



Harnessing the Power of Transdisciplinarity

All you need to know for navigating complex challenges

TD Research



We live and work in a world filled with diverse and complex challenges. Navigating them and making progress toward addressing many of these requires new, collaborative and innovative methods—such as those utilising transdisciplinarity. Mainstream or more 'traditional' and 'academic' ways of problem solving like multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary [approaches](#) are often insufficient for these types of issues. Transdisciplinarity integrates knowledge and theory from these approaches but extends further, incorporating diverse expertise and perspectives, including those from First Nations, industry and the wider community. This generates paths that transcend historic and traditional methods, which often have limited impact on influencing current approaches, thinking, and entire systems.

So, how can we address more industry, community, society-wide or unknown future challenges, harnessing the powerful benefits of transdisciplinarity without having a complete picture of its use, evolution and impact?

Project Overview

This research project aimed to capture and help deepen understanding of the many ways transdisciplinarity (TD) has been put into practice globally—providing for the first time, an analysis of its current and historical use. Transdisciplinary methodologies are employed in education, professional settings, and research, however, despite their significant role in helping both the public and private sectors address challenges, there has never been a complete, comprehensive understanding or timeline of its implementation, evolution and impact. A team of researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds collaborated to perform a systematic review of literature that contained transdisciplinary methods, frameworks, and practices—unearthing a potential 26,000+ articles. The team then screened these against specific inclusion criteria and extracted relevant information to create an extensive, searchable resource.

Our Impact

Researchers at UTS' Transdisciplinary School not only use TD methodologies across their work, but they have also passionately created and engaged in this project that significantly impacts and broadens understanding of TD on a global scale. This pioneering project created a comprehensive TD overview by:

- (1) **Impacting Knowledge** - Collating a complete in-depth world-wide picture of anything that has ever been created on TD including research papers, books, articles, clinical findings and more;
- (2) **Impacting Education and Research** - Serving as the cornerstone for UTS' Transdisciplinary School and TD Research area providing a continued teaching and research methodology resource;
- (3) **Impacting Society and Community** - Producing a range of reports and other information summarising the extensive findings, showcasing global, and industry specific information across research, clinical, education and professional contexts;
- (4) **Impacting Future Use** - Utilising the findings of the systematic review to create a world-first, searchable, global TD database of over 3000+ articles, aiding in the navigation of current and future challenges.

The information uncovered from this project and subsequent tools created will help support and guide organisations and individuals across the world to navigate their most complex of challenges of today and the future.

Work with us

We deliver a wide range of research projects for public and private sector partners seeking research expertise and support in overcoming their complex challenges using our unique transdisciplinary (TD) methodology. To find out how TD Research can help you and your organisation, please email - TDRresearch@uts.edu.au

PROJECT PARTNERS

UTS Transdisciplinary School.

RESEARCH TEAM

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