

DESIGN
IMPACT
TRANSITION
PLATFORM

DIT DAY 2022

Imagining Science for Change

June 2, 13:00-17:00
Q building, Woudestein campus

Programme

Time	Programme
12:00-13:00	Walk-in with lunch
13:00-13:30	Opening by Talitha Muusse & Prof Derk Loorbach
13:30-15:00	Workshops We kick off the programme with workshops where we zoom in on specific societal challenges and discuss what a sustainable and just future means in practice. Next to looking forward we also reflect together on the question how we as researchers, educators and students can contribute to making these transitions happen.
15:00-15:30	Coffee & tea break
15:30-16:30	Panel: The role of science in tackling complex societal challenges Over the past decades scientists have gathered substantive evidence on the nature and causes of societal challenges, such as climate change, inequality and biodiversity loss. However, all this scientific knowledge is not easily translated into daily practice and societal change. In a world that is increasingly faced with these complex problems, can and should science take on a different role? With Dr Josephine Chambers, Prof Carola Hein, Dr Julia Wittmayer and Dr Tessa Cramer
16:30-17:00	Closing by Talitha Muusse & Prof Derk Loorbach
17:00-19:00	Drinks outside the Q building, with music & Jack Bean snacks

Panel conversation

Science for change: how can academia contribute to tackling complex societal challenges?

Over the past decades scientists have gathered substantive evidence on the nature and causes of societal challenges, such as climate change, inequality and biodiversity loss. However, all this scientific knowledge is not easily translated into daily practice and societal change. On the one hand, universities tend to be stuck in a mode of knowledge production that rarely leads to transition and societal change. On the other hand, practitioners tend to have difficulties in finding and applying scientific knowledge into their daily transition practices. In a world that is increasingly faced with complex problems, can and should science take on a different role?

Panelist #1



Dr Josephine Chambers

Assistant Professor
Urban Futures Studio
Utrecht University

Josephine (Josie) Chambers is an Assistant Professor at the Urban Futures Studio at Utrecht University. She is a transdisciplinary social scientist interested in the potential of pluralistic, creative and political methods to transform our collective imagination and action. Her work particularly focuses on the role of narratives, play, knowledge co-production, and collaborative governance to navigate tensions among perspectives, question dominant discourse, and facilitate collective imagination in diverse settings in Europe, Latin America, and Africa. Josie is also interested in the role of the researcher and university as important sites for transformation, having facilitated dialogues and courses that seek to enable academia to better co-produce research with and for society.

Panelist #2



Prof Carola Hein

Professor

Chair History of Architecture
and Urban Planning

*Leiden-Delft-Erasmus
universities*

Carola Hein is Professor and Head, Chair History of Architecture and Urban Planning at Delft University of Technology. She has published widely in the field of architectural, urban and planning history and has tied historical analysis to contemporary development. Her current research interests include the transmission of architectural and urban ideas, focusing specifically on port cities and the global architecture of oil. Carola Hein is the initiator of the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus PortCityFutures programme. Since January 2022, she is also the first appointed Leiden-Delft-Erasmus professor, thereby strengthening the inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration between these universities.

Panelist #3



Dr Julia Wittmayer

Assistant Professor

DIT platform

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Julia Wittmayer is Assistant Professor at the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSB) and works as senior researcher and advisor at DRIFT (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions). Her work focuses on social innovations in, and the governance of, processes of transformative change in urban areas, and in the context of energy system change. To support the development of knowledge and transformative action that addresses societal challenges, she develops and implements a variety of collaborative action-oriented research formats. Within DIT Julia focuses on the development of an ecosystem around Transformative Research. In addition, Julia takes the lead in developing DIT as an institutional action research experiment and in organising sessions with DIT staff and the broader DIT community for reflecting on our main learning questions.

Panelist #4



Dr Tessa Cramer

Lector & futurist

Designing the future

Fontys University of Applied Sciences

Tessa Cramer is lector Designing the future at Fontys Academy for Creative Industries in Tilburg and a future-oriented academic. In her work Tessa aims to share with her audience the mindset of a futurist by offering concrete tools to engage with the future yourself. In doing so she does not want to sketch unreachable futures, but rather broaden the thinking on what is technically and societally possible. On May 15 2020 she defended her PhD thesis 'Becoming Futurists' at Maastricht University, thereby giving a stage to a new profession of futurists.

Workshop overview

DIT DAY – Workshop #1

The wardrobe of the future:

How can we make fashion sustainable and ethical?



Dr Mariangela Lavanga

Associate Professor

DIT platform

Erasmus University Rotterdam

During this workshop you will get the chance to learn about the transition of the fashion industry and its shortcomings in reducing environmental impact. After an introduction to the current state of this industry by Dr Lavanga the workshop will take a creative turn as the participants will get to work on a pile of 'un-swappable' clothes from EUR students. Guided by some talented fashion designers and artists the collective output of this workshop will be both an artifact and a statement about the future of fashion.

DIT DAY – Workshop #2

AI and work: how can we assess desirable and undesirable futures of automation?



Tessa Boumans

PhD candidate
AIPact

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Costanza Tagliaferri

PhD candidate
AIPact

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Adriaan Odendaal

PhD candidate
AIPact

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Dr Jannes ten Berge

Toptalent fellow
AIPact

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Advances in AI technologies promise a future of unprecedented automation. But how far will AI developments go? And what does an automated future of work look like? Together we will imagine and explore four alternative futures. Using scenario planning tools we build a grid contrasting societies with strong and weak AI, and strong and weak redistributive policies. We then bring our scenarios to life by imagining this future and turning it into a story, a drawing, collage, or other materialization of our choosing. Finally, reflecting on these scenarios we will discuss pathways to a desirable future, and we evaluate our own role in making such a future come true.

DIT DAY – Workshop #3

Sustainable business models: how can we urge companies to move at speed and scale?



Prof Rob van Tulder

**Professor of International
Business-Society Management**

Rotterdam School of
Management

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Marieke de Wal

Managing director

Partnerships Resource
Centre (RSM)

*Erasmus University
Rotterdam*

Imagine a world in which companies are able to do well by doing good. How do courageous progressive companies and their leaders look like? How do corporates need to change to be able to contribute to the change our world so desperately needs? This is not about good intentions, but about developing transformational, innovative and competitive business strategies. Can corporate leaders step up to the challenge and drive systems change – for instance by really contributing to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals?

The challenge also requires critical reflection on the role of business and management studies to help corporates engage in societal challenges. What should change in our concepts, frameworks and research practices? How can we educate our students to become transformational leaders and support (young) professionals to become change agents?

In this workshop we will work on a mind map that identifies the most important components that are needed to support dynamic transitions of corporates to become more just, inclusive and purpose driven.

DIT DAY – Workshop #4

Cooking up alternatives: how can we solve global sustainability challenges with food?



Daniela Garcia-Caro Briceño

PhD candidate

Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Pinar Coşkun

Project Manager

Erasmus Food Lab

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Our global food system today knows many social and environmental challenges, from deforestation and climate change to unequal access to healthy and good food. However, choosing the right food can also be a solution to many of these challenges. In this workshop, we guide you through some key sustainability challenges in the food system and discuss how food can form a key to a more sustainable future. Moreover, we critically reflect on what our role as consumers, citizens and academics is in reaching that desired future food system. Join us to smell, taste and learn about food for sustainable change!

DIT DAY – Workshop #5

Towards a cooperative future: how can we make citizen collectives more resilient?



Damion Bunders

PhD Candidate

Rotterdam School of Management

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Dr Julia Wittmayer

Assistant Professor

DIT platform

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Citizen collectives emerge in more and more sectors, from housing cooperatives to new mutuals and from energy communities to neighbourhood farms. Despite the diversity of citizen collectives, all are driven by groups of people managing shared resources to meet their needs by setting certain rules. In the workshop, participants will gain a better understanding about this movement and learn how to perform a basic analysis of the challenges that citizen collectives face in order to become resilient.

DIT DAY – Workshop #6

The Inner Development Goals – To Boldly Go....?



Prof Dirk van Dierendonck

Professor of Human Resource Management
Rotterdam School of Management
Erasmus University Rotterdam



Eva Rood

Director Positive Change Initiative
Rotterdam School of Management
Erasmus University Rotterdam



Dr Ana Vasques

Lecturer & researcher
DIT platform
Erasmus University Rotterdam

What is the future we want – an equal and just society on a thriving planet that leaves no one behind? Currently, we are far from that vision. In this respect, a crucial question for universities is - how can we educate our students in such a way that they can contribute to this equal and just society? Next to enhancing knowledge, it asks for explicit attention for the development of capabilities and values.

The Inner Development Goals are an exciting new framework to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through personal development and are endorsed by the UN, Harvard, Google, IKEA, Spotify, Stockholm University, Karolinska Institute and Erasmus University. Join this workshop to learn about and work with the capabilities, qualities and skills needed to achieve the 17 SDGs.

We will share this new framework – to help all of us become the agents of change the world so badly needs.

DIT DAY – Workshop #7

Societal impact vs. academic independence: Erasmus leads the way



Prof Ronald van Raak

Professor of Erasmian Values

Erasmus School of Philosophy

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Erasmus University is closely associated with society. Pressure from politics and the civil service, business and NGO's can threaten our autonomy. Our namesake Erasmus can show us the way to a healthy balance between social involvement and academic independence. In this workshop, Prof Ronald van Raak engages you in a discussion on striking the balance between societal impact and academic independence, connecting it to the Erasmian values of our university.

DIT DAY – Workshop #8

Transformative methodologies



Dr Karin Astrid Siegmann

Associate Professor

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Erasmus University Rotterdam



Richard Toppo

PhD candidate

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Calls to pay greater attention to the societal relevance of academic research have become more audible in recent years. This also holds true for the Erasmus University Rotterdam which has formulated its mission as ‘Creating positive societal impact’. These goals contrast with the criticism that the practice of social science research often reproduces and reinforces injustices. With a workshop on “Transformative methodologies”, we seek to reflect on the epistemic and material risks involved in conventional ways of organizing research and imagine alternatives that embody progressive social change in the research process already.



Parallel online session
Global Design & Transition Dialogue

Parallel Online Session

Global Design & Transition expert & practitioner dialogue



Prof Derk Loorbach

Academic lead

DIT platform

Erasmus University Rotterdam

How can design & transition come together to help foster transformative change? We are hosting this parallel online session for global design & transition academics and practitioners. In this episode we continue our dialogue around the need for and the shape of a new way to support societal transformation towards a just and sustainable future. Previously, we discussed with scholars and practitioners from around the world that the way policies and markets work do not bring us further: we need to reimagine our economies and find ways to experiment our way out of the current crises and existential problems. A design and transition logic is needed as a philosophy and practice: how do we work to advance transformative change? In this meeting we will make sure you meet inspiring like-minded people, while also learning about some cutting-edge practices. We will introduce the broader context of the Design Impact Transition (DIT) platform at Erasmus University Rotterdam and the [International Architectural Biannual](#) (IABR). Moreover, we will discuss two concrete practices of transition and design from Mexico City by Eva Valencia Lenero and Trondheim by Alise Plavina. In break-outs, you will discuss in smaller groups how design and transition can support just and sustainable futures and imagine the role of science in transformative change. Want to participate? Please [sign up here](#) and we will provide you with the link:



See you on June 2!

[Website](#) – [DIT update email](#) - [LinkedIn](#)