



PUBLIC SQUARES

Training Programme

Building researcher capacity in collaborative work, encouraging the pursuit of bold and creative ideas, developing competitive grant proposals, and cultivating new transdisciplinary focal areas.

Edition 2024



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
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Arranged by :

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1 June 2024

Dear Public Square Teams

We are excited to launch the Public Squares Training Programme! This year, we will offer the most popular (and feasible) workshop topics identified through the needs assessment that was done earlier this year.

The programme will kickstart in July 2024. To reach as many people as possible, we divided each event into two parts: a lecture and an interactive workshop. While the lectures are open to all Public Square teams and collaborators, workshop participation is limited to 30 people (5-6 people per Public Square).

For the workshops, we will first invite the Public Square teams that selected the particular topic in the needs assessment, giving them a limited time to confirm. If spaces are available after this time, we will invite all public square team members to attend. We still hope to run an intensive grant writing course in 2024. However, we have not yet managed to contract the right facilitator. We will let you know when we have news. In the meantime, we ask you to look out for notices advertising the SU grant writing workshop in August.

Please be advised that the brainstorming sessions are already up and running (see more information below). These have been a great success and we encourage you to contact Astrid to book a slot. We are already planning the programme for 2025, so please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions. Also, feel free to reach out if you can't make one of the dates listed above and would like a workshop to be repeated in 2025.

Warm regards,



Dr Astrid Treffry-Goatley
Public Squares Lead

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EVENT TIMETABLE

Event (Lecture followed by targeted workshop)	Facilitators	Venue	Date & time
<u>Building a Successful Team</u> —	Dr. John van Breeda	BMRI	16 Jul. 12h00 – 16h00
<u>Stakeholder mapping</u> —	Dr Gill Black & Dr. Astrid TG	STIAS	23 Jul. 12h00 – 16h00
<u>Research impact</u> —	Prof. Heide Hackmann	STIAS	19 Aug. 12h00 – 16h00
<u>Engaging Policy Makers</u>	Dr Gill Black & Dr. Astrid TG	BMRI	10 Sept. 12:00 – 16h00
<u>Grant writing: Expert tips</u>	Prof. Tulio de Oliveira	STIAS	15 Oct. 9h00 – 13h00
<u>Engaging Policy Makers</u> —	Dr Gill Black & Dr. Astrid TG	STIAS	19 Nov. 12:00 – 16h00
<u>Communication of Science</u>	Prof. Marina Joubert	STIAS	04 Dec. 09h00 – 13h00
<u>Brainstorming sessions</u>	Dr Gill Black, Dr. Astrid TG, & Sarita Groenewald	Various	Ongoing

EVENTS FORMAT

Some the events are held in the morning, while others are run in the afternoon. For your convenience, we provide the basic format for each time slot below.

Morning sessions

Time	Description	Attendees
09h00-10h00	Lecture	All guests
10h00-10h30	Tea	All guests
10h30-12h30	Workshop	Workshop participants only
12h30-13h30	Lunch	Workshop participants only

Afternoon sessions

Time	Description	Attendees
12h00-13h00	Lecture	All guests
13h00-14h00	Lunch	All guests
14h00-16h00	Workshop	Workshop participants only

EVENT 1: Building an Effective Transdisciplinary Research Team

Date: 16 July 2024

Lecture Time: 12h00 – 13h00 (lecture followed by lunch)

Workshop time: 13h00 – 16h00

Venue: BMRI, Room 1004

Presenter: Dr. John van Breda

Presenter Bio:

John holds post-graduate degrees in philosophy, theology, and sociology and is working towards his PhD with a specific focus on developing context-relevant transdisciplinary research approaches for conducting solution-oriented research in a developing world context. His expertise is in transdisciplinary methodologies and methods for tackling complex social-ecological systems challenges. For the last ten years, he has been building and managing the TsamaHub an inter-faculty research centre at Stellenbosch University, which offers a transdisciplinary doctoral programme in sustainable development. John has been instrumental in raising international funding for conducting transdisciplinary doctoral programmes on food security and climate change on the African continent, known as the TRECCAfrica and ACCAI programmes.

Lecture description: **REGISTER NOW!**

Transdisciplinary research (TDR) approaches require researchers to build and strengthen collaborations between colleagues from different fields of study. This lecture will outline the knowledge, capabilities, capacities, and structures needed within core academic teams and departments to advance effective and impactful transdisciplinary research. In summary, this talk will explore:

- Effective TDR research practices
- The importance of context in TDR
- Ways to assemble successful TDR teams

Workshop description:

This workshop offers the Public Squares groups a space to consider the knowledge, capabilities, capacities, and structures needed within their core academic teams and departments to advance effective and impactful transdisciplinary research. Participants will also work in their groups to think through the necessities of managing complex networks and the dynamics of multifaceted teams. Together, the teams will:

- Brainstorm plans to assemble and build their team
- Explore the impact of the context on their team's composition and identify strategies to manage team dynamics

EVENT 2: Stakeholder Mapping for Transdisciplinary Research

Date: 23 July 2024

Lecture Time: 12h00 – 13h00 (lecture followed by lunch)

Workshop time: 13h00 –16h00

Venue: STIAS, Seminar Room

Presenters: Dr. Gill Black and Dr. Astrid Treffry-Goatley

Presenter Bios:

Dr. Gill Black has worked in global health for over 25 years. As an engaged research specialist, Gill facilitates partnership-building between researchers and affected communities to strengthen co-production and policy engagement. Gill has capability in numerous creative participatory methods and has worked on a wide range of topics including tuberculosis, HIV, cardiovascular disease, water microbiology, and, most recently, environmental disaster risk management. Dr. Black is co-founder and co-director at the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation.

Dr. Astrid Treffry-Goatley is a senior researcher at Stellenbosch University and is one of the leaders of the Public Squares project. Astrid is an engaged research specialist who loves using arts-based methods to involve non-academic stakeholders in the research process and to bring new voices to the fore. She has worked on a broad range of public health issues, including HIV drug resistance, gender inequality, and climate change.

Lecture description: REGISTER NOW!

Transdisciplinary research (TDR) requires researchers to build working relations outside of the academy with organizations, groups, individuals, and other societal partners. Drawing on their experience of conducting engaged, transdisciplinary research, the presenters will highlight the importance of targeted stakeholder engagement in TDR. Additionally, we will introduce key concepts and methods for identifying the non-academic partners that will augment the effectiveness and impact of projects.

Workshop description:

Transdisciplinary research requires researchers to build working relations outside of the academy with organizations, groups, individuals, and other societal partners. This workshop will allow the Public Squares groups to participate in a facilitated stakeholder mapping activity to support the identification of non-academic partners that will augment the effectiveness and impact of their transdisciplinary projects.

EVENT 3: Impact in Transdisciplinary Research: Conceptualizing and Measuring

Date: 19 August 2024

Lecture Time: 12h00 – 13h00 (lecture followed by lunch)

Workshop time: 13h00 –16h00

Venue: STIAS, Seminar Room

Presenter: Prof. Heide Hackmann

Presenter Bio:

Heide Hackmann joined the University of Stellenbosch on 1 July 2024, to hold a new Chair on Science Futures at the Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science, and Technology. She holds an MPhil in Contemporary Social Theory from the University of Cambridge in the UK and a PhD in Science and Technology Studies from the University of Twente in the Netherlands. Dr Hackmann's career includes more than 20 years of international experience in science and technology policy, global science strategy and systems development, and international science advice and diplomacy. Before joining the University of Stellenbosch, she served as Director of Future Africa at the University of Pretoria in South Africa (2022-2024); as the founding CEO of the International Science Council in Paris (2018-2022); and as Executive Director of the Council's two predecessor organizations, the International Council for Science (2015-2018) and the International Social Science Council (2007-2015). Dr. Hackmann continues to serve as an advisor to the United Nations and remains active on the boards of numerous international scientific organisations and initiatives. She is a Fellow of the International Science Council and a member of the Council's Global Sustainability Commission.

Lecture outline: [**REGISTER NOW!**](#)

In this lecture, Prod. Heide Hackmann will discuss the key topic of research impact in a global context. Drawing on her experience and impactful research career Heide will share expert insights on how research teams can maximize the societal relevance of their work. Additionally, she will introduce the useful monitoring and evaluation frameworks that can be used to assess the influence and sustainability of research.

Workshop description:

The purpose of this workshop will be to support the Public Squares researchers in maximizing the societal relevance of their research. The facilitation team will share expert insights and guide interactive discussions on effective impact assessment strategies for transdisciplinary research. Participants will engage in collaborative group sessions to unpack the impact opportunities of their projects and draft monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the influence and sustainability of their work.

EVENT 4: Engaging Policymakers in Transdisciplinary Research

Date: 10 September July 2024

Lecture Time: 12h00 – 13h00 (lecture followed by lunch)

Workshop time: 13h00 –16h00

Venue: BMRI, Room 1004

Presenters: Dr. Gill Black and Dr. Astrid Treffry-Goatley

Presenter Bios:

Dr. Gill Black has worked in the field of global health for over 25 years. As an engaged research specialist, Gill facilitates partnership-building between researchers and affected communities to strengthen co-production and policy engagement. Gill has capability in numerous creative participatory methods and has worked on a range of topics including tuberculosis, HIV, cardiovascular disease, water microbiology, and, most recently, environmental disaster risk management.

Dr Astrid Treffry-Goatley is a senior researcher at Stellenbosch University and is one of the leaders of the Public Squares project. Astrid is an engaged research specialist who loves using arts-based methods to involve non-academic stakeholders in the research process and to bring new voices to the fore. She has worked on a broad range of public health issues, including HIV drug resistance, gender inequality, and climate change.

Lecture Description: **REGISTER NOW!**

A common goal of transdisciplinary research is to provide evidence to drive change in society, through engagement with government departments and policy officials. In this lecture, Gill and Astrid will outline the importance of policy engagement in transdisciplinary research using international case studies and their mutual research experiences for illustration. For example, Gill will draw on her long-term experience of engaging with local and international policymakers, as the co-director of the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation. Gill will share best practices, and impactful strategies to apply and will also outline common pitfalls to avoid.

Workshop Outline:

This workshop will make space for Public Squares groups to build their thinking around the policy engagement, social change, and social justice aspects of their projects and to further develop strategies and plans for these elements of their work. Gill and Astrid will use participatory research techniques to guide the teams in the process of mapping out the policymakers they need to engage with and the strategies they intend to apply in the process.

EVENT 5: Grant writing: Expert Tips and Master class

Date: 15 October 2024

Lecture time: 09h00 – 10h00 (lecture followed by tea)

Workshop time: 10h30 – 13h00 (followed by lunch)

Venue: STIAS

Presenter: Prof. Tulio de Oliveira

Presenter Bio:

Prof. Tulio de Oliveira is the director of the Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI) and the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP). Prof. de Oliveira is a Professor of Bioinformatics at the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking, Stellenbosch University, and at the College of Health Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Tulio has over 300 publications and is the PI on numerous large international grants.

Lecture Description: [REGISTER NOW!](#)

In this lecture, Prof. de Oliveira will offer tips for developing innovative and competitive research proposals. Participants will be given guidance on how to:

- Find funding opportunities
- Identify the best funder for your proposal
- Develop an impactful idea
- Create a cohesive proposal
- Convince the funder that you are the best person/team to take this project forward.

Grant Writing Master Class

This Master Class is designed to help Public Squares groups improve their skills in the practice of grant writing. Groups will be asked to prepare a draft proposal ahead of the workshop. They will bring this working document to the workshop and will be given 90 minutes to collaboratively edit it using some of the tips shared by Prof. de Oliveira. They will then present their document to the group to receive constructive feedback on how to improve the proposal.

EVENT 6: Engaging Policymakers in Transdisciplinary Research

Date: 19 November 2024

Lecture Time: 12h00 – 13h00 (lecture followed by lunch)

Workshop time: 13h00 –16h00

Venue: STIAS, Semina Room

Presenters: Dr. Gill Black and Dr. Astrid Treffry-Goatley

Presenter Bios:

Dr. Gill Black has worked in the field of global health for over 25 years. As an engaged research specialist, Gill facilitates partnership-building between researchers and affected communities to strengthen co-production and policy engagement. Gill has capability in numerous creative participatory methods and has worked on a range of topics including tuberculosis, HIV, cardiovascular disease, water microbiology, and, most recently, environmental disaster risk management.

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Workshop Outline:

This workshop will make space for Public Squares groups to build their thinking around the policy engagement, social change, and social justice aspects of their projects and to further develop strategies and plans for these elements of their work. Gill and Astrid will use participatory research techniques to guide the teams in the process of mapping out the policymakers they need to engage with and the strategies they intend to apply in the process.

EVENT 7: Science communication in transdisciplinary research

Date: 4 December 2024

Lecture time: 09h00 – 10h00 (lecture followed by tea)

Workshop time: 10h30 – 13h00 (followed by lunch)

Venue: STIAS

Presenter: Prof. Marina Joubert

Presenter bio

Prof. Joubert has over 25 years of experience in science communication, capacity building, teaching, and research. Marina is recognized nationally and internationally as a pioneer in the field and has published widely on the topic. For example, as a science communication strategist, Marina held a managerial position at the National Research Foundation for 15 years. Subsequently, she worked as a freelance strategist, managing communication and media for the South African Square Kilometre Array Project during South Africa's successful bid to host the telescope. Since she joined Stellenbosch University in 2015, she has taught and supervised many postgraduate students and has (co-)authored numerous publications. Additionally, in 2015, Marina launched Africa's first online course in science communication, which has successfully trained nearly 300 students from Africa and beyond. Her research interests include the evolving roles of scientists as public communicators, science communication through new online channels, the communication of contested topics and controversies, and building an evidence base for effective science communication training and practice.

Lecture description [REGISTER NOW!](#)

Join us for an engaging lecture by a distinguished expert with over 25 years of experience in science communication, capacity building, teaching, and research. In this talk, we will explore how clear and compelling communication can inspire interest in science, support education, and ensure that scientific advancements benefit society as a whole. Additionally, Marina will share key strategies to adopt when communicating science connecting with the public to and effectively tackle complex societal challenges.

Workshop description

This workshop will aim to support the Public Squares teams in developing a framework for communicating and disseminating their research projects. Examples of innovative science communication strategies will be shared and discussed. Participants will work with other members of their groups to brainstorm and map out or expand their science communication plans.

ONGOING: BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS (2-4 hours with lunch/tea) **REGISTER NOW!**

We invite all Public Squares teams to book a facilitated brainstorming session. These sessions can be held at a venue of choice and are (co) facilitated by either Dr. Astrid Treffry-Goatley, Dr. Gill Black, or expert facilitator, Dr. Sarita Groenewald.

The Public Square teams can choose what to focus on and how they would like to explore it. The teams can use this service to develop their ideas, engage with key societal stakeholders, and/or advance their research proposals. Several groups have made use of this service already and while some have opted for a facilitated discussion, others have asked for us to facilitate a participatory workshop to help them develop their ideas. Don't hesitate, please contact us to make arrangements.



SEDOH Public Square brainstorming session, 19 April, 2024

FUTURE PLANS: List of workshops planned for 2025

- **Budgeting:** A workshop aimed at supporting research teams to think through the complexities of transdisciplinary research budgeting and financial planning across diverse research disciplines and non-academic sectors.
- **An overview of participatory methods for transdisciplinary research:** The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of different approaches that can be taken towards engaging and involving communities and members of the wider public in research. Public Squares groups will work together to consider how their projects will integrate community and/or public engagement and figure out why, how, where, and when to do this across the trajectory of their work.
- **Co-production in transdisciplinary research:** This workshop will engage Public Squares groups in the meaning and strengths of co-production in transdisciplinary research. New ways of mobilizing, weaving together, and applying diverse knowledge will be shared and discussed.
- **Equity and inclusivity in transdisciplinary research:** This workshop will engage Public Squares groups in the impetus of equity and inclusivity in transdisciplinary research. Guidelines for good practice will be shared and discussed.
- **Ethics and responsibility in transdisciplinary research:** This workshop will center on research ethics and researcher responsibility. Public Squares groups will work within their teams to map out and discuss the different ethical elements of their projects.
- **Participatory methods: a practical workshop on mapping and drawing techniques:** Public Squares participants will be engaged in practical hands-on activities to experiment with different types of drawing and mapping methods that can enable community engagement and involvement in research.
- **Participatory methods: a practical workshop on photovoice:** This workshop will provide an overview of 'photovoice', a well-established and widely used method for community-based participatory research. Facilitators will guide the practice and ethics of working with photovoice as a participatory visual method to deepen research insights. Participants will work in their groups to consider how photovoice could enrich the findings and strengthen the impact of their Public Squares projects.
- **An intensive (2 to 5-day) workshop on transdisciplinary project design:**
Details to be confirmed