

FUTURE OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH FOR THE FUTURE

HOW CAN AND SHOULD ACTORS FROM ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETY, BUSINESS, AND POLITICS COLLABORATE TO BRING ABOUT A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR ALL?

The role of research institutions is set to change fundamentally over the coming 20 years. On 5 November 2020, twelve interested members of the public participated in our online workshop 'The Future of Research and Research for the Future' as part of Berlin Science Week 2020. The two-hour event aimed at bringing people without professional background in research and academia together with scholars from the project **Transferwissenschaft** to exchange ideas, values, hopes, and fears about the role of non-experts in research and innovation processes of the near future.

Our science communication event followed the idea of transdisciplinary research: **interim results of our empirical studies** served as the subject of discussion for this event. Over the course of the workshop, participants critically analysed our research outcomes and, in doing so, transformed into researchers in their own right, thus becoming an integral part of Transferwissenschaft.



TRANSFERWISSENSCHAFT AND KNOWLEDGE CO-PRODUCTION

Lale Altinalana opened the event with a brief overview of our research project **Transferwissenschaft**, which aims to strengthen the transfer of research findings between the different areas and actors of the German innovation system. The introduction was followed by a **welcome lecture by Prof Dr Martina Schraudner**, who emphasised that the future of research and the innovation system is shaped by the continuous and successful exchange of knowledge between different stakeholders. She also stressed that non-academics will play an important and, perhaps essential, part in research processes aimed at finding answers for the most pressing issues of our time.

Transferwissenschaft aims to lead by example and facilitate knowledge co-production through the integration of specific knowledge resources, bodies of knowledge, and perspectives of different interest groups of non-experts into our research process.



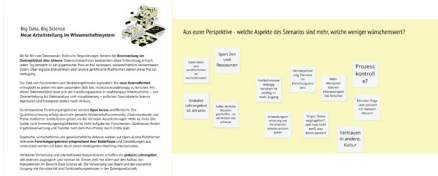
FUTURE OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION: THREE SCENARIOS STIMULATE DISCUSSION & EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

The main part of our workshop consisted of a series of discussions framed by three scenarios that we had developed specifically for this event. We used the **Zoom** online conferencing application. The participants were introduced to the scenarios by means of audio recordings prepared by a professional voice actress. Throughout the discussions, participants used carefully arranged **Miro** boards to record their thoughts. The boards also contained a number of thought-provoking illustrations that provided an exciting entry point into the ensuing debates.

Participants raised the issue as to who will have access to research in the future: will it be easier or more difficult for citizens to participate in research processes? Do we need new competences, such as data literacy, when research data become accessible to all? Are there competing and conflicting needs withing different stakeholder groups in society? And should we be concerned that in the long term there might be less diversity of research activities and topics? In addition, participants frequently emphasised that research should focus more around a particular mission, and be based on the needs of society.



The **Miro** board-assisted discussions were moderated by our project members, who also assisted participants with technical questions. The board-assisted discussions were followed by an open debate that drew on the **Miro** notes, but which quickly moved beyond the original set of questions. The moderators recorded the main points of this debate on paper for future use. The workshop was concluded by **Lale Altinalana's** and **Konstantin Kiprijanov's** summary and reflection of the main results.



TRANSDISCIPLINARITY AT WORK

In the course of the project, the results of the Dialogue of Opportunities will be incorporated into our research and passed on to decision-makers in politics and academia. In this way, we ensure that we do not stop at mapping interests and needs of participants in knowledge transfer processes, but fully integrate them into our research work.

Are you working on **participatory science communication** or **citizen science**?

We are committed to exploring **new forms of transdisciplinary research**.

What do you think, are existing science communication formats good enough for that purpose, or do we need to start working on new forms of sci comm-for-transdis? Please **get in touch** if you would like to continue this conversation. We are looking forward to meeting you!