

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.

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.