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