

Abstract

As interdisciplinarians, we are acutely aware of the importance of interacting with and learning from people with different backgrounds in distinct parts of the world. Unfortunately, unequal distribution of resources, systemic discrimination, and other barriers have prevented many students and scholars from accessing mutual areas of their interest.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, territories have become increasingly protective of their physical boundaries. With universities now impeding non-essential travel and prohibiting entrance to campuses, academia at large has been forced to re-think how to increase access through technological means. At the same time, leading scholars have argued the only way to overcome complex crises such as the pandemic is through international collaboration.

These developments have led this panel to focus on potentials and limitations of the pandemic for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work coupled with new virtual environments for diversifying knowledge and exchange of ideas across regions. Three main questions shape our presentation: What is the significance of physical and virtual travel for interdisciplinarians in the Covid-19 era? To what extent can technological tools allow students and scholars the chance to build equitable connections and integrations previously beyond their reach? What is the impact of the pandemic on internationalization of interdisciplinarity?