



September 2019

3/2019

r4d SYNTHESIS NEWS

The r4d synthesis news are an information service for the r4d network to recognise activities and opportunities in the synthesis projects.

The r4d programme and its 57 funded projects unfold in the sustainable development discourse that asks for actionable knowledge contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. 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 fosters collaborative projects and learning processes in four areas

- 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

Activities in all four synthesis streams have started.

New programme synthesis project launched

In the call for “Partnerships as transformative instruments” (synthesis stream: enabling co-creation of knowledge) the project “Brilliant Failures of Research Partnerships: Events, Emotions and Unanticipated Potential for change” was selected. Pia Hollenbach in collaboration with Nishara Fernando, Eliud Birachi and Elizabeth Jimenez will implement it. The project will help to understand socio-cultural and institutional components of partnerships and their potential for change and transformation. Accepting that partnerships and collaboration in consortia of multiple actors across different countries is challenging and sometimes frustrating, the project works towards a reflection of a new culture dealing with (brilliant) failure to provide the ground for learning opportunities and to serve as an impetus for improvement and change. Transforming perceived failures into valuable learning experiences has a potential to work, negotiate and succeed in transnational research partnerships.

Ongoing programme synthesis projects

Digital storytellers, a tangible experience on contributions of r4d projects to SDGs

Researchers from r4d projects around the world are collaborating with Paititi Lab to produce about 35 video-clips revealing short stories of how they contribute to one or more SDGs. The first batch of clips is currently being edited. Their online publication and subsequent dissemination activities are being prepared. Thanks to all storyteller teams for your engaged participation!

Understanding utilisation of research knowledge in development pathways as a proxy for impact

With the support of two experienced Sounding Board members, Prof. Brian Belcher and Prof. Sven Trelle, the synthesis team lead by Johanna Jacobi and Aymara Llanque develop the methodology. The goal is to deepen the understanding about who is using research knowledge from the r4d projects and how the research processes facilitate a wider utilisation of this knowledge. With this in mind, the team currently prepares a survey considering the insights of the pilot survey of 2018. This second survey will address both, academic and non-academic partners in r4d projects and will be launched in

October 2019. The survey should attract the participation of as many r4d researchers and their academic and non-academic partners and stakeholders as possible.

Preparations for experience capitalisation on dealing with complex global issues of development

A process for learning and capitalising experiences dealing with complexity of global issues of development is currently being designed under the lead of Manuel Flury, former Co-Lead of the SDC Global Programme on Food Security and expert in knowledge management and learning. More information on this exciting process will follow soon.



R4D SOCIAL CONFLICTS SYNTHESIS

Premieres of research documentary, 4. and 7.11.2019

A highlight of the synthesis work in the r4d Social Conflicts module will be the premieres in Switzerland and Guatemala of the research documentary "Inequality and Conflict – Beyond us and them". The Swiss premiere will take place at Cinémas du Grütli, Geneva, on 4 November 2019, 17-19h, as a side-event of the Geneva Peace Week. The premiere in Guatemala City is scheduled on 7.11.2019, 18-20h. The venue is the Centro Cultural de España en Guatemala.

The production team, the filmmakers and two enablers from the r4d programme collaborated during two years to portray people, places and voices on inequality and conflict, prevalent global issues. The film follows protagonists, presents experts and makes use of the immersive power of images and sound collected in five countries around the world. The premieres are open to the public. Please register on our [events site](#) for the Swiss premiere and contact us on r4d@snf.ch for the premiere in Guatemala.

Sessions during the Geneva Peace Week 2019

The [Geneva Peace Week 2019](#) is a culmination point in time where the r4d Social Conflicts module is present with three events. Linking up with the film premiere, the event on "Participatory Filmmaking for SDG 16+: The making of a research documentary" is a cross-project session, where two of our protagonists and the production team will be present. The Ethnic Power Relations project and the Gender Dimensions of Social Conflict project will organise two sessions to debate their research findings. Please register for every event separately via these links:

- [Participatory Filmmaking for SDG16+](#)
- [Building Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: Perspectives from the Global South](#)
- [Gender Dimensions of Social Conflicts](#)

Towards the closure of the Social Conflicts module

Research projects in the r4d Social Conflicts module come to an end in 2020. **Dialogue events** are planned at Universities and during film screening events in the run-up to the r4d Forum 2020 Social Conflicts, the closing event of this module. The Forum will take place in Bern, Switzerland, on 21 and 22 April 2020. Scientific presentations and debates, science-policy dialogues and film screenings are planned.



R4D EMPLOYMENT SYNTHESIS

On 13 March 2020 the project teams and Review Panel members will meet for a workshop to identify potential synergies. An overview of the objectives and outputs of seven r4d projects focusing on employment issues will be provided as a preparation for the participants.



R4D ECOSYSTEMS SYNTHESIS

The synthesis work in the r4d Ecosystems module evolves around three synthesis projects, which are well on track (see also [Synthesis News 2](#)). They focus on:

- Achieving SDG15: Co-benefits and trade-other SDGs
- Successful utilisation of research knowledge in the r4d ecosystems module
- Dealing with complexity: burden or opportunity for research on ecosystems?

More information will follow as soon as interesting insights emerge.



R4D FOOD SECURITY SYNTHESIS

The Review Panel of the Food Security module assessed three synthesis proposals and selected all of them for implementation.

Food Systems Caravan in West Africa



The biggest part of the synthesis budget was awarded to the Food Systems Caravan in West Africa, a 8 weeks itinerant and digital and media caravan

which brings the main messages of r4d Food Security research projects to diverse institutions and the general public in the West African countries of Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin and Nigeria. It is a collaborative

learning journey of researchers and their partners for promoting dialogues and learning events on transdisciplinary and systemic solutions for complex socio-environmental issues within the context of food security. A team composed of the synthesis project coordinators, Fernando Sousa (r4d ORM4Soil) and Chinwe Ifejika-Speranza (r4d FoodSAF), the filmmaker, Sara Correia, and seven local facilitators from different r4d Food Security projects organise cross-project conferences, seminars, farmers' field days and field visits as well as activities for students and NGOs while documenting this "cross-pollinating process" in film and social media.

Updates can be found on the [Food Systems Caravan Facebook page](#) and on the [Food Systems Caravan website](#).

Engendering Equity in Food Security Research

Under the coordinating lead of Joanna Bourke-Martignoni (r4d DEMETER) and Adriana Bessa (r4d FoodSAF), the project considers agricultural research for development as an institution that is involved in the production of knowledge about gender as well as one that constructs gendered knowledge. The synthesis project on "Engendering Equity in Food Security Research" will enable through a collaborative process of reflexive practice and learning how the r4d Food Security projects have 'encountered' gender within their research and to consider the ways in which these experiences and the co-production of knowledge about the gendered dimensions of food security could be fed into future projects and programmes.

Food and nutrition security in educational institutions and communities in West Africa

Salimata Pousga is the coordinating lead of the synthesis project, which focuses on the implications of research projects as conducted in the r4d programme and beyond on food and nutrition security in educational institutions and communities in West Africa. The project will carry out a literature review of the publications by the Food Security projects, a survey and an audit. It will inform research programmes and policy institutions about its insights.



R4D PUBLIC HEALTH SYNTHESIS

After the submission of three synthesis proposals, the r4d Public Health Review Panel selected two projects for implementation. The two synthesis projects embrace 15 r4d projects working in the field of public health.

Evidence for change as emerging from r4d public health

Séverine Erismann, Helen Prytherch and Kaspar Wyss, Swiss TPH, will conduct a series of webinars with stakeholders that were identified by the r4d projects as concerned by their results. A focus will be on gender equity and social inclusion. Conclusions and lessons from the webinars will be translated into a session within the Geneva Health Forum 2020 on 24-26 March 2020.

Making a difference in one place

Iliana Kohler and Fabrice Kämpfen, University of Pennsylvania, will synthesise key policy and health systems-related findings of the multi-country projects, initiate a partnership for effective r4d research-to-policy translation in sub-Saharan African countries, and engage with stakeholders in one country - Malawi - to develop and disseminate specific and actionable policy and health systems recommendations.

Both synthesis teams will seek collaboration with the 15 r4d project teams working in the field of public health. They will contact the teams to identify relevant stakeholders and findings for the planned activities.

OVERVIEW OF SYNTHESIS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

23.9.-6.11.2019 Sept 2019	Food Systems Caravan on tour Start of Public Health synthesis projects' scoping for findings and stakeholders
Oct 2019	Launch of survey of the programme synthesis project "Understanding utilisation of research knowledge" among all r4d projects
4.11.2019	Premiere "Inequality and Conflict – Beyond us and them", Geneva
4.-5.11.2019	Geneva Peace Week 2019 sessions
7.11.2019	Premiere "Inequality and Conflict – Beyond us and them", Guatemala City
13.3.2020	Employment synthesis workshop
24.-26.3.2020	Geneva Health Forum with session from r4d public health researchers

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 coordination

[Dr. Carmenza Robledo](#), EcoExistence

r4d Digital Storytellers

[Dr. Sonja Schenkel](#), Paititi Lab

r4d Brilliant failures of research partnerships

Dr. Pia Hollenbach, University of Lausanne

r4d Understanding utilisation of research knowledge

Dr. Johanna Jacobi and Aymara Llanque, University of Bern

r4d Experience capitalisation on complex global issues

Dr. Manuel Flury, formerly SDC

r4d Social Conflicts synthesis coordination

Dr. Claudia Zingerli, SNSF

r4d Employment synthesis coordination

Dr. Claudia Rutte, SNSF,

r4d Ecosystems synthesis coordination

Dr. Carmenza Robledo, EcoExistence

r4d Achieving SDG15: Co-benefits and trade-offs with other SDGs

Dr. Albrecht Ehrensperger, CDE

r4d Successful utilisation of research knowledge in the r4d Ecosystems module

Dr. René Eschen, CABI

r4d Dealing with complexity: Burden or opportunity for research on ecosystems?

Dr. Daniel Castillo, University of Javeriana

r4d Food Security synthesis coordination

Dr. Claudia Zingerli, SNSF

r4d Food Systems Caravan

Fernando Sousa, FiBL, and Prof. Dr. Chinwe Ifejika-Speranza, University of Bern

r4d Engendering equity in food security research

Dr. Joanna Bourke-Martignoni and Dr. Adriana Bessa, both Graduate Institute Geneva

r4d Food and nutrition security in West Africa

Dr. Salimata Pousga, Université Polytechnique de Bobo-Dioulasso

r4d Public Health synthesis coordination

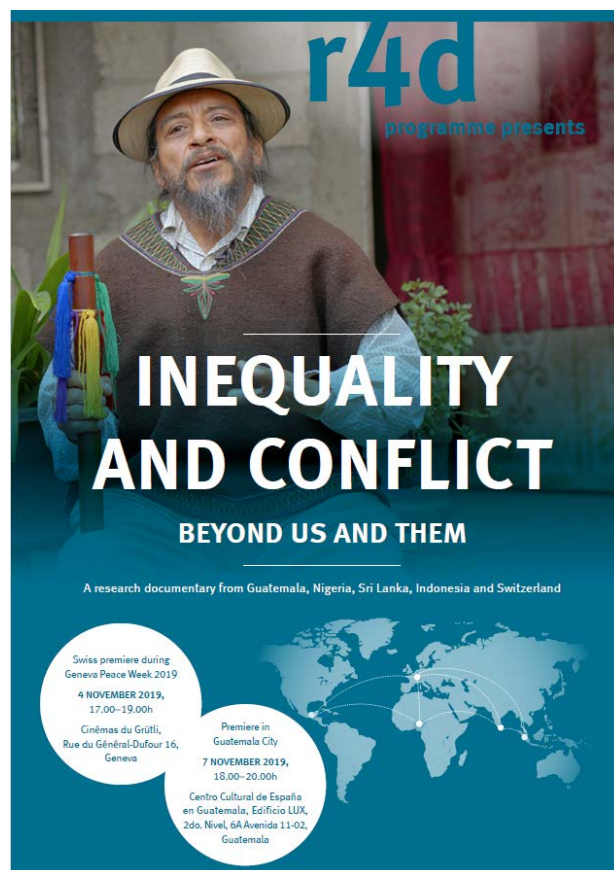
Dr. Claudia Rutte, SNSF

r4d Evidence for change

Dr. Séverine Erismann, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

r4d Making a difference in place

Dr. Iliana Kohler and Dr. Fabrice Kämpfen, both University of Pennsylvania



Announcement of research documentary premieres in Geneva, 4.11.2019, and in Guatemala City, 7.11.2019, “Inequality and Conflict – Beyond us and them”

Impressum:
r4d programme, September 2019
<http://www.r4d.ch>