

ENABLING THE CITY

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY ENCOUNTERS IN
RESEARCH AND PRACTICE



EDITED BY JOSEFINE FOKDAL, OLIVIA BINA, PRUE CHILES,
LIIS OJAMÄE AND KATRIN PAADAM



[ISBN 9780367277390](https://doi.org/10.1080/9780367277390) | [Published July 29, 2021 by Routledge](https://doi.org/10.1080/9780367277390) | 326 Pages

About the book

Enabling the City is a collaborative book that focuses on how interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary processes of knowledge production may contribute to urban transformation at a local level in the 21st Century. It is designed to respond to the growing appeal for transformative change, by exploring the often inconvenient and uncomfortable spaces of knowledge production and co-creation that can make such change happen. Combining global trends in theory with experience of local practice, *Enabling the City* strikes a balance between enthusiastic support for such transformational potential and a cautious note regarding the persistent challenges to the ethos as well as the practice of inter and transdisciplinarity.

The rich stories reflect different research and local practice cultures, exploring issues such as wellbeing and ageing, community, health and dementia, public space, energy, mobility cultures, heritage, housing, re-use, and renewal, as well as more universal questions about urban sustainability and climate change, and perhaps most importantly, education and competences. Against this backdrop, aspirations for the 21st century are related to the international, national, and local agendas expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in the New Urban Agenda (NUA), raising fundamental questions of how to enable development. The reflexive approach that runs through the book aims to respond to international, national and local agendas, offering new forms of understanding collaborative process and ways of knowing that are essential in urban research and practice.

Enabling the City translates the lessons learned from these studies into a comprehensive framework of four phases of inter- and transdisciplinarity, and four enabling conditions and qualities that are crucial to such collaborative processes, highlighting aspects of learning, competences and dispositions: knowing what phases are critical in any collaborative and participatory process and making an early effort to allocate human and financial resources as well as time to each phase; and valuing and enabling mutual and transformative learning, and the dispositions of trust and humility - will make a world of difference.

Through these European, multi-scale accounts, this book will inspire scholars and practitioners alike to strive for transformative solutions for more sustainable urban futures.

[Open access content is available](https://www.routledge.com/Enabling-the-City-Interdisciplinary-and-Transdisciplinary-Encounters-in/Fokdal-Bina-Chiles-Ojamae-Paadam/p/book/9780367277390#sup)

<https://www.routledge.com/Enabling-the-City-Interdisciplinary-and-Transdisciplinary-Encounters-in/Fokdal-Bina-Chiles-Ojamae-Paadam/p/book/9780367277390#sup>

Reviews:

"This intellectually and visually attractive book offers an invaluable guide to the innovative inter- and transdisciplinary ideas, vocabularies and tools for crafting more sustainable urban futures. Applied case studies from Newcastle to Ljubljana and Tallinn to Calabria, by authors from diverse communities of practice, demonstrate the transformative power of combining different knowledges in co-productive collaborations. This is sure to become a landmark in its field." **David Simon**, Professor of Development Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

"Transpositional knowledge has the power to ignite innovation and enrich collaboration when applied across the complex urban contexts that define the cities of today. The multi-regional and multi-scalar ethnographic accounts offered in this book illustrate the agency inter and in particular transdisciplinary approaches offer diverse stakeholders, at a time when the imperative for fostering cooperation couldn't be more acute." **Harriet Harriss**, Dean of the School of Architecture, Pratt Institute, US

Biographies

Josefine Fokdal is Senior Researcher and Lecturer at the Department of International Urbanism at University of Stuttgart. Josefine's research focus is on co-production in urban development, governance, and informal dynamics and she is involved in the Realworld Laboratory for Sustainable Mobility Culture.

Olivia Bina is Principal Researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Associate Professor at Geography & Resource Management, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. Olivia was the Chair of the COST Action INTREPID.

Prue Chiles is Professor of Architectural Design Research at Newcastle and part of the practice Chiles, Evans and Care Architects (CE+CA). Prue works to strengthen connections between people, place, imagination, teaching and architectural design.

Liis Ojamäe is Associate Professor at the School of Business and Governance at Tallinn University of Technology and also at the School of Governance, Law and Society, Tallinn University. Liis' research interests are related to urban housing: residential culture, housing policy and markets, housing re-construction, and sustainability.

Katrin Paadam is Professor of Sociology in the School of Business and Governance, Tallinn University of Technology. Katrin has an integrated approach towards urban and residential dynamics and her research focuses on transforming actors' practices and cultures on different scales of city space in the interplay of material structures and larger socio-spatial processes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the result of an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration between 39 scholars and/or practitioners, all of whom are, in some way, part of the European Collaboration in Science and Technology (COST) Action INTREPID which ran from 2014 to 2019 (<http://intrepid-cost.ics.ulisboa.pt>). It was made possible thanks to our shared experience building on a number of workshops and conferences organized in our host institutions, as part of the Action. We would like to thank everyone who has inspired or worked with us in the workshops and activities that brought us together enabling our mutual learning. We acknowledge the role of the great cities and towns we visited too, allowing us a greater understanding of each other's cultures and ways of doing things.

The editors and authors would like to thank the COST Office, the EU Horizon 2020 for their financial support to the COST Network. Through its activities, COST promotes multidisciplinary networking and inclusiveness across Europe. COST is able to connect high-level scientists, representatives of the private sector and high-level policy makers via open, science and technology networks called "Actions." We also thank our respective Universities and Institutions around Europe for their support and are grateful for the comments and suggestions by colleagues, friends and anonymous reviewers. We thank our patient proof-reader Stephen Murray and our editors at Routledge for being so enthusiastic about this book.

We would finally like to thank Bella Enssle in Berlin and Alice Grant in Sheffield for designing and laying out this book for us and making it all we imagined.

