

Building high-performing interdisciplinary teams

Outline and agenda

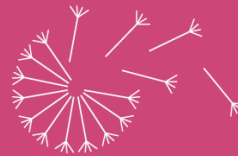
Half-day (3-hour) session:

Virtual delivery

training@fasttrackimpact.com

Fast Track Impact

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Delivered from 2025 by the Institute for Methods Innovation,
a registered non-profit organisation.

Course description

Learn how to build high-performing interdisciplinary teams with a researcher who has led tens of interdisciplinary teams in projects worth many millions, that have led to internationally important impacts. This highly interactive session challenges conventional wisdom, which focuses on research interests and skills but leads to highly qualified but ultimately dysfunctional teams. Instead, consider the deep dynamics of interdisciplinary team building, considering how personalities, ways of knowing (“epistemologies”) and values interact to produce teams of people who work effectively and enjoyably together. As part of the session, you will receive an electronic copy of the second edition of [The Research Impact Handbook](#).

Key benefits:

- Explore the deep dynamics of high-performing interdisciplinary teams through a series of paired, individual and group exercises that explore how personalities, epistemologies and values interact in interdisciplinary teams
- Explore ways to build teams slowly, creatively and safely
- Gain practical skills in the development of interdisciplinary writing circles
- Learn methods to build more compassionate team cultures

At the end of the workshop:

- Receive slides and links to free resources to help you embed impact in your research.
- You have the option to make a commitment to an action based on the course and receive a follow-up email from Prof Reed to check in and help as necessary after a month.
- Prof Reed continues to answer all questions from participants via email after the course, guaranteeing a response to all questions within one week.

Indicative agenda

Start: 09:30 am (20-minute break included)

Part 1: Principles for building high-performing interdisciplinary teams

- Paired exercise: choose an object from your desk or room that says something about you, and share a story about the object with your partner
- Individual exercise (in the chat): what did you learn about your partner?
- Group mural exercise: ways to build teams slowly, creatively and safely
- Personalities, epistemologies and values – the deep dynamics of successful teams
- Case studies of what can go wrong – and right

Part 2: Values for building high-performing interdisciplinary teams

- Plenary discussion:
 - What are the sorts of personalities, epistemologies and values can you work effectively with?
 - What practical ways can you get to know people before you commit to working with them in a team?
- Individual task: epistemological beliefs questionnaire
- Plenary discussion
- What do you love most about your job? Five whys...
 - Worked example with a volunteer
 - Paired exercise
- Plenary discussion: what have you learned about the deep dynamics of team building?

Part 3: Tools for building high-performing interdisciplinary teams

- How to convene a high-performing, interdisciplinary writing circle
- The super-power of high-performing teams: how to create a compassion culture
- Plenary discussion

Close: 12:30 pm

About Fast Track Impact

[Fast Track Impact](#) is an international training platform, delivered by the [Institute for Methods Innovation](#), a non-profit organisation. Its mission is to change the way busy researchers generate and share knowledge so that their ideas can change the world and they can get their thinking time back.

Fast Track Impact runs training for researchers from every discipline, from PhD students to Professors, from departmental away days to cross-institution training days. It has trained 15,000+ researchers from more than 200 institutions in 55 countries.

About the trainer



Professor Mark Reed

Prof Reed works with rural communities to enhance the governance of natural and agri-food systems, and his research on impact is changing the way researchers around the world generate and share knowledge so they can change the world. Mark is the Co-Director of the Thriving Natural Capital Challenge Centre and Professor of Rural Entrepreneurship at SRUC, Research Lead for the IUCN UK Peatland Programme and Co-Chair of UNEP's Global Peatland Initiative Research Working Group.

The goal of the centre he co-directs is to build and study new ecosystem markets that can significantly increase funding to meet net zero targets and reverse biodiversity decline, while supporting thriving rural communities. Prof Reed was one of the original architects of the Peatland Code and sits on its Executive Board, helping to channel private investment into peatland restoration across the UK. He is working with teams to develop ecosystem markets for soil carbon from regenerative agriculture, saltmarsh restoration and agroforestry, and he is working closely with Defra and the Scottish Government to design the policy and governance frameworks necessary to facilitate high-integrity ecosystem markets.

Prof Reed is the author of four books, including *The Research Impact Handbook* and *Impact Culture*, and has written some of the most highly-cited papers on stakeholder engagement. He uses this evidence to train researchers around the world to use their work for social good. Prof Reed has over 200 publications on environmental governance and impact with over half of these in the top 10% most-cited worldwide. He has led over 20 projects, worth more than £4.5M and contributed to over 30 other projects.