

ESP 11 World Conference

“From global to local ecosystem services: pathways to Nature-based Solutions inspired from Down Under”

23-27 June 2025 | Darwin, Australia

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: O10

Unlearning and relearning methods in climate change studies

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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Abstract:

Trans-disciplinarity has gained popularity as a novel approach to deal with the complex problem of climate change. While trans-disciplinarity rightly questions the disciplinary silos of traditional science, and even the modes of knowledge production, the methodologies themselves are often unquestioned. This is despite the fact that they have been tested largely only in the global north, and often have less relevance to local communities in the global south. The methodologies also remain siloed in their disciplines: ecological assessments are carried out without meaningful community engagement, and socio-economic surveys do not take into consideration local biophysical realities. Furthermore, the mode of execution remains largely unquestioned: ecological surveys use the same transect and quadrat size recommended for temperate areas, even though they are often inappropriate for local contexts. Socio-economic surveys- interviews, focus group discussions, and questionnaires- are frequently carried out oblivious of cultural norms. The result is that surveyors often find extreme interview fatigue and are reduced to trying to brow-beat communities to agree with pre-determined hypotheses and questions. The data produced by such efforts, not surprisingly, often fail to turn up anything new, and instead just reaffirm preconceived ideas. This panel seeks to foster dialogue on the use of novel methodologies in the climate change space, and in particular ones that engage communities, not as datapoints but as co-researchers. The panel will seek to share case studies and rationales for this context for the global south-south space of climate studies.

Goals and objectives of the session:

Goal 1:

To develop and promote transdisciplinary methodologies that integrate ecological assessments and socio-economic surveys with meaningful community engagement, ensuring these approaches are contextually relevant to the unique cultural and biophysical realities of communities in the Global South.

Goal 2:

To foster collaboration and dialogue on novel methodologies that treat local communities as co-researchers in climate change studies, enabling the generation of innovative and context-specific insights rather than reaffirming preconceived hypotheses.

Planned output / Deliverables:

1. Methodological Framework:

Develop a contextually tailored transdisciplinary framework that integrates ecological and socio-economic assessments with meaningful community engagement in the Global South.

2. Case Studies Compilation:

Document and share case studies that illustrate successful implementation of co-researcher models and novel methodologies in climate change studies.

3. Guidelines for Contextual Adaptation:

Create a set of guidelines for adapting ecological and socio-economic survey tools (e.g., transects, quadrats, and socio-economic surveys) to local cultural and biophysical contexts in the Global South.

4. Community Engagement Toolkit:

Develop a toolkit for engaging communities as co-researchers, including best practices for respectful collaboration and effective data collection techniques.

5. Policy and Practice Recommendations:

Prepare a report outlining recommendations for policymakers and researchers on integrating context-specific, participatory methodologies into climate change research.

6. Knowledge Dissemination:

Host workshops, panel discussions, or webinars to share insights and promote dialogue on innovative methodologies for climate change research in the Global South

7. Publication:

Produce academic and non-academic publications summarizing the findings, frameworks, and best practices, aimed at both scholarly audiences and practitioners.

Session format:

2 hour duration of discussions centering on methods for conducting studies in Nature Bases Solutions and sharing case studies, Hybrid both physical and online

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

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