



CENTRE FOR UNUSUAL COLLABORATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



2024 at a glance

2024 was a year of expansion for CUCo: in terms of numbers of research teams supported and types of support, in terms of cross-EWUU collaborations and in terms of strategic collaborations beyond the EWUU alliance.

It was also a year of consolidating and evaluating efforts, whilst on the other hand continuing to innovate CUCo's support for inter- and transdisciplinarity. An example is the refining of the extensive support process that is part of the Spark and UCo funding schemes, another is the new train-the-trainer module offered to colleagues from other EWUU initiatives.

Worth mentioning is that CUCo started with a research agenda, since 2024 was the year of knowledge integration. In terms of cross-alliance collaboration, the co-design of a training programme for transdisciplinary collaborations together with the Pathways to Sustainability team stands out. Beyond the EWUU alliance, the launch of a national centre of expertise on transdisciplinarity with key strategic allies that CUCo co-initiated is a significant achievement.

More details on all of this are available in this annual report offering insights and highlights of yet another eventful year for CUCo.

This annual report offers updates on:

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2024 in numbers

- 1 Nature paper by CUCo! [Finding joy, creativity and meaning through unusual interdisciplinary collaborations](#)
- 1 wedding announced between two people who met at a CUCo tea (talk of impact!)
- 10 new Spark teams, involving 31 mid-career researchers
- 6 Unusual Collaborations, involving 71 mid-career researchers
- 1 VIDI grant that will continue the work of UCo team Defeating Chronic Pain (iPOP-NL)
- 32 participants in two runs of the Spark training
 - 1 researcher-in-residence, Ohad Ben Shimon
- 10 UCo '25 grants awarded without a lottery, due to self-organizing teams!
- 18 EWUU colleagues participating in a special Spark train-the-trainer edition
- 24 CUCo-themed pastries eaten at the UCo' 25 award ceremony
- 30+ people participating in the first CUCo Community Day
- 1 [brand-new CUCo website](#) as part of the EWUU website

Observations from Spark and UCo teams

Ten [new Spark teams](#) were formed and granted in 2024, covering a broad range of topics from emotions of animals, to micro- and nanoplastics in dialysis to effects of (ultra-processed) plant-based foods, and beyond.

Highlight: CUCo's Nature paper!

The joy of interdisciplinary collaboration! Yes, there are barriers and challenges, but in setting up CUCo the main surprising outcomes were joy, a sense of meaning and creativity. We coined this 'collateral happiness'. The Nature paper recounts the journey of the first two years of the Centre for Unusual Collaborations; its origins, lessons learned and recommendations for universities and funders to better support unusual collaborations. The paper elaborates on three roadblocks to funding inter- and transdisciplinary research, as well as how these were overcome - or not!

The three roadblocks are:

- 1) Rewards and recognition - and this remains a major hurdle to this day!
- 2) Funding trust-building and interdisciplinary collaboration
- 3) Competencies, tools and approaches

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Finding joy, creativity and meaning through unusual interdisciplinary collaborations

[CUCo](#)

[Humanities and Social Sciences Communications](#) 11, Article number: 1159 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

7806 Accesses | 17 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Six Unusual Collaboration (UCo) teams continued their activities, in different stages of the granting cycle: teams were in their first second or third year of UCo funding. A first-year team, for example, is [Better Wave than Worry](#), working on early signaling. A second-year team explores [Plasticity](#) as a concept across domains. A third-year team has moved into a transdisciplinary collaboration by teaming up with the Nederlands Watermuseum around [water security](#).

Please find a full overview of [Spark teams](#) and [UCo teams](#) in the annex.

Highlight: The lottery that wasn't!

The funds for the Unusual Collaborations grants are distributed through a lottery. In 2024, the teams that were invited to apply for the '25 grants decided to join forces and each apply for a similar amount. No lottery took place after all, and for the first time, all teams that submitted an Expression of Intent got funded. Quite the spirit of collaboration! All teams were celebrated in an award ceremony. [Read more about the teams](#) that will start their activities on 1 January 2025. The granting procedure will be reviewed in the new year.



CUCo also hosted its first Community Day in 2024. The “Octopus Garden of Great Ideas” showcased a diverse range of interdisciplinary projects, each sharing unique insights, best practices and more. This day allowed us to explore and celebrate the work happening within our community. During the subsequent interactive labs sessions a couple of teams tested and presented their ideas fostering engagement and collaboration:

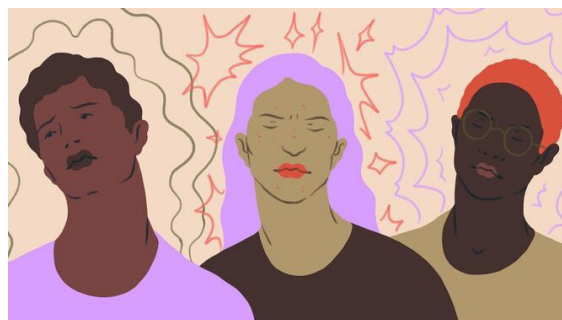


- The Better Wave than Worry team tested a workshop-in-development focused on recognizing and owning early (warning) signals;
- The Unbox team discovered an innovative ‘process black box’ prototype, designed to systematize and translate collaborative research processes into an accessible format for researchers;
- The Imagining More-Than-Human Communities team challenged anthropocentric views by trying out a sensory puzzle designed to push the boundaries of human-centered thinking;
- Sanli Faez, member of the Fair Battery team hosted a session on “Interdisciplinary Impact: Cathedral or Sandcastle?” about forming impactful inter- and trans-disciplinary teams and to identify reporting pitfalls;
- The Playing with the Trouble team explored co-designed card decks and playful materials to foster transdisciplinary collaborations and transform participant experiences!

Highlight: A tool for treating chronic pain better

The Chronic Pain team rounded off their UCo grant, one of their results is a tool that helps clinicians categorize chronic pain patients based on psychosocial questionnaires. This tool can eventually help to decide if a patient will benefit from a more multidisciplinary treatment instead of pain-medication alone. With additional data from blood markers or neurological studies, pain management is enhanced with greater precision.

The team is collaborating with the radiology department to scan patients and track their pain progression, aiming to identify markers that predict pain recovery and support early intervention. [Read more about the results of the project in this interview with Hanneke Willemen.](#)
 > Hanneke acquired a VIDl grant (€800k), with which she will continue the work initiated through CUCo.



Knowledge & Learning

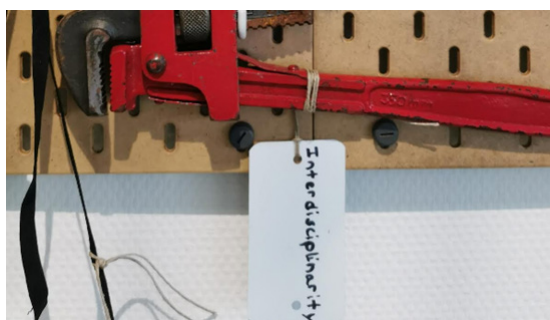
Knowledge integration is a key feature of interdisciplinary research, but what is it exactly and how does it happen? In 2024, CUCo delved into these questions together with Annemarie Horn, Assistant Professor at the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Department of Utrecht University. In collaboration with Annemarie, CUCo organized two co-learning events on knowledge integration for Spark & UCo teams and developed a workshop for the ITD conference entitled 'The proof of the pudding is in the eating: co-learning about knowledge integration practices in Unusual Collaborations'.



As a first, CUCo offered the position of unusual-researcher-in-residence to Ohad Ben Shimon. Ohad is an artist, researcher and educator with a background in cognitive sciences, psychology, philosophy, cultural analysis, international business education and art. His current PhD research (funded by NWO Doctoral Grant for Educators) challenges the underlying assumption within knowledge-intensive institutions that the role of the body is to bring the brains to work. Instead of neglecting the body, his study tries to give different, everyday, and lived experiences of bodies a more prominent role in knowledge intensive institutions. Ohad conducted one-on-one interviews with CUCo research team members and staff, to learn from their personal CUCo experience. [Read more about Ohad's work on the CUCo website.](#)

Highlight: CUCo's updated toolkit

Have you ever tried to explain your research to an alien? In the past five years, CUCo has developed a wide variety of tools and methods to support researchers in their inter- and transdisciplinary efforts. All tools and methods are now available in the updated CUCo toolkit. The toolkit will continue to be updated with new tools.



The impact of CUCo on its community in quotes

“I have reinvented myself as a scholar”

- Unusual Collaborator Tessa van Charldorp (UU)

“If it were not for CUCo, I probably would have left academia”

- Sparkee Jonas Torrens (UU)

“I have found new friends!”

- Unusual Collaborator Maarten Voors (WUR)

“I am writing a €7 million interdisciplinary grant application that I would have never dared to write if it were not for my CUCo experience”

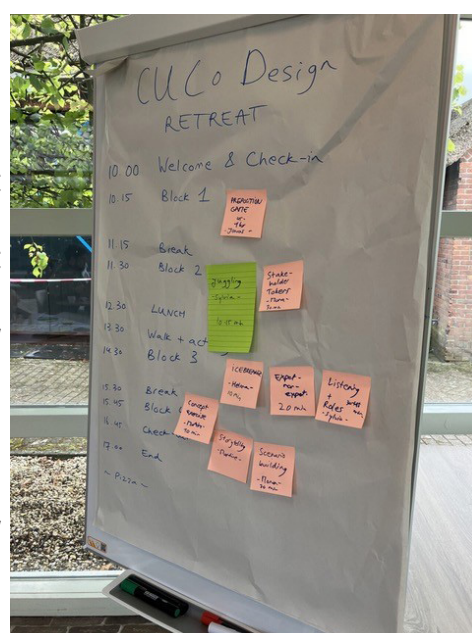
- former Unusual Collaborator Marianne Boes (UMCU)

“We are getting married!”

- Unusual Collaborators Josephine Chambers (UU) and Dan Lockton (TU/e) who met through a CUCo grant

Highlight: CUCo design retreat

To keep innovating and developing new methods and activities, eight Spark trainers met for a summer design retreat at Gasterij Stadzigt in Naarden. Together, they shared, tested and developed new methods such as [Expert-Beginner](#), a juggling exercise, a stakeholder mapping activity and a story-telling task.



Insights across the cohorts of UCo and Spark teams

Topics throughout the funding cycle

Throughout the life stages of CUCo grants - Spark, UCo 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, plus possibly handshake grant years in between - a strong emergence and eventually convergence of topics is taking place. Teams tend to start broadly and define more clearly throughout the years their focus. This is also driven because we notice third year teams to really be orienting to 'closing down', orienting towards post-UCo stages, writing up publications. Obviously, output is increasingly generated, which at times is supported by the coaches or designers that are brought on the teams, which in itself is experienced as a useful manner to define more clearly the topical focus.

'Epistemological confusion'

Some teams cover a broad range of disciplines and epistemological traditions, which leads to some misunderstanding, but also leads to stark learning effects in terms of encountering a diversity of perspectives. Other teams are more narrow in terms of disciplinary combinations. Projects with a medical focus tend to have less 'epistemological confusion': they are more consolidated in terms of their research approach, and more target-driven. This raises the question whether CUCo should interfere when a team is very target-oriented, and to what extent epistemological confusion within a team should be a goal in itself.

Knowledge integration

Knowledge integration is happening more and less consciously in teams, across the different phases of the research process. One team observed that it may be useful to approach an interdisciplinary project with a beginner's mindset, but that team members should not forget their own background. That is what equips them to contribute something unique to the project and that is where they are enabled to contribute from their own profile. One team worked along the lines of "non-integrative integration", suggesting that integration sometimes takes place bilaterally between individual researchers rather than across the entire team. It was also recounted regularly that the interdisciplinary collaboration generates insights that team members can apply in their own disciplines.

Leadership

Certain teams lean heavily on one project lead, which in some cases serves the coordination and progress, but it sometimes appears to take oxygen/initiative away from the rest of the group. Other teams are primarily driven by a dedicated project manager/assistant. Still other teams co-create on a basis of shared leadership, where for example roles and tasks are rotated. These styles of leadership and collaboration depend on the group dynamic and rarely appear to change over time.

CUCo's strategic collaborations

CUCo has become an integral part of the Dutch academic and funding landscape and has been part of strategic collaborations that aim to share CUCo's method with relevant institutes and contribute to the necessary shifts in the academic system.

CUCo is co-designing a transdisciplinary (TD) training programme with the team from [Pathways to Sustainability](#) (a UU/UMCU strategic theme). A pilot was conducted at the ITD conference, where it met great enthusiasm. To understand which needs are present amongst the CUCo and PtS community, a series of interviews was conducted. The training is foreseen to be available in April/May 2025.

Together with a team including NWO, TNO, KNAW and TU Delft CUCo has authored a whitepaper on 'TD quality' (how to achieve and assess it). The whitepaper is finalised and launched in April 2025. This initiative will then merge with the TD centre of expertise (see above).

CUCo hosted an acquaintance meeting between the EWUU program directors and a team of the Leiden Delft Erasmus alliance (LDE). Activities and lessons learned were presented and crosscutting matters were identified.

Highlight: NECTR, a national centre of expertise on transdisciplinarity

Corinne Lamain (CUCo Director) was part of an initiative group that set up a national centre of expertise on transdisciplinary collaborations. NWO, TNO, KNAW, Rathenau Instituut, Klimaatonderzoek Initiatief Nederland, DRIFT (EUR), Athena Institute (VU), RVO and SIA are also part of this group and very committed to achieving better coordination and sharing of knowledge, tools and methods for transdisciplinarity across the Netherlands. The centre takes the shape of a decentralised platform with minimum level of overhead, but with a central hub for coordination. The national launch will take place in April 2025 at the EWUU Community Day.



CUCo at the ITD 24 conference

CUCo was widely represented at the annual conference of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity, which took place at the Railway Museum in Utrecht this year.

- The PEPE Impact Lab presented a session on changing the ways in which impact is measured in academic research;
- The Defeating Chronic Pain team hosted a session about their interdisciplinary research and use of metaphors;
- The Unbox team hosted a workshop to trial their Unbox game aimed at improving interdisciplinary collaborations;
- A interdisciplinary cooking workshop was hosted by CUCo's Knowledge & Learning Adviser Anke de Vrieze and inter- & transdisciplinarity researcher Annemarie Horn;
- CUCo Director Corinne Lamain and Spark trainer Jonas Torrens gave a workshop on fair, inclusive, equitable and transformative transdisciplinary collaborations;
- My Choice Matters presented a poster at the conference's poster exhibition.

Cross-EWUU collaborations

With pleasure CUCo sees the collaboration across EWUU increasing and is glad to team up with other EWUU initiatives.

A notable achievement is the development of a vision and proposal for WUCo – a local hub at Wageningen UR, that should sit within and across the WUR wide themes as defined in the new WUR strategy. This was developed by the request of and with support of Carolien Kroeze.

The growing interest of EWUU colleagues in CUCo's approach, tools and methods resulted in a special train-the-trainer edition of the Spark training. Eighteen colleagues from across the EWUU alliance participated and were empowered to bring CUCo methods to their own initiatives, such as i4CS and i4PH.

CUCo and EWUU Education co-organized the Competences for Transitions track at the annual EWUU conference. Hosted by Anke de Vrieze and Dimitra Mousa, the participants embarked on a learning-by-doing journey of reflection and creativity. Through heartfelt dialogues participants explored their fears and hopes related to a self-selected challenge of the future, unpacked them, and offered each other perspectives on the future. This future thinking was supported by an empty chair at each table, which represented the future generations. Finally, the participants composed poems like the one included below, supporting themselves in the act of making.

Keep humanity
Play away your cynicism
Dialogue is now

Insight: The added value of process coaching

Process coaches support Spark and UCo teams in their interdisciplinary endeavours. Process coaches are skilled facilitators that mostly help teams shape their collaborative process. Many teams acquire the help of a coach at some point in their journey. In progress meetings, team members frequently reflect on the added value of having a coach.

"The process coach offered anchoring when we were drifting off" – Spark team member

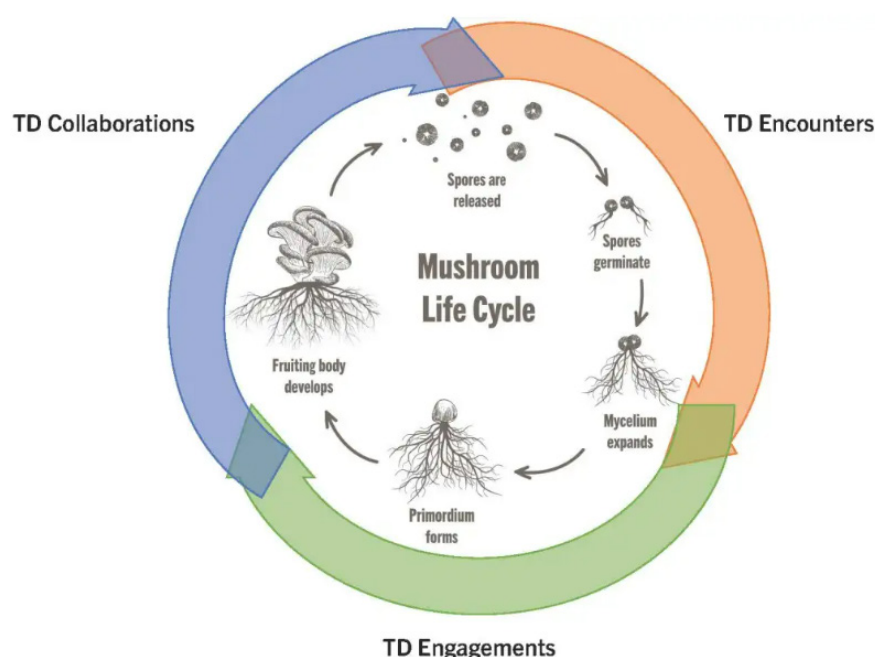
"It was very useful to have a process coach at our first meeting. Without the coach, we would have fallen back on our regular ways of working. Now, we really had a different start that created trust and commitment with the group from the start" – Spark team member

Insight: Knowledge integration is...

Although we cannot share a recipe for knowledge integration, the current experiences provide some insights on how we may learn to engage in these elusive processes, and thus maybe learn to 'cook'. Some preliminary takeaways:

- Growing our sensibilities to recognize moments in which knowledge integration might be happening, could be helpful in increasing the chances of it occurring. This can be moments of discomfort or tension, but also moments in which energy sparks;
- The value of reflecting on the design of collaborative research for integration upfront;
- The tension between focusing on disciplines in order to address interdisciplinarity. How can we discuss disciplines and disciplinary grounding, while avoiding that we essentialize disciplines?

Together with Annemarie Horn CUCo continues to explore 'cooking' as a metaphor for knowledge integration processes.



Fair, inclusive and equitable transdisciplinary collaborations

A mushroom as a nurturing metaphor for thinking about transdisciplinary collaborations, how does that work? Four principles are guiding to achieve just transdisciplinary collaborations, along different stages that align with the mushroom life cycle:

1. Address (context-specific) societally relevant issues while maintaining scientific relevance
2. Embrace complexity, ambiguity, and uncertainty
3. Value and harness plural ways of knowing via co-creating and co-learning
4. Involve diverse relevant actors in inclusive, fair, and equitable ways

[Read more in this blogpost on Integration and Implementation Insights.](#)

CUCo Board and Team

Mareike Smolka joined the CUCo Board on behalf of **Wageningen University & Research** starting 1 July 2024.

Bas Overvelde joined the CUCo Board on behalf of **Eindhoven University of Technology** starting 1 October 2024.



From left to right: Bas Overvelde, Ayoub Bagheri, Anke de Vrieze, Inge Stegeman, Helma van Luttikhuizen, Corinne Lamain and Mareike Smolka at CUCo's Nest.

Tom Bouwmeester (not in the picture above) joined the CUCo team as secretary starting 1 January 2024.

Helma van Luttikhuizen left the CUCo team at the end of December, to transition into her new position as the EWUU alliance's Community Building and Impact project manager.



Output

Peer-reviewed papers

CUCo. Finding joy, creativity and meaning through unusual interdisciplinary collaborations. Humanit Soc Sci Commun 11, 1159 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03634-w>

Blog posts

[Knowledge integration is...](#) CUCo website. By Anke de Vrieze and Annemarie Horn.

[Understanding exclusion, sharing benefits and building in reflection in transdisciplinary collaborations.](#) Integration and Implementation Insights. By Annisa Triyanti, Corinne Lamain, Jessica Duncan and Jillian Student.

[Towards fair transdisciplinary collaborations that honour epistemic justice.](#) Integration and Implementation Insights. By Annisa Triyanti, Barbara van Paassen, Corinne Lamain, Jessica Duncan, Jillian Student, Jonas Colen Ladeia Torrens and Nina de Roo.

[Not just in our heads: Embodied and creative practices for creating connection.](#) Integration and Implementation Insights. By Corinne Lamain and Jillian Student.

Events (co-)organized by CUCo in 2024

iPoP-NL's interdisciplinary chronic pain symposium (January)

The Defeating Chronic Pain team, which has continued beyond the UCo stage as the iPoP-NL platform, hosted an interdisciplinary chronic pain symposium at the Social Impact Factory in Utrecht. The most important takeaway was that there are many professional and academic disciplines and patient associations trying to reduce chronic pain and improve treatment. Yet, communication between these groups can be improved.



Screening of 1+1=3 at DocuScience Wageningen (March)

The CUCo documentary 1+1=3, featuring the Structures of Strength team, was screened at DocuScience, a recurring event where employees affiliated with Wageningen University & Research share insights into the work they do.



Competences for Transitions: CUCo x EWUU Education conference track (April)

CUCo and EWUU Education co-organized the Competences for Transitions track at the annual EWUU conference at TivoliVredenburg in Utrecht, as mentioned on page 10. The track was hosted by Anke de Vrieze and Dimitra Mousa. Participants explored together how to strengthen three competences that are key to engaging with the transitions ahead of us: perspective-taking, reflection and co-creation.

Plasticity's Shapeshifters Symposium (May)

The Plasticity team organized the Shapeshifters Symposium, a transdisciplinary two-day event that explored the concept of plasticity across academic domains and beyond, questioning what it means to be a shape within a shapeshifting society, a form within a form – adapting, evolving and mutating, along with its environment. [Watch the panel sessions on YouTube.](#)

CUCo Community Day (June)

Researchers from across CUCo's teams gathered in Utrecht for the first CUCo Community Day, as mentioned on page 5. This day allowed CUCo to explore and celebrate the work happening within the CUCo community.

PEPE Impact Lab at Betweter Festival (September)

"Is science a remote place, or do you interact with it on a daily basis? Are your challenges just yours, or also the research community's?" The PEPE Impact Lab contributed to the Betweter Festival at TivoliVredenburg with an experiment to explore what you do, and how science contributes to it.



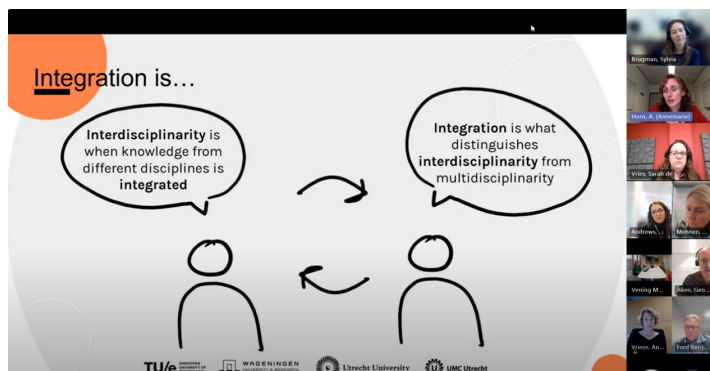
Pressure cooker CUCo x i4CS (September)

CUCo collaborated with the institute for a Circular Society (i4CS) on a dynamic Pressure Cooker session at The Green House in Utrecht. This session was part of the Seed Funding call for the Circular Safe Hospitals research line. The event brought together 20+ researchers from the four EWUU institutes with the shared goal of developing innovative circular solutions for healthcare through inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, using a step-by-step method to help researchers get to know each other's work and form new research teams.



CUCo @ UMC Research Days (October)

The CUCo team hosted a workshop entitled Cross the line – Interdisciplinary Research during the Research Days at UMC Utrecht, providing a sense of the challenges we can encounter when we cross disciplinary boundaries – and insight into possible ways to overcome them.



EWUU Lunch & Learn session on knowledge integration (October)

The Defeating Chronic Pain team, along with Anke de Vrieze and Annemarie Horn, contributed to an EWUU Lunch & Learn session on the topic of knowledge integration, exploring whether knowledge integration is a black box or if there are tools to better understand and enable processes of integration.

Playing with the Trouble @ EWUU Autumn Meeting (November)

The Playing with the Trouble team kindly hosted a workshop for EWUU colleagues at their bi-annual meeting, allowing us to get to know each other better and explore possible new worlds through a web of ideas that materialized on the floor of the workshop room.

CUCo @ ITD 24 conference (November)

CUCo was widely represented at the annual conference of the Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity, which took place at the Railway Museum in Utrecht this year. Among others, the PEPE Impact Lab presented a session on changing the ways in which impact is measured in academic research, the Unbox team hosted a workshop to trial the Unbox, and an interdisciplinary cooking workshop was hosted by Anke de Vrieze and Annemarie Horn.



CUCo session @ i4PH Just Transformations conference (November)

CUCo facilitated a breakout session at the annual conference of the institute 4 Preventive Health (i4PH) at the Jaarbeurs in Utrecht. The format of this session was based on the 2024 EWUU conference track that CUCo hosted in collaboration with EWUU's Education programme. Participants explored their own preventive health challenges through a process of guided journaling and group conversations. Imaginaries Lab's New Metaphors were used as a starting point for reflection.



Annex A: Spark teams granted in 2024 (spring cohort)

New Spark teams are formed and supported twice a year, leading to ten new Spark teams being formed in 2024.

3HOWs4DM: Enhancing Culturally Tailored Diabetes Management: Addressing Mental Health for Minor Ethnic Backgrounds

Aiming to create tailored healthcare solutions that resonate with the cultural beliefs/preferences of minority communities, and ensure fairness in healthcare and empower individuals while gaining insights into how culture shapes diabetes management, and how this affects mental health.

Five-Legged Sheep

Gaining insight into the challenges faced by researchers engaging in inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations, and exploring possible ways of dealing with them, from diverse (disciplinary) perspectives and across different disciplinary and institutional contexts.

Going off the Grid

Bringing together agroecology, materials engineering, and geometry in an unusual collaboration aimed at addressing the elusive dual challenge of feeding growing populations while also bending the curve of biodiversity via the design of synergistic and novel farm field configurations.

Micro- and nanoplastic formation and detection through dialysis

Investigating the occurrence of micro- and nanoplastics with regards to dialysis, and exploring solutions for this issue, which potentially threatens both environmental and human health.

The Multiple Faces of Health

Exploring the concept of health from a multidisciplinary perspective. What does being healthy mean in different disciplines? What do people from different socio-economic backgrounds think about when talking about (human or animal) health?

Annex B: Spark teams granted in 2024 (fall cohort)

From health data infrastructure to community-driven ecosystem

Co-producing privacy and data protection by empowering marginalized voices

This project focuses on how underrepresented and marginalized communities experience the use of their health data in national systems designed to support healthcare, research, innovation, and policymaking.

Living Foams

An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Regenerative and Waste-Free Cleaning

Our everyday care and cleaning practices create a lot of waste, often relying on products we use once and then throw away. To make a real difference, we need to rethink what we consider “clean enough” and explore materials that work with nature rather than against it.

Moo-d Swings

Decoding (Human and Other) Animals’ Expression of Their Inner World: Insights into Mental Wellbeing

The mental health of animals—simply put, “how animals feel”—is a vital aspect of their welfare and shapes our societal approach to treating them, from wildlife, farm and companion animals to laboratory and pest species.

Navigating the Nuances of Plant-Based Proteins in the Dutch Food System

Balancing Health, Environmental Sustainability, and Culture

This study aims to understand the benefits and challenges that come with the increasing popularity of (ultra-processed) plant-based foods and how they affect people, animals, and the environment.

Shareable Health Data Dashboard with a Use Case in Social Support for Grief Recovery

Computer and data scientists often imagine an ideal world where data insights are fully realized, privacy is absolute, and individuals have complete control over their data. Yet, today’s reality is far from this vision.

Annex C: Unusual Collaborations in 2024

All in the Same Boat

This project proposes to advance interdisciplinary integration within and among water security pillars to support Sustainable Development Goals and European Green Deal policies. Only with this integration can we secure water from raindrop to tap.

Better Wave than Worry

There are parallels between the early signals for disease development, virus spreading, and extreme weather occurrence. This project's mission is to identify the shared characteristics of such signals, and to assess their impact in a wider context, i.e. beyond our respective domains.

Plasticity: Here, there, everywhere

Plasticity as a concept is used in multiple academic fields ranging from neurobiology through history to continental philosophy. Can this concept, which resonates with resilience, identity and time, contribute to other scholarly fields that currently do not use it?

Playing with the Trouble

Playing games can open up spaces where participants can express and share how they experience the world. In an institutional context, games can help to explore different roles, perspectives, and rules, and expand collective imagination and agency.

Smart Food

This project aims to develop novel edible smart origami for programmed drug/nutrient release and treatment of the gastrointestinal system and consequently improve the lives of patients suffering from intestinal diseases, malnutrition/obesity.

Structures of Strength

This project revolves around creating a platform where a team of researchers from diverse fields to learn from each other and work together in order to combine their knowledge and create veritable solutions related to health, food, energy, cultural and environmental issues.

Annex D: UCo '24 handshake grants

Four teams were not drawn in the UCo '24 lottery and received a handshake grant: a small grant from the remainder of the lottery funds, allowing teams to continue some activities.

Dirty Work, Clean Future

With growing attention for labor shortages and employment conditions, an unsustainable form of employment is understudied: dirty work. This project aims to identify the factors that can help to shed light on issues of wellbeing that workers in these occupations experience.

Imagining More-than-Human Communities

Robots? What are they doing? Working? Or playing? And who decides? This project explores ways of imagining a more equitable community of humans and nonhumans and how to make it a reality in our everyday lives.

FAIR-Battery Challenge

The main goal of this project is to develop an open-source electrochemical battery technology that can be deployed and maintained in the field, for residential users, small scale commercial use, and rural health posts.

My Choice Matters

Join the mission to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and communicate research findings for a better tomorrow.