**Type of Contribution: PhD FORUM**

**Transdisciplinary knowledge organization: An explorative strategy to map perspectival ambiguity**

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**Keywords: transdisciplinarity, knowledge organization, pluriperspectivism**

# Introduction

This submission introduces the methodological approach used in a thesis which aims to conceptualize transdisciplinary knowledge organization (KO) for the field of bioethics based on a new look at the idea of a viewpoint warrant. The foundations of the thesis stem from the critique of traditional approaches to KO which are strictly based in disciplinary perspectives. In the last 25 years many authors have pointed to this problem, specifically demanding multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to KO (e. g. Hjørland i Albrechtsen, 1995; Gnoli, 2008; García Gutiérrez, 2014; Kleineberg, 2014; Albrechtsen, 2015; Lopez-Huertas, 2015; Szostak, Gnoli i Lopez-Huertas, 2016). A distinctive characteristic of this critique is the evocation of the concept of perspectives (e.g. Gnoli, 2008; Kaipainen i Hautamäki, 2011; García Gutiérrez, 2014; Kleineberg, 2014; Lopez-Huertas, 2015; Szostak, Gnoli i Lopez-Huertas, 2016). Referring to Claire Beghtol’s concept of the viewpoint warrant according to which no single represented perspective should be given primacy, Gnoli (2008) explains this evocation: “Users of a system should be allowed to switch between different viewpoints, both to choose their preferred one, and to explore how related knowledge is expressed from different perspectives” (p. 142). These foundations of the thesis stem from the critique of the domination of disciplinary perspectives and the idea that we have to address scientific monoperspectivism by representation of a higher complexity of the world which warrants the ability to look at knowledge from a number of different perspectives. However, Szostak, Gnoli & Lopez-Huertas (2016) stipulated that to achieve this one first has to determine how much perspectival ambiguity there is in different studied knowledge domains. This thesis will focus on the domain of bioethics where the specific conceptualization of integrative bioethics forms the need for a pluri-perspectivistic KO which approaches bioethical topics with intent to integratively preserve the pluralism of perspectives that contribute to a full characterization of different bioethical phenomena i.e. pluriperspectivistically.

**Methodology**

From the problem statement several research questions are derived:

1. How do we define the viewpoint warrant in transdisciplinary KO?
2. How much perspectival ambiguity is there in the field of bioethics?
3. Can a consensus be reached about the nature of this ambiguity?

The author will expand on the proposed methodology to answer these research questions. Proposed methodology consists of:

* a conceptual analysis of the concept of viewpoint warrant in order to elaborate its definition in the context of transdisciplinary KO, and in order to map the role of relevant concepts in its definition like: transdisciplinary knowledge, perspectives, knowledge integration, pluriperspectivism etc.;
* a bibliometrical and content analysis of literature in the field of integrative bioethics to create a prototype system of relationships between studied bioethical phenomena, explored perspectives and characteristics of documents they are affiliated with;
* a study of consensus of experts by using the Delphi method in order to submit the constructed prototype for validation which will be based upon group consensus of its exhaustiveness and appropriatness of term respresentation.

**Expected outcomes**

This thesis will show how the definition of the viewpoint warrant changes if considered in the context of transdisciplinary KO; offer a novel approach to map perspectival ambiguity in specific knowledge domains; and create an applicable approach for resource description in the field of integrative bioethics.

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