



i2S News

January - March 2023, #62

Welcome to the first i2S News for 2023. We provide updates on:

- i2Insights (the community blog and repository)
- i2S-Talks (the YouTube channel)
- i2S website (which provides specific information about Integration and Implementation Sciences).

In this i2S News we highlight i2Insights contributions about systems thinking. Systems thinking is integral to i2S and is essential for tackling complex societal and environmental problems. Yet as i2Insights Ambassador, Cathy Hobbs has stated "at the supermarket [of useful tools], the systems thinking 'products' are nailed to the top shelf (and likely gathering the dust in some cases)." i2Insights is bringing more of these tools to the accessible shelves at eye level.

In i2S-Talks, this i2S News also features one of the stand-out seminars for 2022 by Fiji's Professor Upolu Luma Vaai. He argues that transdisciplinarity is not a new concept for Pasifika communities, demonstrating how the indigenous philosophy of relationality has shaped transboundary thinking and praxis for centuries, and how it would assist in creating a 'whole of life' education approach.

Progress on changes to the i2S website is also presented.

The year also begins with the very sad news that one of the doyens of interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, Julie Thompson Klein, died on January 15. Julie was not only a towering figure in research and education in interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, she was also an active networker who nurtured colleagues at all levels of seniority around the world. We are grateful for her support of i2S and i2Insights. We will update the i2Insights News (<https://i2insights.org/about/i2insights-news/>) once we know when the proposed celebration of her life will be held.

Feedback and suggestions for i2S News and i2S activities are always welcome!
Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

CONTENTS

i2Insights website

- Highlighting systems thinking tools
- Highlights from i2Insights statistics
- There have been 10 new contributions since the last i2S News

i2S-Talks YouTube channel

- Highlighting lessons from Pasifika communities for decolonial transdisciplinary education
- Two videos have been added to this repository since the last i2S News

i2S website

- Changes in train

About i2S News

- Aims
- How to subscribe and unsubscribe

i2INSIGHTS

Highlighting systems thinking tools

Systems thinking is integral to i2S and i2Insights Ambassador, Cathy Hobbs, is playing a leading role in helping i2Insights raise awareness and accessibility for systems thinking concepts, methods and other tools. They include “golden oldies,” *ie.*, classical systems thinking tools, such as:

- [Viable system model](#), which provides a theory for designing communities, businesses, regions, and nations to be more capable of responding to a changing and unpredictable environment.
- [Critical systems heuristics](#), which provides a framework to help those participating in research to effectively reflect on their own assumptions about where they set boundaries around: problems, solutions, measures of success, knowledge claims and other aspects of research. It also provides a way for examination of assumptions about boundaries to point to better ways of serving the disenfranchised and marginalised.
- [DPSIR framework](#), which provides a way to describe and analyse important and interlinked relationships between social and environmental factors thought Driving forces, Pressures, States, Impacts, and Responses.
- System dynamics modelling, including [good practices](#) and ways of achieving [effective group decisions](#).
- [Using combinations of methods to redesign systems to create shared value](#), which combines social and environmental interests with corporate interests.

Newer systems thinking tools are also featured, including:

- [Critical back-casting](#), which provides a way of designing new services or strategies with central participation of marginalized stakeholders, as well as providing a way to liberate people’s creativity to move from incremental improvements to more fundamental change.
- [DSRP theory](#), which provides 4 simple rules (Distinctions, Systems, Relationships, and Perspectives) that dynamically combine to explain the complexity of physical, natural, and social systems.
- [Human learning systems](#), which uses continuous exploration, experimentation and learning to improve people’s lives through public service, including research.
- [GEMS framework](#), which provides a systemic approach to intersectionality by focusing on three broad fields - Gender equality, Environments and Marginalised voices – rather than categorisations.
- Systems leadership, focusing on [different types and their implications for systems change](#) and [how specific systems thinking tools can support systems leadership](#), as well as [learning pathways to strengthen systems leadership](#).

For all i2Insights contributions focused on systems thinking, see <https://i2insights.org/category/main-topics/systems/>

Highlights from i2Insights statistics

Our [three-monthly review of statistics about the progress of i2Insights](#) shows that, to end December 2022, there were 449 contributions by 565 authors from 47 countries. Since i2Insights started there have been viewers from 190 of the 193 countries that are members of the United Nations. The median lifetime views of contributions is 800, with the upper end of the range at over 300,000 views.

Contributions added since the last i2S News

Integration and implementation insights (i2Insights) has added the following blog posts to its repository since the last i2S News:

Theory of change in inter- and transdisciplinary research

By Josefa Kny, Sabine Hoffmann, Emilia Nagy and Martina Schäfer

<https://i2insights.org/2023/02/21/theory-of-change-in-crossdisciplinary-research/>

Integration in inter- and transdisciplinary research: how can the leadership challenges be addressed?

By Lisa Deutsch and Sabine Hoffmann

<https://i2insights.org/2023/02/14/addressing-integration-challenges/>

Storytelling and systems change

An i2Insights story based on one originally told by Thea Snow, David Murikumthara, Teya Dusseldorp, Rachel Fyfe, Lila Wolff and Jane McCracken

<https://i2insights.org/2023/02/07/storytelling-and-systems-change/>

Public participation geographical information systems

By Nora Fagerholm, María García-Martín, Mario Torralba, Claudia Bieling and Tobias Plieninger

<https://i2insights.org/2023/01/31/public-participation-gis/>

Viable System Model: A theory for designing more responsive organisations

By Angela Espinosa

<https://i2insights.org/2023/01/24/viable-system-model/>

Externalizing implicit expectations and assumptions in transdisciplinary research

By Verena Radinger-Peer, Katharina Gugerell and Marianne Penker

<https://i2insights.org/2023/01/17/expectations-and-assumptions-in-transdisciplinary-research/>

Managing complexity with human learning systems

By Toby Lowe

<https://i2insights.org/2023/01/10/human-learning-systems/>

Seventh annual review

By Gabriele Bammer

<https://i2insights.org/2022/12/13/seventh-annual-review/>

Participatory scenario planning

By Maike Hamann, Tanja Hichert and Nadia Sitas

<https://i2insights.org/2022/12/06/participatory-scenario-planning/>

A responsible approach to intersectionality

By Ellen Lewis and Anne Stephens

<https://i2insights.org/2022/11/29/approach-to-intersectionality/>

i2S-TALKS**Highlighting lessons from Pasifika communities for decolonial transdisciplinary education**

Professor Upolu Luma Vaai explores the importance of the Pasifika communities-based indigenous philosophy of relationality and how it has shaped transboundary thinking and praxis for centuries, and how it would assist in creating a 'whole of life' education approach.

Living in the Moana without boundaries, houses without walls, knowledge without centres, Pasifika communities are never people of closed systems, therefore transdisciplinarity is not a new concept.

Unfortunately mainstream education has firmly embedded a compartmentalized learning system that treats and confines knowledge strictly to departments, systems, and categories. While this is helpful in terms of specific employment targets and market driven interests, it has fostered an unhelpful dichotomy that formalizes and gives power to a certain centre of knowledge at the expense of communities, spiritualities, values, and indigenous cultures labelled under "informal knowledge."

Alternative holistic approaches to education are needed that seriously consider transdisciplinarity and transboundary flow, as well as a 'whole of life' philosophy to underpin a decolonial learning approach.

The seminar by Professor Upolu Luma Vaai, Principal and Professor of Theology & Ethics at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji, on "Pasifika 'Whole of Life' Education: A Decolonial Communities-based Approach" was presented on July 20, 2022 as part of the NITRO-Oceania (Network of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research Organisations in the Oceania region) seminar series. Videos from the series are hosted on i2S-Talks. The direct link to this video is: https://youtu.be/DAYYeyb_Mq.

Videos added since the last i2S News

The following video have been added to the i2S YouTube channel since the last i2S News:

Surfacing and spanning boundaries: Perspectives from history of science

By Evan Hepler-Smith (2023, 58 min)

<https://youtu.be/xDwrOE6nYxI>

(Playlist: Intereach Webinar Series)

The role of advertising in research implementation and change in public health

By Dee Madigan (2014, 58 min)

<https://youtu.be/HiWgQBtXFpg>

(Playlist: Research implementation and Change)

i2S WEBSITE**Changes in train**

We are continuing to progress the removal of tools from the resources repository on the i2S website, relocating them to i2Insights and i2S-Talks, as well as archiving those that are out-of-date. You can follow progress on <https://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/list-of-relocated-resources/>.

And a reminder that the repositories of journals, professional associations and networks, and conferences that were developed between 2002 and 2021 have been transferred to the website of the ITD-Alliance (Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity at <https://itd-alliance.org/resources/>).

ABOUT i2S NEWS

The aim of this newsletter is to provide regular updates (4 times per year) about what's new in Integration and Implementation Sciences (i2S), especially in three major repositories:

- the i2S website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au>), which provides a range of information about Integration and Implementation Sciences
- Integration and Implementation Insights (<http://i2Insights.org>), which functions as a community blog, as well as a repository, for sharing concepts, methods and other research tools for understanding and acting on complex real-world problems
- the i2S YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/i2S-Talks>), which provides a range of videos about various aspects of i2S.

Other updates about i2S are also provided and, from time to time, we also post news that is not directly related to i2S, but that is in line with i2S objectives.

Our target audience is researchers who tackle complex societal and environmental problems and who are interested in:

- Synthesizing knowledge from different disciplines and stakeholders,
- Understanding and managing diverse unknowns, and
- Supporting improved policy and practice responses to problems by government, business and civil society.

The three i2S repositories therefore provide new tools, as well as compiling and sharing existing tools, in 11 main areas:

- understanding the processes involved in *change*
- improving *communication*
- understanding *context*
- effective *decision making*
- incorporating, harnessing and managing *diversity*

- *integration* of multiple and varied perspectives about any problem and insights into acting on it
- *research implementation*
- *stakeholder engagement*
- taking a *systems* perspective
- *teamwork*
- understanding and managing *unknowns*.

i2S News is archived at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/what-i2s/i2s-publications/i2s-news>.

Useful links:

- i2S website: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au>
- i2Insights blog and repository: <http://i2Insights.org>
- i2S on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/i2S-Talks>
- Twitter: [@GabrieleBammer](https://twitter.com/GabrieleBammer)
- LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation": <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/>

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter go to "i2S News" at <http://i2s.anu.edu.au> or contact Gabriele Bammer or Peter Deane at i2S@anu.edu.au.