

TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSITIONS TO SUSTAINABILITY

EDITED BY EDMOND BYRNE,
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Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Transitions to Sustainability

**Edited by Edmond Byrne,
Gerard Mullally and Colin Sage**

First published 2017
by Routledge Publishing
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge Publishing
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Byrne, Edmond Philip, editor, author. | Mullally, Gerard, editor,
author. | Sage, Colin, editor, author.

Title: Transdisciplinary perspectives on transitions to sustainability /
edited by Edmond Byrne, Gerard Mullally and Colin Sage.

Description: Farnham, Surrey, UK ; Burlington, VT : Ashgate, 2016. |
Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015043369 (print) | LCCN 2016004720 (ebook) |
ISBN 9781472462954 (hardback : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Sustainability. | Sustainability—Study and teaching (Higher)

Classification: LCC GE195 .T726 2016 (print) | LCC GE195 (ebook) |
DDC 338.9/270711—dc23

LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2015043369>

ISBN: 9781472462954 (hbk)

ISBN: 9781315550206 (ebk)

Typeset in Times New Roman
by Apex CoVantage, LLC

Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Transitions to Sustainability

Demonstrating how a university can, in a very practical and pragmatic way, be re-envisioned through a transdisciplinary informed frame, this book shows how through an open and collegiate spirit of inquiry the most pressing and multifaceted issue of contemporary societal (un)sustainability can be addressed and understood in a way that transcends narrow disciplinary work. It also provides a practical exemplar of how far more meaningful deliberation, understandings and options for action in relation to contemporary sustainability-related crises can emerge than could otherwise be achieved. Indeed it helps demonstrate how only through a transdisciplinary ethos and approach can real progress be achieved. The fact that this can be done in parallel to (or perhaps underneath) the day-to-day business of the university serves to highlight how even micro seed initiatives can further the process of breaking down silos and reuniting C.P. Snow's 'two cultures' after some four centuries of the relentless project of modernity. While much has been written and talked about with respect to both sustainability and transdisciplinarity, this book offers a pragmatic example which hopefully will signpost the ways others can, will and indeed must follow in our common quest for real progress.

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Acknowledgements

We would first like to thank all of the contributors to this volume for their whole hearted engagement with this project and acknowledge their willingness to review the work of their peers in a collegiate and constructive manner. We believe this process has not only strengthened the offering within these pages but has also assisted us on a collective transdisciplinary journey of enhanced mutual understanding.

We wish to thank the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation at UCC for supporting the Environmental Citizenship Strategic Research Initiative award which has enabled the 'Sustainability in Society' initiative to emerge and flourish. In this context, we would like to thank the VP for Research and Innovation, Prof Anita Maguire, who opened the 2013 conference on 'Transdisciplinary Conversations' which both preceded and inspired this publication.

Equally, we would like to thank the Vice President for Teaching and Learning, Prof John O'Halloran, who has enthusiastically supported (and contributed to) this project from the outset and who understands that the contemporary university needs to have a sustainability ethos at its very heart. His visionary leadership in this area at University College Cork is testament to this.

We would like to thank our external collaborators: John Barry, Michael Narodslawsky and Andy Stirling, who as distinguished scholars contributed to the 2013 conference, giving us the opportunity not only to benefit from their thoughtful contributions, but to share with us their own experiences of forging transdisciplinary initiatives within a university environment. The corresponding chapters within this book, enhanced by the trans-institutional experiences of Stephan Maier, offer a valuable external perspective to compliment the work emanating from UCC colleagues.

As Editors we have drunk rather a lot of coffee together over the past two years as we discussed the structure and content of this volume. We would like to thank Ann-Michelle Mullally, who helped us with establishing a common format for the chapters.

Finally on a personal level, we would like to dedicate this book to the following people: Ed to Amelia, Shane and Orlaith, Ger to Tara, Cian, Oran, Colin and Ryle, and Colin to his daughters, Liadán and Aisling.

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Part 1

Setting the scene

