

# CAN WE TALK?

## DESIGNING A TRANSDISCIPLINARY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE



<http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/>

*A hands-on training program and workshop hosted at the University of Arizona for researchers from all disciplines interested in strengthening their ability to work on complex problems in transdisciplinary teams that can produce solutions and make a difference.*

## As part of the International Conference: Open Knowledge – Bridging Perspectives to Address Water Challenges

Thirty graduate and post-graduate researchers are invited to participate in a student-led project to develop a methodology for a successful transdisciplinary study. Participants will each meet once a month for 60 to 90 minutes via teleconference to address specific topics critical to research projects that produce solutions. Over the course of the series of meetings, each group will address six topics that pertain to the design, execution and reporting of a transdisciplinary study. To enable productive discussion, each person will be asked to prepare (prior to each meeting) a brief commentary on the topic to be discussed.

In February, participants will converge in Tucson, AZ for the Open Knowledge International Conference. Selected applicants will receive: travel funding (US only), two nights at Biosphere 2, two nights at the Doubletree Hotel, and at least one meal per day during the conference.

### Schedule (subject to change):

#### September: Launch

- Introduction to transdisciplinarity
- Select first study topic, define facets of the project

#### October: Project management

- Discuss meeting schedules, format, and rules
- Analyze and contrast leadership and committee structures for optimal results

#### November: Project definition

- Define study boundaries appropriate to all disciplines
- Define conflicts of interest
- Define methods to coordinate research

#### December: Project Operations

- Address areas of uncertainty
- Discuss methodologies of each discipline and impact on research
- Analyze roles of stakeholders and researchers and methods to incorporate stakeholders into research process

#### January: Project Results

- Discuss methods to use knowledge produced during research to further the project
- Identify steps and actions necessary to implement proposed solutions

### February: Tucson Conference

- **Student session:** A full day of work and discussion at Biosphere 2. Participants will evaluate results of the training program and apply developed methodology.
- **Main Session:** Two days of panel discussions and talks among American and European researchers aimed at increasing communication and collaborations between natural scientists, social scientists, stakeholders, and citizens to development and implement successful transdisciplinary research projects.

### Topics in the Main Session:

- Open knowledge, citizen science, & big data
- Ecosystem services as a bridge between disciplines
- Food-energy-water nexus
- Water management in Tucson
- Adaptation to climate & other changes



## DATES & REGISTRATION

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> – Student Session – Biosphere 2

Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Main Conference – Tucson, AZ

For more information contact Chloe Fandel ([cfandel@email.arizona.edu](mailto:cfandel@email.arizona.edu)) or Susan Harris ([susanwardharris@email.arizona.edu](mailto:susanwardharris@email.arizona.edu))

To apply, fill out application form below and return to Maria Sans-Fuentes ([sans@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sans@email.arizona.edu)) before September 5, 2015.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

University: \_\_\_\_\_

Course of Study/Discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Master's Student \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.D. candidate \_\_\_\_\_ post graduate

Anticipated Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Faculty Member recommending applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a brief paragraph outlining your interest in this project.

