

## **Co-creating Ecological Entrepreneurship: The Intersection of Transdisciplinary Methods and Experimentation**

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This chapter introduces the potential for researchers to enhancing transdisciplinarity and achieve creative, social outcomes through openness to personal vulnerability in field research. While transdisciplinary research approaches have made progress encouraging researchers to interface with non-academic actors and undertake boundary work to ensure that professional collaboration is smooth, a residual distance between expert and stakeholder often persists. The main reason, I argue, is that many stakeholders are involved in endeavors that directly or indirectly affect their livelihoods or well-being, while researchers rarely permit any serious degree of vulnerability. Exogenous factors, such restrictions imposed by ethical review or research management, can play a role in maintaining professional distance. This chapter argues that a endogenous factors, often centering around the unwillingness of researchers to allow personal and professional interests to officially intersect, is a third, and perhaps more salient factor. In this chapter, I present three case studies over the previous decade of how I embraced economic vulnerability in order to create deeper transdisciplinary partnerships and to cultivate unique and valuable contexts for empirical data collection. I argue that achieving a more symmetrical relationships within transdisciplinary research and unlocking promising data collection can be achieved by demonstrating to partners that researchers are also willing to put their well-being on the line for meaningful social and ecological causes.



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