Transformation as praxis: Exploring socially just and transdisciplinary pathways to sustainability in marginal environments (TAPESTRY)

*Nobuhito Ohte¹, Lyla Mehta², Synne Movik³, Devanathan Parthasarathy⁴

1. Department of Social Informatics, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University, 2. Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, 3. Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, 4. Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology

Climate change related uncertainties are the main threats to the sustainability of societies and their environments. To tackle these challenges, systemic transformations are required. Our project focuses on three cases of transformation in marginal environments in India and Bangladesh, and is concerned with: How transformation happens through bottom up processes in these sites; and how they can be scaled up and facilitate wider societal changes. Both require transdisciplinary co-production and the praxis of transformation which presupposes change in social arrangements and reconstruction by individuals. Our project addresses issues concerning governance, wellbeing, identity and quality of life in relation to transformations to sustainability in a lower middle income country (India) and a least developed country (Bangladesh). Our results should help inform processes that ultimately improve the quality of life in marginal environments, and build action and capacity among all partners.

Keywords: Transformation, Sustainability, Marginal environment, Transdisciplinary study, India, Bangladesh