

**1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods (SMUS Conference) and 1st RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana** organized and hosted online by the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana (23.-26.09.2021).

Call for Paper

## **Transdisciplinary or collaborative? Lab approaches and their influence on participatory and action research methods**

organized by Robert Barbarino and Katrin Gliemann, TU Dortmund University

After the "experimental turn" (Overdevest et al. 2010) in the social sciences, a growing body of literature on inter- and transdisciplinary research methods with laboratory character evolved. Urban Transition Labs (Nevens et al. 2013), Urban Living Labs (Marvin et al. 2018) or Real-world Laboratories (Wanner et al. 2018) use interventions and experimental approaches as core research modes. Their aim is to produce transformative knowledge to initiate social change, through co-design and co-production of knowledge between academia, civil society actors and local political or administrative authorities. The lab approaches have a lot in common with participatory and action research methods, especially due to their focus on normative change through collaborative production of knowledge. This session wants to address the question how transdisciplinary research methods and in particular interventions and experiments can help to further develop participatory and action research methods? We welcome theoretical and empirical papers, which connect participatory and action research with transdisciplinary research methods, in particular lab approaches like Urban Transition Labs, Real-world Laboratories or Urban Living Labs.

**Please submit your paper title and a 300-word abstract until 31.05.2021** via the official conference website: <https://gcsmus.org>. For further information, please see the conference website or contact the session organizers Robert Barbarino, [robert.barbarino@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:robert.barbarino@tu-dortmund.de), and Katrin Gliemann, [katrin.gliemann@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:katrin.gliemann@tu-dortmund.de).