

EDITORIAL

Understanding and moving beyond the polycrisis phenomenon



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Following the success of [issue 25](#) of our Bulletin, which brought together 44 contributions in response to the question "What will we make of this ordeal?" inspired by Sylvain Tesson's March 20, 2020 article on the "socio-political cataclysm" provoked by COVID 19, we invite you in this issue to continue our trans

disciplinary sharing and reflection around the crises erupting around the world. After two years marked by government responses to the COVID 19 pandemic, the human world continues to be mired in crisis and self-destruction.

[UNICEF](#) lists eleven crises that will hit the world hard in 2023, caused by war, climate, insecurity, poor sanitation and dwindling food supplies. The [IMF](#) warns of an imminent banking crisis that would threaten global growth. [UNCTAD](#) warns of growing global asymmetries that threaten the resilience of developing countries. Faced with all these facts, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stresses in the introduction to the report on the [UN's](#) 2022 activities that these are "challenges that transcend borders and that only energetic collective action will enable us to meet". Crises no longer know borders. They are global and impact every living being. So when one crisis is added to another, how to react and act?

A number of questions suddenly arise. Can we emerge from a crisis in the same way as we entered it? Can we still see the world through silos, boundaries and prejudices if crises no longer have boundaries? What can we do to live and survive in these deleterious times in the midst of chaos? What can science and research do? What can art and culture do? What can education and instruction do? Where are our talents and intelligence to collectively create a more harmonious world and develop a culture of Peace, as Basarab Nicolescu, Honorary President of Ciret, wished in his last speech at the IIIrd World Congress of Transdisciplinarity?

The contributions in this issue provide elements of understanding through a transdisciplinary approach. Today, it's clear that only a multifaceted, nuanced viewpoint, at the crossroads of the expertise of the parties involved and of the problem as a whole, aware of the different levels of reality, can enable us to read, analyze and understand these

crises, which arise, develop and become entangled, leaving us all too often with the feeling of being powerless in their face. It is the duty of every researcher to get involved in current world affairs, to decompartment-

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mentalize his or her own research for a better understanding of the crises of the 21st century. These contributions pave the way for shared reflection.

And so we are pleased to present ten texts and poems to help us situate ourselves and act in different ways. Samuel Pinheiro and Florent Pasquier wish to rethink the relationship between humans and nature. Hubert Landier invites us to follow him in a reflexive fable about the same... nature. Jean-Jacques Daetwyler focuses on the climate issue. Jean Frayssinhes then operationalizes a methodology for responding to global warming. Isabelle Elizéon proposes a way of overcoming/changing these situations, this time through the invention of new cosmogonies. Mariana Thierot-Loisel inaugurates a poetic transition with an illustration and several of her creations. Paulo Nuno Martins, after presenting and commenting on a final poem by Fernando Pessoa, presents a program to promote gender equality in India. Karina Bustos and Giam-piero Finocchiaro propose that understanding human identity could resolve these crises. Finally, Sue L. T. McGregor reminds us of the importance of developing a culture of peace.

Last but not least, this issue features a number of new sections: information on videoconferences, books and articles published by Cired members and friends; topical issues; a brief presentation of the new active members who have joined us; and a tribute to those who have left us: Jean-Claude Carrière (founding member), Patrick Loisel, Georges Banu (founding member), Hubert Reeves (founding member), Maurice Couquiaud.

To continue our work in the tradition and openness of our elders, the editorial board now offers the possibility of inviting "guest editors", at their request, to work together on future issues of the journal, once a year. For example, a call on the theme "Epistemology(s) and Purpose(s) of Transdisciplinarity" could be mostly motivating.

In this way, we shall continue to lead our international community of research and action to respond to the dispersions and destructions of our times, through our mutual interactions, with ever greater determination and strength of spirit. **[T]**