

Transformative Research and Development

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Transformative research, research beyond mainstream

We live in a world in which knowledge is produced and used to make change, inform others, support a perspective, or justify an action.

Hence, the question of who produces knowledge and uses knowledge is central to understand how power is created, taken, or maintained.

Being able to produce knowledge, then, is a route to power, empowerment, and influence.”

Sandra Kirby, Lorraine Greaves and Colleen Reid. 2010.

Experience Research Social Change

Sorry!

**The lifestyle you
ordered is currently
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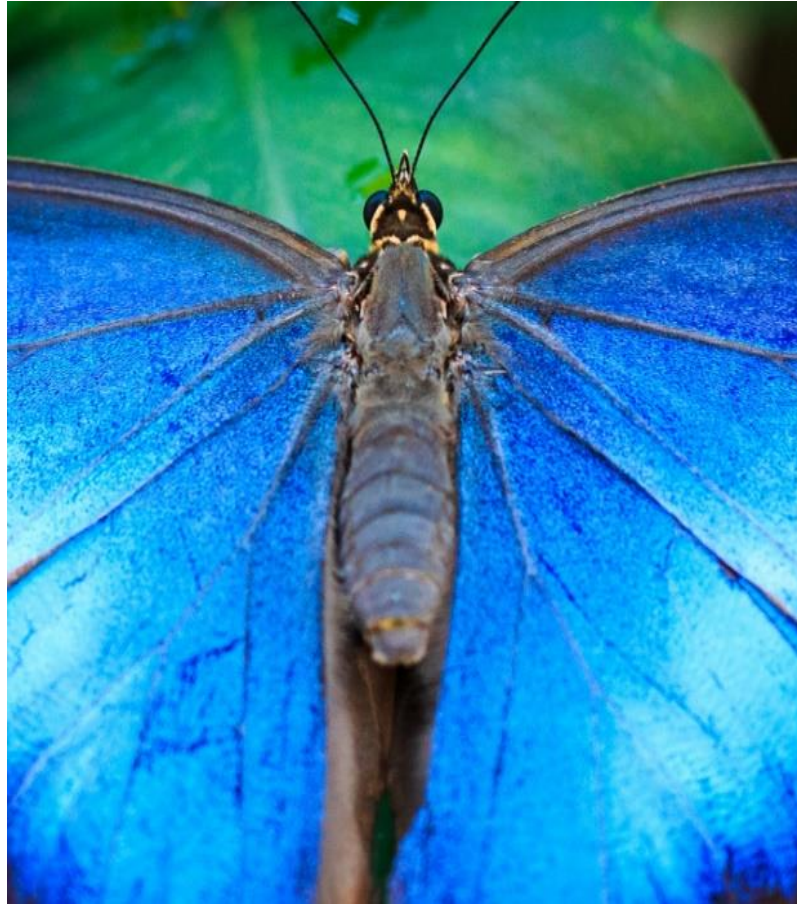
Multiple and complex crisis as a starting point: Relevance of comprehensive approaches

- **Climate change, ecological crisis, Growth-turn**
- **Necessity of sustainable development (social, economic, ecological)**
- **Uncertainties of societal orientation, individualization, pluralization**
- **Financial crisis and austerity politics**
- **Crisis of the welfare state, new social needs**
- **Political crisis**
- **Crisis of global labor markets;**
- **„Corona Crisis“ and its social and economic consequences**

The great Transformation

Growth-Society

- Quantitative Growth
- Disembedding
- Globalisation
- Global dependencies
- Individualisation
- Privatisation
- Competition
- Top-down governance
- Externalisation
- Functional differentiation



Mode-I-Society

Post-Growth-Society

- Flourishing beyond growth
- Re-embedding
- Localisation
- Local sufficiency/resilience
- Communing
- Commons
- Collaboration
- Bottom-up-decisions
- Integration
- De-differentiation

Mode-II-Society

Consequences: From Research for Academic Purposes to Cooperative Knowledge Production and Transformative Research

Mode I Society/Mode I Research

- Disciplinary
- Production of knowledge by scientists in academic context
- Hierarchical
- Responsible to scientific rules and financier
- Independent from application and practical social problems



Mode II Society/Mode II Research

- Inter/Transdisciplinary
- Agora: social space to generate and bargain knowledge by scientists and not-scientific actors
- Co-creative, democratic
- Responsible to scientific rules and society
- Reflexive in relationship to social problems to be solved

Mode-2 society / Mode-2 science

The new reflexive scientific culture is accountable to **a society, “which has started to speak back to science”**. This society demands for interactive science that produces socially robust knowledge.

A reflexive society is called “mode-2 society” and the **corresponding knowledge-production** in the “context of application, involving a broader range of perspectives as **“mode 2 science”**”.

Mode-2 society is characterized by an increase of complexity, new social uncertainties, a greater institutional permeability, a higher degree of self-organization amongst social actors and a change in the perceptions of time and space.

Mode-2 science is context-sensitive, open for a wider range of actors, for diverse research-contexts beyond traditional scientific domains and for new forms of knowledge production.

This changes perspectives of research and those of society as well as the relationship between science and society in fundamental ways.

Nowotny, Scott, Gibbons 2001, 1, Gibbons, 2000

General Paradigm Shift in Theoretical Fundamentals of Humanities & Social Sciences choice

Transition Theories based on „post-isms“ explaining ongoing societal transformation:

Post-Fordism (Goodwin, Lipietz)

Post-Socialism (Pavlinek and Pickles)

Post-Modernism (Lyotard, Latour, Beck, Rosa)

Post-Growth (Jackson, Zahrndt, Paech, Latouche)

Post-colonialism (Wolf, Abdel-Fadil, Chomsky)

Post-capitalism? (Mason)

Societal Transition and actual approaches in social- and natural science:

Critical Theory (new Frankfurt School, Rosa, Dörre, Lessenich)

Modernization Theories (Beck, Giddens, Latour)

Approaches of eco-social Transformation and Transdisciplinarity (WGBU, Schneidewind, Jahn)

Theories of Social Innovation (Moulaert, MacCallum, Hamdouch)

(eco-)feminist Theory: (Biesecker, Shiva, Kirky, Reid, Greaves)

What does this have to do with social work?

Socialwork professions have a long tradition in facilitating, fostering and accompanying societal changes especially for and with vulnerable groups.

Professional Socialwork as social development is (research-based) transformative work



Roots and epistemological Pillars of Social Work as transformative social Development (choice)

- Settlement Movement (Jane Addams et.al.)
- Education of the oppressed (Paulo Freire)
- Empowering the powerless (Saul Alinski)
- Economics of the rainworm (Manfred Max-Neef)
- Unfaithful Angels (Harry Specht Georg MacCourtney)
- Comprehensive Community Development and Community Organizing (Herbert and Irene Rubin, Jim Ife, Dorothy Gamble & Marie Weil)
- Progressive Community Development for Human Rights (Jim Ife)
- Eco-Social Social Work (Aila-Leena Matthies et.al.)
- Eco-Social Transformation and Community Economy (Susanne Elsen)

The strong Comeback of Participatory Research

Challenges of global change and local life-world problems at the local level are highly complex and located at different levels. In such comprehensive fields disciplinary analyses quickly reach their limits.

The complexity of research questions requires comprehensive and integrated approaches.

The integration of different claims and forms of knowledge as well as the action-oriented pooling of resources and skills for designing transformation becomes a specific feature of transdisciplinary and transformative types of research for society.

Jahn, 2001; Dubielzig & Schaltegger, 2004; Haschnitz et al., 2010; Elsen, 2011; Schneidewind & Singer-Brodowski, 2013

Community-Based Action Research (CBAR) is Transformative Research for Social Innovation

Comprehensive real world questions need approaches, able to deal with different claims, forms of knowledge and actors as well as action-oriented skills for designing robust approaches to better theories, methods and practical skills.

Community-based action research is research for and with society and core part of Community Development.

It marks a shift from science-centered processes to processes aiming to find shared and resilient solutions, involving non-scientific actors.

Bradbury: Handbook of Action Research, 2001, Kirby Greives Reid: Experience Research Social Change, 2010



Strategies, Methods, & Instruments of our Profession

- **Community based research approaches:** real life laboratories; participative mapping; social space analysis; Community Power Analysis; open space; Focus Groups, Competence Workshops etc.
- **Community Organizing strategies:** Activating Inquiry; Citizens Conferences, etc.
- **Participative Research for Community Based Planning:** Target Finding Conferences, Future Conference, Open Space, Planning Cells; participative Mapping, Planning for Real;
- **Networking Strategies:** Stakeholder-Analysis; Building up linking, bridging and bonding networks, based on community research

SUSTAIN-ABILITY

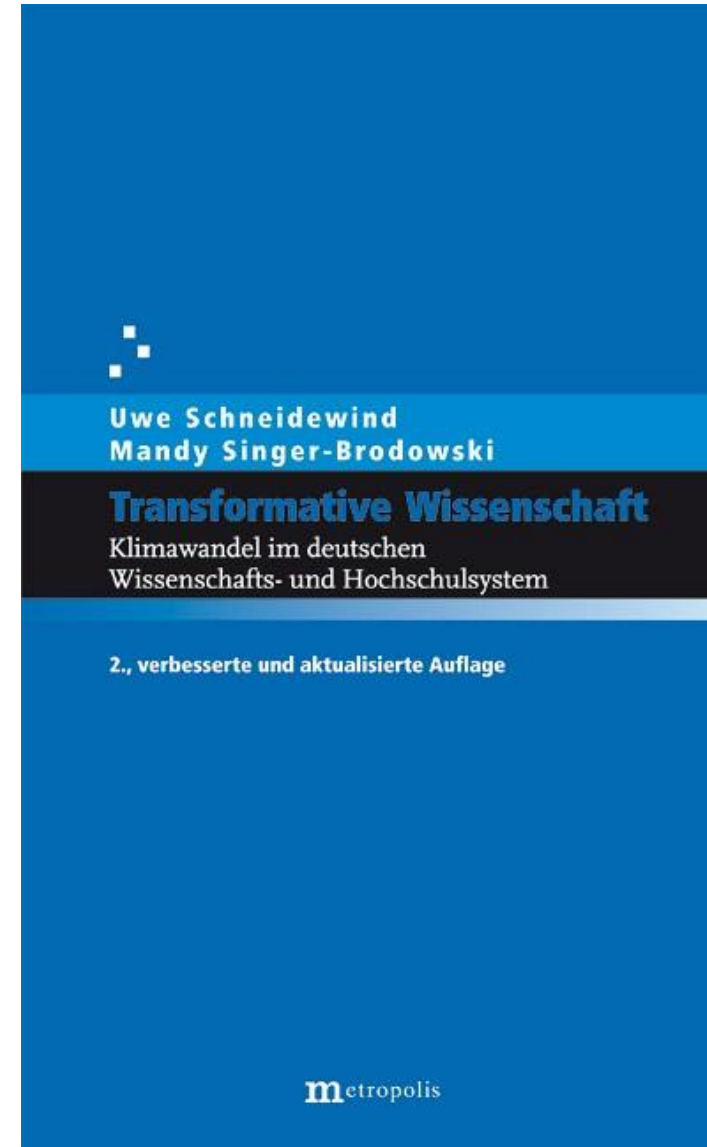
- **Contributing to global transformation by integrative local approaches in research & development**
- **UNRISD- Flagship report 2016 Policy Innovations for Transformative Change** (examples of transformative research and development)



My current transformative Projects



- UPAS: Unlocking the potential of Social Agriculture (2017-2020)**
- FARm: Filiera Agricoltura responsabile (2020-2021)**
- Social Agriculture combatting organized Crime in Italy's South (2020)**
- Multifunctional Pasture Farming in mountainous areas (drafting)**





Experience Research Social Change

CRITICAL METHODS

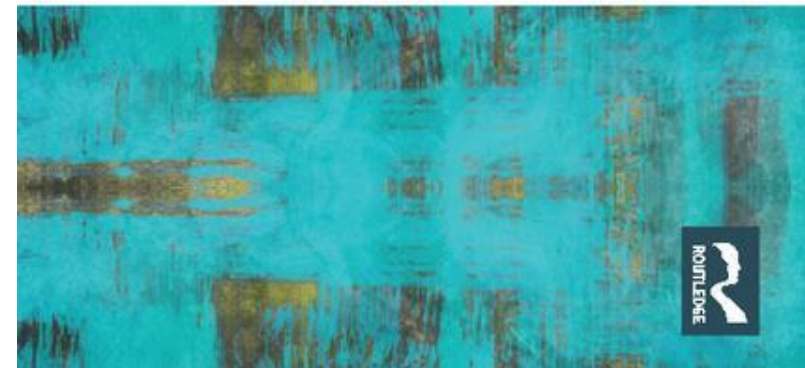
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COLLEEN REID
LORRAINE GREAVES
SANDRA KIRBY



ECO-SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMY

Susanne Elsen



Re-Thinking Science

Knowledge and the
Public in an Age
of Uncertainty

**Helga Nowotny,
Peter Scott and
Michael Gibbons**

Quellen:

- Hella von Unger (2014): Partizipative Forschung

<https://www.socialnet.de/buchversand/?isbn=9783658012892>

- Uwe Schneidewind (2014): Transformative Wissenschaft. Klimawandel im deutschen Wissenschafts- und Hochschulsystem <https://www.metropolis-verlag.de/Transformative-Wissenschaft/1057/book.do>

- Kirby, Sandra L./ Greaves, Lorraine/Reid, Colleen (2016): Experience, research, social change: methods beyond the mainstream https://www.amazon.de/Experience-Research-Social-Change-Critical/dp/144263605X/ref=dp_ob_title_bk

- Susanne Elsen (2019): Eco-Social Transformation and Community-Based Economy <https://www.routledge.com/Eco-Social-Transformation-and-Community-Based-Economy/Elsen/p/book/9780815359562>

- Helga Nowotny (2004): Re-thinking science : knowledge and the public in an age of uncertainty <https://www.amazon.de/Re-Thinking-Science-Knowledge-Public-Uncertainty/dp/0745626084>