ARINA PHD COURSE

TRANSDISCIPLINARITY, RRI AND RADICAL INNOVATION

23rd-27th March 2026, in Bergen

Place: University of Bergen (Norway)

Date: Monday 23rd March (lunch) to Friday 27th March (12pm)

ECTS: 5

NEW link to registration form: here (https://skjemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=20497345)

Limited places: 15. Register at your earliest convenience!

For whom: Priority to PhD candidates on projects under the RCN Technology Convergence portfolio (TEKNOKONVERGENS). Other PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers in TEKNOKONVERGENS projects are also welcome. No need for previous knowledge on RRI or transdisciplinarity; we will start with participants' experiences with their own projects.

Programme and assignment: see below

Preparatory readings: will be sent out in February 2026

Own funds: participants have to organise and cover their own trip to and stay in Bergen

Teaching team: Anne Blanchard, Roger Strand and invited contributors (NN)

Questions: Anne Blanchard - anne.blanchard@uib.no

More information on ARINA: here

Welcome to the first ARINA PhD course on transdisciplinarity, RRI and radical innovation!

This 5 ECTS PhD course provides an introduction to transdisciplinarity, Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and the concept of radical innovation in the context of technology convergence projects. Starting from participants' own research projects, the course discusses the governance of technoscience, tensions between responsibility and innovation, and the practical challenges of collaboration between academia, industry, government and civil society. Through interactive lectures, group work and individual reflections, participants will map the actor networks of their own projects, discuss notions of innovation, ethical and social responsibility, and the role of inter- and transdisciplinarity. The course combines a 2-hour digital pre-meeting (6th March), a one-week PhD course in Bergen, and a final assignment.

Before the meeting, participants send around a 1-2 page text where they describe their project and identify where innovation sits in their project (in processes, new technology, methods, partnerships, etc.). Then, they mention 2-3 tensions that they currently experience in their project (time, measurable outcomes, guidelines, collaboration (within and outside their project), supervision...)

During the pre-meeting:
- Welcome, introduce ARINA, the course and expectations
- Begin from the participants' texts on projects and experiences. Round of project introductions and stories of innovation, responsibility and tensions
- Introduction to some concepts: what is actually innovation? Responsibility? 'Transdisciplinarity? How are these linked?

PhD course, 23rd-27th March, in Bergen
Brief outline

Day	Time	Session
Monday 23rd March	12:00-13:00	Lunch and welcome
	13:00-15:00	Why govern science and innovation? Setting the scene
Tuesday 24th March	09:00-12:00	Wicked, real-world problems
	12:00-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-15:00	Transdisciplinarity: definition, practice and challenges
Wednesday 25th March	09:00-12:00	RRI: frameworks, opportunities and tensions
	12:00-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-15:00	Continuing the morning session
Thursday 26th March	09:00-12:00	Innovation theory / radical innovation
	12:00-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-15:00	Innovation theory / radical innovation + participants finalise their project maps
Friday 27th March	09:00-12:00	Participants' presentations and final reflections Course ends at 12:00

Assignment

(1) A actors' network project map
Participants will draw a map of their project, visualising the actors, knowledges, institutions, tensions, collaborations, etc. The map should show:
- Where is innovation: outcomes, promises, risks, who benefits / who is disadvantaged...
- Where is transdisciplinarity (if at all present?): collaborations, different knowledges, actors, values, agendas...
- Where is RRI: anticipation, reflexivity, engagement, responsiveness, preparedness

(2) An essay based on the map (ca. 3000 words), where the participant discusses
- 2-3 key tensions related to RRI in their project
- Where these tensions are situated (definitions, temporalities, evaluation, institutions, etc.);
- How transdisciplinarity might reframe or help navigate these tensions (what collaborations might be needed)

Evaluation: pass/fail, based on:
- Mandatory preparation work
- Attendance and active participation in digital pre-meeting and PhD course
- Quality of the map (clarity, comprehensiveness, reflexivity)
- Quality of the essay, in particular the ability to (i) articulate course concepts and project experience; and (ii) make tensions visible

Learning outcomes

Upon completing this course, the candidate should:

Knowledge
- Explain core concepts of RRI, transdisciplinarity and innovation theory, and understand how they relate to each other
- Identify ethical, social and epistemic tensions that arise in convergence-oriented research and innovation projects
- Understand how care and alternative framings of innovation can inform responsible research and innovation practices

Skills
- Analyse one's own research project using concepts from RRI, transdisciplinarity and innovation theory
- Map relevant actors, knowledges and institutions in a project, and identify where tensions, collaborations, uncertainties and value conflicts are located

General competence
- Reflect critically one's own role and responsibilities in complex transdisciplinary innovation settings