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project

in transdisciplinary research and education

of PhD students and young researchers

**I. THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR SERIES**

**In the fields of humanities, social and natural sciences, online, free**

**(winter and summer semesters, 2022-2023)**

**RESILIENCE IN A WORLD OF PERMANENT CRISIS**

The current world situation is characterized by an escalation of tensions and violence related to phenomena such as migration, imperialism and neocolonialism, racism, terrorism, war, as well as climate change, declining biodiversity, and ecological disasters. These threats develop into permanent crises and force an accelerated adaptation to life in worsening conditions. It is becoming evident that the effectiveness of the existing systems of an order has been undermined, and questioned, and that the current circumstances require a reworking of the existing solutions. After a period of diagnosing problems, strategies and methods to cope with them are needed. Meeting these challenges may result in an amalgamation of the fields of humanities, social and natural sciences that help develop a shared understanding of knowledge and science. It should be practical and socially beneficial, and the results of scientific research should offer solutions to the problems. It must be accompanied by a critical reflection referring to previous attempts to develop such solutions, which will reveal their limitations and, as a result, enable a proper and adequate diagnosis of the current situation as well the development of approaches to manage the crises with which the present-day grapples. To a greater extent than ever before, we are faced with the need to contextualize scientific knowledge in relation to commonsense knowledge, as well as to seek and recognize complementarity between Western and Indigenous knowledge.

In this state of affairs, it is worth considering whether and to what extent the knowledge we create contributes to constructing a “culture of preparedness” understood as the ability to quickly and effectively adapt to frequent and radically changing circumstances. This culture requires anticipatory thinking, mobilizing creative imagination, and thinking in terms of foresight. Forward-thinking requires the commonality of science languages (humanities, social, and natural sciences). This signifies the need to develop an appropriate set of key concepts, methods, theories, and research perspectives that will meet cognitive needs and define effective fields of knowledge needed to deal with problems of the present day. Therefore, one must look for a "cognitive superstructure,” and "conceptual deposits of knowledge" as prototypical solutions for knowledge that is yet to be created.

The adoption of such a strategy will allow for an adequate definition of the conditions for the development of adaptability to the changing environment and the uncertain realities of life. These competencies and abilities help to build resilience in the condition of permanent crisis and the sense of danger associated with it, whether real or artificially induced. In this context, transdisciplinary security studies and the concept of community resilience combining various disciplines constitute a useful research platform allowing to recognize the abilities of various life forms to “positive adaptation,” i.e. creating a habitat that effectively adjusts to changing conditions.

**SEMINAR SERIES SCHEDULE**

**27 October 2022**

**1. SYSTEMIC RISK ANALYSIS (AT CRISIS) (org. MAREK TRIPPENBACH, MAREK KONARZEWSKI)**

War is not only a humanitarian catastrophe but also a long-term systemic threat with local and global consequences. By systemic threat (risk) we understand the disturbance of the basic mechanisms of social, economic, and political stability. Interdisciplinary research teams dealing with systemic risk are being formed all over the world, the experiences of which we intend to use in organizing the debate and further activities aimed at inter-disciplinary understanding of systemic risk.

In Ukraine, fights take place in regions that account for over 55 percent. GDP, including in the most industrialized areas. It is estimated that up to half of Ukrainian companies have stopped operating, and fiscal revenues have fallen sevenfold. In the long term, there will be a threat of a civilization collapse, associated with the emigration of a significant number of specialists (brain drain) and the inevitable human losses during the war. For Poland, the war in Ukraine poses a challenge related to an unprecedented number of refugees, a further increase in inflation, and a deterioration in the structure of public debt. National social service systems such as health and education will be particularly hard hit. These threats overlap with the already existing problems related to the "overhang" of native patients (especially chronically ill) caused by delays in diagnostics and therapy arising during the COVID-19 epidemic. Globally, the war has shaken the energy market. The price of a barrel of Brent crude oil in the world markets increased by as much as 44 percent, which, combined with the reduction of gas supplies, will lead to global inflation of at least a dozen or so percent. There will also be a serious imbalance in world food security, as Russia and Ukraine are ranked 1st and 5th respectively in the world exports of wheat, and are major suppliers of other agricultural products. Apart from inflation, the collapse of supply chains, and energy, the modern war also means confrontation in the digital field and counteracting disinformation. These are just a few examples of system threats that may appear in the near future. Based on the analysis of these phenomena and access to information about real threats, we intend to construct a narrative of the proposed seminar.

Moderator:

* Marek Konarzewski

Participants:

* [Edwin Bendyk](https://www.batory.org.pl/en/about-us/council-and-board/#tabs_tab-1) (President of the Stefan Batory Foundation, Columnist of the *Polityka* weekly magazine, founder of the Collegium Civitas Centre for Future Studies, professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences Graduate School for Social Research),
* Dr hab. Adam Izdebski z  Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, autor kisiazki [*"Perspectives on Public Policy in Societal-Environmental Crises: What the Future Needs from History"*](https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-94137-6)https://www.shh.mpg.de/person/60036/1056512
* Prof. Miguel Centeno Department of Sociology, Princeton University  and Executive Vice-Dean of the School of Public and International Affairs, autor kursu Global Systemic Riskhttps://sociology.princeton.edu/people/miguel-centeno.

**Marek Konarzewski** is a Professor of Biology at the Institute of Biology, University of Bialystok, and at the Faculty of Liberal Arts of the University of Warsaw. He pursued Ph.D. and DsC degree at the Institute of Ecology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and then returned to the University of Bialystok, after postdoctoral work at the University of California, Los Angeles in Dr. Jared Diamond’s laboratory. Dr. Konarzewski’s main research interests are in the field of physiological ecology and the emerging field of evolutionary physiology ([ResearchGate](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marek-Konarzewski-2), [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=LedqCC4AAAAJ&hl=pl)) . He is a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

**Marek Trippenbach** is a professor of physics at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Warsaw. 1989-1991 he joined the Joint Institute Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA) in Boulder Colorado and the University of Rochester as a postdoc 1995-2000 was visiting scientist at the Ben Gurion University, Israel. In 2005 received Fulbright Scholarship and worked at the National Institute of Standard and Technology in Gaithersburg, where he collaborated with William Daniel Phillips, a Nobel Prize Laureate. From 2008 to 2016 he was appointed vice Dean of Research and International Cooperation at the Physics Department of the University of Warsaw. In 2006 received prestigious Wojciech Rubinowicz Prize for his achievements in cold atom physics. His main interest are quantum and nonlinear optics and cold atom physics. Recently he was a co-founder of the Center of Systemic Risk at the University of Warsaw, where he participate in the interdisciplinary studies on the border of natural sciences, social studies and humanities.

**November 2022**

**2. CLIMATE CHANGES AND HUMAN MIGRATIONS (org. Michał Buchowski)**

Climate change is a concern of the whole world and it has become one of the main problems of the modern world. An important aspect of global warming is its environmental consequences forcing entire populations to migrate. These phenomena induced research interest and the need for policy makers to deal with them. Knowledge about them, even if meticulously collected, is still fragmented; policies, though sometimes coordinated, are chaotic, often postponed or simply ignored. Desertification, rising sea levels, cyclical floods and cyclones, and other climatic disasters affect areas inhabited for generations that are now forcefully abandoned. The concept of "environmental migrants" or “climate migrants” has entered the common scientific, political and public vocabulary, symbolizing the fact that climate and migration, natural and social phenomena are tightly intertwined. Detailed topics related to international policy and cooperation in relation to climate migrants, the impact of migration on growing social tensions, and the protection of migrants require deeper reflection. The related environmental and social changes call for integrated research, the results of which can be used in policymaking, which will allow the outlining of action plans that will open a possibility to master the natural element and spontaneous social processes.

Participants:

[Etienne Piquet](https://habitableproject.org/people/etienne-piguet/) (Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

[Christian Webersink](https://www.uia.no/kk/profil/christiw) (Universitetet i Agder, Norway)

**Michał Buchowski** is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Poznań and Senior Professor at European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. He was a Visiting Professor at Columbia University, Rutgers University, Warsaw University and National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka. His scientific interest is in modes of thought, in post-socialist transformations, in social and cultural exclusions, multiculturalism and migration. His last book publications include *Purgatory: Anthropology of Neoliberal Postsocialism* (2017 - in Polish); and *Twilight Zone Anthropology: Voices from Poland* (ed., 2019). He authored more than two hundred original research articles.

**December 2022**

**3. TECHNOLOGY AS AN ELEMENT OF THE SYSTEMIC RISK (org. MAREK TRIPPENBACH)**

Technology in many ways contributes to improving human well-being, for example in the fields of energy, communication, and travel. However, any technology has negative side effects and can carry risks of accidents, sometimes of a global or existential scale, and environmental contamination and pollution. The burning issue is to develop methods of assessing whether the risk associated with the development and use of a given type of technology is acceptable.

In risk assessment and management, the typical way to judge the acceptability of a particular technology is to calculate the risk in terms of probability multiplied by the value of the undesirable outcomes, and then apply a benefit-cost (or risk-benefit) analysis. However, in addition to the balance between the benefits and risks of developing and using technology, many other questions are relevant: what is the cost-benefit distribution, is the risk taken voluntarily, are there alternatives available, and is the risk catastrophic? This raises many key questions. What are the valid considerations in assessing the risk acceptability? Is cost-benefit analysis the best method of making a decision, or do we need an alternative method that does not fit within this framework? Is the precautionary principle an appropriate tool to deal with the risks posed by technology? What role should the public play in assessing risk acceptability? What role should emotions play in assessing the acceptability of risk? Are they irrational and distorting, or are they a necessary condition for practically rational judgment?

The dangers of technology also raise important ethical issues. The ramifications of technology can evoke emotions, including fear and outrage, often leading to conflicts between stakeholders. How to deal with such emotions when making decisions about risky technologies? How to fairly take into account the interests of all parties involved? Research on systemic risk forms the basis of an interdisciplinary perspective of searching for answers to questions that we are still unable to provide a satisfactory answer.

Participants:

* [Sven Ove Hansson](https://people.kth.se/~soh/) (Department of Philosophy and History, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden)
* [Jennifer Lin](https://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk/team/jenniferlin/) (Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford),
* [Caroline Baylon](https://www.cser.ac.uk/team/caroline-baylon/) (Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge),
* [Mark Coeckelbergh](https://philtech.univie.ac.at/team/mark-coeckelbergh/) (Department of Philosophy University of Vienna)

Preferably young scientists from (one from each) leading institutes in this field:

**Marek Trippenbach** is a professor of physics at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Warsaw. 1989-1991 he joined the Joint Institute Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA) in Boulder Colorado and the University of Rochester as a postdoc 1995-2000 was visiting scientist at the Ben Gurion University, Israel. In 2005 received Fulbright Scholarship and worked at the National Institute of Standard and Technology in Gaithersburg, where he collaborated with William Daniel Phillips, a Nobel Prize Laureate. From 2008 to 2016 he was appointed vice Dean of Research and International Cooperation at the Physics Department of the University of Warsaw. In 2006 received the prestigious Wojciech Rubinowicz Prize for his achievements in cold atom physics. His main interests are quantum and nonlinear optics and cold atom physics. Recently he was a co-founder of the Center of Systemic Risk at the University of Warsaw, where he participated in the interdisciplinary studies on the border of natural sciences, social studies, and humanities.

**January 2023**

**4. CLIMATE CHANGE, EPIDEMIC, WAR AS A CRISIS AND RISK (org. PIOTR MATCZAK)**

The concept of crisis indicates tension, danger and a breakthrough that takes place over a limited period of time. Consequently, dealing with a crisis requires not only finding remedies, but also applying them in a situation of temporal tension. With regard to contemporary environmental threats, the IPCC reports have defined the use of the concept of risk (as a combination / product of the three parameters: hazard, exposure, vulnerability) to describe threats. Meanwhile, the concept of crisis, and especially the temporal aspect of the crisis, allows one to analyze the different pace of social and natural processes. In this context, one can indicate micro-scale crises, e.g. flash floods, where a crisis (catastrophe) occurs when the hydrological process is faster than the reaction of the social system, or - on a macro scale, e.g. a climate crisis, epidemics or war, where the processes take place in the perspective of decades or centuries. This raises the question to what extent the concepts of risk and crisis are competitive or complementary and to which extent are instrumental in combining the natural, social and human sciences perspectives to better understand the world.

Participants:

* [Arjen Boin](https://scholar.google.pl/citations?hl=pl&user=Zsh5sAUAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate) (Leiden University, The Netherlands)
* [Zbigniew Kundzewicz](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Zbigniew-Kundzewicz) (Poznań University of Life Sciences, Poland)

**Piotr Matczak** is professor at the Faculty of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University. He works onnatural and man-made risks, crisis management, environmental policy from the perspective of ecosystem services, and sustainable development of urban and rural communities. He participated in several research programs, Polish and international ones, on those issues. He was Secretary of the Committee for Risk Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Board of Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty Research Network of the European Sociological Association. He is editor of the journals: "Society and Natural Resources", "Water" and "Geographies". He co-edited a special issue of the Water magazine entitled "Flood Risk Governance for More Resilience". He published, inter alia, in: "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)", "Environmental Science & Policy", "Weather, Climate and Society", "Ecosystem Services", "Ecology and Society", "Earth's Future", "Global Environmental Change", "WIREs Water".

**February 2023**

**5. NETWORKING AS A MEANS OF CONCEPTUALIZATION OF STEP TRANSFIGURATIONS IN THE HUMAN PAST (by ARKADIUSZ MARCINIAK)**

Man's past, seen in the *longue durée* perspective, covers long periods of linear development preceded by periods of breaking down the existing formulas of existence, rapid reconfigurations of the old order, and the creation of new conditions for development. The decades of the existence of archaeology, as an academically sanctioned form of social practice, have brought a number of proposals for recognizing the nature of such benchmark changes and grasping the direction of future changes. However, the iterations to date relating to these groundbreaking transfigurations are characterized by a certain one-sidedness as a result of adopting the Eurocentric view of the world. The aim of the seminar is to refer to the concept of the network, as a formula that allows for the reconceptualization of these breakthrough moments by taking into account the presence of a wide range of social actors, in addition to those conventionally evoked in archaeologically produced pasts, examining their relationships with things, and scrutinizing the conditions and mechanisms of building up identity and forms of being in the world. In order to achieve these goals, the usefulness of pre-scientific knowledge regimes and modern indigenous knowledge will be investigated. The potential of multispecies archaeology, animal studies, or nature-culture integration will also be put to the fore advocating the symmetry of relations between actors belonging to these different domains.

Adopting such a perspective will make it possible to challenge Eurocentrism as particularistic and seemingly more and more incompatible with the confessions of the present day form of grasping the nature of both the past as well as presence and future. It is also a call to reach for forgotten or previously neglected actors that, along with a suite of commonly called ones, can serve as the basis for the creation of such new modalities. When redesigning the past, one should at the same time postulate a more inclusive and different way of thinking about the future, here and now.

Participants:

* [David Wengrow](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/people/david-wengrow-professor-comparative-archaeology) (Institute of Archaeology, University College London), and/or
* [Carl Knappett](https://arthistory.utoronto.ca/people/directories/all-faculty/carl-knappett) (Department of Art History, University of Toronto),
* [Peter Turchin](https://peterturchin.com/) (Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut)

**Arkadiusz Marciniak** - Professor of Archaeology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. In the years 2013-2019 he was Associate Professor in Department of Archaeology at Faculty of Education, Humanities and Law, Finders University. He was a visiting professor at Stanford University (twice) and at University College London. He is a scholarship holder of prestigious foundations, such as Humboldt, Fulbright, Andrew W. Mellon, Kosciuszko and Soros/Commonwealth Office. He is a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Science. His expertise is in the development of early farming communities in western Asia and central Europe and their progression to complex societies. He has been directing the excavation of the Late Neolithic settlement at Çatalhöyük since 2001. He is also an initiator and advocate of social zooarchaeology, a research paradigm aimed at investigating multifaceted social relations between humans and animals. His other interests comprise heritage pedagogies and contemporary challenges of heritage policies and strategies.  He conducted numerous international projects financially supported by such agencies and pograms as Horizon2020, Erasmus Plus, DG Education and Culture Program, NWO HEAR JPICH or the Polish National Science Center. He is the author of over 250 publications, many of them published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Nature, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), PLoS ONE, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Antiquity, World Archeology, Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences, Journal of Field Archeology* or *Environmental Archeology*.

**March 2023**

**6. INTERDISCIPLINARITY AFTER SCIENCE WARS (org. MAREK KONARZEWSKI)**

Science Wars - hot disputes on the interpretation of the scientific knowledge, carried out in the 90’, consisted so far the last outlet seriously engaging natural scientists, humanists and sociologists alike. Although ‘Science Wars’ correctly identified the major methodological problem being the lack of effective platform for interdisciplinary collaboration, it failed to contribute towards establishing such common ground. Twenty five years after “Science Wars’ this deficiency still  persists and has become particularly visible in research areas addressing challenges related to climate change. A convenient point of departure towards breaking this impasse will be a  panel discussion focused on the contributions of one of the most prominent ‘veterans’ of Science Wars (Bruno Latour). The discussion will gather natural scientists, humanists and sociologists with the aim of verifying the usefulness of Latour’s Actor-Network Theory as a means for fostering interdisciplinary collaboration on global climate change.

Participants:

* [Timothy M. Lenton](https://geography.exeter.ac.uk/staff/?web_id=Timothy_Lenton) (Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter, England)
* [Andreas Malm](https://www.keg.lu.se/en/andreas-malm) (Department of Human Geography, Lund University, Sweden)
* [Adam Izdebski](https://www.shh.mpg.de/person/60036/1056512) (Max Planck Institute; Department of History, Jagiellonian University, Poland)
* Ewa Bińczyk (Department of Philosophy, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland[)](https://www.human.umk.pl/wydzial/pracownicy/?id=7483780%20))
* Krzysztof Abriszewski (Department of Philosophy, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland[)](https://www.human.umk.pl/wydzial/pracownicy/?id=7483780%20))

**Marek Konarzewski** is a Professor of Biology at the Institute of Biology, University of Bialystok, and at the Faculty of Liberal Arts of the University of Warsaw. He pursued Ph.D. and DsC degree at the Institute of Ecology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and then returned to the University of Bialystok, after postdoctoral work at the University of California, Los Angeles in Dr. Jared Diamond’s laboratory. Dr. Konarzewski’s main research interests are in the field of physiological ecology and the emerging field of evolutionary physiology ([ResearchGate](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marek-Konarzewski-2), [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=LedqCC4AAAAJ&hl=pl)) . He is a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

**April 2023**

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGS: COMBINING HUMAN, SOCIAL, NATURAL SCIENCES AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES (org. EWA DOMAŃSKA)**

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have developed knowledge that built resilience and allowed them to endure various crises and adjust to difficult environmental conditions. The current search for solutions to the problems of the modern world opens a space for joint building of knowledge of a rescue and preventive potential. The aim of the seminar is to discuss the relations between Indigenous and Western knowledges, and highlight the most important points of contact between the two systems. It will contribute to building inclusive and holistic knowledge in order to address the environmental and social problems facing the contemporary world and aimed at promoting such values as community resilience, transgenerational wisdom, respect for various forms of life and reciprocity.

A recent paradigm shift in the contemporary humanities and social sciences that is manifested in critique of the anthropocentric-Eurocentric and secular vision of the world is based on pro-ecological principles. These principles range from holistic approach, the crossing the duality of nature-culture, body and mind, human and non-human, relational epistemology and ontology as well as respect, reciprocity and responsibility as the basis of ethics, also form the bases of Indigenous knowledges. There are interesting links to methodology. The model of socially useful and engaged humanities, focus on creating practical knowledge and learning through experience, the popularity of field and participatory research, and especially "action research" (AR), have a lot in common with Indigenous ways of knowing.

Participants:

* [Robin Wall Kimmerer](https://www.esf.edu/faculty/kimmerer/) (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, US), and/or
* [Raymond Pierotti](https://eeb.ku.edu/people/ray-pierotti) (Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, US),
* [Eugenia Sojka](https://www.phil.muni.cz/angl/CANADA/poland/katowice/sojka.htm) (Institute of British and American Culture and Literature University of Silesia, Poland),
* [Paweł Chyc](http://etnologia.amu.edu.pl/badania/antropologia-kognitywna-i-etnohistoria-indian-more-pawel-chyc/) (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland).

**Ewa Domańska** - professor of human sciences at the Faculty of History, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań. Since 2002, visiting professor at the Department of Anthropology/Archeology Center/DLCL, Stanford University. She is a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the President of the International Commission for the Theory and History of Historiography (CISH). Her scientific work focuses on the methodology of history, contemporary theory and history of historiography, comparative theory of the humanities and social sciences, new trends in the humanities. She developed projects on rescue history and affirmative humanities. In recent years, Domanska has focused on a complementary approach to the humanities, social, natural sciences, and indigenous knowledges for research on environmental perspective of genocide and ecocide studies. She is author, editor and co-editor of 23 books, including *Nekros: An Ontology of Human Remains* (PWN, 2017, in Polish); *Political Exhumations* (ed. with Alexandra Staniewska; słowo/obraz terytoria, 2022, in Polish, in print), as well as many articles published in peer-reviewed journals, such as „History and Theory”, „Rethinking History” and „Journal of the Philosophy of History.”

**May 2023**

**8. CITIZEN SCIENCE (org. MAŁGORZATA GRODZIŃSKA-JURCZAK)**

**Citizen science (CS)**, participation of non-professionals, in completion of academic research, regarded as a form of education, collaboration in research studies or even a social movement. In the era of global changes and in access to natural resources, development of research and communication technologies, CS seems to be an indispensable tool, method or a separated science discipline supporting democratization of science, education and policy. The way the research is proceeded has been evaluated, becoming currently more complex, requiring transdisciplinary teams and big financial resources. That is why academic fellows are more interested in engaging amateurs and volunteers. This is a new paradigm of public participation into research, in which besides changes in science proceeding, there are slowly but steadily happening alterations in relations between scientists and amateurs, and the role in science of the latter. At the lecture we’ll discuss the current achievements of citizen science, mainly based on environmental sciences, and their role in the brokerage of collaborative knowledge as an educational offer to various respondents. We’ll acknowledge smart activation of citizen scientists, such as lack of trust in academics towards professionalism of amateurs or work in a partnership. Jointly we’ll assess that participation in CS should be regarded as a unique privilege, not only for non-professionals but above all as a duty of academia, no matter what discipline qualifies in.

Participants:

* [Stephanie Krueger](https://www.techlib.cz/default/files/download/id/86149/stephanie-krueger-cv.pdf) (National Library of Technology in Prague Prague, Czech Republic) and/or
* [Muki Haklay](https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/people/academic-staff/muki-haklay) (Department of Geography, University of London), and/or
* [Rick Bonney](https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/staff/rick-bonney/) (Public Engagement in Science, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University, US)

**Małgorzata Grodzińska-Jurczak** is an active academic teacher, science communicator and educator. She specializes in social aspects of nature conservation, focusing on nature conservation governance, public participation in nature conservation and municipal waste, human-nature conflicts management, and assessing attitudes towards nature. She leads the Socio-Environmental Research Team in the Institute of Environmental Sciences, Jagiellonian University. Małgorzata coordinates scientific projects funded by national (e.g. NCN) and international (e.g. Horizon 2020) institutions. She strongly advocates and broadly promotes interdisciplinary and team approach in science proceeding. Grodzińska is fascinated by citizen science and science communication, perceiving it as a myth and obligation of academics.

**II. TRANSDISCIPLINARY SUMMER SCHOOL**

**TRANSDISCIPLINARITY - ESCAPE TO THE FREEDOM OF SCIENCE**

September 3-9, 2023

This summer school continues and develops the issues initiated by the series of seminars, “Resilience in conditions of permanent crisis.” The aim of the school is the further search for answers to the most important threat to the modern world - the scenario of an ecological disaster unfolding before our eyes. The reintegration of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences is a promising goal. Their divergence, resulting from the increasing specialization of research, has led to fragmented perspectives and a lack of a consistent view of the challenges facing humanity.

There are at least four prerequisites for the new transdisciplinarity approach to be effective:

1. Epistemological - practicing science in terms of the dualism of "spirit" and "matter" has exhausted its cognitive power and the development of research recognizing their inseparability is a fact, as evidenced by the development of, for example, synthetic biology and such theories and approaches contesting anthropocentrism, such as the actor-network theory, new materialism, the multispecies and trans-species theories, biohumanism, posthumanism and transhumanism. These new ways of thinking in the humanities can provide a cross-field bridge, if it is taken up by representatives of various disciplines. Establishing this type of relationship is neither easy nor obvious. To begin with, we will investigate the causes of this imbalance: why do they depart from the humanities, reaching towards the natural sciences, while within the natural sciences there are no equally strong attempts to reach towards the humanities?

2. Ethical - an extremely anthropocentric perception of the world is not only a narrow perspective, but also selfish in terms of species. It has become permanent as a result of human activities, the limitations of which are becoming more and more noticeable, the direct cause of the specter of the "end of civilization.” Therefore it is time to transform ethics. What forms should the cooperation of humanists and natural scientists take in this process?

3. Liberatory - allows to reject disciplinary limitations and undertake holistic research, combining different views and giving a chance to obtain a multidimensional picture. Such an approach, however, raises a fundamental challenge of preserving or harmonizing the methodology of the human, social and natural sciences. To what extent should overcoming the contradictions between them be a condition for the cooperation of representatives of various fields?

4. Academic – transdisciplinarity is an attempt to avoid even idiosyncratic visions of complex phenomena traditionally divided into socio-humanistic, natural-physical or technological. Academic education open to transdisciplinary studies should be the basic formative method, especially in graduate and doctoral studies. What content should it consist of in order to successfully combine the humanities, social and natural sciences?

Within the framework of particular, domain and disciplinary perspectives, often contributing studies that problematize fragmentary issues are promoted. Transdisciplinary transcends such limitations. As part of the school that promotes it, we will try to share horizons, bring together different, often mutually incomprehensible, disciplinary languages ​​and develop methods of effective communication. These attempts not only serve the subsequent identification and characterization of threats, but also show the ways that can lead to dealing with them. In this sense, the proposed transdisciplinary venture is - to paraphrase Erich Fromm's words - an attempt to escape to the freedom of science against the fragmented, bureaucratic and subject to the rules of neoliberal audit of the academy.