

MSDI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES 2022
CO-HOSTED BY NITRO-OCEANIA**Integrate the integrator! A call for
establishing academic careers for
integration experts**Sabine Hoffmann, Swiss Federal Institute of
Aquatic Science and Technology, SwitzerlandThursday 1 September 2022
4.00PM - 5.00PM AEST

Meeting pressing environmental and societal challenges of our time requires inter- and transdisciplinary (ITD) research that formulates 'socially robust' responses by crossing boundaries of not only different disciplines (i.e., interdisciplinary integration) but also research, policy and practice (i.e., transdisciplinary integration).

Integration across such boundaries is widely regarded the key characteristic and core challenges of ITD research. Yet, it is critical to the success or failure of ITD research projects or programs.

Given the importance of integration, it is surprising that the current academic system does not provide permanent positions for integration experts, i.e., experts who lead, administer, manage, monitor, assess, accompany, and/or advise others on integration. Based on empirical results of an ITD 2019 Conference Workshop entitled "Is there a new profession of integration experts on the rise?" held in Gothenburg, Sweden, and our own experience in leading and studying ITD integration, the talk sheds light on the questions "What are integration experts?", "What roles do they assume?", "What personal qualities and expertise do they need?" and "What career challenges do they face?". The talk concludes by suggesting different ways to support integration experts in building their academic careers.

WHENThurs 1 September 2022
4.00pm – 5.00pm AEST**WHERE**

via Zoom:

<https://monash.zoom.us/j/83347200252?pwd=Iz5i-5TUSBRyn2LcZLY6YIUdYK-5wPb.1>



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SABINE HOFFMANN

Dr. Sabine Hoffmann is Group Leader of Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) in Switzerland. She is also Head of the strategic inter- and transdisciplinary research program Wings (Water and sanitation innovations for non-grid solutions).

She received her PhD degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (Switzerland); she earned a Master of Advanced Studies degree in Development and Cooperation from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (Switzerland) and a Master of Science degree in Geo-Ecology from the University of Bayreuth (Germany).

Her research focuses on integration and integrative leadership in large inter- and transdisciplinary research programs. Her publications have appeared in outlets across a number of fields, including environmental sciences (e.g. Science, BioScience, Environmental Science and Technology, Frontiers in Environmental Science, Ecology and Society), social sciences (e.g. Environmental Science and Policy), and management science (e.g. Research Policy). She was awarded with the Swiss Academies Award for Transdisciplinary Research for her work within the Swiss National Research Program (NRP 61), leading one NRP 61 synthesis process and concurrently studying integration within all four synthesis processes.

Prior to her PhD, she worked as a development consultant for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) in Bolivia, Central and Eastern Europe.



About the Series

For this seminar, MSDI is pleased to partner with NITRO-Oceania, a network of leaders of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research organisations in the Oceania region.

For more information visit <https://nitro-oceania.net/>

The MSDI Research Seminar Series aims to foster interdisciplinary conversations on the grand sustainable development challenges of our time. Through engaging speakers and topics, the series hopes to spark dialogue and collaboration across Monash University's research community for a sustainable future.

For more information visit www.monash.edu/msdi/research/seminar-series