

Conceptualising Transformative Knowledge Regions

Workshop 26th / 27th of October 2023

**Organised by the Regional Studies Association
Network on Transformative Knowledge Regions**

Venue:

Institute for Work and Technology / Hier ist nicht da
Bochumer Straße 138
45886 Gelsenkirchen (GER)

The TRAKR network aims at exploring the shift from knowledge-intensive to “transformative-knowledge regions” to renew the understanding of knowledge as an asset in regional development in light of ongoing sustainability transitions. The network was kicked-off this year (2023) at the Regional Studies annual conference. It strives to further conceptualise sustainability transitions and innovation directionality challenges from an explicit knowledge perspective. More information on the network can be found [here](#).

This workshop is the 2nd TRAKR event and will address the following questions:

- In which ways does transformative knowledge creation connect to space? How do transformative knowledge actors connect within and across space and places?
- How should we understand a transformative knowledge ecosystem? Which configurations of regional knowledge ecosystems, including their variety of actors, learning communities and multi-scalar connections, seems especially suited for realizing transitions?
- Do the knowledge ecosystems in regions with high performance in sustainability transitions have distinct transformative capacities compared to regions with lesser sustainability performance, for instance regarding involvement of citizens, households and neighbourhoods?
- Are the institutional thickness and complexity of urban areas compared to peripheral and rural areas an advantage or a weakness in terms of transformative knowledge creation and ecosystems?
- What would be a typology of varying territorial transformative knowledge ecosystems?

The workshop includes keynotes by leading scholars, opportunities for participants to present and discuss their ideas, interactive sessions, site visits and a social programme.

Thursday 26th of October 2023

08:45 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome & Introduction

09:30 – 10:30 Keynote: **Placing Knowledge Regions in Processes of Transformation: Initial Points, Transit Stations or Receiving Ends.** Oliver Ibert, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space

Discussion (all): What is new for the study of the geography of knowledge?

Coffee break

10:45 – 11:40 Pecha Kucha or 5 minutes presentation - Session I

- **Is transformation a question of knowledge?** Ben Dankbaar, InnoTeP
- **Conceptualizing transformative knowledge in the transition-development nexus.** Camilla Chlebna, Kiel University and Johannes Suitner, TU Wien
- **The knowledge economy of sustainable living.** Gusztav Nemes, KRTK

Group discussions: What is transformative knowledge?

11:40 – 12:30 Pecha Kucha or 5 minutes presentation - Session II

- **Regional Innovation Capacity Research.** Sila Ceren Varis Husar – STUBA
- **The learning processes of transition.** Olivier Crevoisier, University of Neuchâtel
- **What Lay Knowledge for Transformation?** Pauline Lavanchy & Hugues Jeannerat, University of Neuchâtel

Group discussions: What role has knowledge in sustainability transitions?

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch & bus tour

13:30 - 16:00 Site visit Thyssen Krupp Steel

17:15 – 18:15 Keynote: **Living labs on urban manufacturing in the Ruhr as path to a transformative knowledge region?** Kerstin Meyer, Institute for Work and Technology, Westphalian University of Applied Sciences (Venue: Wiesmann's, Hochstr. 65, Bochum Wattenscheid).

Discussion (all): What are the paths to transformative knowledge regions?

Drinks reception

19:00 Dinner (Venue: Wiesmann's, Hochstr. 65, Bochum Wattenscheid).

Friday 27th of October 2023

09:00 – 10:00 Keynote: **Transformative knowledge – experimentation, contestation & deliberation in innovation**. Lars Coenen, Mohn Centre for Innovation and Regional Development, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Discussion (all): What is new for the study of the geography of sustainability transitions?

Coffee break

10:15 – 11:15 Pecha Kucha or 5 minutes presentation - Session III

- **Knowledge Combinations and Transformative Process Knowledge –The Tension between Path Dependency and Path Plasticity in multi-scalar Dynamics**. Simone Strambach, University of Marburg
- **Mission oriented knowledge leap: systematic or policy dictation? Three cases from Turkey**. Murat Dulupçu, Suleyman Demirel University
- **Social innovation in non-profit sports organizations: understanding sustainable mobility transitions from a sport practice perspective**. Anders Larsson, University of Gothenburg

Group discussions: Key conceptual underpinnings of Transformative Knowledge Regions

11:15 – 12:15 Pecha Kucha or 5 minutes presentation - Session IV

- **The role of Transformative Enterprises along the innovation axis Berlin-Lusatia**. Sarah-Juliane Starre, Technical University of Berlin
- **Sociotechnical Imaginaries of Sustainable Construction**. Lennart Fischer, University of Gießen
- **How can the ecological and socially just transformation of our society succeed?** Sonja Knobbe, International Center for Sustainable and Just Transformation University Witten/Herdecke

Discussion (all): What are important theoretical conceptions for transformative knowledge regions?

12:15 – 12:45

- **Wrap-up**, Camilla Chlebna, University of Kiel
- **Final discussion & future steps** (all)

12:45 – 13:00 Farewell

Snack

Walk through Gelsenkirchen Ückendorf (optional)