

Values in Action: Co-Imagining Ethics for Transformative Interfaces and Communities

A). Building Ethical Infrastructures that Catalyse Transformative Change in Biodiversity Governance

The biodiversity crisis demands transformative changes in how we govern, protect, and restore nature. Such transformation requires fundamentally rethinking how scientific evidence informs policy - moving beyond simple knowledge transfer to fostering deeply ethical, inclusive, and effective science-policy dialogues. The Science Service for Biodiversity (SSBD), developed within the BioAgora project, aims to catalyse this transformation by revolutionising how scientific evidence informs European biodiversity policy and supports conservation actions.

However, achieving truly transformative change requires more than just technical solutions or improved communication channels. It demands carefully designed ethical infrastructures - the principles, processes, and tools that enable fair, inclusive, and effective science-policy dialogue. These infrastructures are crucial for addressing power imbalances, integrating diverse knowledge systems, and creating the trust and legitimacy needed for transformative action.

Creating such a service faces several practical challenges: How do we ensure fair representation of different knowledge systems? How do we handle conflicting values in biodiversity knowledge production, use and decision-making? How do we build trust among scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders? Most importantly, how do we design ethical processes that can genuinely support the deep, systemic changes needed for biodiversity conservation?

This session aims to move beyond theoretical discussions to address the real challenges of building ethical infrastructure in science-policy interfaces. Seeking to create a collaborative environment, it will be bringing together insights from BioAgora and Eklipse experiences, as well as building on the knowledge and wisdom distributed among participants. By sharing and inviting others to share concrete experiences where ethical considerations have either enabled or hindered transformative change in biodiversity policy-making, and by co-developing practical solutions, we aim to strengthen the foundation for transformative change at the SPI.

B). Co-Imagining kind, empathic, and inclusive Community of Practice(s) of Transdisciplinarity for Transformative Change

Transdisciplinary research can leverage transformation towards social-environmental justice. Implementing transdisciplinary processes, however, requires capacity building such as relationship-building and nurturing, reflexivity practices, and context-relevant practices that are accountable to academic and non-academic partners. A Community of Practice (CoP) can be defined as a group of people who share a concern or passion and learn how to do it better by regular interactions. Therefore, it is a network where information, knowledge, resources, feelings, lived experiences, and learning processes are shared. From the perspective of early-career scholars focused on sustainability transformative research, we propose a collective

reflection on what it takes to develop and nurture kind, relational, ethical, and transformative transdisciplinary practices. What should be the pillars of a transdisciplinary CoP rooted in transformative change? How can we meaningfully include non-academic partners and center more-than-human actors? How can we create safe spaces for enriching and supportive self-connection and interpersonal exchanges? Considering those questions, we propose to co-identify challenges and co-imagine solutions. Our main goal is to co-produce guiding principles, combining written and visual forms of expression to convey a collective vision for a transformative transdisciplinary CoP.