



RECOMS

Deliverable 4.5/D5

**Outputs Report Based on
Scientific Results**

Adapting and Transforming



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska- Curie grant agreement No 765389.



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Introduction

Strengthening the adaptive and transformative capacity of local groups through resourceful environmental practice is of pivotal importance to the building of community resilience. This thematic group's ESRs have been exploring varying states of adaptation and transformation in the relations between community groups and their surrounding natural resource base. This includes cases where community members have already contributed towards building local resilience by valorising natural resources as multifunctional community assets or finding ways to adapt their use in accordance with changing environmental conditions. In parallel, they have also explored the relationship between adaptability and transformability.

Cases selected for in-depth study have included those where local resources come to be regarded as liabilities, as sites of high risk, or as contributors to community vulnerability and environmental injustice; cases where the actions, interventions and control of external actors have resulted in suppressing the possibility for local residents to transform resources for community benefit; cases where a history of detrimental or extractive relations has resulted in a local environment afflicted by hotspots of extreme degradation, dereliction, contamination and risk; and cases in which, due to inherent levels of socio-economic vulnerability and deprivation, whole communities have become alienated from their local environmental resource base. Guided by principles of participatory action research and incorporating a range of co-creative methods the ESRs have investigated if and how reconnecting and empowering communities in their relations with their local resource base can support a transition from a position of relative weakness to one of strength.

This document, which constitutes the second in a series of two thematic output report Deliverables (this report following on specifically from the 'Initial Research Output - Adapting and Transforming' 2020 report (Deliverable 4.4)), provides an overview of the outputs realized between January 2020 and August 2022 by this group of Early Stage Researchers (ESRs). The document is structured according to the type of output including publications, charring sessions, presentations, events organized and contributed to, other offline and online outputs and joint online outputs, which are grouped under the respective ESRs. Consortium level outputs are also included in the document. The sections also contain an estimate of how many people the fellows potentially reached within the given period.





Publications

Sergio Ruiz Cayuela (ESR1)

- Ruiz Cayuela, S. (2020), [Organising a solidarity kitchen: reflections from Cooperation Birmingham](#), Interface: a journal for and about social movements

Abstract:

The global Covid-19 pandemic is being faced by governments and covered by the media as a natural disaster. And in a way they are right: as scientists predicted, the rapid change in climatic conditions has created a favourable environment for the virus to spread. However, practices related to the agribusiness model can also be related with the increasingly recurrent outbreak of global pandemics¹. Other factors have also contributed to the transmission and mortality of the disease. Global capitalism and the frenetic movement of people and goods that it entails; an endemic lack of funding (or plain privatisation) of public healthcare systems all over; cultural inclination to frequent socialising; and most importantly, widespread lack of access to basic goods such as healthy food or clean water and air. Critical geographers already discovered decades ago that natural disasters are not purely natural, but to a great extent they are socially constructed. But there's a more hopeful side to natural disasters which seems to be reproduced across temporal and geographical scales: the outstanding popular responses based on solidarity and cooperation.

- Ruiz Cayuela S, Farmelo S, (2021), [How Cooperation Birmingham went beyond crisis relief to build democracy](#), Minim

Abstract:

Cooperation Birmingham was envisioned in 2019, when a group of local residents were inspired by visiting members of Cooperation Jackson. Our project aimed to form a basis for a solidarity economy in the city and provide material infrastructure that would allow autonomous community groups to thrive. We planned to start slowly but surely by building a network, developing a participatory model, and gradually initiating our activities through 2020. However, when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, we decided to start Cooperation Birmingham as a mutual aid network to provide crisis relief for those needing to self-isolate. Our members included workers from the Warehouse Cafe Co-operative which served as the base of operations. We collectively took the decision to lock down in advance of the prevaricating Conservative government in the spirit of the slogan: “we take care of each other” in mutual aid and crisis relief.





- Ruiz Cayuela S. (2021), [Bridging Materiality and Subjectivity: Expanding the Commons in Cooperation Birmingham](#), Antipode

Abstract:

Expansion is a matter of survival for emancipatory commons, permanently threatened by enclosure and cooptation. In this paper, I draw from my experience within Cooperation Birmingham to propose a theory (and practice) for expanding the commons that bridges two seemingly conflicting approaches. On the one hand, the concepts of “boundary commoning” and “commons ecologies” proposed by Massimo De Angelis, concerned with social reproduction and material autonomy. And on the other, “expanding commoning” as developed by Stavros Stavrides, which focuses on radical openness and the production of commoning subjectivities. I demonstrate how in organising a mutual aid response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cooperation Birmingham is using an expansion strategy that productively articulates both approaches. Boundary commoning and expanding commoning reinforce each other in the construction of a commons ecology that aims at posing a material alternative to capitalist social organisation while remaining always in-the-making and open to new commoners.

- Ruiz Cayuela, S., Armiero M. (2022), *Cooking Commoning Subjectivities: Guerrilla Narrative in the Cooperation Birmingham Solidarity Kitchen*, in Franklin, A. (Ed), *Co-Creativity and Engaged Scholarship: Transformative Methods in Social Sustainability Research*, Palgrave

Abstract:

We frame commoning as the socio-ecological infrastructure that (re)produces commons through care, sharing, and inclusion, therefore sabotaging the wasting relationships that produce inequalities through extraction, privatization and exclusion (Armiero, 2021). Through commoning, commoners do not only share and have access to a set of resources, they are also entitled to decide on the ways of using and sharing them, while enhancing relationships of cooperation and mutuality among them and with the environment. In this sense, we argue that commoning has the emancipatory potential to advance socioecological relationships based on cooperation, horizontality, openness and care. The beauty of commoning resides in that it is not only a form of resistance, but it performs an alternative: while capitalism sees commons as a thing to be expropriated and monetized, commoners practice commoning as a set of socio-ecological relationships that reproduce both commons and commoners.





Viola Hakkarainen (ESR8)

- Hakkarainen, V., Mäkinen-Rostedt, K., Horcea-Milcu, A., D'Amato, D., Jämsä, J., & Soini, K. (2022), Transdisciplinary research in natural resources management: towards an integrative and transformative use of co-concept. *Sustainable Development*, 1-17. doi: 10.1002/sd.2276

Abstract:

Transdisciplinary research often utilizes collaborative ways of knowledge production to enable deliberate transformations towards sustainability. Multiple concepts with varying definitions are applied, leading to confusion in the aims and uses of these concepts. In this article, we review five concepts relevant to the current debate on the new collaborative ways of knowledge production in transdisciplinary research. We focus on the concepts of co-creation, co-production, co-design, co-learning, and adaptive co-management in the context of natural resources management (NRM). This study couples a literature review and a conceptual analysis, and aims to clarify definitions, use, the interlinkages of these concepts and to shed light on their intertwined nature. We propose an integrative understanding of the concepts to facilitate collaborative modes and to enable the transformative aims of research processes. To this end, we discuss how to harvest the transformative potential of the “co-concepts” by focusing on reflexivity, power analysis and process orientation.

- Hakkarainen, V., Daw M.T., Tengö M. On the other end of research: exploring community-level knowledge exchanges in small-scale fisheries in Zanzibar, *Sustainability Science*, vol. 15, issue 1.

Abstract:

Sustainability science has increasingly adopted more action-oriented approaches in an attempt to mobilise and implement a broad knowledge base to sustain human wellbeing and promote sustainable development. There is an increasing recognition of the importance of knowledge exchange (KE) between scientists and end users of research for enhancing social, environmental and economic impacts of research. Here, we explore the process of KE through close observation of two cases of KE between external PhD researchers and local actors in small-scale fisheries at the community level in Zanzibar, Tanzania. First, we address context by examining perceptions of research held by actors at community level and patterns of interactions and flows of benefits between external researchers and local actors including fisheries managers, local research institute as well as fishers and traders. Second, we unpack experiences of actors engaged in the cases of KE. The study draws attention to KE processes in the Global South and actors outside decision-making processes in fisheries management. The study concludes that as KE is a complex and dynamic process and that (i) history and relationships between actors shape





the outcomes of KE, (ii) KE includes more than knowledge-based processes and outcomes because multiple incentives of different actors shape KE and how it is experienced and (iii) knowledge-based outcomes of KE are complex and unpredictable as different actors create their own meaning from shared information. The results exemplify the inevitably complex and unpredictable nature of KE processes and their outcomes, and provide insight into how KE can contribute to science-society relationships.

- Leitheiser S, Vezzoni R, Hakkarainen V. (2022), *Painting Outside the Lines: Transgressing the Managerial University, Avoiding Forced Creativity*, in Franklin, A. (Ed), *Co-Creativity and Engaged Scholarship: Transformative Methods in Social Sustainability Research*, Palgrave

Abstract:

The main theme of this collective book, creative methods (CMs), represents an attempt to contribute to critical discussions about how the process and pursuit of research may be more conducive to (1) making people question established ways of thinking and acting, and (2) building a more inclusive approach to research in which unheard voices are empowered (see Franklin, this book). However, as an approach to conducting research and exchanging knowledge, CMs, just like any other methods, are embedded into human value systems that influence how they are used to produce knowledge, and how that knowledge will be applied (or not applied) in practice.

Here we wish to highlight the reflexive character of scientific investigation, which is particularly prominent in the case of humanistic and social sciences. The personal beliefs, motivations and expectations of the researchers play a role in determining what gets discovered and for what purpose, e.g., what kinds of questions are asked and what kind of evidence counts as valid to confirm a hypothesis, across disciplines. Value assumptions, whether epistemic, moral, or political, shape the content of science and its application.

- Hakkarainen, V., Soini, K., Dessein, J. & Raymond, C. M. (2022), [Place-embedded agency: Exploring knowledge-place connections for enabling plurality in governance of social-ecological systems](#), *People and Nature*, June 2022

Abstract:

1. Including different forms of knowledges and views in decision-making is crucial to managing the complexity of social-ecological systems (SES) in ways that are inclusive and embrace diversity.
2. Sense of place scholarship can explain subjectivity in SES; however, it has hardly been considered together with the literature on knowledge processes, overlooking

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the epistemic dimension of sense of place and its potential to shed light on the roles and views of individuals in respect to natural resources and their management.

3. This paper explores how local knowledge and place-belonging (as a form of sense of place) intersect, and what kinds of implications these knowledge-place connections have for the interactions between actors and their agency in the High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago UNESCO World Heritage Site (Sweden/Finland).
 4. Drawing on participant observation in workshops and semi-structured interviews with diverse actors in this transboundary governance context, we identify five types of knowledge-place connections, which exemplify diverse positions on local knowledge shaped by place-belonging.
 5. We propose a concept of place-embedded agency to reveal how these positions shape action and interaction between people inside and outside formal decision-making processes. We argue that recognising and taking place-embedded agency into account can help to overcome tensions and enhance plurality in SES governance.
- Hakkarainen, V. (2022), [Towards Inclusivity in Ecosystem Governance: THE EPISTEMIC DIMENSION OF HUMAN-NATURE CONNECTIONS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE](#), Doctoral Thesis, ISBN 978-951-51-8003-2

Abstract:

Achieving just transformations towards sustainability requires the inclusion of diverse people and perspectives into ecosystem governance. Inclusivity can be approached through the concept of plurality, necessitating the development of techniques for eliciting and managing the different epistemic (knowledge related) understandings of human-nature connections and allowing for contestations of views. Collaborative modes of knowledge production are increasingly used to navigate complex interactions between science, society and policy to create actionable knowledges. They can provide gateways into further understanding epistemic plurality in ecosystem governance. However, despite the proliferation of these approaches, there is currently little evidence about how to recognise and deal with the plurality of diverse knowledges and associated power structures held at different scales of ecosystem governance and knowledge production. This thesis approaches the question of inclusivity in sustainability science by introducing the epistemic dimension of human-nature connections and studying it in different contexts and at scales including local and transnational ecosystem governance and international science-policy interfaces. The thesis consists of four scientific articles which employ qualitative and quantitative methods in a mixed method research design. Paper I reviews five key concepts used in collaborative transdisciplinary research and proposes an integrative model that can help researchers and research participants to align their

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epistemic and conceptual views in transdisciplinary collaborations. Using an online survey, Paper II examines the epistemic worldviews of experts involved in the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Values Assessment and how the different epistemic worldviews shape definitions of the multiple values of nature. Using semi-structured interviews and participant observation, Paper III explores the intersections between perceptions of local knowledges, place belonging and agency in the High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site in Sweden and Finland and highlights the plurality of positions stemming from diverse knowledge-place connections. Drawing on the results of online surveys sent to residents of the area, Paper IV develops and validates a psychometric scale of epistemic bonding (connections to a place through one's knowledge of/in a locale), and then examines the relationships between epistemic bonding, place attachment and ecosystem management preferences across the countries. Together, these four papers demonstrate that epistemic issues pervade at different scales of ecosystem governance and knowledge production, and that they need to be accounted for processes aiming at sustainability transformations. In recognising the epistemic dimension of human-nature connections through operationalising reflexivity, the focus on place-based connections and practicing epistemically attuned sustainability science can support inclusivity in ecosystem governance by facilitating the recognition and navigation of such a plurality of the views.

Zhanna Baimukhamedova (ESR10)

- Baimukhamedova, Z. (2021), [Unwelcome but Dear: Poplar Trees in Northern Kazakhstan's Post-Soviet Cityscapes](#), Arcadia, Spring 2021, no. 13

Abstract:

Northern Kazakhstan is mostly a flat, vast, empty land with sparse birch tree groves and orderly pine forests, and endless stretches of grassland, golden brown by high summer, in between. A common saying claims that on a clear night out in the steppe one can see a flame of a candle from twenty kilometers away. This factoid points not only to impressive eyesight of local peoples, but also attests to two staggering shortages of the landscape: curvature and trees. In cities, however, trees are abundant, and a typical sight for a majority of former Soviet urban areas are streets drowning in clouds of cotton-like white fluff in early June. Up in the air, stuck in all crevices—the white is ubiquitous, maddening, inescapable. The white are tiny fine hairs covering a seed of a *Populus*, poplar tree.

- Baimukhamedova, Z. (2022), *The Eye of the Beholder: Applying Visual Analysis in an Historical Study of Lynxes' Representations in the Bavarian Forest Region*, in Franklin, A. (Ed), *Co-Creativity and Engaged Scholarship: Transformative Methods in Social Sustainability Research*, Palgrave





Abstract:

In qualitative academic research, employing visual analysis methods often evokes associations with a rather niche application. Rarely do they compose the cornerstone of an investigation in fields outside of, for example, media studies, art history, or Bildwissenschaft²—in short, outside of disciplines that literally characterize, situate, and interpret images. However, while by no means a universal tool to fill the gaps in all academic enquiry, employing visual analysis builds up on a rather prosaic act of seeing and making sense of the outside world, imaginatively. Visual analysis is necessarily a creative process, and as a research method it opens up the possibility of forming conclusions from one’s personal interaction with what is seen.

Talitta Reitz (ESR11)

- Reitz T. (2022), Back to the Drawing Board: Creative Mapping Methods for Inclusion and Connection, in Franklin, A. (Ed), Co-Creativity and Engaged Scholarship: Transformative Methods in Social Sustainability Research, Palgrave

Abstract:

This chapter discusses questions like: Which ideas, senses, and values are included or excluded in the mapping process? Who is heard and who is silenced? What purpose does the map serve and which transformations can it unravel?, through the framework of two creative mapping methods: social cartography and deep mapping. These approaches do not attempt to reject, but rather reclaim the partial, subjective nature of maps. Since cartography is inevitably limited, these methods recognize that creativity is vital to attend neglected necessities. Each section introduces one of the two methods with their origins, theoretical frameworks, reception, and applications. More importantly, they will show how these methods solve the challenges of traditional cartography, with hopes of demonstrating their incredible potential for participatory and environmental research.

Natalie Leung (ESR12)

- Leung, K.Y.; Darnhofer, I. Farmers as Bodies-in-the-Field, Becoming-With Rice. Sustainability 2021, 13, 7660.

Abstract:

Research on farmers has predominately focused on how they think through the mind, i.e., their reflexivity regarding farming practices and values, as well as their cultural and symbolic representations of farming. While this literature offers valuable insights, it builds on an underlying mind/body duality. Based on qualitative interviews with 25 rice

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farmers in Japan, this paper focuses on the body of farmers, in terms of how bodily senses shape how farmers make sense of their farming practices. We show that the body, as the site of interaction with matter, shapes the farmers' ability to be affected by rice plants. By honing their senses, the farmers learn to make differences and to perceive new possibilities, engaging in a reciprocal process of becoming-with the rice. This ability to develop sensuous engagements may contribute to farmers developing production practices that are in harmony with the local agro-ecosystem and more generally enable new imaginations, strengthening the possibility that things could be otherwise.

- Leung K.Y., Reflections on Doing Cross-Cultural Research Through and with Visual Methods , in Franklin, A. (Ed), *Co-Creativity and Engaged Scholarship: Transformative Methods in Social Sustainability Research*, Palgrave

Abstract:

In this chapter, I reflect on my experiences as a cross-cultural researcher during field work in Japan, where I conducted interviews with farmers using photo-elicitation to understand how they build relationships with artworks and their farming. Through the experiences of working with photo elicitation to collect data, and the attempt to convey research results through illustrations, I argue that visual methods help to uncover different realities that are beyond the scope of linguistic relevance, but nevertheless, fundamental to understanding the mindsets and practices of farmers. In the following, I start by providing a brief account of how I applied photo elicitation in my doctoral research. I then first discuss how experiencing the challenges of communication brought by cultural differences pushed me to rearrange the interview questions. Second, I elaborate on the limitations of translation in communicating experiences, thoughts and emotions that are tied to cultural practices. Third, I illustrate how photo elicitation helped to unfold different layers of experiences by the farmers during data collection. Last but not least, I discuss the potential challenge of conveying results from research in Japan to non-Asian audiences, and why I combined visual illustrations with verbal quotes to give a more in-depth portrayal of the experiences of Japanese farmers to Western audiences.

- Leung, K.Y. & Thorsen, L.M. (2022) Experiencing art from a field of rice: How farmers relate to rural revitalisation and art at Japan's Echigo-Tsumari Art Festival. *Sociologia Ruralis*, 00, 1- 21.

Abstract:

Focusing on the Echigo-Tsumari Art Festival (ETAF) in Niigata, Japan, we propose a novel conceptualisation of the role of art in rural revitalisation, focused on how local farmers experience art as a catalyst for social, cultural and natural change. Scholarship on the role of art in rural revitalisation has often focussed on arts' problem-solving affordances (e.g.,





economic, demographic) or on how rural engagements matter to art development. Instead, we turn our attention to the middle-ground: how art intervenes in the everyday life and practices of farmers in the festival area. Based on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork, our analysis draws on the theories of Tsurumi Shunsuke and John Dewey to offer a broad and inclusive notion of ‘art’ and ‘aesthetic experience’. With this framework, we explore how farmers relate to different artworks presented at ETAF and how art can spur farmers to reflect on their lives, their farming and the environments they inhabit.

Presentations, Lectures and Chairing of sessions

Sergio Ruiz Cayuela (ESR1)

Chairing of Sessions

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Session Chair: “Change the system, not the climate.” The power of orientation, education and civic activity, 7 June 2021

Viola Hakkarainen (ESR8)

Chairing of Sessions

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Session Chair: “More-than-talking.” The power of art and visuals in collaborative research, 8 June 2021

Presentations:

- Epistemic dimension of human-nature relationships. Human-nature research group seminars, 3rd of May, 2021
- Transdisciplinary research in natural resources management: towards an integrative and transformative use of co-concepts. Transformation2021 Conference. 18th of June, 2021

Zhanna Baimukhamedova (ESR10)

Chairing of Sessions

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Session Chair: “We have a dream!” Rural aspirations, 9 June 2021





Talitta Reitz (ESR11)

Chairing of Sessions

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Session Chair: “This land is our land.” Reclaiming urban spaces, 9 June 2021

Presentations

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021,
Paper title: Bicycle Cities: racing towards sustainable mobility

Abstract:

This thesis explores the historical processes through which cycling cultures have emerged in Portland, United States and Munich, Germany. It infers how cycling practices, groups and events have developed and transformed urbanization since bicycles reached these cities in the late nineteenth century. Such an analysis matters because empirical cases and a plethora of research in the social sciences have pointed to a striking conclusion: cycling cultures are the stronger motivators for utility cycling; more so than infrastructure. In other words, citizens are more prone to cycle regularly if people in their family or social circles are cyclists themselves - or, if education performs a similar encouraging and capacitating role. Over the last three decades, many metropolises world-wide started a ‘race’ to become bicycle-friendly. Within this broad context, the adoption of a sustainable mobility concept has become a common municipal practice. While distinct visions point to a certain plurality of solutions, most sustainable mobility concepts have presented quite comparable and thus unoriginal programs: expanding bicycle infrastructure, promoting campaigns and inaugurating bicycle-share systems. The problem with such standardized, unspecific plans is that they do not align with the aforementioned scholarship finding: it is more effective to promote bicycle-friendly communities. But cycling cultures do not emerge overnight. Hence, it is essential to understand them. Portland and Munich, among other American and European cities are precursors of urban cycling. In addition to uncovering their cycling history, a comparison of cities of similar background and geographical features can identify commonalities and differences, and create a framework to understand how cycling cultures emerge and evolve. Methodologically, the study relies on narrative, archival research and first-hand accounts of cycling explorations. Beyond global trends and ready-made ‘good practices packages’, this thesis argues for a contextual - historical - examination as a more sensitive approach for municipalities. The insights of this comparative study can help





citizens and authorities to better understand their own cycling backgrounds, which, as a result, can diversify strategies for bicycle plans. Therefore, the research encourages out-of-the-box thinking for cycling activists, planners and decision-makers. And it proposes different meanings and paths for bicycle cities.

- Panel presentation at: One and Six Times - About the Modulation and the Expectation of Timescapes, 3rd July 2021;

Kei Yan (Natalie) Leung (ESR12)

Chairing of Sessions:

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Session Chair: “Stronger together.” Participatory approaches to (farming) innovation



Presentations

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021,
Paper title: How do farmers experience art? A case study of Echigo-Tsumari Art Field, Japan

Abstract:

Arts-led initiatives are now commonplace in revitalizing rural communities. These artistic activities take a variety of forms - from informal, amateur arts to professional artist practices. On the one side, scholars from social sciences have recognized the social and economic gains associated with art in rural communities. On the other side, arts and cultural studies scholars have

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generously examined the role and development of art in rural revitalization. However, in this research, the significance of art is mainly discussed from either a somewhat instrumental, especially economic and quantitative perspective, e.g. increasing employment, tourism incomes and investment. Or, it is mostly centred on discussions of benefits for the ‘artworld’. In comparison to these worthwhile studies, relatively few studies have centred on what rural art does in practice in relations to the ongoing, everyday life of rural residents. That is, how farmers themselves perceive and relate to art in rural communities. In this presentation, I use the case study of Echigo-Tsumari Art Field (ETAF) in Japan to explore how agroecological farmers relate to artworks in farming landscapes, and the artworks triggers reflections on nature-cultural relations and the farmers’ connections to nature.

Events organized or contributed to

Sergio Ruiz Cayuela (ESR1)

- Coordination of a call for papers and submission of a double-session panel for the RGS September 2020 conference (January and February 2020)

Total number of people reached (est.): 60

- Public storytelling project “Writing the Journey”, in partnership with Maokwo. Funded by the Coventry City of Culture (June-September 2020)
- Speaker at Solidarity Not Charity: Mutual Aid in Europe, organised by the Green European Journal, November 2020
- Co-organizer TE6, RECOMS Doctoral School, “Creating Alternative Urban Imaginaries: From Ideas to Practices and Back”, February, 2021 (with Stephen Leitheiser and Ruben Vezzoni)
- Lectures at the 8th Degrowth and Environmental Justice Summer School, May 2021
- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Campfire Session - Between Academia and the Self: Research as an educational process, 9 June 2021 (with Zhanna Baimukhamedova)





Abstract:

Whilst in academia, one is often expected to produce, massively. Articles, book chapters, grant applications, applications for any other sort of recognition and/or funding options --- life as a researcher seems to oscillate between scouting for possibilities to disseminate results of own academic inquiry and writing sprees when a keyboard becomes one's most faithful companion. In such a context, research or fieldwork itself might resemble pure data collection --- extraction of necessary primary material in order to fuel incessant output production, required to keep one's academic self-visible, up-to-date, and, ultimately, employable. And while all these considerations have long been discussed, disputed, and reprimanded, a process of being a researcher offers innumerable insights --- both about academia and one's own self in it. This storytelling session seeks to invite the participants to reflect on their experiences doing research not only as presumably impartial researchers but as people, laden with own stories, struggles, and aspirations. It is about skills, too --- how one navigates academia, what one's goal is and how they fit it in the overall frame of institutionalized scientific inquiry. In a way it is an attempt to see the 'human' side of a research process: how one goes about collecting, processing, and presenting data while acknowledging their unique personhood, and what effect this kind of awareness has on the whole process. Where do we, as researchers, stand? What are our commitments to ourselves and others? How the skillset we acquire can be applied to the world outside of academia --- and should/can it? These are some questions we will be reflecting upon during the session. To make sure the session provides enough time and space for everyone to speak, it is limited to five participants who in a timely manner will be asked to conceptualize their contribution by reflecting on their experiences. One's reflections do not have to be written, but is advisable to take a few minutes to organize one's thoughts to make sure other participants will have time to share experiences, too. Each will have five minutes to speak up and once everyone finishes, we will discuss emerging urban commons theory.

Total number of people reached: 5

- Co-Organising RECOMS Optional Writing retreat in Barcelona, October 2021 (with Zhanna Baimukhamedova and Ruben Vezzoni)





Viola Hakkarainen (ESR8)

- Co-organiser, RECOMS TE7, Spaces of Possibility Conference and Exhibition, 7th-11th June 2021
- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, World café Session- Operationalizing reflexivity for just sustainability transformations, 7 June 2021

Abstract:

Reflexivity is increasingly advocated as means to navigate and balance unequal power dynamics through confronting, interrelating and integrating different epistemic cultures, values or goals in collaborative knowledge production (see e.g. Schöpke et al. 2018). Reflexivity includes the notions of being able to identify own normative and epistemic perspectives and connecting them to collaborative action as well as the capacity to respond to changes of complex and dynamic natural systems in an adaptive manner (van der Molen 2018). However, there is a critical gap in implementing this reflexivity and hardly any tangible evidence on how reflexivity can be facilitated at different phases of a research project that mobilizes collaborative research modes such as co-creation or co-production of knowledge aiming to transform the Earth's system to a more sustainable one. In this World Café session, we explore framings and methods to enhance reflexivity in collaborative knowledge production. We invite participants to share and discuss about their experiences, exchange the best practices and find new insights into better ways of implementing collaborative research modes. By together 'reflecting reflexivity', we aim to deepen our understanding on how to operationalize reflexivity at individual and group levels and as towards one's environment and action within complex science-society-policy interactions.

Total number of people reached: 15





Zhanna Baimukhamedova (ESR10)

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Campfire Session - Between Academia and the Self: Research as an educational process, 9 June 2021 (with Sergio Ruiz Cayuela)
- Co-Organising RECOMS Optional Writing retreat in Barcelona, October 2021 (with Sergio Ruiz Cayuela and Ruben Vezzoni)



Recoms Fellows at a fieldtrip in Barcelona

Talitta Reitz (ESR11)

- Organiser Doktoranden Tag: Doctoral Program Environment and Society, 14 June 2021





Kei Yan (Natalie) Leung (ESR12)

- Spaces of Possibility Conference, 7th- 11th June 2021, Workshop - Let art lead your way! Introducing art into research processes (with Dinanda Luttikhedde from PeerGroup of Stitching)

Abstract:

Art, participation, mental health and well-being are inextricably linked. More and more artists are interested in the purifying and edifying effects of participatory art. For example, art is known to have to increase people's well-being since it grounds ourselves and connects us to others. The role of an artist is multifaceted and exceeds the boundaries of the private sphere. Contrary to the popular (of) image of the artist as a tormented sole working in his/her secluded studio, participatory artists work one to one, with a group, a (residential) community or even employees of organizations or companies. Theatre is a particularly promising tool to explore difficult subjects as it is able to confront large groups of people with different perspectives. Theatre challenges it's audience both cognitively and emotionally, and provides it with new, relevant information that can lead to a new dialogue. The workshop introduces some inspiring examples of the Peergroup theatre company based in Drenthe, the Netherlands. For the past 20 years this group of artists has successfully experimented with theatre productions on the borderline between art and research into the resilience of communities. In this workshop participants will become acquainted with an art-led approach case study. Via plenary and breakout sessions, they will investigate how this approach can be used in their own research. Participants are invited to submit a case that will be discussed. Inspiration for an innovative research process is ensured!

Total number of people reached: 32



Other Outputs Produced

Sergio Ruiz Cayuela (ESR1)

- Publication of four Cooperation Birmingham newsletters (May-June 2020)

Zhanna Baimukhamedova (ESR10)

- [Blogpost on the RECOMS Optional Writing Retreat](#), published in RECOMS website, November 2021

Kei Yan (Natalie) Leung (ESR12)

- Contributed an arts object to the Spaces of Possibility Conference, Brussels, June 2021
- Educational film clip: [Finding Life](#)



Talitta Reitz (ESR11)

- Contributed an object “Bicycle puzzles” to the Spaces of Possibility Conference, Brussels, June 2021
- Educational film clip: [Our Park, Our City](#)



Joint online outputs

Linked-In, Instagram and Facebook posts: 12

Tweets no. cca 280 on RECOMS relevant research topics

Total number of people reached (estimate based on average interactions with individual posts and tweets): 1800



Some examples of tweets and Instagram posts from and about the fellows

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Consortium level outputs

- Spaces of Possibility Exhibition and Conference in Brussels, 7-11 June 2021

Total number of people reached (est.): 1000

- Franklin, A. (Ed), Co-Creativity and Engaged Scholarship: Transformative Methods in Social Sustainability Research, Palgrave, 2022

Total Number of people reached (based on downloads and unique views):
20,000

- Book Launch Event, Munich 12th July 2022

Total number of people reached: 50





Planned Outputs

Sergio Ruiz Cayuela (ESR1)

- Sergio is in the final stages of submitting his doctoral thesis, and is expected to defend by the end of 2022.

Talitta Reitz (ESR11)

- Talitta continues working on her doctoral thesis, which would be published as a monograph.

Zhanna Baimukhamedova (ESR10)

- Zhanna continues working on her doctoral thesis, which would be published as a monograph.

Kei Yan (Natalie) Leung (ESR12)

- Natalie is in the final stages of submitting her doctoral thesis. She is expected to defend by January 2023.

