

## **International Association for Trans-Disciplinary Communication (AFTC)**

Professor Emeritus Thomas Marlowe, Seton Hall University

Fr. Dr. Joseph Laracy, Seton Hall University

Dr. Mario LaManna, Italy/USA, Evoelectronics (Italy), and Selex-SI (USA), Defense and Security

Dr. Nagib Callaos, International Institute of Informatics and Systemics

Due to the polysemous character of the term, “Trans-Disciplinary,” which is sometimes confused with “trans-disciplinarity,” we seek a common meaning in the AFTC: International Association FOR Trans-Disciplinary Communication. Consequently, we chose the meaning related to the etymological senses of “trans” (across and beyond) and “communication” (to share, to make common). The etymological roots usually include most of the variants generated later, i.e., we may consider the etymological meaning as the genus of the species that may come later. Otherwise, we would have to choose a definition of a known author and consequently exclude more people than with the etymological meaning<sup>1</sup>.

This is why we are using the etymological meaning for fostering “transdisciplinary communication,” i.e. communication oriented to be understandable by academics in any discipline. It is an effective translation from disciplinary semiotic systems to transdisciplinary semiotic systems. This means that any disciplinary or interdisciplinary research or knowledge would be translated “FOR trans-disciplinary Communication”. Frequently, research and articles in transdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research also require translation “FOR trans-disciplinary Communication”, because they start to have specialized terms. Examples of disciplinary fields that are having, with increased frequency, new *specialized* terms are the Systems Approach, Cybernetics, Energy, Feminism, Marxism, etc. because they are increasingly being oriented to *specific* global problems, as well as increasingly being oriented to social and global problems. Indeed, one of the definitions of trans-disciplinarity is research, oriented not by disciplines but by problems that require at least two disciplines for identifying their respective solution, typically interwoven and tightly coupled, rather than layered and lightly integrated into retrospect. This definition is far from the meaning of “Transdisciplinary Communication”, which is based, mostly, on the two etymological senses of the prefix “trans-”,

This is why, increasingly, *transdisciplinary research also requires transdisciplinary communication*, especially when stakeholders should be involved in the research and the identification of socially acceptable solutions, and to communicate with policymakers, and with the broader academic community, to elicit further, perhaps longer-term perspectives. What we are trying to convey is to *avoid miscommunication between the adjective “trans-disciplinary” and the noun “trans-disciplinarity.”* The latter requires and generates “transdisciplinary communication,” which requires intellectual skills for the required translation (which are perfected through practice,

---

<sup>1</sup> We are using the word “meaning” to mean the set of senses in which a word is used. (Ogden, C. ..., Ricthe hards, I., & Malinowski, B. (1923/1946/1989/2013). *The Meaning of Meaning: A Study of the Influence of Language Upon Thought and of the Science of Symbolism*. New York, New York, USA: A Harvest Book Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.) Retrieved 7 26, 2022, from [https://pure.mpg.de/rest/items/item\\_2366948/component/file\\_2366947/content](https://pure.mpg.de/rest/items/item_2366948/component/file_2366947/content) and <https://www.simplish.org/static/media/documents/OgdenRichards1923.pdf>. It may be inferred that **explicit definitions** would be a subset of the set of the set of senses in which a term has been used, i.e. part of a comprehensive meaning,

as with any physical, psychological, or intellectual skill). In this sense, the translator, i.e., the one who is translating, may benefit the most. Learning dialogical criticism is open to everyone because it is based on transdisciplinary communication about reality. The individual's relation to himself and the world thus becomes critical to promote the common good. (Ehret, in press)

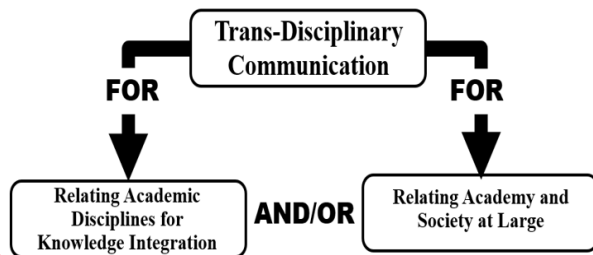
However, there are certainly benefits *pro omnibus et singulis* “for the whole and for the one”. Therefore, the intellectual effort oriented to “transdisciplinary communication” has the potential to promote the “common good,” no matter if the research or respective knowledge is disciplinary, sub-disciplinary, cross-, inter-, or transdisciplinary.

The following diagram may visualize and summarize what has been described above

Articles **ON** Trans-Disciplinary Communication are accepted as long as they are written and presented **FOR** Transdisciplinary Communication, i.e., to be understood by academics from any discipline. Likewise with articles in the field on Interdisciplinarity: are written and presented **FOR** Transdisciplinary **COMMUNICATION**. We are referring here not to a knowledge field but to communication of any knowledge field to be **communicated other knowledge fields or other disciplines**.

## FOR Trans-Disciplinary Communication

In the two senses of etymological meaning of “Trans”, i.e., **across** (disciplines) and **beyond** Disciplines



**Common** language required to **communicate** what may not be **common** knowledge. This may require intellectual efforts to make the required **translation**, which increase the rigor of what has been translated, because more objectives has been met (more readers from other disciplines) while restricted to more constraints (disciplinary and meta-disciplinary semiotic Systems. **Translational Science**, for example, support transformed lab research into applications oriented to end users, i.e., Society at Large.

**Subscribers** (Agreeing with the Short Text Provided Above)

**Professor John Coffey, USA**, University of West Florida, Computer Science Department, Former Research Scientist at Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition.

**Sonja Ehret, Ph.D., Germany**, Heidelberg University, Senior Researcher at Institute of Gerontology, Director of Seminar Ethics of Generations

**Professor Shigehiro Hashimoto, Japan**, Kogakuin University President of the Society of Life Support Engineering (Japan), Doctor of Engineering and Doctor of Medicine, Research Area: Biomedical Engineering.\