SHAPE-ID
Shaping interdisciplinary practices in Europe

USYS TdLab
Department of Environmental Systems Science
Transdisciplinarity Lab | Science-Society Interface

# Seminar:
# "Disentangling inter- and trans-disciplinary research: factors, understandings and processes in collaborative research"

**Keynote: Prof. Dr. Julie Thompson Klein**
Wayne State University (USA) and Transdisciplinarity Lab (ETH Zürich, Switzerland)

**Date: Tuesday 17th September 2019**
Time: 9.00 – 12.00 / 13.00 – 16.00
Transdisciplinarity Lab, ETH Zurich
Room: CHN K.77

## Presentation

A multitude of existing reports and assessments of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) integration have made recommendations as to how best to encourage interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity. However, despite the existence of these reports much of their individual advice and recommendations have not been fully taken up.

At the same time, there remain many challenges to thorough and successful implementation of inter- and transdisciplinarity. Authors consider epistemological, cultural and institutional constraints to be important factors that hinder their development.

*SHAPE-ID* is an EU-funded project (H2020) for the period 2019 - 2021. It addresses the challenge of improving inter- and trans-disciplinary cooperation among Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and other disciplines, particularly Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM). The project seeks to establish a comprehensive knowledge base for policy making. This base covers the different understandings of inter- and trans-disciplinary research (ITR), the factors that inhibit or support them and a set of success criteria for meaningful AHSS integration within ITR for approaching key societal challenges. During the seminar we will present the outcomes of this first task, as the project is currently ongoing.

## The Seminar

The seminar aims at discussing the first results of SHAPE-ID informed by **Julie Thompson Klein`s** experience and expertise. Using inputs and insights from the literature, we will discuss three aspects:

1. Different understandings of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research (ITR).
2. Factors that hinder or help interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration.
3. Which understanding of ITR and which factors of success and failure are specifically relevant for integrating AHSS and STEMM in ITR.

The ultimate goal of the seminar is to open a space for reflecting on alternatives to solve the gap between AHSS and STEMM in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects and how to improve practice.

Highlights from the seminar will be included in the Project`s Report (under participants acceptance).

**Agenda**

| **Tuesday 17th September, 2019** | |
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| 9.00 – 9.45 | Welcome & Introduction to SHAPE-ID |
| 9.45 – 10.30 | Understandings of ITR: first results & new insights |
| 10.30 – 10.45 | Coffee |
| 10.45 – 11.45 | Klein`s presentation based on SHAPE-ID first results.<br>She will focus on three main aspects of SHAPE-ID: (i) understandings of IDR/TDR; (ii) factors that hinder or help IDR/TDR; and (iii) recommendations for bridging AHSS and STEMM |
| 11.45 – 12.30 | Discussion and questions from participants |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch |
| 13.30 – 14.45 | *Open-space:* Group activity, participants will gather in groups to discuss on inputs from Klein.<br>Plenary to present main insights organized under the three aspects discussed before. |
| 14.45 – 15.00 | Coffee |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | Wrap-Up & Conclusions<br>Klein and participants reflect together on the *Open-space* flashlights and further insights on how to bridge the gap between AHSS + STEM.<br>Perspectives and questions for SHAPE-ID |

**Julie Thompson Klein** is Professor of Humanities Emerita in the English Department at Wayne State University and an International Research Affiliate of the TdLab at ETH-Zurich for Science and Technology in Switzerland. Klein is past president of the Association of Interdisciplinary Studies and former editor of the journal *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*. Her books include *Interdisciplinarity: History, Theory, and Practice* (1990), *Interdisciplinary Studies Today* (co- edited 1994), *Crossing Boundaries* (1996), the monograph *Mapping Interdisciplinary Studies* (1999), *Transdisciplinarity* (co-edited 2001), *Creating Interdisciplinary Campus Cultures* (2010), *Interdisciplining Digital Humanities* (2015), and *The Oxford Handbook of Interdisciplinarity* (co-edited, 2010 & 2017). Klein has received numerous honors, including the Kenneth Boulding Award for Outstanding Scholarship on Interdisciplinarity. She consults on interdisciplinary programs throughout North America and has served on task forces of the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and National

Academies of Science. She is also a member of governing boards of the International Network for the Science of Team Science (INSciTS) network and the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC). Klein is active internationally as well, delivering keynote addresses throughout North and South America, Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. In 1978-79 she was Visiting Foreign Professor in Japan, in 1987 a Fulbright professor in Nepal, in 1995 a Foundation Visitor at the University of Auckland, in 2017 a Distinguished Woman Scholar in residence at the University of Victoria in Canada, in 1997-98 a Senior Fellow at the Association of American Colleges and Universities; and in 2011 a Mellon Fellow and Visiting Professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Michigan. She is also an active contributor to the Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net).

**What is SHAPE-ID?**

SHAPE-ID is coordinated by Trinity College Dublin (Ireland) and the consortium comprises five partners: ISINNOVA (Italy), ETH Zurich (Switzerland), the University of Edinburgh (UK), the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland) and Dr. Jack Spaapen (the Netherlands).
**More information:** https://www.shapeid.eu
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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 822705

**Questions on the seminar:**
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