

Supplementary Material Note 2: Qualitative methods

Understanding emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals Research.

2.1 Interview documents

Interviewee	Reference	Community	Faculty
1	A1	154	Social Sciences
2	A2	154	Social Sciences
3	A3	154	Social Sciences
4	B1	176	Geosciences
5	B2	176	Geosciences
6	B3	176	Geosciences
7	C1	71	Veterinary Medicine
8	C2	71	Veterinary Medicine
9	C3	71	Veterinary Medicine
10	D1	197	Humanities
11	D2	197	Medicine Education
12	D3	197	Veterinary Medicine
13	D4	197	Medicine Education

Table S1: Interview list (anonymised)

2.2 Interview guide (starts on next page)

High-level topic		High-level question	Questions	Answered?
Mechanisms of emergence and development of research topic	<i>Individual</i>	<p>What brings individuals to their research topics and pushes them forward?</p> <p>How is a new research project prepared?</p> <p>Transformative change: how does research on the SDGs interact and are other SDGs considered?</p>	<p>What are the mechanisms for the origination of a new research proposal or project, related to global challenges?</p> <p>How do you set up a new research project? How are tasks in the research conceptualised and divided among researchers / project team members?</p> <p>What is the role of the other SDGs in your research? Do you consider other SDGs when working on some SDG, and if so, why and how?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Collective</i>	<p>How do researchers work with respect to the research landscape / community they are in?</p> <p>How does the research landscape (or community that a researcher is in) constrain or limit the individual choices?</p>	<p>How do you attract new researchers to research related to the SDGs?</p> <p>How are your research choices / decisions influenced by the research landscape / community [local capabilities] of the UU?</p> <p>To what extent do the local capabilities at UU influence your research? And your ability to collaborate with researchers from outside the UU?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding of research	<i>Collective</i>	<p>How do you get funding for your research?</p> <p>How does funding shape the research agenda?</p> <p>In what ways does funding/money constrain your research?</p>	<p>What are the methods or practices to realise funding for a new research project that is related to the SDGs?</p> <p>How does money or funding influences your research? Do you have examples of research projects that changed due to funding or money?</p> <p>What are typical difficulties you encounter when realising funding for projects or research related to global challenges?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

			How do these difficulties constrain the research possibilities or projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Individual</i>	How are individual choices influences by funding or money?	In what ways is your research agenda and personal decisions on topics influenced by funding?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interaction with other communities	<i>Collective</i>	In what ways do you enhance your research by collaborating with other researchers within and outside the university? To what extend do you rely on other people / stakeholders / researchers in your research? [mutual dependence]	How do you establish collaboration with researchers from other fields or departments, both within and outside the UU? What are the barriers and opportunities? How do you bring different, diverse researchers from diverse disciplines together in a research project? What are the barriers and opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Individual</i>	To what extend do the local capabilities influence your research / your ability to collaborate with outsider researchers?	It is easier to collaborate with people of your own institution [proximity]. What motivates you to collaborate with researchers or stakeholders outside the UU? What are the opportunities and difficulties in collaborating with local researchers and stakeholders in other countries? What are the challenges and how do you overcome them?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching	<i>Individual</i>	How do teaching programs shape the research agenda?	How is your research agenda and are decisions influenced by the teaching programs offered at the UU?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Collective</i>	How is the research agenda of a research topic or community influenced by teaching programs?	How is the research agenda of the SDGs influenced by teaching programs at the UU?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulties related to working on these topics		What are difficulties related to working on these research topics that are at the nexus of various domains?	Do you find any inherent complexities or challenges on interdisciplinary research over research on demarcated topics, that are within one field / research area?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table S2: Interview guide

2.3. Workshop propositions and questions

1. Most of the researchers acknowledge the importance of the SDGs. However, they do not experience a strong fit between the SDGs agenda and their research agenda or activities, even though their work is closely related to SDG topics.
 - a. Is it important to be aware of how research is related to the SDG targets, and why?
 - b. Why do you think that researchers do not find a strong fit between the SDG topics and their research?
 - c. How can UU make researchers more aware of their contribution to the SDGs?
2. Researchers indicate that instead of the SDG agenda, other societal and policy agendas, have more direct influence on their research topics. Three examples are the agenda of the inter-American human rights system, the EU Green Deal agenda, and topics posted by the World Health Organization.
 - a. What are possible reasons for the better alignment of these agendas over the agenda of the SDGs?
 - Other agendas...
 - ... are more established
 - ... have existed for longer
 - ... are wider recognized
 - ... are more legitimate
 - ... are more specific
 - ... have a closer relation to research
 - Other
 - b. In what ways can the diversity of agendas restrict or trigger the implementation of the SDGs?
3. Researchers build up international networks to undertake research related to global challenges as expressed in SDGs (e.g., migration, environmental health). However, researchers acknowledge multiple barriers to working in topics outside of Europe, for example, culture or time differences, but also diverse epistemologies and different funding cultures.
 - a. What is the most important barrier for working on SDG related global challenges in collaboration with researchers located outside Europe?
 - b. In what ways can Utrecht University help researchers to overcome such barriers?
4. The Utrecht University Strategic Research Themes, Hubs and Focus areas enable interactions across faculties and disciplines. These platforms are therefore well placed for addressing SDGs research that implies the combination of diverse concepts and methods.
 - a. Do you agree with this proposition? (*Yes/No*)
 - b. Should the UU strategic teams also help researchers to collaborate with researchers outside of UU? (*Yes/No*)
5. Researchers use small grants to experiment with new avenues of research or new methods. These small grants help researchers to apply for big grants and create the opportunity for interdisciplinary SDG related research by interconnecting diverse scholars and topics.
 - a. What role do these small grants play in research topics related to the SDGs / combining SDGs?

6. Emerging research topics are often associated with multiple SDGs (e.g., climate migration, environmental health, environmental justice).
 - a. What are the difficulties to work on these topics?
 - b. How can UU better facilitate this type of research?