

The RSA research network on Transformative Knowledge Regions (TRAKR)

Paper development workshop on Bornholm/Denmark, October 3-4, 2024

Call for Abstracts

This event is the second workshop organised by the TRAKR research network. TRAKR aims at renewing the understanding of knowledge and knowledge dynamics as assets in regional development in the light of ongoing sustainability transitions. The network brings together scholars from the fields of regional innovation studies and geography of sustainability transitions, as well as both established and early career researchers.

After a first workshop dedicated to the conceptualisation of transformative knowledge regions and two RSA webinars on methodological issues, this second workshop will be focussed on paper development and discussion of the opportunity for a common Special Issue of a scientific journal.

The workshop will take place on the Danish Island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea October 3-4, 2024, and will be hosted by the Centre for Regional and Tourism Research, located on Bornholm. Besides of opportunities for participants to present and discuss their papers in progress, the program will include keynote speeches, a study visit to the Baltic Energy Island organisation, and a social dinner (Thursday). There will be no refunding of participants' costs for travel and accommodation.

Participants who want to present their work on topics discussed within TRAKR, should submit an extended abstract of 1.000-1.500 words (including author information etc.) until June 19, 2024, to the TRAKR organisers (see below). The abstract should outline the research goal/question, theoretical frame, methods, and types of empirical data, and (as far this is possible) the expected results and/or perspectives of the study. Theoretical, conceptual, and/or methodological contributions are highly welcomed. However, special interest is on the provision of qualitative or quantitative empirical evidence of regional case studies.

The organisers will communicate acceptance to participate at the workshop based on the fit of the abstract.

Papers may address one or more of the following (or related) specific questions and topics, theoretically, methodologically, or empirically:

- **Defining “transformative” knowledge and learning:** What are the distinctive features of “transformative” knowledge and learning involved in multi-level, system-wide sustainability transitions? Does the studying of multi-level system transition processes require new knowledge conceptualisations? To what extent are existing knowledge concepts from regional innovation studies – such as the distinctions between tacit and codified knowledge and the combinatorial knowledge bases model of analytical, synthetic, and symbolic knowledge – suitable for studying of system-level sustainability transition? What would be a typology of varying forms of transformative knowledge and learning?

- **Defining “transformative knowledge ecosystems”:** How should we understand and conceptualise “transformative knowledge ecosystems”? Which configurations and mechanisms of regional knowledge ecosystems – for instance regarding their variety and interaction of differing actors and learning communities, multi-scalar connections, involvement of citizens, households and neighbourhoods, coordination between technological and social innovation projects, governance/policy support and directionality, among others – seem especially suited for realizing transitions? How do knowledge ecosystems in different types of regions (e.g. urban and rural) differ? What would be a typology of varying territorial transformative knowledge ecosystems?
- **The relation between transformative knowledge and space:** In which ways does transformative knowledge creation connect to space and place-based institutions and resources? How do transformative knowledge actors connect within and across space and places? How do different types of regions (e.g. urban and rural) differ in their capacity for generation and use of transformative knowledge as well as in sustainability transition performance? Are the institutional thickness and complexity of urban areas compared to peripheral and rural areas an advantage or a weakness in terms of transformative knowledge creation and ecosystems?
- **The role of specific industries and sectors:** What is the role and contribution of specific industries and sectors such as foundational services and infrastructures for energy, water, communication, transport, construction, agriculture, welfare & cultural services for the creation of transformative knowledge and knowledge ecosystems? To what extent and how do transformative knowledge and technical and social innovations originating from specific sectors, diffuse into other regional sectors?
- **The role of universities:** What are the new possibilities and challenges for research, universities, and education institutions to play transformative roles and support transformative knowledge dynamics? What is the impact of the universities’ third mission strategy?
- **Policy and governance:** What are the implications for policy and governance at multiple scales of the demands for transformative knowledge and more inclusive knowledge ecosystems? Which types of policy and regulation schemes would be supportive for the generation, diffusion and use of transformative knowledge and the emergence of transformative knowledge ecosystems – and what is the role of varying local, regional, national, and international scales of public policy and governance?

If the motivation for submitting an abstract is to contribute to a potential journal special issue on transformative knowledge, authors should pay special attention to the specific research questions and literature in focus of the TRAKR network and its varying activities (see more here: <https://www.regionalstudies.org/network/transformative-knowledge-regions/>).

Important dates for Bornholm workshop

- June 19, 2024 – Submission of extended abstracts to TRAKR organisers
- July 10, 2024 – Selection of abstracts and participants to be included in the workshop program.
- September 24, 2024 – Submission of draft of papers (between 4000 and 5000 words)
- October 3-4, 2024 – Workshop on Bornholm.

Preliminary program for Bornholm workshop

Thursday 3rd of October 2024

- 09:00 – 09:30 Registration & Introduction
- 09:30 – 10:00 Keynote I (tbc)
- 10:00 – 16:00 Paper presentations

- 16.00 – 17.30 Site visit to „Baltic Energy Island“, Elvaerket in Rønne.
- 19:00 Dinner

Friday 27th of October 2023

- 09:00 – 09:30 Keynote II (tbc)
- 09:30 – 10:30 Paper presentations (3)
- 10.45 – 12:30 Framing and organisation of Special Issue
- 12:30 – 13:00 Farewell & snacks

Tentative Timeline for TRAKR Special Issue

- October-December 2024 – Special issue application
- May-June 2025 - Deadline for submission of contributions
- Start of 2026 - Publication of special issue

TRAKR Organisers

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