



February 2019

1/2019

r4d SYNTHESIS NEWS

The r4d programme supports research syntheses at programme level and at the level of the five thematic modules. The r4d synthesis news are an information service for the r4d research network to stay tuned for upcoming synthesis project calls and connected to ongoing synthesis activities.

The r4d programme and its 57 funded projects unfold in the sustainable development discourse that is thirsty for actionable knowledge contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The r4d programme considers synthesis processes as crucial elements to attain its transformative objectives, i.e.

1. to generate scientific knowledge and research-based solutions for reducing poverty and global risks in least developed, low- and middle income countries;
2. to offer national and international stakeholders methods and options for finding integrated, holistic approaches to solving problems; and
3. to enhance scientific skills and know-how in dealing with the complexity of global problems for the benefit of societies in developing and emerging countries.

Synthesis in the r4d programme is understood as the contextualisation and integration of research findings and procedural learnings beyond individual r4d projects into a larger body of knowledge in the science-society-policy interface.

The r4d programme synthesis processes emerge at the level of the five thematic modules and at the programme level.

The r4d synthesis news inform up to three times per year about the processes, products and dissemination activities. It is a service for r4d researchers to stay informed and to spot opportunities for collaboration and exchange.



R4D PROGRAMME SYNTHESIS

The r4d programme synthesis foresees collaborative projects and learning processes in four topics, i.e.

- Contributions from the r4d programme to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- Ways of maximising impact of the r4d programme
- Lessons for research in complex systems
- Enabling co-creation of knowledge

Two programme synthesis projects launched

After two calls published in October 2018 the following two programme synthesis projects are now taking momentum.

Digital storytellers, a tangible experience on contributions of r4d projects to SDGs. In short video-clips researchers will document how their r4d projects contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. An experienced filmmaker team from [Paititi Lab](#) provides training, equipment and support to implement this project. All 57 r4d projects are invited to become part of this ambition. On 31 January and 1 February we organised two online information meetings. Further information about the project and participation in it can be found on the [r4d Digital Storytellers news](#) page. Another information meeting will take place on 15 February 2019.

Understanding utilisation of research knowledge in development pathways as a proxy for impact. Aymara Llanque and Johanna Jacobi as Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and Eliud Birachi, Per von Groote, and Stellah Mukovih as Lead Authors (LA) lead an analysis about who is using the knowledge co-created in r4d projects and how. We are convinced that together we will build a wealth of synthesised knowledge and kindly ask you to contribute with your experiences. An online information meeting with details about this project will take place in April 2019. As always in the r4d programme syntheses, all researchers are kindly invited to participate.

Upcoming programme synthesis calls

In the coming months we will launch the two additional calls, one on **understanding partnerships in research for development** and one on **documenting strategies for conducting research on complex systems**.

Please also visit the [r4d synthesis network](#) website in case you are interested to reply to these calls and are in search of synthesis project collaborators.



R4D SOCIAL CONFLICTS SYNTHESIS

Synthesis work in the r4d Social Conflicts module started already in 2016 and took a lot of momentum in 2018 thanks to the engagement of the Review Panel, the r4d researchers, external experts (filmmaker and facilitator) and the r4d programme management.

The core of the synthesis work evolves around the **Social Conflicts Research Documentary** (Title tbd) with primary footage collected in research sites in Guatemala, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Switzerland. Jeanine and Tim Reutemann, Redmorpheus GmbH, are implementing the film project in close collaboration with a dedicated production team, composed of members from all three Social Conflict projects. The Premiere of the Social Conflicts Research Documentary is planned in **Geneva on 18 June 2019** with subsequent screening events in various places around the world.

Until April 2019 two tandem teams composed of the r4d researchers Madhushree Sekher, Seraina Rüegger, Roch Gnabeli, Fabien Cottier produce together with the science journalist Sara Bütikofer two **Social Conflicts synthesis Policy Briefs**. They will formulate key insights and messages from the inequality-conflicts nexus.

Dialogue events are planned to take place in Indonesia, Nigeria and Switzerland in May and June 2019 to accompany and enable the discussion and dissemination of the research documentary, the policy briefs as well as the research results from the r4d Social Conflicts projects.

All projects will present aspects of their research in the annual conference of the Swiss Political Science Association 2019. The panel will take place at ETH Zurich on 15 February 2019, 10.30h. The preparations for a **Special Issue on Research in Fragile Contexts**, which is the fourth synthesis activity, will be launched very soon.



R4D EMPLOYMENT SYNTHESIS

The three additional projects in the r4d Employment module will organise site visits this year while two projects from the first call are in an advanced state. In 2019, we are planning to launch the synthesis. A concept will be developed by the Review Panel until summer and we will reach out to the researchers after the summer break.



R4D ECOSYSTEMS SYNTHESIS

The synthesis work in the r4d Ecosystems module evolves around three synthesis projects, which were proposed by a number of liaison persons and which were approved by the Review Panel. Synthesis teams with researchers from r4d Ecosystems projects lead these projects.

Achieving SDG 15: co-benefits and trade-offs with other SDGs; Albrecht Ehrensperger (CLA), Julie Zähringer, Beatrice Arroyo, Dung Tri Ngo and Anne Giger Dray (LAs)

Successful utilisation of research knowledge in the r4d Ecosystems Module; René Eschen (CLA), Purity Rima, Bruno Ramamonjisoa (LAs)

Dealing with complexity: burden or opportunity for research on ecosystems? Daniel Castillo (CLA), Anne Giger Dray and Patrick Weber (LAs).

A kick-off meeting took place on 30 January 2019 to coordinate the activities of the three synthesis projects. We will soon provide follow-up information to all researchers in the module.



R4D FOOD SECURITY SYNTHESIS

After some delays, the synthesis process in the r4d Food Security module was launched on 5 February 2019 with a call for r4d Food Security synthesis project proposals. On the basis of the submissions the Review Panel will select the synthesis projects for implementation in 2019 and 2020.



R4D PUBLIC HEALTH SYNTHESIS

The Review Panel decided to invite four concept notes for r4d Public Health synthesis projects. In May 2019 it will select the projects. All r4d researchers in the field of public health, including from projects in the Thematically Open projects, will then be invited to contribute to the synthesis.

Fabrizio Tediosi and Jürgen Maurer are planning a side event at the International Health Economics Conference

in July 2019 in Basel. The r4d Public Health module supports this opportunity for r4d researchers to meet and network.

CONTACTS R4D SYNTHESIS COORDINATORS AND PARTNERS

If you have questions or want more information, please contact the respective synthesis coordinator or implementing partner.

r4d programme synthesis

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r4d module syntheses

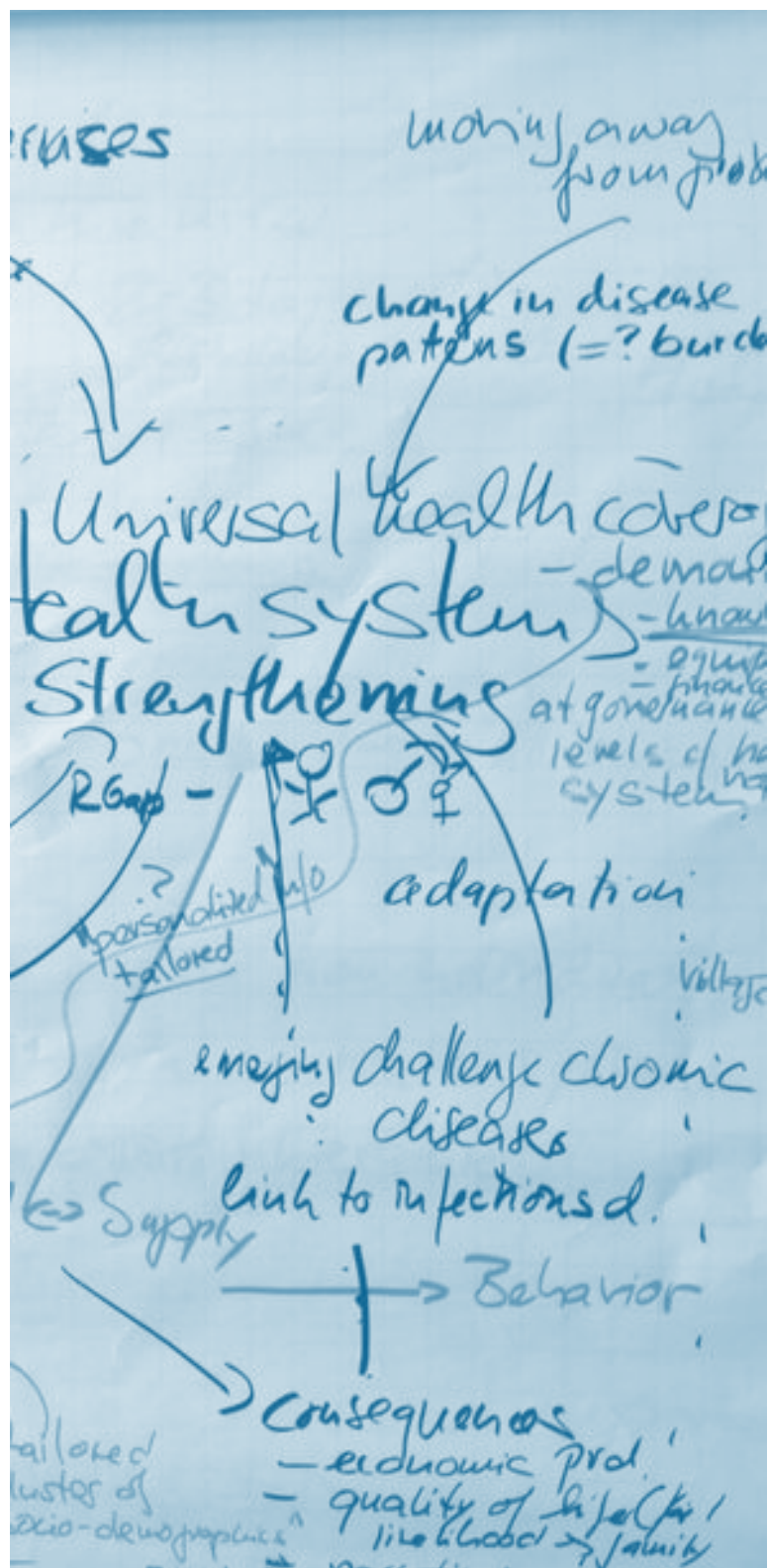
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Detail of flipchart of r4d Public Health synthesis workshop, September 2018, r4d programme