Transition to a new paradigm in Education

Universities and Knowledge for Sustainable Urban Futures: as if inter and trans disciplinarity mattered

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"This transformation of science is no less revolutionary than Galileo Galilei’s. And the resistance from the incumbent knowledge holders will be no less fierce than the one that Galilei met in the Catholic Church. Yet, when looking at the global challenges of our time, we can recognize the call of our time to come up with a new synthesis among science, social change, and the evolution of self (or consciousness)."

Otto Schammer, Introduction to Leading From the Emerging Future

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Scope

Interdisciplinary research and collaboration are recognized as a precondition to solve the problems and Grand Societal Challenges confronting societies and the planet today. However, although interdisciplinarity is increasingly central to science and research agendas, and is recognised as a precondition for sustainability, its effective implementation in research projects remains an exception to the rule.

INTREPID is a 27 country network with the overall aim to better understand how to achieve more efficient and effective interdisciplinary research in Europe, in order to enhance our capacity to meet contemporary global (urban) challenges characterised by increasing complexity and uncertainty.
• To better understand how to achieve more efficient and effective interdisciplinary research in Europe,
• To strengthen our ability to address contemporary global challenges characterised by increasing complexity and uncertainty
• Our Focus: urban-related research
Research Programming & Funding

Science Politics, Policy & Priorities

Research Programmes

Funding calls for projects

Ex-ante evaluations

Selection & Excellence criteria

Ex-post assessment outcomes/impact

2nd Intl. Conference on Future Education

COST Action TD1408: Interdisciplinarity in research programming and funding cycles (INTREPID)

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Anthropocene
Age of humans

Becoming “a force of nature”

COST Action TD1408: Interdisciplinarity in research programming and funding cycles (INTREPID)
2017 Pre-Davos report shows gap between richest and poor is greater than feared (Oxfam 2017)
By 2020, at least a third of all data will pass through the cloud (a network of servers connected over the Internet).

less than 0.5% of all data is ever analysed and used, just imagine the potential.

more data has been created in the past two years than in the entire previous history of the human race.

Scientific data output increases at an annual rate of 30%.

Bernard Marr, Forbes, 2015; EC 2014
Impact, relevance

“Up to 1.5 million peer-reviewed articles are published annually. However, many are ignored even within scientific communities – 82% of articles published in humanities [journals] are not even cited once”

(Biswas and Kirchherr in Heleta 2016)
‘Overall, the share of budget going to SSH partners amounts to 5% of the total 2015 budget of €3.7 billion for SCs and LEITs.’ 10
Birnbaum et al 2016
Urbanisation: Its sustainability is a matter of priority

Sustainability & Education in this sector, must ‘align’ (UN Habitat 2014)
• (Goal 4) ‘Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’
  Aspiration that by 2030 ‘all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development’

• (Goal 11) ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’

Key Competency for Sustainability
• System thinking
• Anticipatory
• Normative
• Strategic
• Collaboration
• Critical thinking
• Self-Awareness
• Integrated problem-solving

UNESCO (2017)
university, urban futures
inter and trans-disciplinarity
INTREPID futures initiative
Warming Up:
- Where is the challenge?
- Why change is needed and how it can happen?

Topics to be discussed:
- Characterizing the status quo
- Drivers of/for change
- Values for change
- Uncertainties, obstacles, opportunities
Results of the Plenary discussion:
The ‘OPEN’ QUESTION

How open and porous the University should be?

How to envision ‘The Future-of-U’?

The ethos of the ’The Future-of-U:

- Care (of Self; others; the whole; world)
- Just and Sustainable Worlds
- Conviviality
- Imagination
- Life-Long Learning
Two Possible Ways Forward

- The Urban Curriculum of the Future (Civic University and Civic Design)

- Co-creating scenarios for the Future-of-U (contents and space)
After the London Workshop (March 2017)

- **Lisbon Workshop** (July 17): ‘Transformative Knowledge for an era of Planetary Urbanization? Questioning the role of social sciences and humanities from an interdisciplinary perspective’

- **Gagliato (Calabria, Italy) Workshop** (July 17): ‘The future of Academia and trans-disciplinary knowledge production in the urban field’

- **INTREPID @TDNet Conference Lüneburg, Germany** (September 17): ‘Transdisciplinary Research and Education’
Agenda for 2018 (Dubrovnik outcome)

1) **March**: 2nd Action Training School in **Barcelona** (on TD, co-production and civic Universities). Topics TBC;
2) **August**: Training School in **Edinburgh** on ID/TD an Early Career Researchers;
3) **September**: Training School in **Gothenburg** for Practitioners on ID/TD Facilitators;
4) **September**: Training School-Studio Event in **Newcastle** on Space and Place;
5) **September**: Training School in **Lisbon**- Enabling organizational change and human development in the context of ESD/SDGs
6) **October**: Workshop in **Berlin** – Re-imagine Urban Curricula
2nd Action Workshop (Barcelona)

On interdisciplinarity and co-creation of knowledge as defining quality of the Future University. Keywords: Transformative knowledge, interdisciplinarity and co-creation, science and art experience, embodied knowledge, creative knowledge, Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs, futures, porous university, civic university.

4 days training + 1 day workshop. Open call soon to be opened.
Summary

From ID/TD, particularly in urban-related research to the Future-of-U, reimagining an Urban Curriculum for the Future (as if ID/TD mattered).

Some Key challenges:

- Breaking the silos of knowledge (and their associated power structures);

- Universities open to the outside world, avoiding the trap of a narrow service-learning (or narrow interpretation of employability) but enabling real co-creation processes with the society;
Final Conference in March 2019 on ‘INTREPID KNOWLEDGE’ in PARIS

... thanks!
For further info:
http://www.intrepid-cost.eu