



International
Science Council



NORFACE
NETWORK

BELMONT
FORUM



Sida
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Welcome to the T2S Programme Final Meeting 15–17 November 2022 Paris

Transformations
to Sustainability

Framing This Meeting

History • Highlights • Homage

Susi Moser

Senior Program Advisor

T2S Program • International Science Council

THE T2S PROGRAM – IN A NUTSHELL



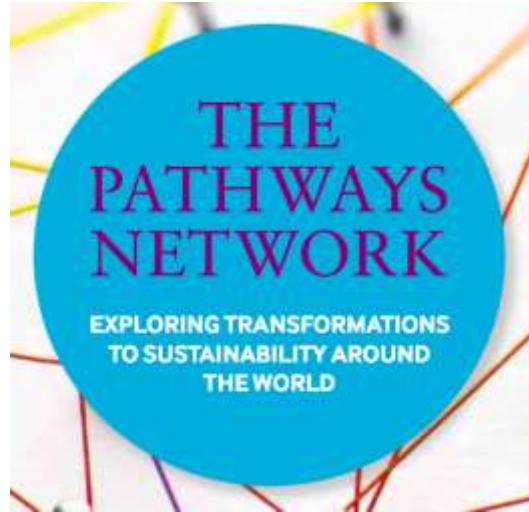
Photo credit: Andres Liévano García

- Supporting **research projects** on transformations to sustainability:
 - **38 seed grants** (2014–2015)
 - **3 Transformative Knowledge Networks** (2016–2018)
 - **12 collaborative research projects** (2018-2021)
- Fostering **knowledge exchange** and building a **research community** around transformations to sustainability.
- Establishing an **open knowledge base** on transformations to sustainability for the academic and practitioner community

Phase 1: 3 TRANSFORMATIVE KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS, 2016-2019



**Academic-Activist Co-produced
Knowledge for Environmental
Justice**

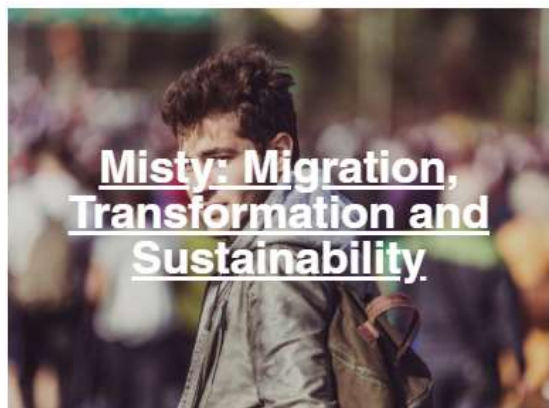


**Transformative pathways to
sustainability: learning across
disciplines, contexts and cultures**



**Transgressive social learning for
social-ecological sustainability in
times of climate change**

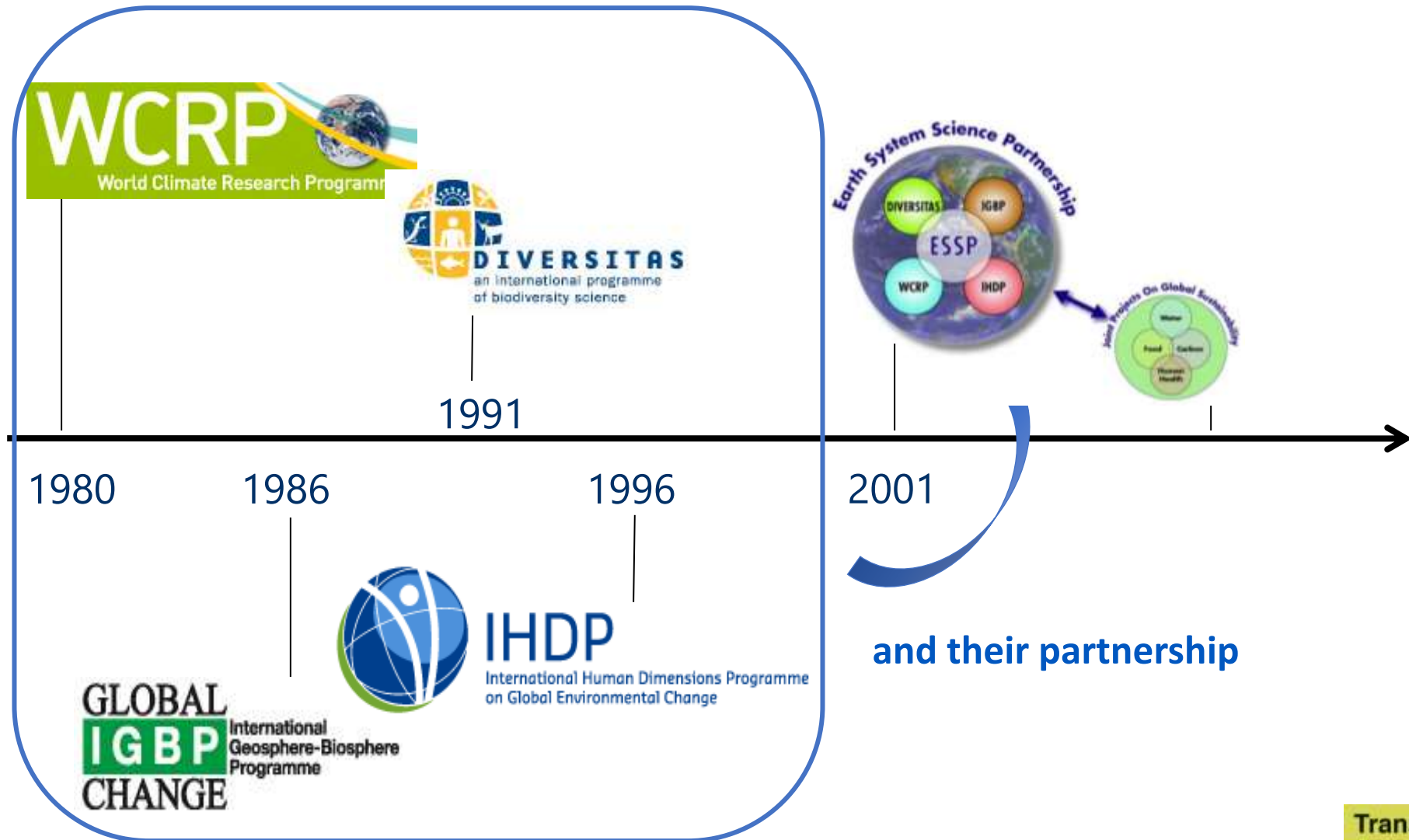
Phase 2: 12 BELMONT FORUM–NORFACE PROJECTS, 2018-2021





Origins

ORIGINS OF THE T2S PROGRAMME



**Transformations
to Sustainability**

ORIGINS OF THE T2S PROGRAMME



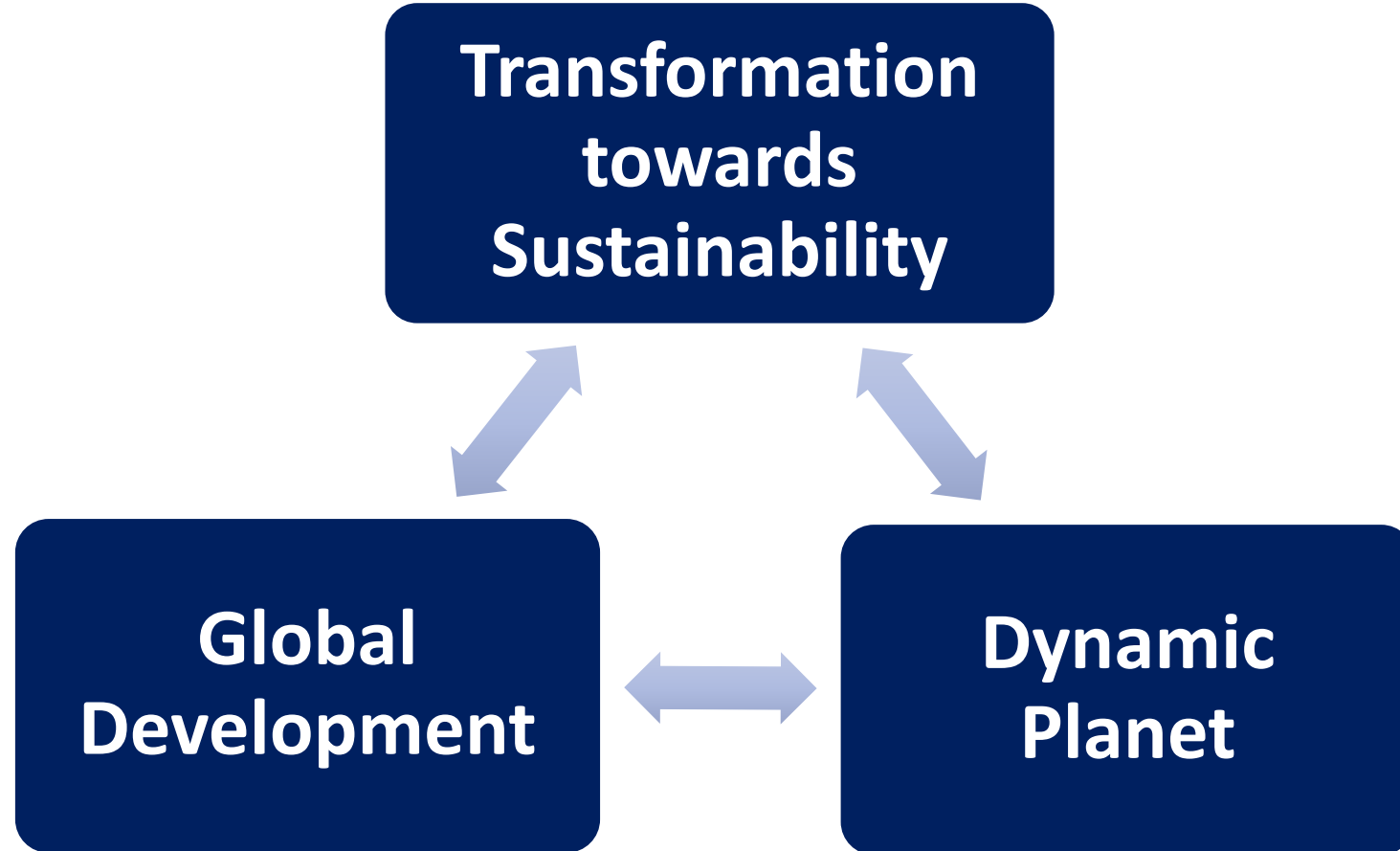
ORIGINS OF THE T2S PROGRAMME

S&T Alliance for Global Sustainability



ORIGINS OF THE T2S PROGRAMME

Future Earth research themes



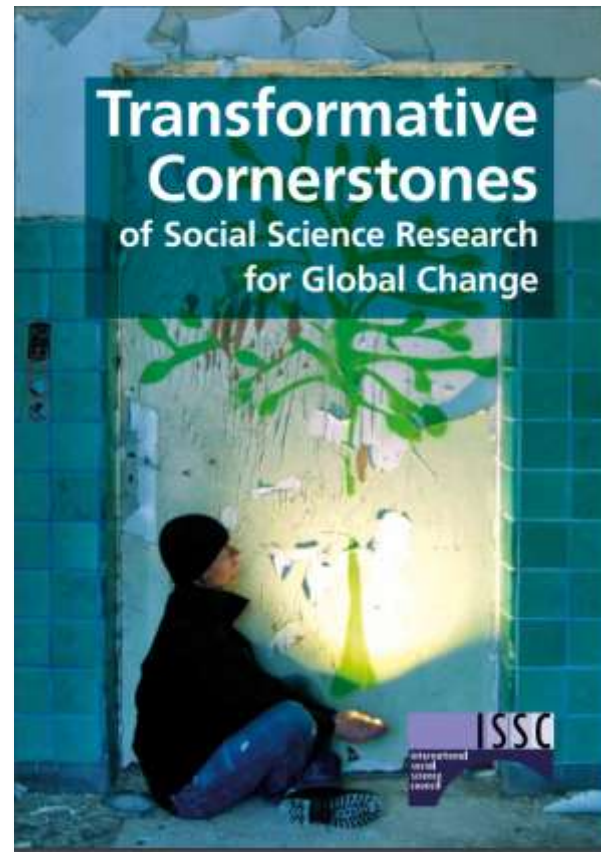
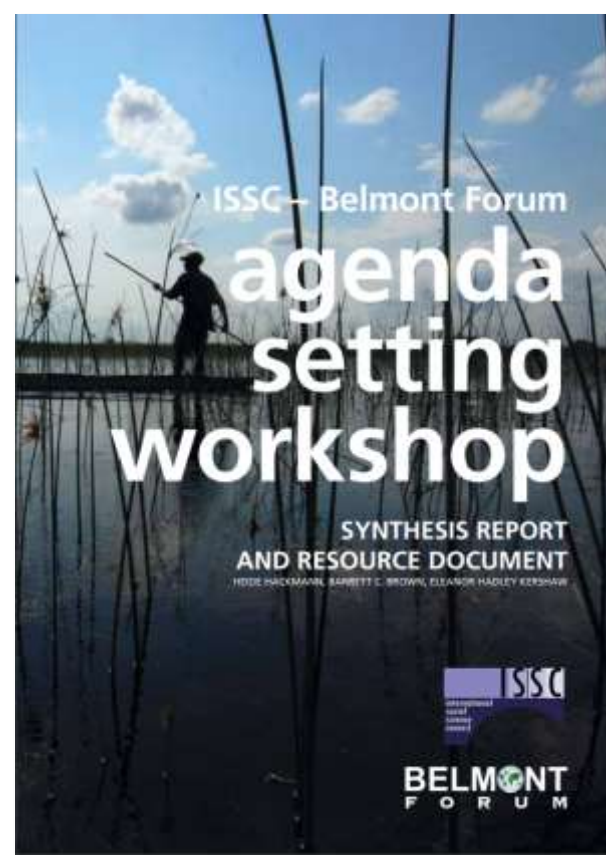
ORIGINS OF THE T2S PROGRAMME

2011

2012

2013

2014



Transformations to Sustainability

The ISSC vision for the T2S programme

An openly accessible global knowledge base on social transformation that informs effective and equitable solutions to the urgent problems of global change and sustainability





Program Goals & Principles

Putting the social sciences and
humanities at the heart of
research on sustainability

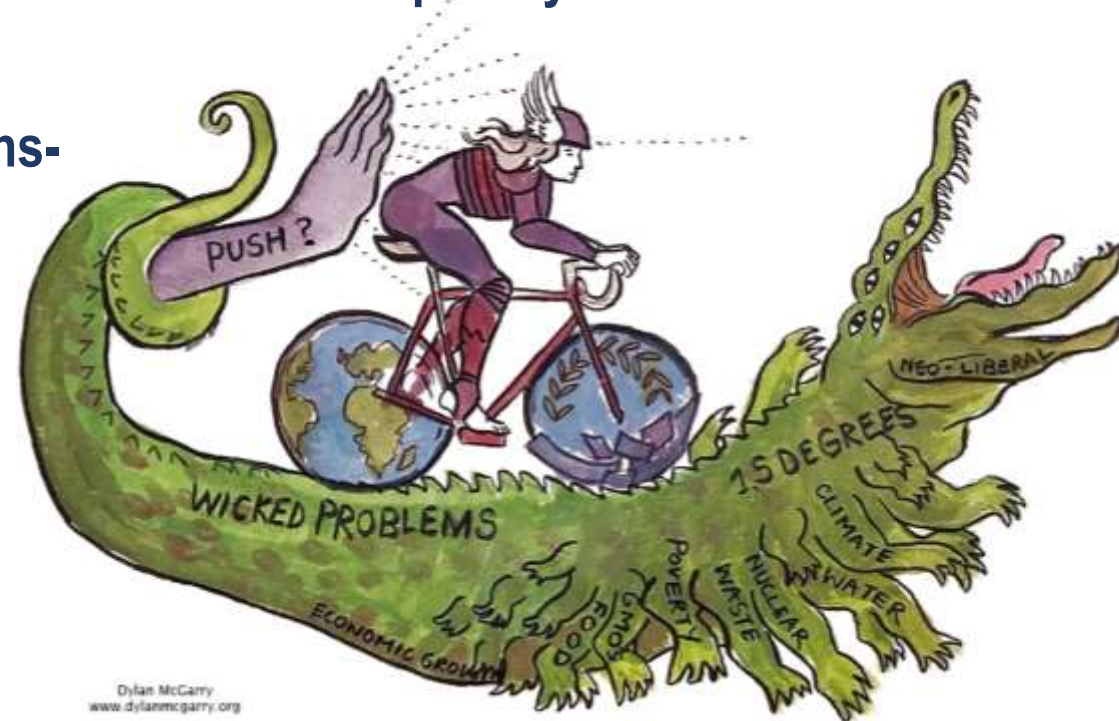
Main objectives

- **Increase the social science (incl. behavioural and economic science) contributions** necessary to craft more effective, equitable and transformative solutions to the problems of global change and sustainability
- **Increase the use of such knowledge** by policy makers, practitioners, the private sector, citizens and activists



Programme principles

- The *social* in the causes of and possible solutions to environmental change and degradation → **social science framing and leadership**
- The global, interconnected nature of transformations to sustainability → **transnational, North–South collaboration**
- The need to bring all relevant knowledge to the table → **interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research**
- The need for actionable knowledge → **solutions-oriented research**
- The need for more capability to do research of this type → **capacity building**
- The need to learn from and share what we're doing → **reflexivity**



Added value



- **Mobilise** a broader community of **social scientists** to become involved in solutions-oriented research for global sustainability
- Help to **fully integrate them into research initiatives** like Future Earth
- **Make use of the best existing social science knowledge** on social change and transformation
- Support the **development of new approaches to co-design** and co-produce knowledge on social transformation in specific contexts of application
- Provide a basis for **building networks of mutual learning** for transformative change

Added value (cont.)

- Provide **leverage to relevant social science research programmes** at the national level
- **Extend the global reach of other regional/international initiatives**, e.g. JPI Climate on Societal Transformation
- **Infuse knowledge** on social transformations into other Future Earth and Belmont Forum projects
- Extend **collaboration between different types of funders**: research councils, donor agencies, foundations, etc.



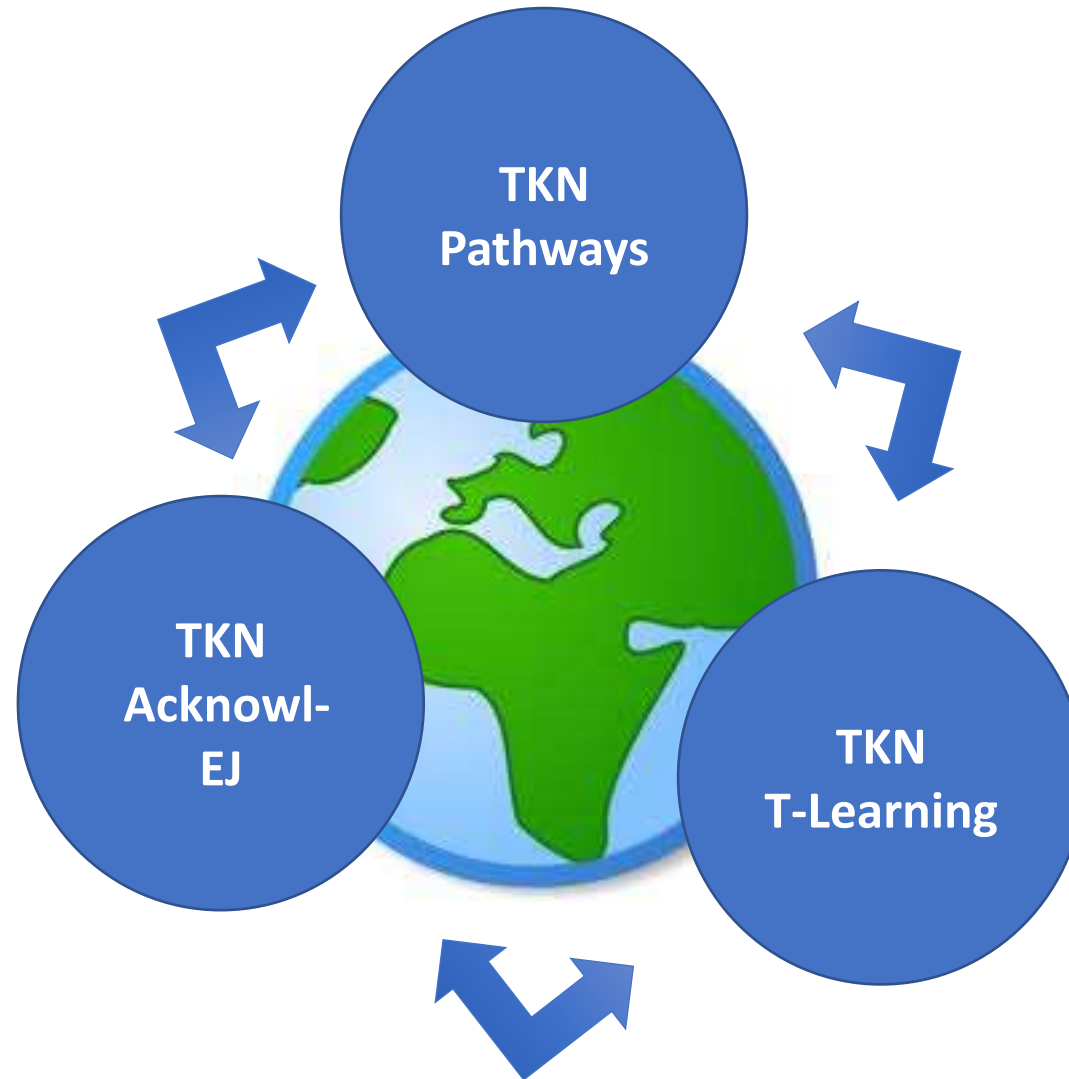
Programme design

Transformative Knowledge Networks

- Social transformation in context (water, climate, health, poverty etc.)
- Solutions-oriented research and mutual learning: co-design and co-production
- €900,000 per network over 3 years

Global knowledge trust

- Annual workshops on social transformations, transformative science

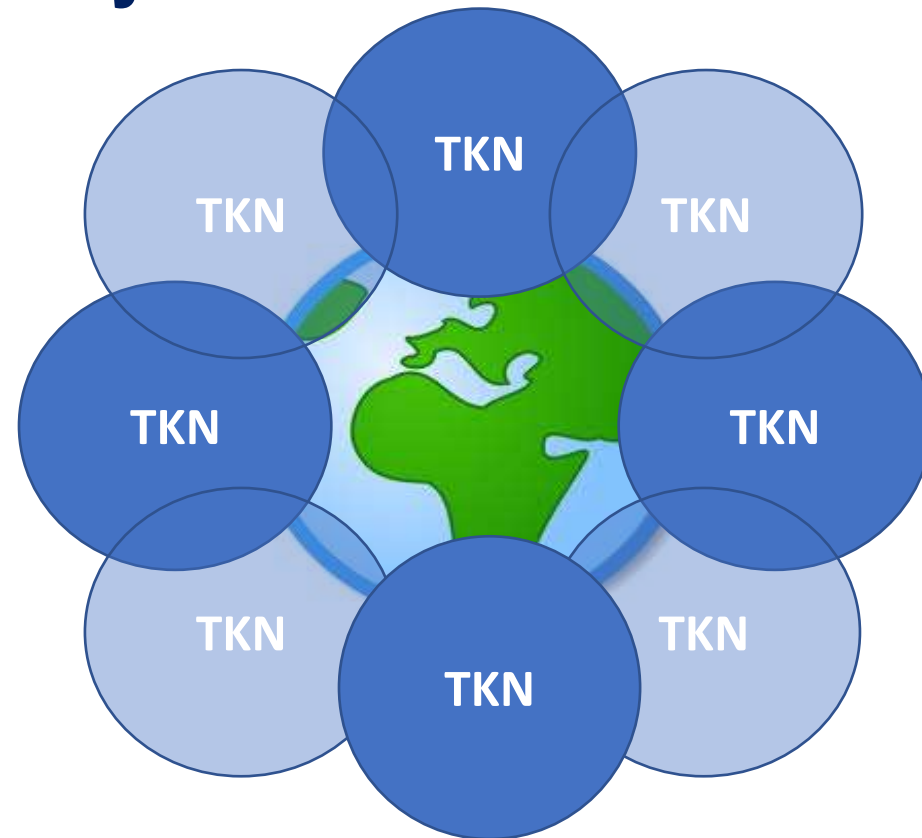


Building a more ambitious programme – a larger transformations community

May 2015 Donors' conference
and scoping workshop

A 2016 ERANET – NORFACE/
Belmont Forum call

Expansion beyond EC/
NORFACE funders

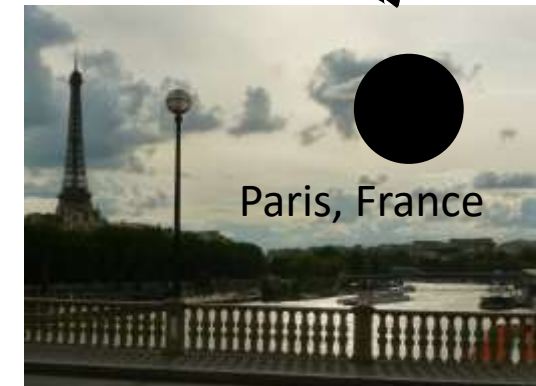
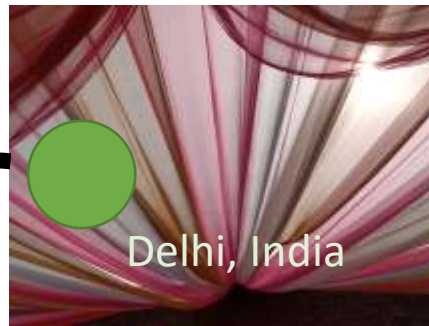


Cross-Project,

- TKN &

- Program Learning

Sites of Transformation



**Transformations
to Sustainability**



1st Transformative Knowledge Workshop

17-19 November 2014

Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam

Foundations of knowledge on transformation



Photos by S. Moser, taken at the 1st TKN Workshop, Potsdam (2014)

2nd Transformative Knowledge Workshop – Durban, 11-12 Sept 2015



Workshop Align & Act

Envision and begin to build
a global knowledge base

Gather and practice tools for
initiating transformative
knowledge research projects



3rd Transformative Knowledge Workshop

Delhi, November 5-8, 2016

Transformations
to Sustainability



Mobilizing for
Transformative
Change Toward
Sustainability &
Social Justice



How does change happen?

Endurance
Knowledge
Common understanding
Belief in personal
Transformation
Threatened
Ability to
Willingness to
reframe
Open to the
Pain
Disruption
Conviction that
Change can
happen
Disturbing yourself
Other Ways of
Thinking
Willing to take
step of faith
Intangibility
Emotional
engagement - Hope
Efficacy
Interaction
Taking
risks
Conflict
Trust
Urgency
Being
Cooperated
opp.
Allowing
the
new
being
born
Empathy
Creativity
Leverage
Connected to a bigger purpose
New
alliances
Empower
to
other
healthier
options



Projects

- Need to bring many different actors together
- Must keep going despite challenges
- Constant identity re-creation
- Networking!!
- Conceptualization of transformation process in flux (agency vs. flow)
- Building on what the movement is asking → reg. basis
- Social capital building
- Dreaming together
- Project must be part of TΔ
- Design for cyclical, dynamic, iterative process
- Humility, Be part, not solely responsible

Transformation



4TH TRANSFORMATIVE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP BUENOS AIRES, 30 NOV – 2 DEC 2017



Advancing methods for
transdisciplinary research
on transformative change



Photos by S. Moser, taken at the 4th TKN Workshop, Buenos Aires (2017)

FUKUOKA 2018: Endings (T2S-1) and beginnings (T2S-2)



Highlights of the past four years



**Transformations
to Sustainability**

ONLINE 2020: The politics of transformative research, in times of COVID

Meet the T2S projects



View project postcards as a PDF [here](#).

Keynote presentation: The politics of (un)making sustainability transformation beyond capitalism

'Unmaking' in transformations to sustainability

"An element of disruption is what enables the emergence of alternative values, practices and institutions."

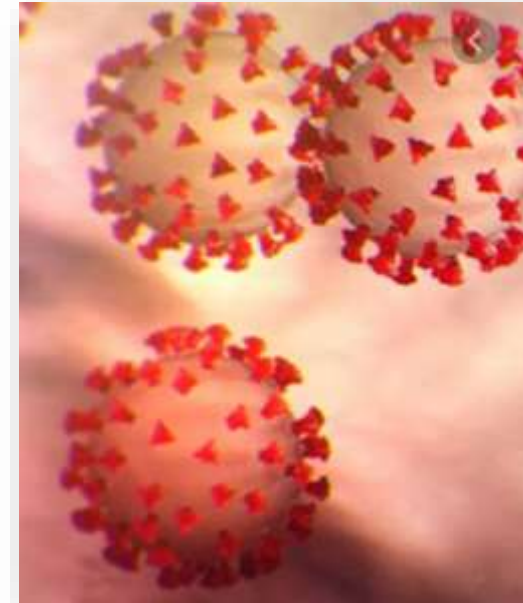
Giuseppe Feola, UNMAKING

Guest speaker, Associate Professor Dr. **Giuseppe Feola**, University of Utrecht, kicked off the workshop with a stimulating keynote talk on 'The politics of (un)making sustainability transformation beyond capitalism' on 28 May.

[Read our interview with Giuseppe Feola: UNMAKING in transformations to sustainability](#)

Recordings of the keynote talk and the other

workshop sessions are available for programme members by request to the T2S team at transformations@council.science.



**Transformations
to Sustainability**

MAPPING THE 15 PROJECTS



Share one insight you've had in the course of your project about engaging with people in research on transformations to sustainability

Resistance to T2S as data: Really imperative to engage powers. Types of uncertainty are critical to empower T2S practice focus	Shared importance of grounding understandings of transformations in the realities of actors on the ground including addressing challenges related to actors who don't want to engage in transformations	It's difficult to put different groups into conversation on a desirable future
So hard to address diverse challenges	Researchers acting as facilitators for concepts	Amazing creativity and dedication to protect, save for and show groundwater - against high pressure to over-exploit
There is a major tension between conducting basic research on transformations (telling public and engaging/motivating participants in research design and problem definition)	How different are people's understandings of 'transformations' and how to motivate different interests including the role of the researcher	The question of temporality: For local people, change is often about here and now so the terms of engagement and the language used probably themselves need to take this into account

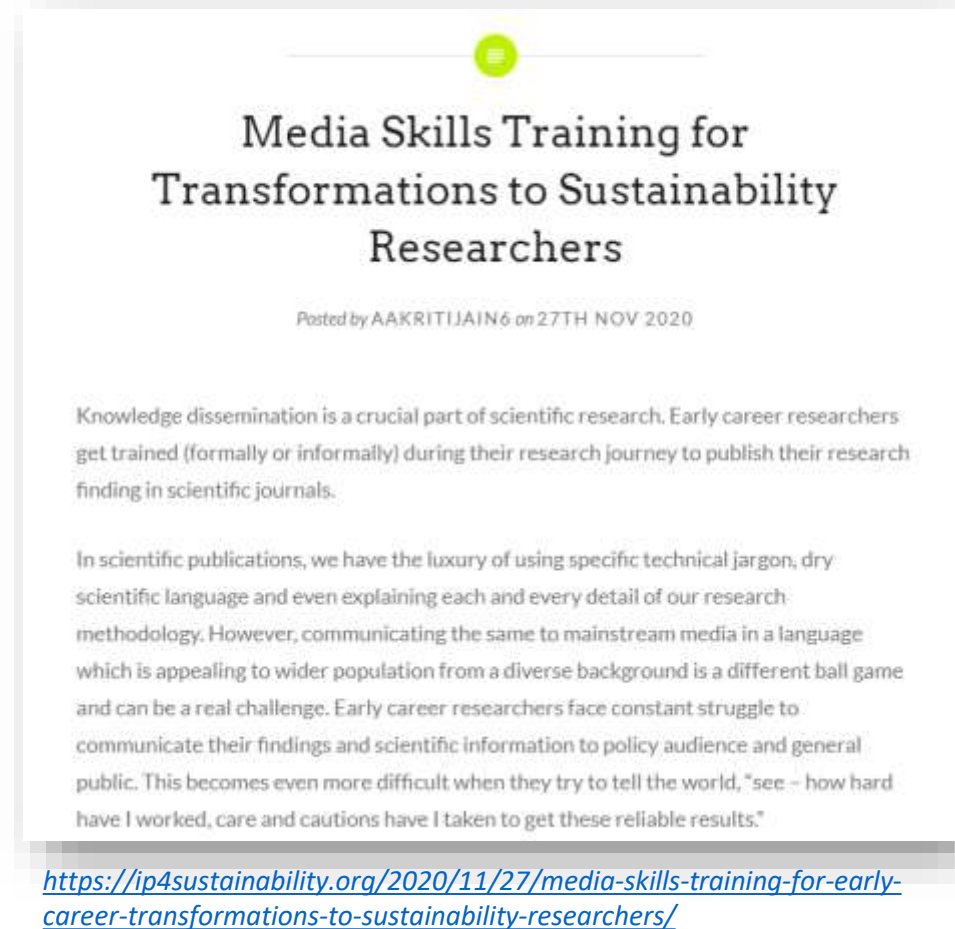
Word cloud powered by www.jasondavies.com; Polling results using Mentimeter during an all-projects meeting; Zoom meeting of T2S project team

**Transformations
to Sustainability**

MEDIA SKILLS TRAINING WITH SciDev.net (24 November 2020)

1. To give early career researchers the skills and confidence to reach policy audiences and the wider public with their research findings through the media.
2. To help researchers:
 - Identify newsworthy information from their research
 - Apply various techniques to make science interesting to the media and public

25 early career participants from all projects registered, 18 completed the course.



Media Skills Training for Transformations to Sustainability Researchers

Posted by AAKRITI JAIN 6 on 27TH NOV 2020

Knowledge dissemination is a crucial part of scientific research. Early career researchers get trained (formally or informally) during their research journey to publish their research finding in scientific journals.

In scientific publications, we have the luxury of using specific technical jargon, dry scientific language and even explaining each and every detail of our research methodology. However, communicating the same to mainstream media in a language which is appealing to wider population from a diverse background is a different ball game and can be a real challenge. Early career researchers face constant struggle to communicate their findings and scientific information to policy audience and general public. This becomes even more difficult when they try to tell the world, "see - how hard have I worked, care and cautions have I taken to get these reliable results."

<https://ip4sustainability.org/2020/11/27/media-skills-training-for-early-career-transformations-to-sustainability-researchers/>

"The course instructor and contents were outstanding and I was able to develop valuable skills and abilities on the subject."

**Transformations
to Sustainability**



Living Aulas Research School 5-9 June 2018 Colombia

Photo credit: Andres Liévano García



COSUST Special Issue (2016)



- And reams of
- Articles
- Anthologies
- Guidebooks
- Special Issues
- Blogs
- Videos
- Etc.



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**Transformations
to Sustainability**

www.t2sresearch.org

Roundtable: What does transformation(s) to sustainability mean today?

4 March 2021



Ulrich Brand
University of Vienna



Karen O'Brien
University of Oslo



Cheikh Mbow
Future Africa

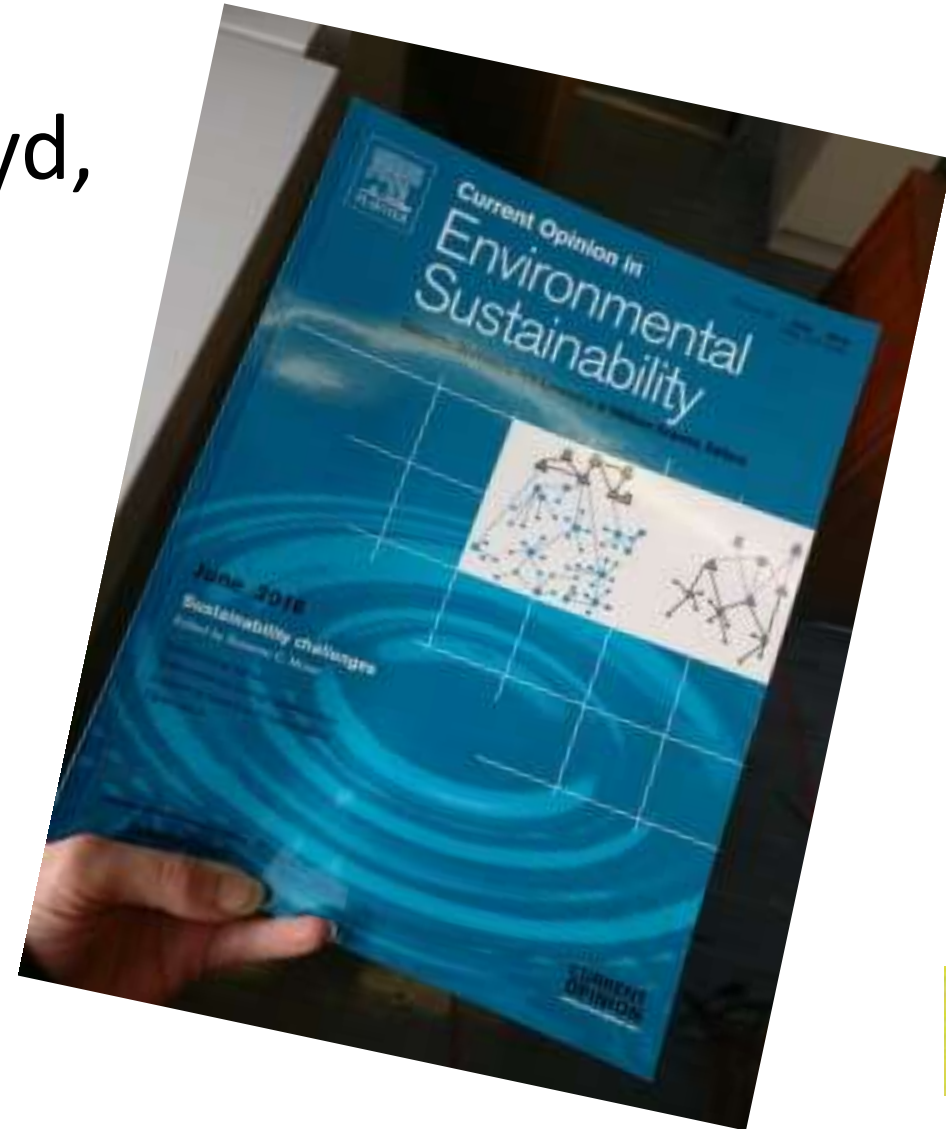


Susanne Moser
T2S programme, ISC

Special issue: 'Critical Social Science Perspectives on Transformations to Sustainability'

Eds. Eleanor Fisher, Emily Boyd,
Eduardo Brondizio

April 2021







**Transformations
to Sustainability**

Dissemination and Communication

ISSC
International Social Science Council

Transformations to Sustainability

			
Petra Tschakert Professor at the School of Earth and Environment University of Western Australia	Frank Geels Professor of System Innovation and Sustainability, Sustainable Consumption Institute University of Manchester	Ioan Fazey Chair of Social Dimensions of Environmental Change University of Dundee	Bronwyn Hayward Director of the Sustainable Citizenship and Civic Imagination Program University of Canterbury



SRI 2022 session

The space between: the relationship between theory, research, practice and policy for transformations to sustainability. Learning from the Transformations to Sustainability programme.




Seedbeds of Transformation, Port Elizabeth





Word cloud created by S. Moser; Transformations conference logos created by conference hosts

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sky is filled with wispy, pink and orange clouds. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, with waves breaking on the shore. The beach is in the foreground. The text "Overview of this Meeting" is overlaid in a black, cursive font.

Overview of this Meeting

PARIS November 15-17, 2022

Meeting objectives

1) Reviewing accomplishments and insights

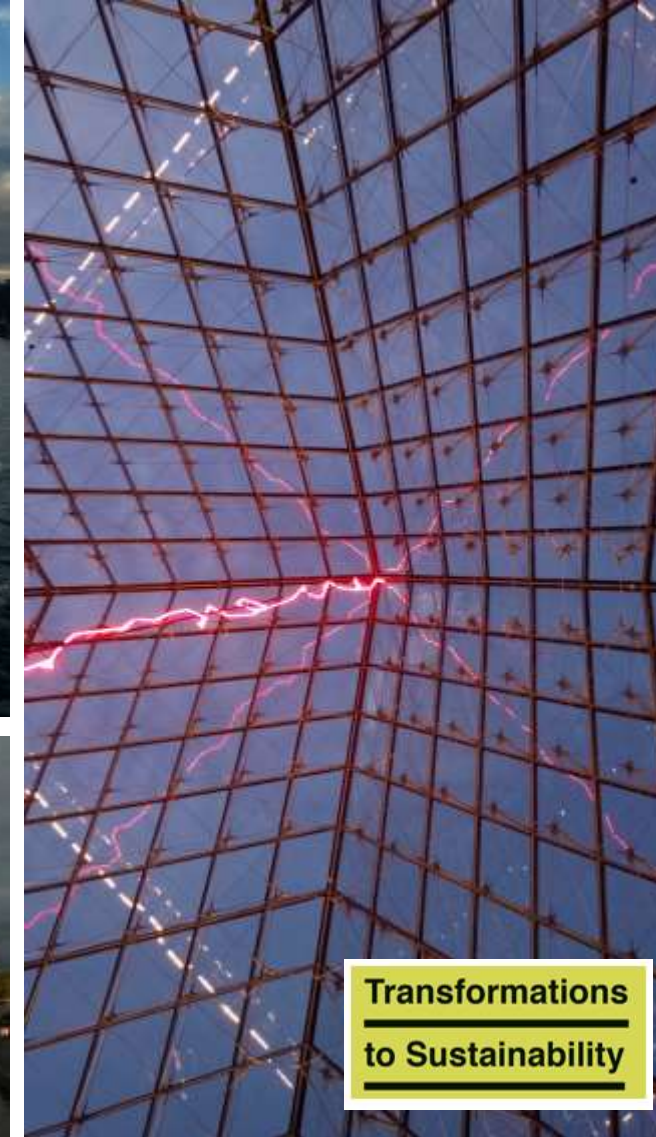
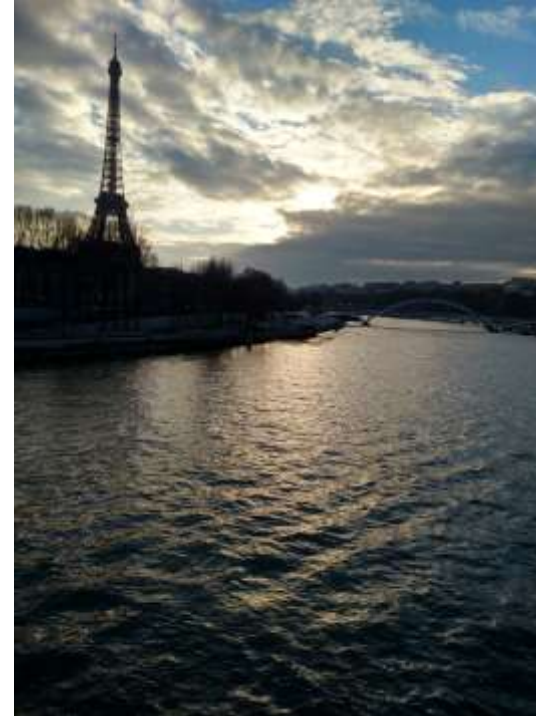
- What has been learned (insights & advances from T2S1 and T2S2)

2) Looking ahead

- Where to go from here (future research directions)

3) Renewing and solidifying the network of researchers

- How to stay connected, strengthen network (continuing and new collaborations, celebrating)



MEETING AGENDA

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Introductions, framing	Focus on project/programme synthesis	Reflections with programme managers/funders
Project marketplace	Focus on research methodologies	Flexible time for collaborative work
	Focus on ending/sustaining transdisciplinary projects	Closing panel (public)
Dinner	Dinner	Departure

CLOSING SESSION

Pivot and Leap: The Urgent Need to Link Transformations Research to Policy and Practice



Neil Adger

University of Exeter

[@NeilAdger](#)



Eleanor Fisher

Nordic Africa Institute

[@EleanorFisher_](#)



Adrian Ely

University of Sussex

[@adrian_ely](#)



Mariana Walter

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



Heide Hackmann

Future Africa, University of Pretoria

[@HeideHackmann](#)

Moderator



Susanne Moser

Senior Advisor to
the Transformations to
Sustainability Programme

Distilling key insights gained over nearly a decade of transformations research to address the all-important “how” question: how to bring the key lessons into policy and practice and foster transformative change on the ground.

**Transformations
to Sustainability**



Homage



Pravin Kushwaha (†2021)



Non-academic partners



Research teams



Early-career researchers



Advisory Group and Senior Project Leads



BELMONT FORUM-NORFACE PROGRAMME 2017-2022

Americas:

- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)

Asia:

- Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Europe:

- Academy of Finland (AKA)
- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)
- Swedish Research Council (VR)
- UK Research and Innovation – Economic and Social Research Council UKRI-ESRC)

Worldwide:

- International Science Council (ISC), funding researchers in low- and lower-middle income countries, with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) [2014-2018]



NORFACE
NETWORK



European
Commission



And the T2S-2 Steering Committee





*Thank
you!*

Over these coming days:

- Share generously!
- Create wildly!
- Think hard!
- Work together!
- Be very proud!
- Renew connections!
- Enjoy each other!

Stretch your legs

