

Transdisciplinary education and the evolution of biodiversity research

This session is proposed by members of the A4Cap network of Alternet Summer School alumni and Alternet early career researchers. As part of its ongoing activities, A4Cap explores the potential of dynamic, integrative approaches to education that transcend the conventional boundaries of disciplines and educational structures. This exploration is carried into both the content and format of the presently proposed session.

In 2024-2025, Alternet celebrates its 20th anniversary. With two decades of experience under its belt, the Alternet community has had a front row seat to the ongoing development and transformation of biodiversity and ecosystem science and research, but also education notably through the Alternet summer school. How have approaches and concepts, such as ecosystem services and transformative change, evolved over time?

As one of its flagship activities, the Alternet Summer School evolved alongside the Alternet network. Having argued the transformative potential of transdisciplinary education, the session hosts will consider the cutting-edge nature of the Alternet Summer School. Has this programme been at the forefront of changing concepts concerning biodiversity and sustainability? Using a reflexive analysis approach, we explore how the summer school has influenced its participants (organizers, speakers, students) through its content and the personal connections that were forged in and after Peyresq.

Other featured presentations in this session include:

- a. Catalysts for Change: University Education for Sustainability Transformation
- b. Empowering Communities Through Education: Transformative Approaches to Biodiversity Conservation.
- c. Youth Action for Biodiversity Conservation: Innovative Approaches and Success Stories from Disaster-prone Areas