

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (21124) - TRANSFORMATIVE AND AWARENESS-BASED SCIENCE: HOW TO DESIGN SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

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Background and objectives

The great transformation towards sustainability requires many small changes within our society, including our way of thinking about science and collaboration. Interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity are frequently mentioned terms in scientific literature, but an implementation in practice is still difficult. In all our projects based on the awareness based action research for sustainability (Iser, Schüren & Schweizer-Ries, in press) we are facing challenges regarding appreciative communication and successful collaboration (see e.g. Münger & Riemer, 2012) among different sectors like science, administration, citizens or policy but also between different disciplines like humanities, natural science, engineering and arts. More knowledge of how to achieve this kind of appreciative inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, is urgently needed to accelerate the social transitions and the paradigm- and mind-shifts asked for (Göpel/Meadows).

Process and methods (for empirical research)

Since 2017 we are applying and investigating new methods of the awareness based science in our projects, that are built on inner change (Banks/Woiwode et al. 2021/Iser & Schweizer-Ries, 2021). We try to foster collaboration and create spaces in which good communication is practiced and where we are able to come into joint action for a more sustainable world. Among other methods, we practice mindfulness, collaboration circles and the art of hosting.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

To date, we are experiencing resistance as well as breakthroughs in communicative blockades.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

In the future we would like to involve citizens, politicians and artists, building on the long known but not often applied practices of embodiment (see e.g. systemsfieldbook.org/tools/), creativity (Beaule, Roth, Marchand & Awashish, 2021) and arts-based research (e.g. the Social Presencing Theater developed by Hayashi & Scharmer, 2021) for a development from within (see also Bradbury et al.(2019), Banks (2007) and Heron & Reason (2007)).

Palavras-chave : Transformative research, awareness-based research, transdisciplinary collaborations