i2S News

April – June 2025, #70

Welcome to the April-June 2025 i2S News with the latest developments in Integration and Implementation Sciences (i2S).

In this i2S News we are organising the material presented under the following headings:
- i2S theoretical framework, which covers advances in the framework's building, testing, improvement and documentation
- Tools for tackling complex problems, which cover concepts, methods, processes, frameworks, and theories
- Strengthening the research and education community, which covers bringing together various approaches and developing i2S as a global endeavour
- Other updates and resources.

The key information sources are updates made to:
- i2Insights (the community blog and repository)
- i2S-Talks (the YouTube channel)
- the i2S webpages (which provide specific information about Integration and Implementation Sciences).

There are three updates on the i2S theoretical framework covering research approaches, imperfection, and trust. Progress on moving i2S materials to the i2Insights website is also reported.

Nineteen tools for tackling complex problems were added to either i2Insights blog and repository or i2S-Talks in the following main topics: change, decision making, diversity, integration, research implementation, stakeholder engagement, systems and teamwork.

In strengthening the research and education community, there is a description of measuring progress through statistical analysis of i2Insights blog and repository, as well as providing an update of links (through i2S-Talks) among networks.

Other updates and resources present two new videos featuring a South–North dialogue and pioneering teaching efforts, as well as two new blog posts discussing artificial intelligence.

Feedback and suggestions for i2S News are always welcome!

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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i2S THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Updates on research approaches, imperfection and trust

An infographic and brief description of the i2S theoretical framework was developed in 2024 and fleshing this out is an on-going activity.

So far in 2025, three blog posts and one video have expanded on specific aspects of the framework, covering research approaches, imperfection and trust.

Research approaches
i2S seeks to connect a range of research approaches for tackling complex problems, as different research questions require different research approaches. For example, some lend themselves to a transdisciplinary approach, others to an action research approach and so on. This is addressed in a recent i2Insights blog post and i2S-Talks video:
- Why interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity are not enough for addressing complex problems by Gabriele Bammer
- Building the interdisciplinarian's skill set: What can we learn from systems thinking, action research, futures studies and more? (24 min YouTube video) by Gabriele Bammer.

Imperfection
Imperfection is inevitable in any research tackling complex societal and environmental problems. The rationale, traps to avoid and actions to take are described in Dealing with imperfection in tackling complex problems by Gabriele Bammer.

Trust

Trust is regarded as essential for effective teamwork and stakeholder engagement and the implications of Piotr Sztompka's work on anticipatory, responsive and evocative trust are discussed in Better understanding trust by Gabriele Bammer.

Updates on documentation on the i2S website

All i2S materials are in the process of being updated and moved to the i2Insights website. New webpages are now available for:
- the aims and an overview of i2S
- the connection between i2S and Integration and Implementation Insights (i2Insights)
- i2S News
- i2S publications
- i2S presentations.

TOOLS FOR TACKLING COMPLEX PROBLEMS

Newly-added tools

The following tools were added (in reverse date order) to i2Insights blog and repository or i2S-Talks since the last i2S News. They are grouped under the main topics of the i2S theoretical framework, with the topics listed in alphabetical order. Where the tool is relevant to more than one topic, it is listed under each of them.

Change

What roles do you play in inter- and transdisciplinary projects?
by Hanna Salomon, Benjamin Hofmann and Sabine Hoffmann
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/01/inter-and-transdisciplinary-project-roles/

An approach for operationalizing and sustaining systems improvements
by Dintle Molosiwa
https://i2insights.org/2025/03/25/approach-for-systems-improvements/

Decision making

Harnessing the collision of four ways of knowing
by Adrian Wolfberg
https://i2insights.org/2025/05/27/harnessing-four-ways-of-knowing/

Diversity

How individual members can contribute to effective team functioning,
edited by Gabriele Bammer
https://i2insights.org/2025/05/06/team-roles-for-effective-teamwork/

Three key strategies enabling artificial intelligence to bridge inequities
by Kerstin Nothnagel
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/08/artificial-intelligence-bridging-inequities/

Integration

Harnessing the collision of four ways of knowing
by Adrian Wolfberg
https://i2insights.org/2025/05/27/harnessing-four-ways-of-knowing/

Developing and testing the Perspective Integration Capability (PIC) scale
by Maritza Salazar Campo
https://youtu.be/GGl5Pt-F0Cs (54 min YouTube video)

Evaluating convergence methods from an administrator's perspective
by Jason Owen-Smith, Levent Atici and Maude Cuchiara
https://youtu.be/FO2JjmkKXGI (52 min YouTube video)

What roles do you play in inter- and transdisciplinary projects?
by Hanna Salomon, Benjamin Hofmann and Sabine Hoffmann
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/01/inter-and-transdisciplinary-project-roles/

Research implementation

What policy makers want from research
edited by Gabriele Bammer
https://i2insights.org/2025/06/03/policy-makers-and-research/

Transdisciplinarity in Africa: Key issues in achieving higher education's third mission
by Basirat Oyalowo
https://i2insights.org/2025/05/20/transdisciplinarity-and-service-to-african-society/

What roles do you play in inter- and transdisciplinary projects?
by Hanna Salomon, Benjamin Hofmann and Sabine Hoffmann
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/01/inter-and-transdisciplinary-project-roles/

Stakeholder engagement

Planning transdisciplinary stakeholder workshops: Four practical lessons
by Maxine From
https://i2insights.org/2025/05/13/designing-stakeholder-workshops/

Three key strategies enabling artificial intelligence to bridge inequities
by Kerstin Nothnagel
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/08/artificial-intelligence-bridging-inequities/

Mobilizing the Arnstein Gap for better planning
by Keiron Bailey
https://i2insights.org/2025/03/18/arnstein-gap-and-better-planning/

Systems

The SPIRAL of systems leadership
by Josep M. Coll
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/22/spiral-model-of-systems-leadership/

An approach for operationalizing and sustaining systems improvements
by Dintle Molosiwa
https://i2insights.org/2025/03/25/approach-for-systems-improvements/

Teamwork

How individual members can contribute to effective team functioning,
edited by Gabriele Bammer
https://i2insights.org/2025/05/06/team-roles-for-effective-teamwork/

Navigating the spectrum of leadership styles
by Gemma Jiang, Jenny Grabmeier and Joan Lurie
https://i2insights.org/2025/04/15/navigating-leadership-styles/

STRENGTHENING THE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMUNITY

Update on what statistical analysis of i2Insights blog and repository tells us

Every three months an analysis is undertaken of author, viewer and other statistics for i2Insights blog and repository, and this provides some insights into the growth of the community developing and using tools to tackle complex societal and environmental problems. In particular to the end of March 2025, the statistics show that:

- there were 717 authors from 61 countries
- there have been viewers from all of the 193 nations that are members of the United Nations.

For all the statistics, see https://i2insights.org/about/i2insights-statistics/

Milestones, including the year of publication for the first blog post by any author from each country, are also included, see https://i2insights.org/about/i2insights-statistics/milestones/

Finally, regional analyses of authorship have been included in past editions of i2S News (https://i2insights.org/i2s/i2s-news/), particularly for:

- the Middle East and North Africa (January–March 2025)
- Asia (July–December 2024)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (April–June 2024)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (October–December 2023).

An overview of the countries with the most viewers was provided in the January–March 2024 issue of i2S News.

Update on links among networks

The i2S-Talks YouTube channel contributes to building links among networks by hosting videos of webinars and other events for three networks. They are listed below along with any videos hosted in the last three months.

Intereach (Interdisciplinary Integration Research Careers Hub)
This has [one playlist with 68 videos](). The latest videos from their series "Intentional Integration: How do we know if it's working?" are:

Evaluating convergence methods from an administrator's perspective
by Jason Owen-Smith, Levent Atici and Maude Cuchiara
https://youtu.be/FO2JjmkKXGI (52 min YouTube video)

Developing and Testing the Perspective Integration Capability (PIC) Scale
by Maritza Salazar Campo
https://youtu.be/GGl5Pt-F0Cs (54 min YouTube video)

ITD Alliance (Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity)
This has three playlists with 6 videos: [ITD Alliance events playlist]() (2 videos); [ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network webinars playlist]() (2 videos); [ITD Alliance General Assembly meetings playlist]() (2 videos). Two recent videos are highlighted under "other updates and resources" below. Another new video is:

Understanding and advancing transdisciplinary collaborations: Definitions and skills
by Umar Ibrahim and Gabriele Bammer
https://youtu.be/sc5HFUu4NnI (51 min YouTube video)

NITRO-Oceania (Network of Leaders of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research Organisations in the Oceania Region)
This has [one playlist with 13 videos]().

OTHER UPDATES AND RESOURCES

Two recent videos from ITD Alliance webinars

These two videos feature:

- a South–North dialogue on transdisciplinarity and sustainability

  The webinar dialogue on "Transdisciplinarity and Sustainability" covers the concept of transdisciplinary–related theory, methods and practice, as well as transdisciplinary work that aims to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, and the co-production of knowledge towards sustainability. The dialogue was between Sharachchandra Lele, Distinguished Fellow, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) in India and Gabriele Bammer, Professor, Australian National University. Not shown in the video is vibrant participation from the audience of 65 people. The dialogue was co-hosted by the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) and Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD- Alliance) on 26 February 2025. The video is available at

https://youtu.be/--sRCAKkb88 (51 min YouTube video)

- pioneering Australian university efforts to teach transdisciplinarity to undergraduates on a university-wide scale

  The webinar on "Transforming undergraduate learning: Teaching transdisciplinarity on a university-wide scale" features Giedre Kligyte (University of Technology Sydney) and Chris Browne (The Australian National University). They describe and discuss their universities' pioneering efforts—which they lead—in embedding transdisciplinary capabilities at the undergraduate level. The session concluded with a Talanoa (open discussion), which gave the audience a chance to speak about their diverse interests and perspectives. This webinar was organised by the Oceania Regional Network of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD- Alliance) on 1 May 2025 The video is available at https://youtu.be/LXhwZkNAQ74 (1hr 30min YouTube video)

Discussion on artificial intelligence

Two recent blog posts are the first in i2Insights to have opened a discussion on artificial intelligence and its role in tackling complex societal and environmental problems. They are:

- *Three key strategies enabling artificial intelligence to bridge inequities*
  by Kerstin Nothnagel
  https://i2insights.org/2025/04/08/artificial-intelligence-bridging-inequities/
- *Five capacities for human–artificial intelligence collaboration in transdisciplinary research*
  by Faye Miller
  https://i2insights.org/2025/06/10/artificial-intelligence-and-transdisciplinarity/

ABOUT i2S NEWS

Every three months this newsletter reports on:
- advances in building, testing, improving and documenting the i2S theoretical framework
- tools (concepts, methods, processes, frameworks, and theories) for tackling complex societal and environmental problems
- progress in strengthening the community of researchers and educators tackling complex societal and environmental problems, especially
  - bringing together all the various approaches to tackling complex problems, including inter- and transdisciplinarity, systems thinking, action research, post-normal science, implementation science, and the science or team science.
  - developing i2S as a global endeavour, where each country's ways of tackling complex problems are recognised and shared, leading to a richer tapestry of concepts, methods and other tools.
- other updates and resources relevant to i2S.

The key information sources are updates made to:
- i2Insights (the community blog and repository)
- i2S-Talks (the YouTube channel)
- the i2S webpages (which provide specific information about Integration and Implementation Sciences).

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

- Developing a more comprehensive understanding of the complex problem and potential actions
- Supporting policy and practice improvement by government, business and civil society
- Interacting effectively.

The focus of i2S is therefore to provide new tools, as well as compiling and sharing existing tools, in 11 main areas as described below.

For developing a more comprehensive understanding of the complex problem and potential actions:

- taking a *systems* perspective
- understanding *context*
- understanding and managing *unknowns*
- incorporating, harnessing and managing *diversity*
- *integration* of multiple and varied perspectives about any problem and insights into acting on it.

For supporting policy and practice improvement by government, business and civil society:

- effective *decision making*
- *research implementation*
- understanding the processes involved in *change*.

For interacting effectively:

- improving *communication*
- *teamwork*
- *stakeholder engagement*.

i2S News is archived at: https://i2insights.org/i2s/i2s-news/

Useful links:

- i2S webpages: https://i2insights.org/i2s/
- i2Insights blog and repository: http://i2Insights.org
- i2S-Talks on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/i2S-Talks
- LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation": https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/

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