

# Exploring Transformative Knowledge in Transition Processes

WEBINAR ON QUALITATIVE METHODS

Thursday 22nd February 2024 – 11am GMT / 12pm CET

CREST & TRAKR Collaboration



## PROGRAMME

### 12:00 – 12:30: KEYNOTE 1

Visual analysis of complex institutional dynamics in transformative knowledge regions  
Gesa Pflitsch, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna



Transformative knowledge depends on institutional transformations that are based on multiple gradual changes driven by dispersed actors on different spatial scales. The process-based approach of transition topology allows to capture the emergent phenomena resulting from these micro-level changes and to make visible the underlying pattern of institutional change.

### 12:30 – 13:00: KEYNOTE 2

Tracing transformative knowledge dynamics with socio-technical configuration analysis (STCA)

Christian Binz, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science & Technology (Eawag), Zurich



Tracing transformative innovation dynamics in space and time asks for new methodological frameworks that are able to assess how new socio-technical configurations (instead of single technologies or products) emerge, develop and get institutionalized. This talk will introduce a method under development that enables mapping and assessing how innovation and valuation dynamics tightly co-evolve in sectoral, as well as regional, urban or multi-scalar transformation trajectories.

### 13:00 – 13:30: KEYNOTE 3

Engaged researchers and transformative knowledge: Methodological principles  
Flora Cornish, London School of Economics and Political Science, London



Scholars engaged in building transformative knowledge find themselves involved in complex and messy relationships with multiple stakeholders, institutions, power relations, and various conceptions of 'science'. This talk addresses the epistemology and methodology of engaged science, exploring the role of the researcher as an active participant in producing transformative knowledge. Key dilemmas, challenges, and principles to safeguard the validity and power of research will be discussed.

### 13:30 – 15:00: ONLINE WORKSHOP

THE TALKS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OPEN FORUM DISCUSSIONS  
BREAKOUT GROUPS

The [TRAKR network](#) aims at exploring the shift from knowledge-intensive to “transformative-knowledge regions” to renew the understanding of knowledge as an asset in regional development in light of ongoing sustainability transitions. The network was kicked-off this year (2023) at the Regional Studies annual conference. It strives to further conceptualise sustainability transitions and innovation directionality challenges from an explicit knowledge perspective.

**Knowledge is certainly a crucial driver of social change in the sustainability transition! But how can "transformative knowledge" actually be explored and measured within and across regions and scales?**

This fundamental question is at the core of the Regional Studies Association Research Network on Transformative Knowledge Regions (TRAKR) and will be addressed in two webinars on methods. For these two webinars on methods, the TRAKR, is glad to join forces with the [RSA City and Regional Sustainability Transitions Webinar Series \(CREST\)](#) in February and March.

**This first webinar will highlight epistemological and methodological issues for qualitatively exploring how transformative knowledge and knowledge dynamics develop and anchor in different regional contexts.**

The focus will be on the transformative value of engaged qualitative research and the socio-technical configurations and topologies of knowledge in the sustainability transition.

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