



The Future of Transdisciplinarity, a workshop supported by the *Desert Humanities Initiative* & the *Global Drylands Center* are happy to announce:

Three Kinds of Coproduction as Social Frontiers for Ecology

Ecology has long struggled with whether and how to include humans within its scope. The concept of coproduction exposes the diversity of approaches to humans that are relevant to ecology. Coproduction identifies three kinds of relationship ecology can have with society. **The process of scientific discovery is embedded within a social context.** Scientists act as a community affected by social identities and status, personal values, lived experiences, diverse social aims, and the influence of funders. **Ecologically useful knowledge is coproduced through the interaction of ecologists and social actors joined in identifying and solving environmental problems.** Some scholars suggest that jointly inhabiting situations is more effective than simply identifying problems. Coproduction of knowledge requires inclusive, open, respectful, mutual, and continual dialogue between researchers and communities in the context of a situation they articulate together. This constitutes coproduction of knowledge and is sometimes referred to as transdisciplinary or convergence science. **The objects ecology studies are themselves often coproduced by biogeophysical and evolutionary processes acting in intimate interaction with social processes, human artifacts, and management decisions.** This third sense constitutes the fundamental coproduction of “nature” and society. These three modes of coproduction indicate that in the first urban century, the second century of the Anthropocene, and in the light of growing movements for decolonization within social peripheries and in post-colonial centers, society and ecology are inextricably linked. There is no ecological inside nor human outside to our concepts anymore.

Steward Pickett, Ph.D.

Dr. Pickett is an expert in the ecology of plants, landscapes, and urban ecosystems. Recipient of the Ecological Society of America's 2021 Eminent Ecologist Award, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the founding director of the Baltimore Ecosystem Study (1997-2016), Pickett also co-directed the Urban Sustainability Research Coordination Network. This project established lasting, interdisciplinary connections between urban designers, policymakers, and managers; the National Science Foundation deemed the project a model for research coordination networks.

Date: April 4, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: Biodesign Building B, B105

For questions, please contact Emilie Gonzalez at Emilie.Gonzalez@asu.edu

ASU Global Drylands
Center
Arizona State University