

## Dr. Katie Ross

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Working towards regenerative and sustainable futures for almost 20 years, I remain curious about, and collaboratively experiment with, ways to create meaningful change. As a Transdisciplinary Learning specialist within my current non-profit work and as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer within the University of Technology Sydney, I co-curate diverse collective learning approaches for each unique situation and project; and engage a 'palette' of processes that lead to meaningful insights and change. Over the past 20 years, I have led and collaborated on transdisciplinary action research projects that promote individual, social and systemic (i.e. governance, culture, learning systems) transformation. These projects have spanned many socio-technical topics (in relation to renewable energy, water, sanitation, waste, transport, food and agriculture). One of my passion areas is transformative sustainability learning, which interweaves philosophical learning and tools for creating positive individual and social change.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Sectorial expertise:

- Transformative sustainability learning
- Regenerative community and land development
- Innovative community engagement, capacity building and workshop design

Expertise in collective learning approaches:

- Transdisciplinary, participatory and action-learning
- Systemic, complex, and critical approaches
- Appreciative enquiry and strengths-based approaches
- Qualitative, post-qualitative and mixed-methods

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 -	Learning and Knowledge Sharing Manager, Soils for Life, Canberra Australia
2021 -	Adjunct fellow, Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
2016 -	Visiting Senior Lecturer, TD School, UTS
2010–2021	Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS
2006–2009	Project Director, Seventh Generation, Wisconsin, USA
2005	Project Manager, Australian Association for Environmental Education, Sydney
2004	Officer, Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability, Macquarie University

### QUALIFICATIONS

2020	Doctorate of Philosophy in Sustainable Futures, ISF, UTS (Thesis: <i>Transforming the Ways We Create Change: Experiencing and Cultivating Transformative Sustainability Learning</i> ).
2018	Graduate Certificate in Transdisciplinary Teaching and Learning, UTS.
2004	Master of Conservation Biology, Victoria University, New Zealand & Macquarie University, Sydney.
2002	Bachelor of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University in the City of New York (Thesis: <i>Within-group scramble competition in Blue Monkeys (<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>) in Kenya</i> ).

## TRANSDISCIPLINARY TEACHING, FACILITATION, MENTORING

- 2022 Co-designer, *Designing and Leading Social Innovation*. Transdisciplinary course in the Masters of Design, Design School, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- 2022 Co-facilitator and mentor, *Indigenous Agriculture and Land Regeneration*, Local Design Summit. Engineers Without Borders, Australian National University (ANU).
- 2021-2022 Invited contributor, *Indigenous native grains and bush food*. Transdisciplinary social innovation undergraduate course in the Remote and Rural Enterprise Program, University of Sydney (USYD).
- 2021 Mentor, *Sustainability Leadership*. Interdisciplinary undergraduate elective, USYD.
- 2021 Guest lecturer on *Relationality*, Creative Capstone. Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII), UTS.
- 2017-2021 Co-developer and coordinator, *Systemic inquiry for Sustainability*, UTS Open.
- 2021 Teacher and mentor, *Leading Innovation*, BCII, UTS.
- 2021 Invited stakeholder, *Complex Environmental Problems in Action*, transdisciplinary undergraduate elective, Fenner School, ANU.
- 2021 Teacher and mentor, *Transdisciplinarity at the Cutting Edge*, BCII, UTS.
- 2021 Invited speaker, *Transdisciplinary Integration: A Critical Reflection* for the Higher Degree Research program, ISF, UTS, 14 October.
- 2020 Subject Coordinator, initial scoping of *Sustainability in an Interconnected World*, transdisciplinary undergraduate elective, TD School, UTS.
- 2020 Mentor for *Transdisciplinary Global Studio*, Auroville India, BCII, UTS.
- 2019 - Invited collaborator. *Peer-to-peer learning on embodied learning*, in support of doctoral students at the TD School, UTS.
- 2017-2020 Co-facilitator. *Integration of SDGs and transdisciplinarity*. Pan-university exploration of how to integrate SDGs and transdisciplinary projects across UTS.
- 2019 - Doctoral supervisor for transdisciplinary inquiry into transformative learning, ISF, UTS.
- 2019 Teacher and mentor, *Creative Practices and Methods*, BCII, UTS
- 2017 -2018 Co-facilitator. *International exchange for building institutional and individual transdisciplinary, systemic and relational research capacity*. Australia Bhutan Exchange (DFAT Australia Awards Fellowship), Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), Institute for Gross National Happiness Studies (iGNHaS) and ISF, UTS.
- 2017 - 2019 Designer and co-facilitator. *Transcending: Knowing my worldview and its paradigms (Paradigm-categories experience); The 'Isms and Ologies' experience; experiential learning on a site of transformative change*. Yearly doctoral program retreats, ISF, UTS.
- 2016-2019 Teacher and mentor, *Creativity and Complexity*, BCII, UTS.
- 2018 Invited guest lecturer. *Educational Sustainability*. Doctoral program, University Wisconsin, Stevens Point.
- 2018 Co-facilitator, *Transforming Capitalism Lab*, MIT Presencing Institute, hosted at UTS.
- 2018 Co-designer and facilitator. *Systems Thinking for Decentralised Water Service Delivery*. Hunter Water, Australia.
- 2017-2018 Participant and co-creator, *We Are In.Tuition dojos*, Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation, UTS.
- '17, '18, '21 Teacher and mentor, *Past, Present and Future of Innovation*, BCII, UTS
- 2018 Guest Lecturer, *Worldviews and Paradigms, and why these matter*. Design Innovation and Research Centre Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Innovation, UTS.
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, *'Wealth from Waste'* for identifying design interventions in a food waste circular economy in alignment with international goals. Interdisciplinary Design Lab, UTS.
- 2017 Co-facilitator, *Master Class: Systems Thinking for Impact on Sustainable Development*. Research for Development Impact Conference, 13-14 June 2017, Sydney.
- 2016 Participant and reviewer, *Transdisciplinary Labs*. Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS.
- 2015 Mentor. *NSW Re(Generation) Project: A project supporting youth to engage youth in environmental education activities*, Macquarie University.

## AWARDS

- 2018 Banksia Sustainability Award Finalist in Research and Academia (as co-author the SDSN Australia, NZ, Pacific's Guide *Getting Started with the SDGs in Universities*)
- 2018 Best Paper, World Symposium for Sustainable Development at Universities, Penang, Malaysia (co-author)
- 2016 UTS Research Excellence Scholarship
- 2016 Australian Postgraduate Award
- 2016 The Wharton School Reimagine Education Awards: UTS's Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation was awarded the Bronze for Presence Learning (as part of teaching staff)
- 2015 Scholarship for international fellow, Global Environmental Policy Program, Geneva
- 2012 UTS Career and Professional Development Award for High Performing Staff

## ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Member International Committee member and Social Media Co-Chair for the 2018 Transformative Learning Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University in the City of New York.
- Judge Wharton School's Reimagine Education Awards for Education Innovation category (2017, 2018, 2019); Australian-Asian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Impact category (2017)
- Executive Committee Member of the Executive Committee for the Australian Pacific Network of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) (2016 – 2018).

## SELECTED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS ON TRANSFORMATION AND TD

- Lange, E, O'Neil, J, Ross, K. 2021. 'Educating during the Great Transformation: Relational Approaches and Transformative Sustainability Education', forthcoming in the *Special Issue for Studies in Adult Education and Learning on Adult Education, Sustainable Development and Environmental Movements*.
- Le Hunte, B, Ross, K, Clarence-Smith, S, Rosegger, A. 2021. "Lessons from utopia: Reflections on 'peak transformative experiences' in a university studio in Auroville, India" in the forthcoming *Palgrave Handbook on Learning for Transformation*.
- Fam, DM, Mellick Lopes, A, Ross, K and Crosby, A. 2020. The Transdisciplinary Living Lab Model (TDLL): Creating 'citizen scholars' for life-long learning. 4th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities, Universities as Living Labs for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Springer World Sustainability Series. Won Best Paper.
- Ross, K, Mitchell, C. 2018. "Transforming Transdisciplinarity: an expansion of strong transdisciplinarity and its centrality in enabling effective collaboration" in *The Art of Collaborative Research and Collective Learning: Transdisciplinary Theory, Practice and Education*. Eds Fam D, Nuehauser L, Gibbs P. Springer.
- Riedy, C, Fam, D, Ross, K, Mitchell, C. 2018 'Transdisciplinarity at the Crossroads: Nurturing Individual and Collective Learning', *Technology Innovation Management Review*, vol 8, no 8, 41-49. \ Mitchell, C, Ross, K. 2017. "Trandisciplinarity in action: Four dimensions, a reflexive framework and their application to improving community sanitation governance in Indonesia" in *Transdisciplinary Research and Practice for Sustainable Outcomes*. Eds Fam D, Palmer J, Riedy C, Mitchell C. Routledge.
- Mitchell, C, Abeyesuriya, K, Ross, K, 2016. 'Making pathogen hazards visible: a new heuristic to improve sanitation investment efficacy'. *Waterlines* vol 35 no 2,163-181, April.
- Ross, K, Delaney, C, Beard, N, Fuller, K, Mohr, S, Mitchell, C, 2014. 'Smart metering enables effective demand management design: A case study to demonstrate that an early mixed-method baseline analysis is essential to designing robust, cost-effective demand management programs in remote communities.' *Water*: August 2014.
- Ross, K, Herriman, J, 2013. 'Active and Participatory Learning for Sustainability in an Online Space: The Case Study of CrowdTV'. *The Journal of Sustainability Education*.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS ON TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSDISCIPLINARITY**

- Doran B, Allen L, Melvold J, Pratt S, Ross K, Le Hunte A, Kligyte G. Embodied learning for a complex world: exploring creative education approaches through a transdisciplinary workshop. 2021 International Transdisciplinarity Conference (ITD), "Creating Spaces and Cultivating Mindsets for Learning and Experimentation", 13 Sep 2021 - 17 Sep 2021. Switzerland.
- Ross, K. 'Transformative learning for resilient futures.' Presented at Transformations, 2019, 16-18 October, University of Chile: Santiago, Chile.
- Ross, K. 'Transformative sustainability learning: why and how?' Abstract and discussion prompt for group dialogue. Presented at Learning Together in Living Systems ('symmathesy'): A new way of thinking about problems, peace and plenty. Murdoch University, Perth Australia, Feb 13 – 16, 2019.
- Ross, K and Mitchell, C, 2018. 'Leveraging transformation with a polyarchy of learning edges'. Extended abstract and presentation for the International Transformative Learning Conference 2018: Transformation in Action: The Power of Community. Teachers College, Columbia University in the City of New York, 7 – 10 November 2018.
- Ross, K, McManus, J, Jansen, E, Pratt, S, Potts, M. 2018. The role of Open Value Networks in Catalyzing Transdisciplinarity. Presented at The Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference, Sydney International Convention Centre, August 29 – September 1, 2018.
- Ross, K, and Mitchell, C, 2017. 'Proposed learning outcomes spaces of deep learning for sustainability'. Presented at the Fifth International Conference for Sustainable Development. Columbia University, NY. 18-19 September 2017.
- Fam, D, Mitchell, C, Ross, K, Ukowitz, M, de la Sienna, 2017. Recognising my and your worldview: exploring ontological, epistemological and axiological assumptions to enrich TD research and practice. Workshop facilitated at the International Transdisciplinarity Conference, Leuphana University, Luneberg, Germany. 11 – 15 September 2017.
- Ross, K, Abeysuriya, K, Mitchell, C, 2015. 'Developing principle-based targets and indicators for the SDGs'. Presented at the Third International Conference for Sustainable Development. Columbia University, NY. Paper published in peer-reviewed conference proceedings. 23 – 24 September 2015.