

# TD SUMMER SCHOOL, 30. JUN – 6. JUL 2019, GEORGIA



## TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AT THE SCIENCE | SOCIETY INTER- FACE WITHIN AN INTERCULTURAL ORIENTATION

Leuphana University Lüneburg is pleased to invite you to the Td Summer School 2019. This year, the Td Summer School is heading east and already takes place in July! It will be realized in Kazbegi, Georgia (Caucasus) in cooperation with Tbilisi State University, Georgia, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, and Armenian State Pedagogical University, Armenia.

The Td Summer School offers a 5-day intensive Td Training Module on transdisciplinary research that will prepare researchers and practitioners for transformative research on societal challenges at the science | society interface. Participants will gain input on theoretical and methodological foundations as well as experience in designing and implementing transdisciplinary research processes. The aim is to broaden academic researchers' disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives towards a transdisciplinary approach and to enable practitioners to elaborate their role in transdisciplinary research processes. This year a particular focus is on interculturality to foster exchange between researchers and practitioners from different world regions, in particular the Caucasus region, and to mutually learn from different transdisciplinary research traditions. Subsequently, an optional weekend program (excursion) on Saturday, 6, July 2019 will be organized.

## TD TRAINING MODULE 1 – 5, JULY, 2019

During the Td Training Module we will provide insights into historical, political and theoretical foundations of transdisciplinary research that have emerged in different communities and world regions and create a space to gain practical experiences in designing transdisciplinary research processes. We will explore different methodologies and frameworks, principles and design elements of transdisciplinary research and get an overview of methods for collaborative, transdisciplinary research. During the two days, we will elaborate transdisciplinary case study designs in small groups. The case study designs will be developed in 20 steps that will guide you from the framing of a problem to the development of implementation strategies of results.

It is our overall objective to create strong links to your fields of activities. Therefore we will jointly select the cases based on suggestions from the participants. A case could be a problem field that your current research or professional activity is related to, and which you want to further develop towards a transdisciplinary approach. Alternatively, it could be an issue that you are planning to work on in the future. By jointly developing the transdisciplinary case study design, you will have the chance to apply principles, design elements and methods that will be introduced during the first days of the Td Training Module. Working together in groups with scientists and practitioners will allow you to experience the different perspectives on cases in transdisciplinary research processes and to discuss diverse roles, tasks and responsibilities of involved persons.

## TRAINERS

- Ulli Vilsmaier, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Methodology Center and Institute of Ethics and Transdisciplinary Sustainability Science: Professor for Transdisciplinary Methods
- Andreas Muhar, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria: Professor in Sustainable Landscape Development, Transdisciplinarity and Knowledge Integration
- Armen Gevorgyan, Armenian Geographical Society of Armenian Academy of Sciences: Expert and practitioner in geography, landscape development and governance
- Christoph Winckler, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria: Professor in Livestock Sciences
- Joseph Salukvadze, Tbilisi State University, Georgia: Professor in Human Geography
- Ioseb Khelashvili, Tbilisi State University, Georgia: Professor of Economics
- Lela Khartishvili: Expert and practitioner in tourism development in Kazbegi, Georgia
- Merab Khokhobaia, Tbilisi State University, Georgia: Economics
- Tamara Mitrofanenko, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria: Regional development and education for sustainable development
- Loni Hensler, National Autonomous University of Mexico and Transdisciplinary Node of the Network for Socio-ecosystems and Sustainability (CONACyT), Mexico



# PARTNERS

Td Summer School 2019 is realized as a cooperation between:

- Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
- Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- Armenian State Pedagogical University, Armenia

# ORGANIZATION

## REGISTRATION

Participation fee for the Td Summer School 2019 is 300 €. The fee covers: Tuition, Opening evening event, snacks and coffee during the sessions, farewell dinner, excursion, transportation between Tbilisi and Kazbegi. Due to limitation of participants, we ask you to send us your CV, motivation and an outline of your current activities/ research until April 20, 2019 to [td\\_training@leuphana.de](mailto:td_training@leuphana.de)

Deadline: April 20, 2019

Confirmation: April 27, 2019

Registration fee: May 4, 2019

You will find information concerning scholarships, on arrival and accommodation on our web-page: [www.leuphana.de/td-training](http://www.leuphana.de/td-training)

## KEY DATES

Opening event: June, 30, 2019 (starting in the evening)

Td Training Module: July 1 – 5, 2019

Optional excursion: July 6, 2019

## VENUE

Kazbegi National Park Administration

62 Vazha-Pshavela St., Lower Stepantsminda, Kazbegi

# THE CAUCASUS REGION

The Caucasus region stretches between the Black and Caspian seas and provides a bridge between Europe and Asia in geographical, biological and cultural terms. It is shared by 6 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Russia and Turkey. The region, with its diverse landscapes and multiple languages spoken by its inhabitants, has been recognized as one of the hotspots of biological and cultural diversity on the international level. However, the region has been facing many complex challenges: lack of opportunities for sustainable development, economic and social marginalization of the mountainous communities as well as national and international conflicts. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia are dealing with their common heritage of the Soviet Union, as well as with more recent political and economic changes.

Many efforts have been made to-date to support nature protection and sustainable development, raise awareness of the population, increase capacity of the national and local institutions and improve livelihoods of the population in this unique region. In the rural mountain areas development efforts often focus on tourism initiatives. Recently more attention has been given to the role of universities in sustainable development of the Caucasus region. A Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt) has been launched in 2013, in order to support cooperation among the universities in the region, to restore and develop research capacities, and to link research to policy and development practice.

The TD Summer School 2019 is supported by:



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