

Responsive Research Collective

Spotlights, Let's Talk

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The motif

How can we accompany people and institutions in transforming research and education towards inter- and transdisciplinarity?

How can we learn to collaborate?

Why inter- and transdisciplinarity?

How do we form research collectives?

How to transform higher education?

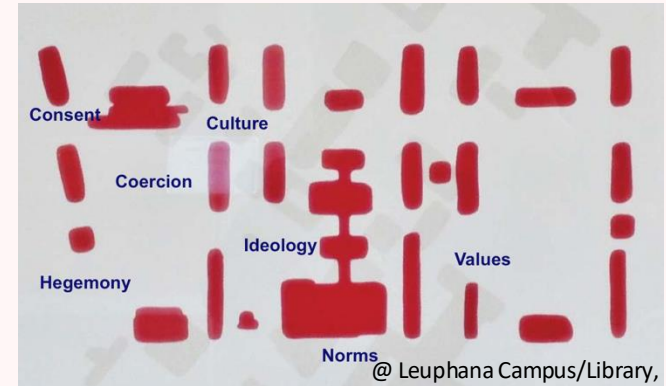
How do we decolonize research and learning?

How do we respond to diverse needs?

Why arts-science collaboration?

Why we formed the RRC...

- inadequate conditions in and in-between institutions for boundary-crossing and boundary spanning research and learning
- lack of time to prepare for inter- and trans-disciplinary research and education
- missing role of persons accompanying transformations alongside teams or institutions



@ Leuphana Campus/Library,
adapted by Fritz, Fam, Vilsmaier



<http://www.giase.org/>

- a high diversity of collaborative research traditions
- ignorance of diversity in a dominant discourse
- need for intercultural learning for profound transformations of the idea of research and education
- need for decolonizing research and learning

Sometimes it needs an outsider!

Who we are

Current and former members of the RRC



Connected based on an association under Swiss law, founded in April 2022

Where we work...



What we offer...

- We support the transformation of research and education towards inter- and transdisciplinarity
- We share our experiences in inter- and transdisciplinarity with researchers, educators and practitioners, and accompany institutional transformation.

Support & Accompaniment

- Research development workshops
- university transformation workshops
- Accompanying transformation series
- Formative evaluation and accompanying research
- Other: accompaniment of administrations (universities, faculties, centres)

Workshops & Training

- Inter- and Transdisciplinarity in Action Workshop (ITA)
- Td Summer School: Research at the Science - Society Interface
- Special Methods Workshops
- Special Education Workshops
- Arts-Science Collaboration (in preparation)

With whom we work...

- Organizational entities such as inter- or transdisciplinary centres, institutes, educational programs
- Universities, involving administrators, scholars, educators at different levels (whole university approach; selected domains)
- Ministries/national initiatives
- Multidisciplinary teams in writing inter- and trans-disciplinary research proposals
- Civil Society Organizations
- Scholars, administrators, educators, activists
- others



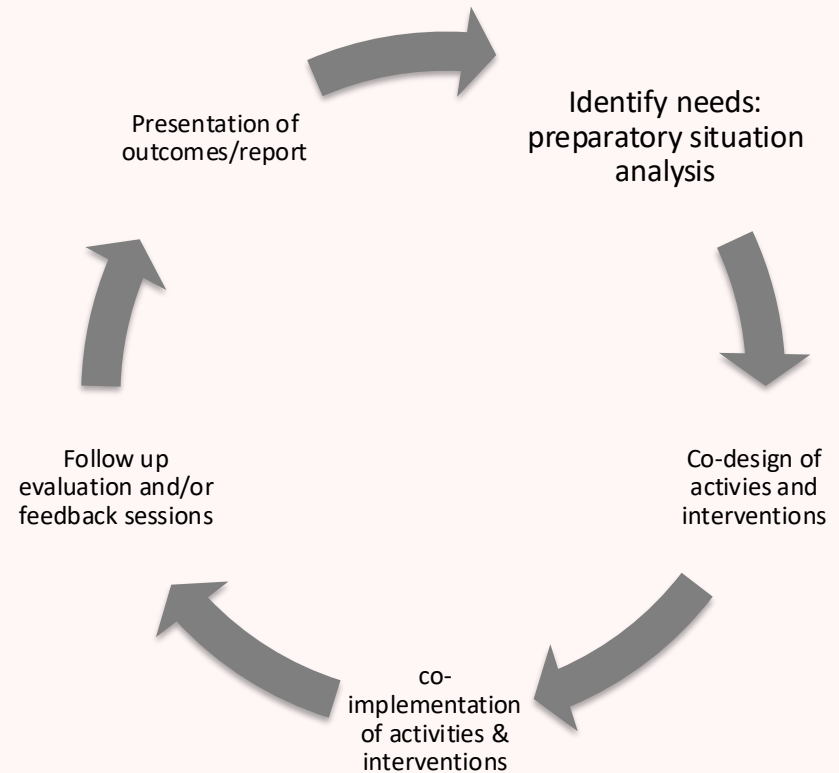
How we work...

We accompany.



Accompaniment

- acknowledges and departs from existing experience and expertise
- it is an attitude, a particular relationship
- as a relational act, accompaniment is a dynamic and responsive praxis
- it is a practice characterised by continuity and a binding nature
- it requires a high level of attention and reflexivity so as not to guide (!) but to be able to start from the other
- is a horizontal response to consultancy.



How we work...

We respond.

Responsivity as an ...

attitude

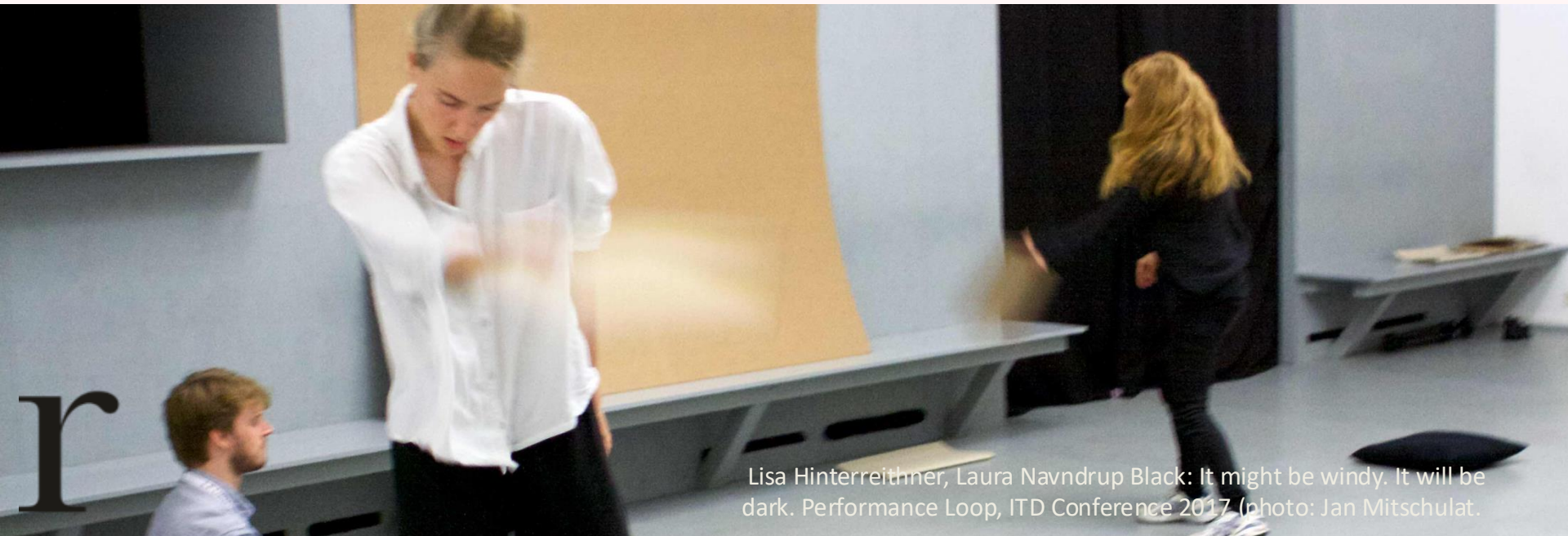
rationality

relationality

epistemological foundation

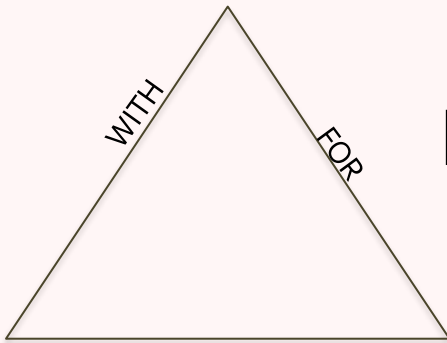
methodological orientation

Vilsmaier 2023;
Vilsmaier & Fam 2021



Lisa Hinterreithner, Laura Navndrup Black: It might be windy. It will be dark. Performance Loop, ITD Conference 2017 (photo: Jan Mitschulat).

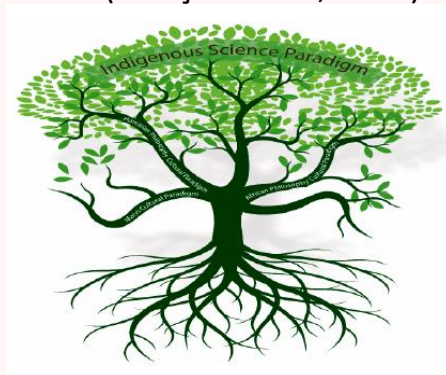
Background of our approach



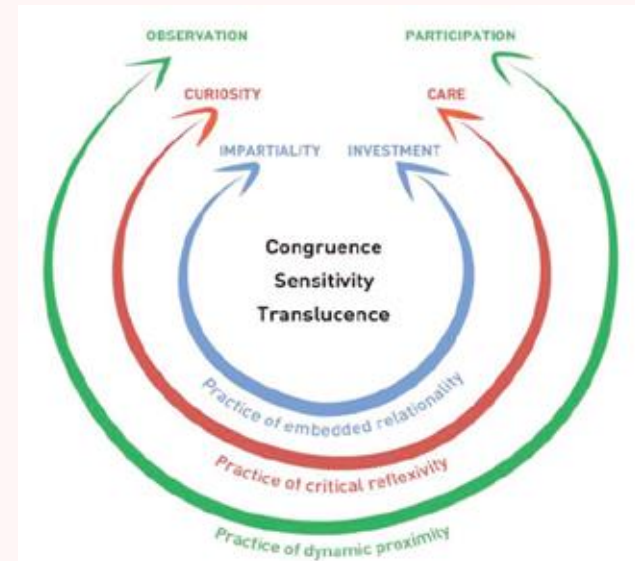
ABOUT



*Investigación Acción Participativa,
Epistemologies of the South
(Merçon 2021, 2022)*



Decolonizing research and evaluation
(Chilisa 2019; Chilisa & Bowman)



Foundations of Formative Accompanying
Research (Freeth & Vilsmaier 2020)

Example 1: Accompaniment of Civil Society Organizations and Td collaboration in Colombia

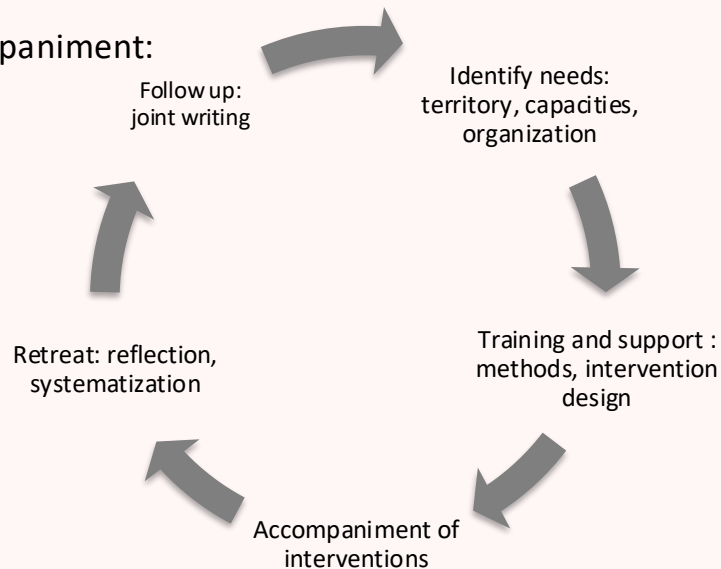
Contractor: Wuppertal Institute (IKI Jet Project, Colombia)

Partner: *Programa para el Desarrollo de la Paz, Tierra Digna, Universidad del Magdalena*

Objectives RRC contribution:

To strengthen methodological capacities of organizations involved and inter-institutional collaboration

Accompaniment:



Fortalecimiento de la gobernanza para la sostenibilidad de la agricultura familiar rural en el Corredor de la Vida del Cesar



Resultados de la sesión de aprendizaje mutuo basada en casos

Diciembre 2025

Example 2: Accompaniment of Universidad Veracruzana

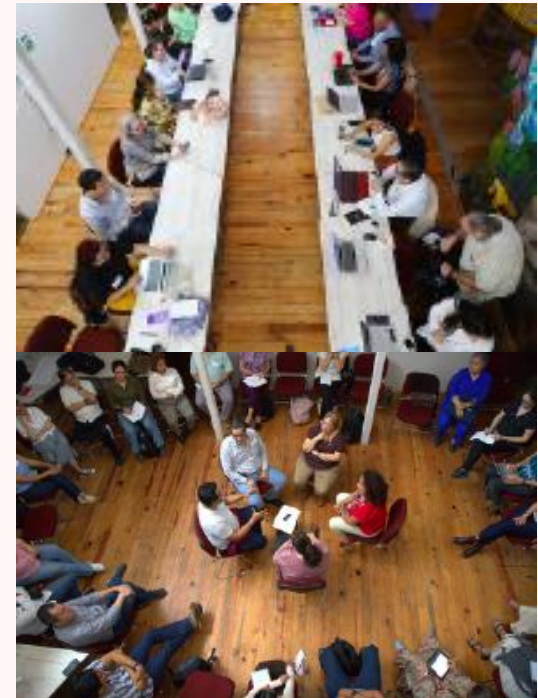
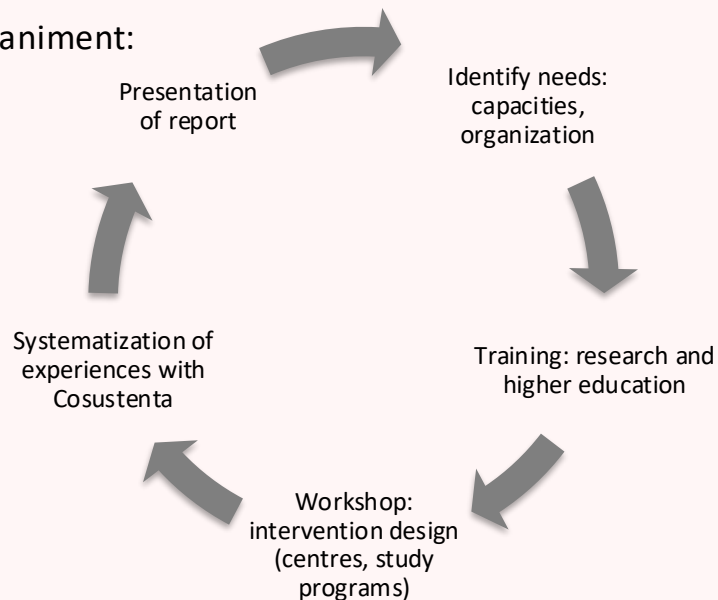
Contractor: CoSustenta, Universidad Veracruzana

Participants: scholars, educators and administrators of all university sites (*State of Veracruz*) and most faculties

Objectives RRC contribution:

To strengthen research and education capacities & to support the formation of a university wide initiative to foster inter- and transdisciplinarity

Accompaniment:



La Iniciativa de Inter y Transdisciplinarietà para la Sostenibilidad
Universidad Veracruzana



Documentación de actividades y resultados
Diciembre 2025

Example 3: Interdisciplinary Excellence Programme Egypt

Contractor: KnowledgeE, Ministry of Scientific Research and Higher Education Egypt/ Egyptian Knowledge Bank

Participants: scholars, educators and administrators of 30 public universities in Egypt

Objectives RRC contribution:

To strengthen capacities in education design and teaching; to form an interdisciplinary network of Egyptian Universities (ENIN)



INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCELLENCE PROGRAM 2022/23

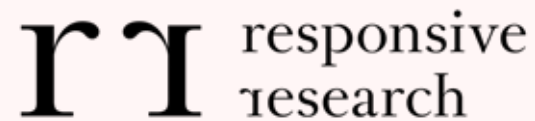
WORKSHOP SERIES

TRANSFORMING UNIVERSITIES : RE-DESIGNING HIGHER EDUCATION

November 23, 2022 – February 8, 2023

	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4	Workshop 5	Workshop 6
date	November 23, 2022	December 7, 2022	December 21, 2022	January 11, 2023	January 25, 2023	February 8, 2023
Session title	Mapping the Scene: The need for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity	Transforming universities towards inter- and trans-disciplinarity	Designing inter- and transdisciplinary higher education programs and courses	Broadening methodologies and skills for integrative research and learning	Re-thinking values, quality criteria and evaluation in inter- and transdisciplinarity	Final presentation of case study designs





Find out more: www.responsiveresearch.org

Thank you for your attention !

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