



Pathways to Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research: the SHAPE-ID Toolkit

Find tools and resources to make informed decisions about interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and societal partners.

Disseminate inter- and transdisciplinary research findings

Abstract

Learning how to communicate about your research with different audiences is a key skill although, as we explain elsewhere in this toolkit, transdisciplinary research adopts a co-creation approach that goes much further than simply conveying research findings to potential end users.

This publication compiles resources collected as part of the SHAPE-ID project to support researchers, funders/policymakers, research organisations and societal partners in disseminating the findings of inter- and transdisciplinary research.

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Online source – SHAPE-ID Toolkit

This publication is an extract of the SHAPE-ID Toolkit. For a general overview, visit: [10.5281/zenodo.4743703](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743703).

The Toolkit provides tools and resources to make informed decisions about interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and societal partners.

Contributors & Co-producers

The SHAPE-ID resource collection series is an artefact of collective wisdom. Some resources were generated by the SHAPE-ID team, but many were already available online and the toolkit acts as a gateway to locate them. The SHAPE-ID collection series is based on discussions with and inputs from the SHAPE-ID consortium members, namely Anna Buchner, Maureen Burgess, Bianca Vienni Baptista, Caitriona Curtis, Isabel Fletcher, Giorgia Galvini, Catherine Lyall, Maciej Maryl, Jane Ohlmeyer, Christian Pohl, Andrea Ricci, Carlo Sessa, Jack Spaapen, Sibylle Studer, Doireann Wallace, Piotr Wciślik, Keisha Taylor Wesselink, Declan Whelan-Curtin.

SHAPE-ID resource collection series

- Understand inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743671](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743671)
- Develop collaborative conditions: [10.5281/zenodo.4743673](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743673)
- Co-create a research project: [10.5281/zenodo.4743675](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743675)
- Fund collaborative research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743677](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743677)
- Evaluate inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743679](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743679)
- Disseminate inter- and transdisciplinary research findings: [10.5281/zenodo.4743683](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743683)
- Improve inter- and transdisciplinary research skills: [10.5281/zenodo.4743685](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743685)
- Support collaborative researchers: [10.5281/zenodo.4743687](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743687)
- Develop a career in inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743689](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743689)

Disseminate Research Findings

Learning how to communicate about your research with other societal partners is a key skill although, as we explain [elsewhere in this toolkit](#), transdisciplinary research adopts a [co-creation approach](#) that goes much further than simply conveying research findings to potential end users.

Resource highlights

- ▶ SHAPE-ID Guide to Open Science and AHSS: [10.5281/zenodo.5116019](https://zenodo.org/record/5116019)
- ▶ SHAPE-ID Guide to Operas: Open Scholarly Communication in the European Research Area for Social Sciences and Humanities: [10.5281/zenodo.5116029](https://zenodo.org/record/5116029)
- ▶ SHAPE-ID Top Ten Tips on working with policymakers: [10.5281/zenodo.4743693](https://zenodo.org/record/4743693)

Subtopics

Co-create research impact



Understand research-policy interactions



Learn how to communicate with different audiences



Acknowledge contributions in outputs



Publication and Open Access



Resources per subtopics

Co-create research impact [▲](#)

In this blog, Mark Reed draws on his own research to distill five principles for achieving societal impact.

[VISIT SITE](#)

The Societal Impact toolkit includes advice and insights from researcher interviews, as well as further reading resources, methods and evaluation tools to help you find out more about societal impact and how to create it for your own research.

[VISIT SITE](#)

One of the key aims of the ACCOMPLISSH project is to foster dialogue between researchers and relevant stakeholders in order to increase the impact of Social Science and Humanities research. This report summarises practical principles and steps that universities can adopt in order to enable and encourage co-creation for impact.

[READ PDF](#)

The Arts + Social Impact Explorer is another interactive, visual tool intended to promote deeper understanding of the arts' long-term social impact by drawing together research in an effort to make more visible the wide-reaching impact of the arts.

[VISIT SITE](#)

The Trinity Long Room Hub's *Interdisciplinarity for Impact Workshop Report* summarises a set of recommendations for a number of different stakeholders to help better foster and support IDR at a national level.

[READ PDF](#)

In this discussion paper, the HIBAR Research Alliance (HRA) brings together contributors from research universities and related organizations, with a goal of catalysing societally relevant research which they describe as “Highly Integrative Basic and Responsive (HIBAR)”.

[READ PDF](#)

Understand research-policy interactions [▲](#)

One of the core tenets of transdisciplinary research is its relevance to society. In this open access article, Christian Pohl and colleagues offer a 10-step step guide to stimulating explicit reflections around ways to render research more societally relevant.

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In this blog, policy scholars, Kat Smith and Paul Cairney, reflect on what they feel are some of the key insights about the interplay between evidence and policy.

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This guide for facilitators and funders of research policy exchange programmes translates lessons learned from the 2020 Energy-SHIFTS Policy Fellowships into five principal questions.

[READ PDF](#)

As part of its training programme, the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center has produced a series of workbooks targeted to researchers wishing to communicate research findings to policymakers. Although written for PhD students in the life sciences, there are valuable general lessons for others working at the research-policy interface.

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This *Nature* article discusses the EC Joint Research Centre's work on knowledge management. The authors outline eight key practices to improve the use of research in policy.

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'Evidence synthesis' refers to the process of bringing together information from a range of sources and disciplines to inform debates and decisions on specific issues. The UK's Academy of Medical Sciences and Royal Society have produced a report on the topic and a set of set of principles for best practice in evidence synthesis.

[VISIT SITE](#)

This guide to getting evidence into parliament – co-authored by the UK's Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) – includes a useful infographic.

[VISIT SITE](#)

The EC has produced an open access book *Communicating Research for Evidence-Based Policymaking*, a practical guide to supporting cooperation between researchers and policymakers that is aimed at social scientists and humanities researchers.

[VISIT SITE](#)

This open access article analyses how knowledge transfer between academy, public administration and society can be used to improve public policy.

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SHAPE-ID partner Catherine Lyall provides her Top Ten Tips for working with policymakers.

[READ PDF](#)

Learn how to communicate with different audiences [▲](#)

Many research performing organisations will offer staff training in how to communicate with wider audiences which might also cover media training. Key skills for transdisciplinary researchers who wish to communicate with other societal partners include learning how to write a policy brief.

Here we include two guides, one from a government policy perspective.

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And the other from a civil society organisation.

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The UK Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST) has also collaborated on the production on this how-to guide to getting your research into Parliament.

[VISIT SITE](#)

The European Commission has produced a practical guide for researchers in socio-economic sciences and humanities on communicating research for evidence-based policymaking.

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In this article, linked to an online course, Tobias Buser explains why project partners are important when it comes to widening the scope of communication and impact.

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The AAAS Communication Toolkit provides guidance for “scientists” to build skills to more effectively communicate and engage with public audiences – don’t be put off by the term “scientists”, there are some good communication fundamentals here.

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The EU Guide to Science Communication covers similar communication basics in video form.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

As part of the Guide to Science Communication, the EU also produced these 9 short videos on topics such as *Engage your audience* or *Working with museums*.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

This website from a UK research funder provides many resources designed to support knowledge exchange including a guide on how to write a press release.

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The Wellcome Trust offers a short step by step guide to planning public engagement activities.

[READ PDF](#)

Mark Reed's Fast Track Impact website provides a range of resources and training including a series of audio clips on techniques for influencing policy.

[VISIT SITE](#)

And a Media Impact Guide and Toolkit.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Another form of communication takes place between those who speak and work in different languages. This blog post discusses the importance of multilingualism for transdisciplinary research.

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Acknowledge contributions in outputs [▲](#)

Different communities and different disciplines will vary in what they consider to be best practice in acknowledging joint contributions to project outputs. This is something that should be considered and discussed at the start of collaborative projects in order to avoid misunderstandings. Some organisations have developed guidance on this in order to facilitate collaboration and reduce disputes. While these were derived from an academic publishing perspective, the documents here may also provide the basis for discussions among broader groups of knowledge co-producers

Useful guidance on author contributions to academic papers are offered by the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) author statement following a collaborative workshop led by Harvard University and the Wellcome Trust, with input from researchers, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and publishers.

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The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors offers further guidance on defining the role of authors and contributors.

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This good practice charter from the Artists' Union includes some tips on paying artists for networking and skills sharing.

[READ PDF](#)

Publication and Open Access [^](#)

Different disciplines follow different routes to dissemination. In the natural sciences the academic article in *Nature* is still the gold standard; elsewhere “dissemination” might take an entirely different form such as an exhibition or performance. One major disruptor in recent years has been the move towards open access publication and “Plan S” which have asymmetrical impacts on scholars from different disciplinary traditions. The [Coalition-S website](#) provides further information. Research performing organisations and research funders may issue their own guidance on open access requirements. This is an important issue that collaborators should discuss when planning a publications strategy for any inter- or transdisciplinary projects.

A range of views are presented on this topic on the London School of Economics blog including this summary of key themes.

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The British Academy has provided comments on the Plan S proposal from the perspective of the arts and humanities.

[VISIT SITE](#)

A key element of getting academic work published is identifying the right journal to submit it to. The i2S website provides a comprehensive list of ID and TD friendly journals.

[VISIT SITE](#)

SHAPE-ID have produced a guide to OPERAS, a European Research Infrastructure for the development of open scholarly communication in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

[READ PDF](#)

And a guide to Open Science and the Arts Humanities and Social Sciences.

[READ PDF](#)