



Don't Solve It, Re-Make It: Joint Problem Framing as Interdisciplinary Art

Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching UK | 16 April 2026 | University of Edinburgh
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Warning! The directory is not yet complete and will be amended until the beginning of the term.

180214 SE Systems thinking and interdisciplinarity for tackling wicked problems (2024W)

Many pressing societal issues (social and gender inequalities, migration, new technologies, climate change mitigation, etc.) turn out to be “**wicked problems**”: They seem impossible to solve due to their inherent complexity (many interdependent facets), uncertainty (crucial unknowns) and value divergence (disagreement/controversy/polarization). They involve diverse stakeholders, cut across various fields of knowledge, and span public and private spheres. This course provides a practical introduction to addressing wicked problems through **joint problem framing** in a **transformative learning** setting. It employs knowledge and tools from systems thinking and problem-focused inter- and transdisciplinarity.

Joint Problem Framing as Interdisciplinary Art

Main Design Principles:

1) *Process over product (realigning values)*

- Shift from performance-based to commitment-based course format

2) *Breaking habits and fostering extra-rational resources (epistemic shift)*

- Design activities and tools specifically to disrupt analytical and critical habits of thought to foster intuition, emotion, and imagination as essential epistemic resources

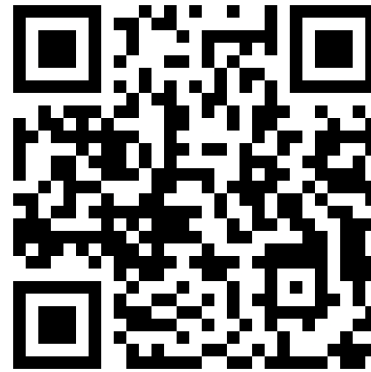
3) *Iterative design, continuous feedback & reflection (enactive loop)*

- Implement robust, continuous feedback loops over the whole course

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Thank you!

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