

Thematic Profile 'Social Transitions': Kick-off event

Date: Wednesday 4 Nov. Time: 15:00-16:30. Drinks afterwards.

Location: T.b.d.

The first Social Transitions event will bring together researchers from across Leiden University who work on different dimensions of social transitions. The event will introduce the profile and its current areas of focus, while creating space for participants to get to know each other, share their perspectives on 'social transitions', identify connections across disciplines and explore possibilities for future collaboration.

Intended outcomes

- Introduce the Social Transitions profile and some of the research already taking place across Leiden
- Identify key themes, questions and connections across disciplines
- Gather input on the future direction and activities of our profile
- Create new connections between researchers who may not normally meet each other
- Provide practical tools to turn these new connections and ideas for interdisciplinary collaboration into concrete action

Participants

This is an open invitation to all researchers from different faculties and disciplines working on social transitions, including members of the profile team and researchers identified through the initial network mapping.

Programme

1. Welcome and introduction to Social Transitions (10 min.)

Short introduction to the profile based on our one-pager (aims and current areas of focus).

We will present some initial ideas, such as the mini-grant for interdisciplinary collaborations on social transitions.

2. Short research/project pitches (20 min.)

Short presentations from members of the profile team + potentially one or two from the broader network (max. 4 presentations total due to time). Each speaker briefly introduces their work and their perspective on social transitions. Ideally, we would have a good mix of themes and disciplines, for example combining technical and social perspectives.

3. Mapping social transitions (20 min.)

Interactive exercise in which participants identify themes and associations they consider important to the profile. These are clustered to identify connections/areas of shared interest and possible gaps.

4. Break-out groups: from shared interests to collaboration (40 min.)

Small interdisciplinary groups discuss where their work intersects and identify questions around social transitions that could benefit from collaboration across disciplines.

After identifying shared interests, groups discuss what it would take to turn these into concrete collaborations. What could be a realistic first step? What resources or support would be needed?

Groups also discuss practical or institutional barriers to collaboration, including funding structures that do not always support work across disciplines or faculties within one university. How could we (the social transitions team) help address these challenges?

5. Plenary feedback and concrete next steps (20 min.)

Groups briefly share the most promising connections or ideas that emerged and, most importantly, the concrete next steps to take them forward.

We conclude by identifying priorities for future activities of the Social Transitions profile across research, education and societal impact.

Ending with drinks / informal networking