

# *Transdisciplinarity*

Prof. dr. Liesbeth Noordegraaf-Eelens

Erasmus School of Philosophy (vice dean Education)

Rotterdam Arts and Sciences Lab

Chair workgroup School of Convergence

**Erasmus University April 2024**

# Short bio

## At the Erasmus University

- Studied Economy/Philosophy
- Erasmus School of Economics (BA/Honours)
- Erasmus University College (Humanities/Economics)
- Erasmus School of Philosophy (Vice Dean/Convergence)

## Other places

- Nederlandse School voor Openbaar Bestuur
- Raad voor Volksgezondheid en Samenleving
- Codarts, University for performing arts

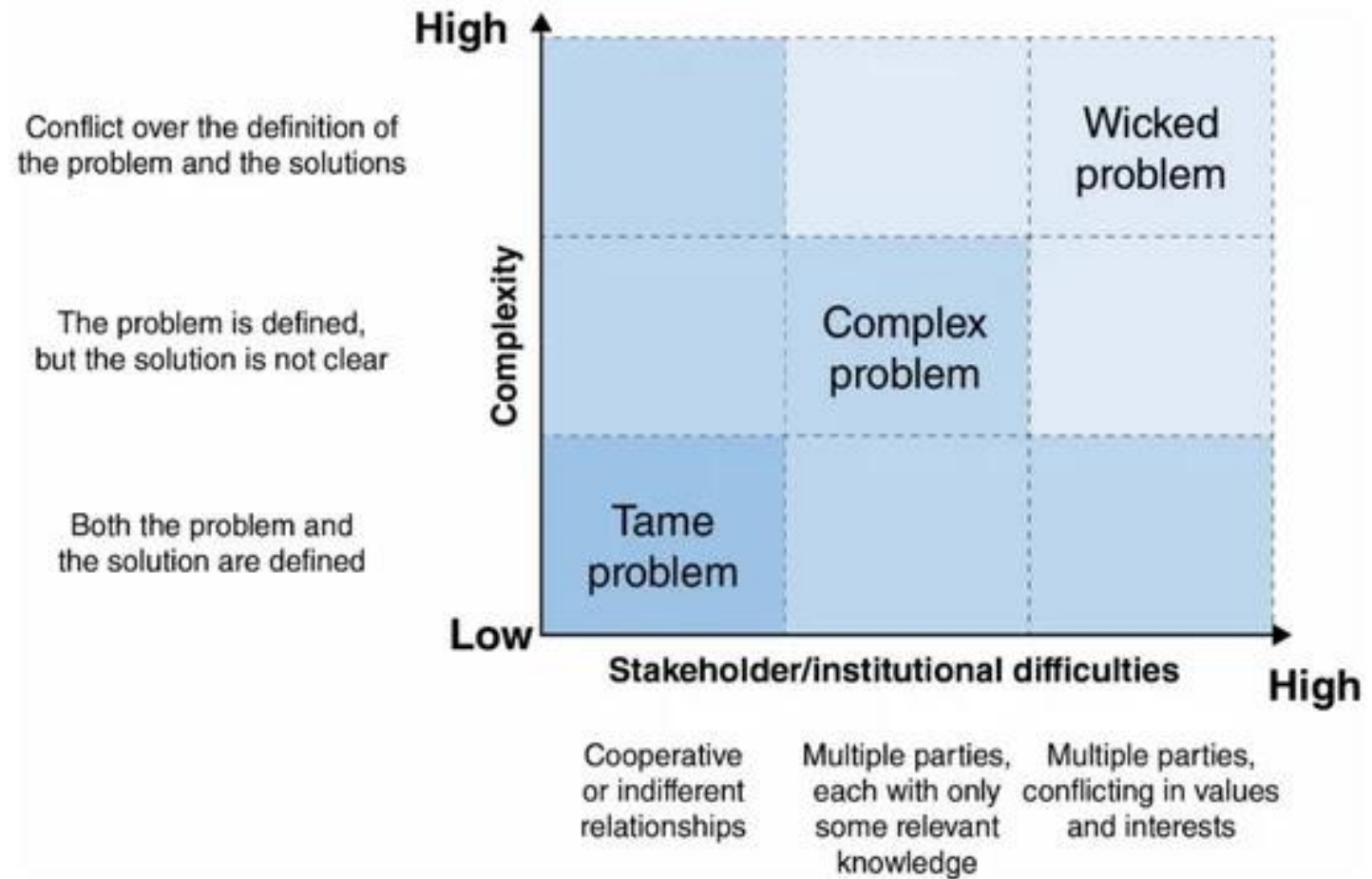
*What is the question?*

# Making societal impact

- **Third mission** of universities/institutes of higher education
- Concerns like the climate change, artificial intelligence and geopolitical tensions have a **disruptive force** and **affect** our daily lives. They can and, most likely, will endanger our future and the those of future generations.

**(Re)position universities and institutes of Higher Education**

# Complex societal concerns



## Societal concerns

- Working across disciplines: different insights
- Working with non-academic stakeholders: different interests
- Relating to non-academic knowledge: different insights/interests

**Implications for research and education**

*Trans*  
disciplinarity  
(What not to  
do?)

- Don't let **methodologies** determine which issues can be addressed
- Don't get stuck in debates on the difference between **fundamental and applied knowledge** (both!)
- Don't get stuck in the ongoing debates on **disciplinary knowledge** (dynamic and diverse)

*Trans*  
disciplinarity  
(What to do?)

- Acknowledge that science is **not a neutralizer** and develop ways to deal with conflicts of interests (**normative aspect**)
- Acknowledge the importance of diversity of knowledge and develop academic ways to deal with **conflicts of interests** (**prepare for a societal debate**)
- Invest in **long term** engagement

**Replace problems by concerns**



# *Trans* disciplinarity

- Acknowledge **knowledge-position dependency**
- Selection of **participants** (consortia)
- New knowledge, will bring **new issues**

**It is very necessary, but not a panacea**