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The societal impact perspective of transdisciplinary research

conceptual groundwork and fields of application

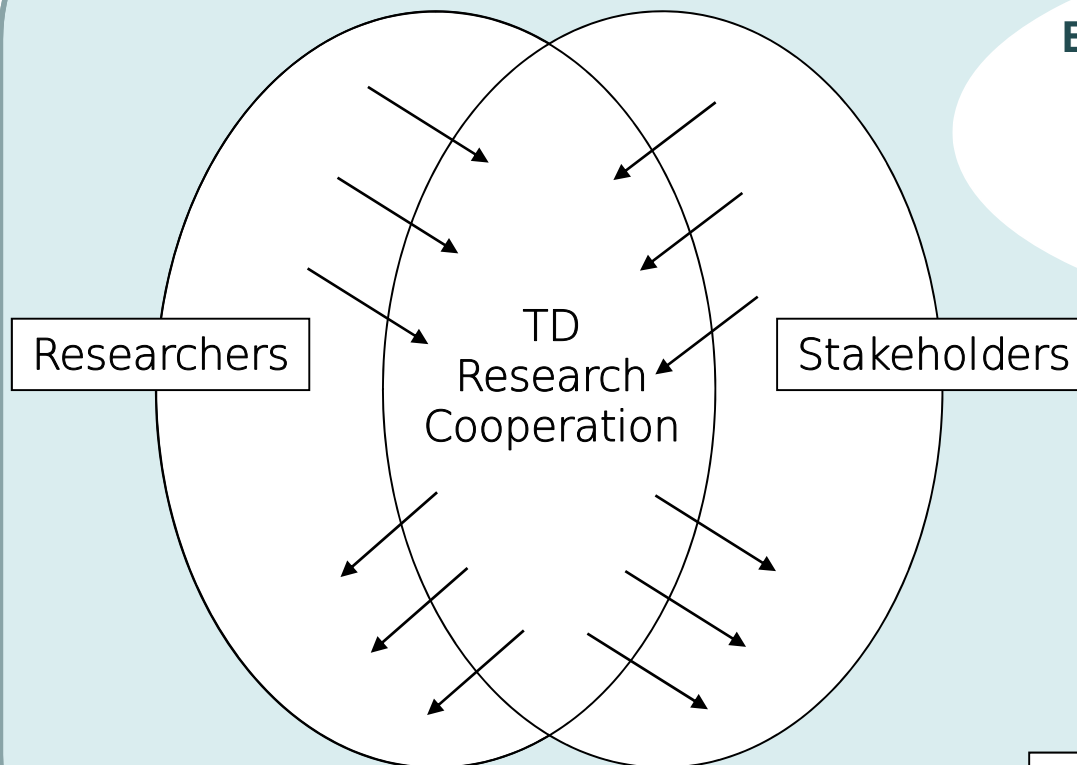
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Td Research

Continuous Integration of Knowledge, Values, Experiences



Specific Context:
ETH-UNS Transdisciplinary Case Studies (Td CS) 2000 – 2004
 ~ 200 local stakeholders
 ~ 100 (junior) researchers
 Sustainable rural development



Continuous Dissemination of New Knowledge, Orientations for Decision Making, **and:**

Scientific Impact
 +
Societal Impact

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Our interest



What effects does the td research project trigger among the involved stakeholders?

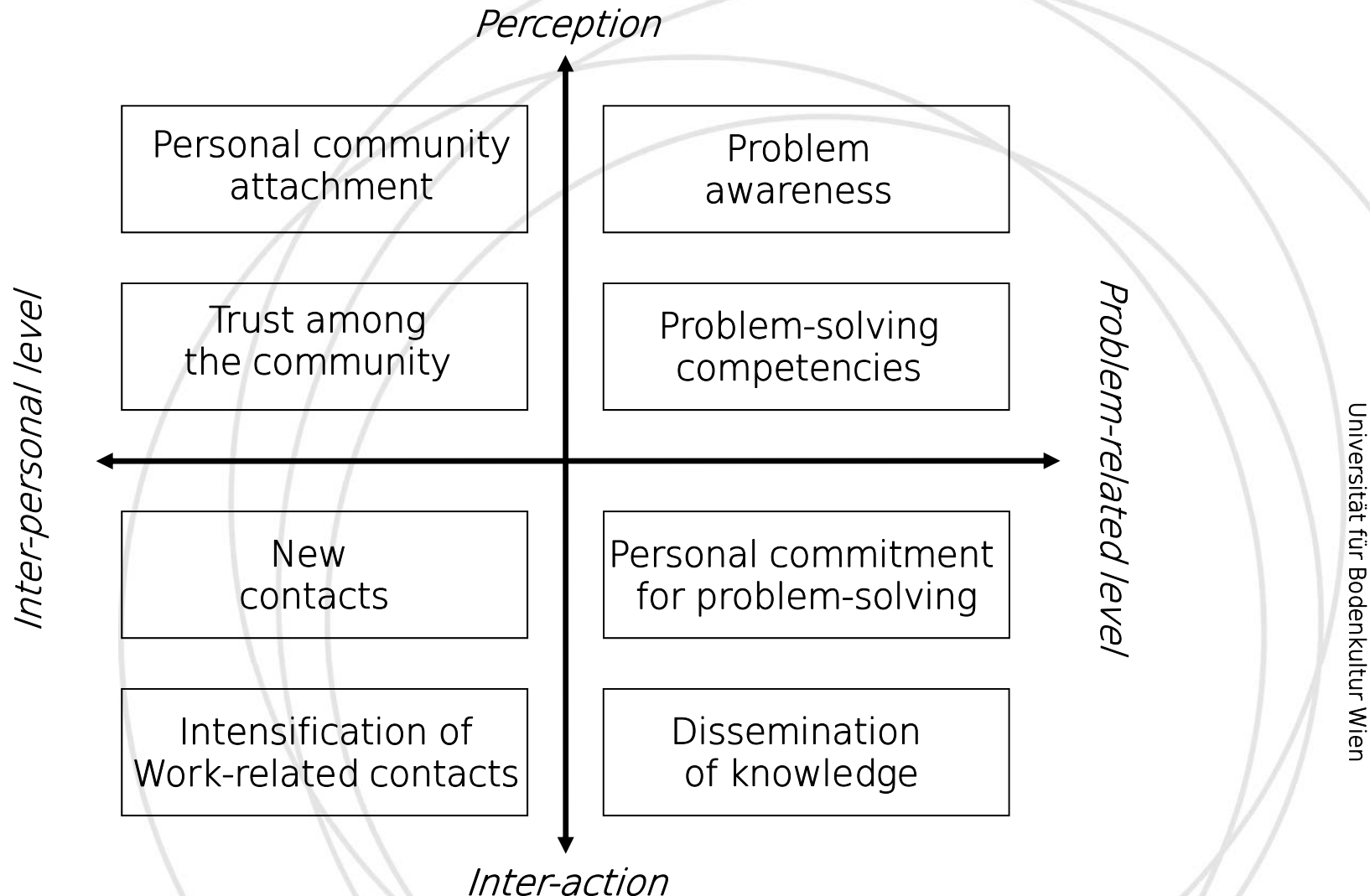
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Research Approach



1. *Qualitative Interviews* with key stakeholders (strong and continuous involvement)
2. *Literature analysis* (social impact assessment, evaluation of td research)
3. *Hypothetical impact model*
4. *Model Operationalization* for large-n-quantitative survey and statistical data analyses
5. *Standardized questionnaire* to all stakeholders (return rate: 52%)
6. *Factor analysis* to identify and modify impact categories
7. *Correlation analysis* to identify impact pathways (from stakeholder involvement to direct impacts on stakeholders to impacts on their decision-making)

Resulting Model of Societal Impacts



Implications

- The societal impacts of transdisciplinary research co-operations need to be taken into account when the added value of this research mode is to be understood
 - Legitimizing the resource-intensity of TdR
 - Societal impacts no ‚side-effects‘ but at the core of td Research
 - Impacts to be considered in the planning of td Research and its evaluation
- SC-Index & Td-Index?

Application



- European Research Programme JPI CLIMATE: *facilitating societal innovation against the background of climate change*
 - Understanding the Transdisciplinary Advisory Board as bi-directional change agents
- BOKU Evaluation (Helgenberger & Lindenthal 2011):
 - Assessment of societal impact embedded within sustainability assessment and reporting at BOKU university
 - Including societal impact criteria into target agreements
 - between the university rectorate and the departments
 - between the university and the funding ministry.

Biblio + Contact

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