

International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2019

proposed stream

Societal transformation

proposed format

Session

Title

Can we co-transfer urban transformation knowledge?

Contributors

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Keywords

Knowledge co-transfer, transdisciplinary processes, climate change adaptation

Abstract

The current level of complexity that determines urban development has increased due to the new challenges we are imposed to face, such as the multiple effects of climate change. At the same time, the asymmetries of knowledge development on climate change effects and its challenges, given its inherent local and sensitive conditions, determine the need for knowledge transfer worldwide. But the complexity of the problems and the variety of actors involved is demanding ever more tailor-made strategies – this prompts the quest for new knowledge *transfer* methodologies, responsive to both sites/ site actors and institutional research/ researchers.

The question is then if sustainable socio-territorial transformation can be supported by a *co-transfer* of knowledge, catering to the different demands? Such a transfer concept relies on the co-creation of urban transformation knowledge while also involving the co-creators in the act of continuously translating their knowledge to each other and to different socio-political contexts and geographical locations. The exploration of co-transfer methodologies can be conducted from the ground up, in focalising on select examples. In this case the *Emscher regeneration* in the Western German Ruhr region has been used as a reference case to co-transfer knowledge to the *Reconquista river sanitation plan* in

greater Buenos Aires, Argentina. Both transformation areas are currently organised as “urban living lab platforms” in practice.

The session will present the ongoing project, arranged as an integrated teaching-research experience carried out across three universities and three disciplines, namely the University of Buenos Aires (urban design), the Technical University of Delft (regional planning), and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (landscape architecture). Over the past years teachers and students have formed interdisciplinary research teams and experimented with co-defined evaluations, possible agreements between different sectorial agendas, and the resulting lessons learnt. Knowledge transfer methodologies have been tested as agents to reveal new opportunities and support for integral urban development programs. Spatial mapping has served to identify and share the critical transformation parameters and ways of working.

Session design

45 min presentation of research outcomes from the fields of regional planning, urban design and landscape architecture

45 min facilitated discussion with the session participants who will be asked to take roles (academia, government, civil society, companies, etc) to evaluate the relevance of the co-transfer experiment and formulate recommendations for the next iteration