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Handbook of Transdisciplinary Research

- 21 case studies illustrate transdisciplinary, problem-driven research
- Will appeal to those who initiate, steer or evaluate research
- Ties together science and policy

In a world characterised by rapid change, uncertainty and increasing interconnectedness there is a growing need for science to contribute to the solution of persistent, complex problems. These problems include not only some of the now broadly known environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss, but also related issues such as poverty, security and governance. For all of these problems, progress in finding and implementing solutions has been very slow. The increase in availability of scientific knowledge has not been reflected in decisive action. It is this mismatch between knowledge and action that lies behind the need for a Handbook of Transdisciplinary Research. As the editors point out in their introduction, a transdisciplinary orientation in research, education and institutions aims to overcome the disconnection between knowledge production, on the one hand, and the demand for knowledge to contribute to the solution of societal problems, on the other hand. This is achieved through transdisciplinary approaches in which researchers from a wide range of disciplines work together with stakeholders. Internationally the term 'transdisciplinary research' is defined in different ways, ranging from a diffuse conceptual term located above individual disciplines, to any research that involves stakeholders. The Handbook contributes to a clarification of both the concept and the term, and shows that the uniqueness of the approach lies in the partnership between members of different disciplines and stakeholders.

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