



Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz
Académies suisses des sciences
Accademia svizzera delle scienze
Academias svizras da las ciencias
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

CALL for proposals
Deadline for submissions: 9 May 2011

td-net
Network for Transdisciplinary Research

td-conference 2011

Place **University of Bern**
Dates **14 September to 16 September 2011**
Partner **Swiss National Science Foundation**
Support **Mercator Foundation Switzerland**

EVALUATION OF INTER- AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH **Experiences and reflections on best practice**

In contrast to most disciplinary research practices, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects are characterised by a variety of disciplines and various practitioners in professional fields outside academia. As a consequence, general evaluation methods that have been developed for disciplinary work can only be used to assess specific disciplinary contributions but are hence not appropriate for assessing specific inter- or transdisciplinary goals, processes and achievements. Major challenges for evaluators of inter- and transdisciplinarity include making decisions about which dimensions to select and possibly rank when judging the quality of a project – is it the 'original' contribution to a particular field, the potential for innovation, the quality of integration, the broader impact or rather the learning process itself, for example. In general, what is missing are established frames of reference and bench marks against which performance and outcomes are measured etc.

To map and examine these issues is a necessary first step for a systematic overview and critical review of the current methodologies as well as for setting an agenda for the evaluation of inter- and transdisciplinarity (ID and TD) as a tool for learning, improvement, innovation and excellence of this type of research.

We kindly ask you to submit proposals for either paper or workshop sessions:

- **Paper contributions** can present practical experiences with evaluating inter- and transdisciplinary projects on any topic (including the evaluation of teaching and ID/TD activities in practice fields) or focus on more theoretical or methodological issues and 'tool kits' of evaluation. Please take into account that paper presentations should not last more than 15 minutes to allow for a discussion time of 15 minutes.
- **Workshop sessions** should be interactive by testing, revising and elaborating on existing models of evaluation with the participants. To involve other researchers as early as possible and to allow for in-depth discussion and mutual learning, we suggest that workshop organisers and interested parties enter into dialogue before the conference already. You and/or your team can choose to either organise a workshop of a) 2 hours or b) half a day, but in any case you should also limit the presentation time to a minimum.

All abstracts should be around 400 words and include a paragraph that explicitly addresses the specific contribution of the paper or workshop to the overall conference theme of evaluation in either research, practice or teaching. Please also add a short list of the relevant literature your intervention will draw on at the end of the abstract as well as 5 key words that represent your contribution so it can be classified with others in an appropriate session.

Further information, the submission form and instructions can be found on the td-net homepage:
www.transdisciplinarity.ch

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