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EDITORIAL: INFORMING SCIENCE THROUGH SOLIDARITY

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ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose

In this editorial paper, I pose some questions about the role of informing science. I do so by considering the current global situation of polycrisis: war conflicts, genocides, humanitarian crisis, the climate change and the exacerbation of social inequalities occurring in a polarized violent public opinion perpetuating racist and discriminatory ideology. What is the purpose of academic writing in a world in which there are lives that do not matter? I take into account the spirit of informing science and the idea of transdisciplinary research to launch questions for prospective papers. The idea principle of solidarity is presented as a means for research-conducting, theory-building and informing science.

Keywords

informing science, polycrisis, solidarity, transdisciplinary research

For those who are familiar with *Informing Science: The International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline* (InformingSciJ), it is not surprising to speak about transdisciplinary as a means for research-conducting and theory-building. Transdisciplinary provides opportunities to provide a broad array of discussions from various and separate disciplines. In parallel, transdisciplinary emphasizes the possibility of writing in ways to better inform a wider public. However, what constitutes a concrete contribution to a transdisciplinary journal might appear uncertain. That is, the question of what such a transdisciplinary and plural approach can mean in terms of topics and types of studies that can be considered for the journal may remain unanswered.

What is more, to enrich our understanding of what transdisciplinarity is about, we can ask about the purpose of research and writing, thereby adding further complexity. This question might not be that complex for some, yet the current global crisis might also bring others to question the very meaning of their work. That is, what is the purpose of writing academic papers in a world on a polycrisis made of a series of unprecedented multitude of challenges confronting humanity and the planet? The research world can be a surprisingly conservative enterprise, with a great deal of research on a limited set of topics. However, there is often neglect in conducting concrete investigations into the social issues of our epoch, which is characterized by polycrisis (Henig & Knight, 2023).

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In this editorial, I wish to emphasize the need to question the reason for writing academic papers in a world of polycrisis and to “use” the character of transdisciplinarity to expand the scope of our research. On the one hand, transdisciplinarity invokes the idea of conducting research and communicating science in alternative ways that inform a broader public. That is, it is precisely the possibility of deeply integrating different disciplines that enables the creation of new forms of knowledge and understanding of social phenomena beyond disciplinary silos. To do so, scholars can work in interdisciplinary research teams, but also by combining the perspectives of practitioners, experts, or other potential victims of *a crisis*. On the other hand, although the word “crisis” has not appeared as a formal chronological appellation on a Geological Time Scale of our times, the term is a commonplace descriptor of our current epoch. This remains certain even despite the misuse or the emptying of the meaning of this word. Indeed, with polycrisis we refer to the current war and global conflicts; genocides and humanitarian crises affecting marginalized populations; climate change and severe weather events and bio-diversity loss that exacerbates social inequalities; the increase in misinformation and societal polarization that leads to anti-democratic movements; the shameless and impunity of certain politicians who perpetuate institutionalized forms of violence and racist ideologies. Although the sense of polycrisis can be emptied by its misuse in research, it can also be of utility when it reminds us to question the necessity of our work as scholars, why we study, explore, investigate, and disseminate our knowledge.

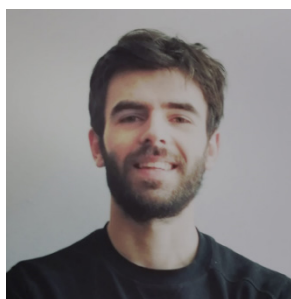
InformingSciJ can only be as unique as the manuscripts that are submitted to it and the reviewers, associate editors, and authors who devote their time and work to contribute to the journal. We wish to encourage authors to consider novel approaches or creative formats for presenting their ideas and data. We especially welcome works that question the very meaning of doing research while addressing the polycrisis. Indeed, we call for papers that can take polycrisis as a starting point and employ a transdisciplinary approach to create novel perspectives. One example to do so is to develop relationality and build grassroots with local communities of marginalized and oppressed people who are direct victims of the polycrisis (Dòci et al., 2025). Taking our privilege as scholars, we can engage in mobilizing processes for responding to grand challenges by invoking their perspectives and desires, while also acknowledging their right to live. In an epoch of a polycrisis, there are no limits in understanding who the vulnerable and most marginalized groups are with precarious lives. The current epoch teaches us that there exist communities that are disproportionately affected by violence or that have been historically underserved in efforts to address this issue. And the environmental crisis exacerbates such effects, while societal polarization blocks any attempts for solidarity (Tommasi, 2025).

Overall, in this editorial, I wanted to create the space for papers that make solidarity the means for doing research. The etymology of solidarity reminds us of the idea of a research work that aims at working with the responsibility of making the other “solid”. From the Latin law *in solidum* and the Latin verb *solidare*, solidarity indicates the responsibility toward social engagement for the protection of the right to live for everyone. As a novel way of research-conducting, theory-building, and informing, solidarity can be of inspiration. Solidarity in research is, in its scope, a form of total devotion of our attention toward the suffering of every living being and the planet to resist the polycrisis. I then leave my reflection by letting potential authors wonder how we should speak and inform about science, with the hope that this small and limited editorial piece can engender discussion and offer ways to resist polycrisis.

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