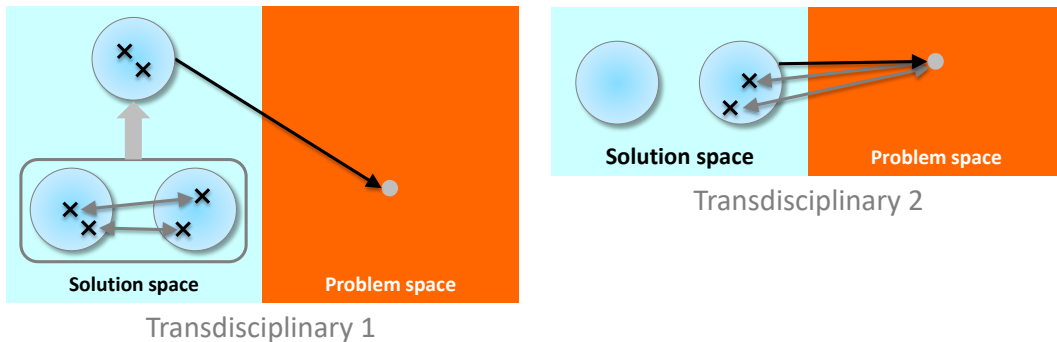


Course syllabus for

P51: Transdisciplinary Approach to Circular Economy Research

Syllabus adopted 2023-03-24 by Professor Bengt-Göran Rosén, Produktion2030 Head of Education (updated 2023-03-23 by Tomohiko Sakao)



Credits	2 hec
Grading scale	Satisfactory/not satisfactory
Education cycle	Third-cycle
Examiner	Tomohiko Sakao, Linköping University
Eligibility	A Master's degree in a relevant subject, e.g., production engineering, product development, environmental sustainability, management, or equivalent. Knowledge on Circular Economy is required. Experience of research related to Circular Economy at least in one subject as a PhD student for a period of more than one year (thereby experience of opportunities and challenges within the subject) is highly recommended. Scientific papers published or submitted (e.g., a journal or conference paper) by a course applicant will be evaluated for course admission (only an abstract will be fine in case under review, considering the confidentiality).
Aim	The course aims at facilitating the participant to learn the interplays between different areas relevant to Circular Economy and thereby to broaden the view enabling to recognize a larger system relevant to the challenge in real life. The areas are 1) product/service design and production, 2) governmental policy,

and 3) business model and management: if a participant's area is user behaviour or supply chain management, it can be added. The course also aims at supporting the participant to carry out or reflect upon his/her research with a transdisciplinary approach (see the Figure above taken from one of the must literature below).

Intended learning outcomes	<p>After completion of the course the course participant should be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of various disciplines of Circular Economy through ability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to refer to existing knowledge in different disciplines,• to relate the existing knowledge above to a context of the PhD candidate's research (i.e. with a transdisciplinary approach), and• to reflect on the applicability of the knowledge learnt for her or his research.
Course content	<p>This intensive course gives opportunities to discuss and reflect upon different disciplines relevant to Circular Economy research with peer PhD students working in different areas, and to discuss with globally leading researchers related to Circular Economy. It will consist mainly of lectures and group discussions (groups to be formulated according to the number of registrants). The lectures in 2023 are global front-runners in Circular Economy research (as was the case in the last years): Mattias Lindahl, Carl Dalhammar, Wisdom Kanda and Tom Sakao. All in all, this course will be unique in its focus and interactions with peer PhD students and internationally well-recognized researchers. There will be three group discussions (during the course) and homework (to be carried out before and after the course). The content is based on cutting edge research a.o. in Mistra REES https://mistrarees.se</p>
Course organisation	<p>Two full days (three days in calendar: 25th to 27th of October, 2023) course based on the following activities (the students will participate in this course physically, in-person, unless approved otherwise by the examiner):</p> <p>Group discussion 1: Each person will derive and present needs on the other areas in order for more efficient transition to a Circular Economy to be realized. E.g., a participant researching on business model will derive needs on governmental policy (e.g. repeal a specific regulation hindering a circular business model), product/service design (e.g. design more durable products</p>

enabling a long-term service level agreement model), user behaviour (e.g. stopping vandalism on a shared product facilitating a product sharing model), and supply chain management. These needs will be discussed with peers in the group to share the knowledge from different research. This activity requires research experience in his/her own research area.

Group discussion 2: Each person will find potential resolutions to meet the needs given from the other areas in order for more efficient transition to a Circular Economy to be realized. E.g., a person in the business model blob will find how to address the needs given from governmental policy, product/service design, user behaviour, and supply chain management. In case a participant wants to collect more resolutions, he/she can use some time searching relevant literature during the course.

Group discussion 3: Each person will present the potential resolutions for the needs to experts and peers in different disciplines. Who will be the experts giving feedbacks needs (not necessarily during Group discussion 3) to be confirmed (planned: Tom Sakao and more).

Homework (before course start):

- Read the must literature (see below).
- Record and submit a three-minute pitch of the area and topic of his/her own PhD research in relation to transdisciplinary approaches to Circular Economy research (one pager in PowerPoint with recorded voice narration is recommended). This should be useful for all the participants to know each other's work.
- Watch the video movies submitted from the other students.
- Create a list of needs from your area to the other areas. To be used in Group discussion 1.

Examination

A successful completion of this course will be judged by the examiner on the following:

- Submission of the three-minute video.
- Active participation and contribution to the whole program including the group discussions.
- Submission of course evaluation (as feedback): during the last day of the course.
- A follow-up report focused on the participant's own research context: by November 30. This report should be between 500 and 1,000 words. Typically, this could be used for a part of a scientific paper by the Ph.D. student in the future.

Literature

To be used in the lectures ("must" literature):

General

- Sakao, T. and Brambila-Macias, S. A. (2018). "Do we share an understanding of transdisciplinarity in environmental sustainability research?" *Journal of Cleaner Production*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2017.09.226>
This literature defines multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary research, and explains several research works in ecodesign as examples.

On design

- Ceschin, F., & Gaziulusoy, I. (2016) Evolution of design for sustainability: From product design to design for system innovations and transitions. *Design Studies*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.destud.2016.09.002>
This literature overviews the expansion of the disciplines to be covered regarding design for sustainability and partly touches upon CE.

On business models

- Geissdoerfer, M., Pieroni, M. P., Pigosso, D. C., & Soufani, K. (2020). Circular business models: A review. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 277, 123741.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.123741>

On governmental policy

- Milios, L. (2021). "Overarching policy framework for product life extension in a circular economy—A bottom-up business perspective," *Environmental Policy and Governance*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/eet.1927>

On business model – policy nexus

- R. Wasserbaur, T. Sakao, L. Milios: Interactions of governmental policies and business models for a circular economy: A systematic literature review, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 2022,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.130329>

For further readings

1. D. Monciardini, C. Dalhammar, R. Malcolm. (2019). "Introduction to the special issue on regulating the circular economy: Gaps, insights and an emerging research agenda," *Journal of Cleaner Production*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.131341>
2. Kanda, W., Geissdoerfer, M., & Hjelm, O. (2021). From circular business models to circular business ecosystems. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 30(6), 2814-2829. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2895>