

**PRESSURE-COOKER WORKSHOP**  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018  
DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

## Examining the premises, practices and future of co-creation for urban sustainability transitions

The recent Nature editorial in Nature “Power to people” calls for a new approach on how science is generated and how it is organized: in co-production between scientists, policy makers and the public to respond to socio-ecological challenges and be socially relevant and improve research inquiry in return. For urban systemic solutions and their acceleration into urban reality and policy agendas, evidence points to co-creation/co-production as an effective yet highly demanding approach to governance (Collier et al 2016; Frantzeskaki and Kabisch 2016<sup>1</sup>; Frantzeskaki and Rok, 2018<sup>2</sup>). The co-production of knowledge got further institutionalized as a mode of research for producing global-level science for sustainability with Future Earth promoting it as a mode of operating, organizing and researching (van der Hel, 2016<sup>3</sup>). Next to this, new forms of transdisciplinary research showcase outcomes and lessons learnt from mainstreaming co-production/co-creation through experimentation in the formats of transition arenas (Wittmayer et al 2014), real-life laboratories (Schneidewind et al 2018<sup>4</sup>), urban living labs (Bulkeley et al 2018<sup>5</sup>) and other dialectic hybrid forms (Simon and Schiemer, 2015<sup>6</sup>; Tengo et al 2017<sup>7</sup>).

Co-production is also seen as a new form of governance that supports and promotes evidence-based policy making. By opening up the scientific inquiry to multiple actors, scientific discovery becomes a social process and it is even argued that it democratizes science (Devolder and Block 2015<sup>8</sup>). At the same time, the co-production of knowledge can surface debates about social values and beliefs and in this

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<sup>1</sup> Frantzeskaki, N., and Kabisch, N., (2016), Designing a knowledge co-production operating space for urban environmental governance – Lessons from Rotterdam, the Netherlands and Berlin, Germany, *Environmental Science and Policy*, 62, 90-98

<sup>2</sup> Frantzeskaki, N., and Rok, A. (2018), Co-producing urban sustainability transitions knowledge with community, policy and science, *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, Article in Press, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2018.08.001>

<sup>3</sup> Van der Hel, S., (2016), New science for global sustainability? The insitutionalisation of knowledge co-production in Future Earth, *Environmental Science and Policy*, 61, 165-175.

<sup>4</sup> Schneidewind, U., Augenstein, K., Stelzer, F., and Wanner, M., (2018), Structure matters: Real-world laboratories as a new type of large-scale research infrastructure, *GAIA*, 27/S1, 12-17, <https://doi.org/10.14512/gaia.27.S1.5>

<sup>5</sup> Bulkeley, H.; Marvin, S.J.; Voytenko Palgan, Y.; McCormick, K.; Breiffuss-Loidl, M.; Mai, L.; **von Wirth, T.**; Frantzeskaki, N. (2018) Urban Living Laboratories: conducting the experimental city? *European Urban and Regional Studies* (in press); <https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776418787222>

<sup>6</sup> Simon, D., and Schiemer, F., (2015), Crossing boundaries: complex systems, transdisciplinarity and applied impact agendas, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 12, 6-11.

<sup>7</sup> Tengo, M., Hill, R., Malmer, P., Raymond, C.M., Spierenburg, M., Danielsen, F., Elmqvist, T., and Folke, C., (2017), Weaving knowledge systems in IPBES, CBD and beyond – lessons learned for sustainability, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 26-27, 17-25.

<sup>8</sup> Devolder, S., and Block, T., (2015), Transition thinking incorporated: Towards a new discussion framework on sustainable urban projects, *Sustainability*, 2015, 7, 3269-3289; doi:10.3390/su7033269.



way, enables the change of social relations due to the reflection, learning and co-examination of these values (Adler et al 2017). As such, co-production can contribute to transformations through new or altered social relations, new frames for problems and new (hybrids) of solutions that can disrupt development pathways (Frantzeskaki and Rok, 2018). It remains however to be examined and conceptualized in which ways not only outputs of the co-production process but the process itself impacts ways of thinking, organizing and doing in sectoral and cross-sectoral systems for understanding its impact to broader sustainability transitions.

We find that before further enriching and institutionalizing co-production as a mode for transdisciplinary science, we need to examine and invigorate its premises, politics, and limitations. We aim to do this in a co-production way with scholars and practitioners across different fields that build from on-going research across different domains e.g. climate change, energy policy/planning, nature-based solutions, circular economy. We invite scholars to examine co-production across the following overarching questions:

- *What are the distinct characteristics of co-production beyond its outputs (actionable, credible, relevant, usable, legitimate)? Which different types or models for co-production can we distinguish?*
- *What would be the metrics of co-production for evaluating its impact including both process and outputs?*
- *Does co-production contribute to urban sustainability transitions? In which way?*
- *What are the knowledge power politics to be considered in designing, setting and evaluating co-production processes?*

In this pressure-cooker workshop we invite you to critically think together how to bring forward transformative science by actively and consistently examining the premises, practices and future of co-production as a mode of transdisciplinary and transformative science. We will openly share and discuss on-going research on co-creation and co-production, invite critical inputs and aim to co-author a viewpoint article as a collective output and also bring together a special issue to be proposed to the new SPRINGER journal 'Urban Transformations'.

### **Format of pressure cooker:**

The pressure-cooker workshop format is set to allow for discussions and dialectic examination of conceptualisations, cases, findings and lessons that participants bring. Hence presentations given and commentaries are formatted to be sharp and short: 3-5 slides with only the key messages, lessons and/or conceptualization. For your participation in the pressure-cooker you only need to submit a tentative title and maximum of 1 page of inputs for other participants to 'see your inputs to the pressure-cooker'.

The pressure-cooker workshop is about keeping it timely and on-time, while working in discussion groups and debating in larger groups. It will only last one day of intense participation. You only need to pay your ticket to DRIFT/Rotterdam while we will make sure your daily nutrition and coffee/tea needs are met.



### Important Dates:

1 November 2018	Submission of abstracts and expression of interest to participate Email: <a href="mailto:d.sillen@drift.eur.nl">d.sillen@drift.eur.nl</a>
5 November 2018	Notification of acceptance and logistical information Email: <a href="mailto:d.sillen@drift.eur.nl">d.sillen@drift.eur.nl</a>
15 November 2018	Send 1 pager with your inputs to the pressure-cooker
22 November 2018	Pressure-cooker co-creation at DRIFT

### AGENDA

#### 22 November 2018 – DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

09.30-10.00 Welcome and coffee

#### *Session I: Co-creation: Premises and Practices*

10.00-10.30 Concepts of co-creation (CONNECTING NATURE, NATURE4CITIES, MISTRA URBAN FUTURES, ....) = 5 pecha-kucha presentations of 5 mins each

10.30-11.00 Commenting by {to-be-defined}

*11.00-11.15 Coffee break*

11:15-12:00 Open discussion

12.00-12.30 Collection of critical inputs and agenda points

*12.30-13.30 Lunch*

#### *Session II – Co-creation: Gaps and Ways Forward*

13.30-14.00 Concepts about challenges and gaps of co-creation (PROSEU, NATURVATION, SIC, ..... ) = 5 pecha-kucha presentations of 5 mins each

14.00-14.30 Commenting by {social-innovator} and Per Olsson (to-be-confirmed)

14:30-15:30 Open discussion

*15.30-16.00 Coffee break and retreat-time*

16.00-16.30 Collection of critical inputs and agenda points

16.30-17.00 Closing of the day and next steps

*17.00 Drinks and snacks*



**drift** for transition

