Science | Society Interface

Leuphana University Lüneburg is pleased to invite you to the 3rd Td Summer School in Lüneburg, Germany.

The Td Summer School offers a 5-day intensive training (Td Training Module) in 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 research towards a transdisciplinary approach and on enabling practitioners to elaborate their role in transdisciplinary research processes. Subsequently, a 2-day special training on mutual learning in urban climate change adaptation will be offered (Special Training Module) in cooperation with the Climate Service Center Hamburg, Germany.

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
- Aquiring 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 respective 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.
Climate Change Adaptation – a Transdisciplinary Challenge

Climate Change information is mainly gained in scientific communities and often not applicable to societal fields where adaptation strategies to climate change require knowledge and efforts from different sectors. For instance, cities facing floods, droughts or heat waves do not only need the environmental efforts, but also legal, institutional and technical support and behavioral change. Thus in this field cooperative knowledge production through mutual learning and knowledge integration between scientists of different disciplines and practitioners is required to decide on climate change adaptation measures.

Training Objectives
The training aims at providing an overview on core challenges of climate change adaptation of cities and the particular conditions for transdisciplinary research in this field. The participants will be trained in establishing case based Mutual Learning Sessions (cMLS) – a format for mutual learning and knowledge integration and transfer – for different constellations and objectives. They will further elaborate exemplary strategies for climate change adaptation in the city that are based on transdisciplinary research. The city of Hamburg, situated at the Elbe river with an important marine port, threatened by increasing sedimentation, and the constant threat of storm surges, and its adaptation action plan will be used as an example and to face an interrelated challenge at different scales: The participants of the Special Training Module will

- gain insight in the multifaceted problems that cities face with climate change adaptation
- get familiar with methods to implement mutual learning processes that tackle problems of climate change adaptation
- have the chance to exchange experiences on transdisciplinary research in climate change adaptation on the local, regional, national and international level.

Climate Service Center Germany/HZG
A team of natural scientists, economists, political scientists and communication specialists are working together at the Climate Service Center (CSC). Their tasks are refining the knowledge derived from climate research in a practice-oriented way and helping with consultancy referring to climate change and impacts. To shape the different projects and prototypes the Climate Service Center cooperates with practitioners in transdisciplinary processes. CSC belongs to the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG) and is situated in Hamburg.

TRAI NERS

- Prof. Dr. ULLI VILSMAIER, Leuphana University Lüneburg. // Junior Professor for Transdisciplinary Methods and member of the Center for 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. MATTHIAS BERSMANN, Leuphana University Lüneburg and ISDE Frankfurt. // Visiting scientist at the Institute of Ethics and Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research, member of the Institute for Social-Ecological Research.
- MORITZ ENGERS, Leuphana University Lüneburg // PhD project on transdisciplinarity and interculturality; trainings in facilitation, communication and project management.
- VERA BRANDNER, Leuphana University Lüneburg // PhD project on developing photographic and visual methods for intercultural and transdisciplinary projects; photographer.
- JO-TING HUANG, TUD Dresden and Climate Service Center/HZG // PhD project on economic opportunities of climate change adaptation in cities; transdisciplinary processes.
- PD Dr. STEFFEN BENDER, Climate Service Center/HZG and Ruhr-University Bochum // Science officer for climate change impacts on terrestrial water systems and adaptation strategies in urban areas.
- SUSANNE SCHUCK-ZÖLLER, Climate Service Center/HZG // Coordinates the network of scientific partners and organizes transdisciplinary processes and as well research on transdisciplinarity.
- HELGA SCHENK, officer in the administration (Behörde für Stadtentwicklung und Umweltschutz) of the City of Hamburg, in charge of the issue of climate change and adaptation // Coordination of adaptation strategy and action plan as well as funding of special measures.

ORGANIZATION

Key Dates
31 Aug Opening event (evening)
1 – 5 Sept Td Training Module
6 – 7 Sept Weekend program
8 – 9 Sept Special Training Module

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

Registration and Contact
Due to a limitation of participants to 20, we ask you to send us your CV, motivation and outline of your current professional activities until June 15, 2014 to td_training@leuphana.de. Your participation will be confirmed until June 20, 2014.

COSTS
Participation fee for the Td Training Module is 300 €, for the Special Training 150 €. Participants combining both modules are charged 400 €. The fees include:
- Opening evening event
- Snacks and coffee during the sessions
- Dinner at a local brewery
- City Tour in Lüneburg

ACCOMMODATION
We provided rooms in several hotels and hostels in three different price categories (30 – 110 Euros per night). Further information and booking support can be found on our homepage: www.leuphana.de/td-training