Priorities and dilemmas for transdisciplinarity in research and education (a view from the North)

LUIZ OOSTERBEEK
LOOST@IPT.PT
Topics

Departure → Transition → Proposals
Departure

If change is to be sought, one must understand what’s the point of departure.

IT'S NOT DENIAL
I'M JUST VERY SELECTIVE ABOUT THE REALITY I ACCEPT
Trends

Territorial based values diverging from globalization

Ethnocentric memories, instead of History

Beliefs instead of academic knowledge

Mistrust on given “oficial” information

Questioning of the common nature of humankind

Re-definition of territories and identities

Walls, to prevent transformation in face of uncertainty
A new world of old humans

Disruptions

- Bretton Woods collapse
- Colonial independences and new cultural dynamics
- Global socio-economy and environment
- Cultural divides
- Ageing and transformative capacities
- AI – IT and virtual behaviour
- Neurological implications of motricity reduction
Resulting perceptions

- “Clean” energy and household costs
- Environment protection and traditional activities
- Education and unemployment
- Migrations and welfare

and

- Public focus on technology training, against science and humanities education
- Sustainability as a sound bite of the “system”
In times of denial...

Challenges:
- to focus on adaptation and not only in mitigation
- to raise critical thinking
- to meet the anxiety of an uncertain future
  - Jobs
  - Health
  - Ageing
  - Violence
  - Migrations
- to introduce mid-long term reasoning into daily concerns
- to shift from problems-solutions into dilemas-choices
- to combine sciences solutions with humanities meanings
A programme of transition cannot take as a base something people do not understand.

I DECIDED TO FACE REALITY, SO AS SOON AS IT BECOMES BEAUTIFUL I WILL DO IT.
Territories: ground for transformations

A transformative agenda, rooted in humanities and sciences, must build from the standing point of citizens

Sustainability must not fall into monological thinking

Daily behaviour in given territories fosters diversity but, also, convergence of approaches to face converging global connections

To design humans-scale strategies of adaptation based on foresight, may change the current perceptions trend
The Apheleia approach

www.apheleiaproject.org
ILM: TOWARDS A CULTURE OF QUALITY

4 pillars:
- Education and training
- Territorial matrix
- Institucional articulation
- Comunication

- ESTRUTURA DA OPERAÇÃO
  - OBSERVATORY
    - INICIAL OBSERVATORY
      - INDICATORS
        - ASSESSMENTS
  - GOVERNANCE

- INSTITUTIONAL ARTICULATION
  - PROJECTS
    - EXEMPLARY ACTIONS

- EDUCATION
  - POST GRAD.
    - TRAINING AND GRADUATION

- Matrix / MTAI
  - THEMATIC FORI
    - FORESIGHT
      - MEMORY SPACES

- COMUNICATION

Independent observatory secures monitoring and foresight basis

Governance Based on institutional articulation and monitoring
MTAI

Qualification and monitoring

Memory, science, foresight

Dynamics and stability

Employment and innovation
Examples
Proposals should focus on strengthening the process and its resilience and not so much on targets.
An ongoing process
New trends

Tools
◦ Education for contradiction
◦ Exercise time and space frontiers
◦ Re-connect sociocultural matrices
◦ Communication (including cultural jobs)
◦ Understand disciplines diversity and the different and complementary nature of Sciences and Humanities

Concepts
◦ Landscape
◦ Diversity
◦ Tangibility
◦ Immagination
◦ Creativity
◦ Co-design
Suggestions

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustainable science strategies should be built as part of governance strategies.

Education, participative experiments, science based narratives and dilemmas debates should be promoted as comprehensive “packages”.

Sustainable science should be based on an integrated framework involving mid-long term humanities dilemmas and short term natural and social problems.

PROPOSALS

RESOURCES: A list of examples of transferable projects should be made available (WHC).

EDUCATION: At school level, at least one discipline or area of studies in all pre-University education should bring together human, social, natural and hard sciences, discussing dilemmas.

COMMUNICATION: A list of keywords should be agreed, defined and translated into different languages, cultures and disciplines.

RESEARCH: Funding of science and society projects should consider projects focused in involving people in the making of science (participative science).
World Humanities Conference

- Humans and Environment
- Cultural identities, cultural diversity and intercultural relations
- Cultural Heritage
- Borders and Migrations
- History, Memory and Politics

Transversal themes:

- Landscape management and Humanities in technology
- Re-visiting sustainability
- Translation of Concepts and the Humanities of Sciences
- Fundamental competences to develop in pre-university education
- International research priorities
www.cipsh.net

Thank you!