

# Leveraging Diverse Expertise: Strategic Career Planning for Interdisciplinary Researchers

## Objective

Inter- and transdisciplinary research is becoming increasingly central to research and innovation, yet interdisciplinary profiles are still hard to position within academic career paths, especially at the professorial level. In this online workshop, participants learn how to leverage their interdisciplinary expertise for career planning: clarifying goals, articulating their interdisciplinary competence and expertise profile, and defining their unique contribution at the intersections of research fields.

They develop strategic next steps and a personal development plan informed by a future-skills framework.

## Description

Participants

- sharpen their career goals to capitalize on their interdisciplinary expertise,
- develop a concise competence profile highlighting key expertise and the disciplines they connect,
- identify target opportunities and audiences (e.g., roles, institutions, foundations, networks) where their profile is a strong fit,
- practice and strengthen key interdisciplinary career competences (communication, integration, networking),
- develop strategic approaches for academic career planning with an interdisciplinary profile, and
- draft a personal interdisciplinary development plan aligned with their goals and informed by a future-skills framework.

## Methodology

- Theoretical input
- Exercises in individual, partner, and group work and peer consultation
- Mind mapping; (guided) self-reflections; interview techniques; visual and creative techniques
- Digital handout

## Conditions

It is beneficial if participants have some prior experience working in interdisciplinary contexts OR a particular interest in engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration.

Trainer



**Dr. Iris Mencke**  
Interdisciplinary Minds,  
Frankfurt/Main

Dr. Iris Mencke is a researcher, trainer, and certified systemic coach with a focus on interdisciplinary competence and career development.

She holds a PhD in Psychology and conducted research on behavioral and neural foundations of aesthetic and creative processes.

Over more than ten years, she has worked as a project lead in international and interdisciplinary research groups.

As the founder of Interdisciplinary Minds, she designs and delivers training formats that support researchers and teams in successful collaboration across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries.

[www.interdisciplinary-minds.de](http://www.interdisciplinary-minds.de)

## Organizational Information

Language / Format	English / Online
Target group	Advanced Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs (R2) from all faculties
Date	Monday, 18 May 2026, 9:00 – 13:00
Registration	<a href="#">Click here for registration</a>