

# Review: Escuela de Primavera 2018

The third Latin American edition of the Transdisciplinary Summer School skipped a season this year becoming the first “TD Escuela de Primavera” (spring school). The training was held in Xalapa, Mexico in cooperation with the Universidad Veracruzana. With over 80 registrations, the lucky 30 who made it through included a good handful of locals, people from all over Mexico, as well as participants from Chile, Ecuador, Germany, Austria and Spain. Surrounded by the breath-taking exuberance of Xalapa’s mesophyll forest, participants engaged in an intense journey across transdisciplinarity. During the first three days of the course, avid participants were instructed on the foundations of inter- and transdisciplinarity, through a combination of participatory methods as well as live and online classes from the Leuphana team. The local setting set the backdrop for the theory, with the whole week dotted with activities, from a lively Xarana and delicious tamales on the opening day, to participation in a “conversatorio”, a multi-stakeholder event based on a long-term transdisciplinary experience on water conservation. Students got to share their wide variety of disciplinary perspectives with one another during well-earned breaks, while enjoying tasty bites from the local cuisine, prepared by the woman’s group of Chiltoyac, a neighbouring community. By the third day the group was ready to form teams according to common research interests and areas of expertise, in order to apply the theoretical and methodological insights gained during the first days to selected case studies. 20 carefully thought-through steps provided by facilitators were used as guideline for designing the transdisciplinary case studies. The presentation of study cases led to lively discussions and covered a wide range of topics, from citizen’s involvement in nature conservation, the recovery of identity and ancient knowledge in current farming practices, to discussions about ethics of care and epistemic violence.

For more information see our website.

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