

Thursday 19th June 10.30am-12.00 Keynote by [Guido Caniglia](#):

## **Queering collaboration, or what queer theory has to do with interdisciplinary research**

Inter- and transdisciplinary research is increasingly recognized as essential to tackling complex societal challenges, from climate change and biodiversity loss to global health crises. Yet those engaged in such collaborations often encounter discomfort, frustration, and disorientation. These challenges, I argue, arise not from individual shortcomings but from the need to transgress entrenched disciplinary norms, that are methodological, ethical, and institutional. In this talk, I explore how queer lives and queer thought can offer guidance in navigating these tensions. Drawing on queer theory's commitments to anti-normativity, anti-categorical thinking, and intersectionality, I show how it helps us reframe discomfort, disorientation, and failure as generative. Queer theory invites us to rethink how we define research objects, what methodologies we develop and use, how we relate to collaborators, and how we inhabit academic institutions. I will rely on personal and professional reflections (as a queer person and an inter- and transdisciplinary researcher) to highlight how queering research can cultivate more inclusive, reflexive, and transformative forms of collaboration. Ultimately, I suggest that queer theory offers not only critique, but also orientation about how to embrace the generative potential of transgression and discomfort in interdisciplinary work.

### **Biography**

Guido Caniglia is a philosopher working in the field of sustainability science. His research is interdisciplinary (as it deals with multiple disciplines from the natural and social sciences as well as from the humanities), transdisciplinary (as it engages with actors and perspectives outside of academia, such as practitioners, activists, and policy makers), and transformative (as it attempts to support research processes that foster change, in academia and in society). In collaboration with numerous colleagues, over the years Guido has developed new theories, conceptual models, and practical methodologies that support capacity building and action for environmental sustainability and social justice. Guido was recently awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant with the title "Whose sustainability? Understanding and redefining just sustainability transformations from disability and queer perspectives" (WEIRD). Guido earned a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Florence (Italy)

in 2010 and a PhD in Biology from the Center for Biology and Society at Arizona State University in 2015 (USA).