One necessary condition
of successfully continuing our existence
is the creation of an atmosphere of hope that
the huge problems now confronting us
can, in fact, be solved—and can
be solved in time.

**Margaret Mead, 1964**

Among the initiatives aimed at reversing our civilization's downward spiral, the Holotopia initiative stands out by facilitating a transformative shift towards a significantly improved human and societal condition, which we refer to as "whole". The ***holotopia paradigm prototype*** is being meticulously designed as a comprehensive toolkit or game set, encompassing all the essential components required for this transition.

*In this workshop, you'll have the unique opportunity to actively participate in its design process.*

ZHdK

Holotopia

WORKSHOP

# Unboxing Holotopia


**Dino Karabeg**
**Associate Professor Emeritus,**
**University of Oslo**

**Fredrik Eive Refsli**
**Associate Professor,**
**Kristiania Univ. of Applied Sc.**


8th–9th April 2026

—

Wind Tunnel

MA Transdisciplinary
Studies in the Arts

—

Züricher Hochschule
der Künste

At its core, the ***holotopia paradigm prototype*** presents a complete prototype of a ***transdisciplinary*** approach to knowledge—an innovative framework that fosters an increasingly profound connection between academia and society. *This integration enables both sectors to evolve towards a new paradigm.*

By embracing a ***transdisciplinary*** approach, the ***academy*** gains the capability to cultivate knowledge that has a profound impact on ethics and politics. This aligns with the visionary aspirations of Plato, the ***academy***'s founder.

By replacing "free choice" with informed decision-making, the ***transdisciplinary academy*** empowers society to progress towards a holistic condition, concretized as the ***holotopia vision***.

Read more
at holotopia.com:

# Workshop program

We encourage you to attend the full two-day workshop for the deeper understanding, but you may also choose specific modules to accommodate your personlal schedule.

We begin each module by introducing it's theme in a lecture. Then we facilitate a session where the participants contribute their own experiences, views and questions on a drafted "poster".

| | 10:00—11:30 | 12:30—14:00 | 14:30—16:00 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday 8th April | 1<br>*from* world in chaos<br>*to* **global thriving**<br>What distinguishes a radically improved human and societal condition? What actions can we take to achieve it? What resources do we have? This module will provide an overview of the holotopia paradigm prototype. | 2<br>*from* belief<br>*to* **knowledge**<br>In stark contrast to our understanding of natural processes, our comprehension of ourselves—with astonishing consistency—contradicts the evidence. This module will outline the transdisciplinary ontology, epistemology, and methodology that will enable us to rectify this misbalance. | 3<br>*from* materialism<br>*to* **cultural revival**<br>World traditions have developed valuable insights into our latent abilities. This module will demonstrate how the transdisciplinary approach to knowledge can lead to a Renaissance-like transformation by discussing concrete cases or prototypes. |
| Thursday 9th April | 4<br>*from* candles<br>*to* **lightbulbs**<br>The interconnected media we navigate daily was originally architected by Doug Engelbart to augment human intellect—a purpose far more ambitious than its current uses suggest. This module will delve into the synergy between new media and ***transdisciplinary*** academic work, drawing on concrete ***prototypes*** to illustrate the concept. | 5<br>*from* siloed disciplines<br>*to* **transdisciplinary arts**<br>A wealth of academic research and insights that challenge the cultural and societal status quo have failed to significantly impact public awareness and action. By integrating transdisciplinary science, transdisciplinary arts, and new information technology, we can empower academic knowledge to make the necessary difference. | 6<br>*from* naïve attempts<br>*to* **coordinated action**<br>While practicing almost any profession requires certain specific knowledge, politicians and global change-makers have not been provided with a suitable knowledge base. This module will explore the concrete steps we are taking to fulfill holotopia's core mission: to create a knowledge base and an information flow that will empower us to guide our society and its transformations based on evidence. |