MANIFESTO FOR INTER- AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

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Abstract:
The technological effervescence of today and tomorrow, the need for interconnection of sciences or the scale of phenomena such as globalization or universalism, already "settled" in the "echo" of the consciousness of the last generations, "awaken" in us, researchers, the desire to "reset" and rethink the act of creation but also the need to look "with different lenses" everything around us. This "metamorphosis" of socio-economic reality seems to "reveal" and "complete" what we today call interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity, in the idea of interweaving different ideas, from different fields, which are not excluded and which do not generate "a source of disorder" in science, but reconfigure the conceptual boundaries of disciplines and research.
Our research focuses on observing the phenomenon of inter- and transdisciplinarity in research, being inspired in turn by the writings of great researchers with affinity and openness to this vision.
Keywords: *interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research, interference between branches of law, artificial intelligence, new branches of law and human rights.*

Introduction

"*By definition, there can be no transdisciplinary experts, only researchers with a transdisciplinary attitude. Transdisciplinary research can only be based on the various activities of art, poetry, philosophy, symbolic thinking, science and tradition, themselves understood in their multiplicity and diversity. They can lead to new freedoms of mind, thanks to transhistorical or transreligious studies, for example, to new concepts such as transnationality or to new transpolitical practices, inaugurating a transdisciplinary education and ecology*" [1].

Research, the sacred act of innovation, of the "sweat" of interpreting and deciphering the mysteries and "high notes" of science and sciences, claims its right to reset, to rethink the way words, interpretations or theories are born, researchers increasingly advocating the transdisciplinarity approach, defined by what is between, above and beyond any discipline. If we accept the idea of transdisciplinarity, we realize, in fact, the complexity of this "legislative world" but also the subtle links between disciplines, reconfigured more and more by the presence of artificial intelligence in our lives. Entering the realm of interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity reflects nothing but the need to adapt to the diversity and dynamism of developments, "mutations" and global challenges.

As stated in the Paris Declaration of 2-6 December 1991, "*the challenge of transdisciplinarity is to generate a civilization on a planetary scale that, consolidated through an intercultural dialogue, opens itself to the singularity of each individual and to the integrality of human being*".

Temporal incursion

"*How could we reach the heart of old and new cultures if we ignore, discard and/or silence their symbols, messages, creations and stories with which they captured and wanted to reveal and evoke their most beautiful deeds and ideals, as well as their violence, fears and deepest passions*?" So beautifully captures and dresses the late Pope Francisc this idea of maintaining the connection between all that has been said and all that will be said, between everything that researchers or writers have tried to "hide" in their words, and everything that we, researchers, today strive to "educate" hearts and minds, moving in the direction of "a free and humble exercise of our own rationality, of the fertile recognition of the pluralism of human languages, of the growth of our own human sensitivity, and, finally, of a greater spiritual openness to hear the voice through so many voices". [2].

Origins of *interdisciplinarity* are placed in the 1920s, in the United States, at which time the Social Science Research Council was created, with a view to promoting research targeting multiple disciplines. Thus, interdisciplinary programs were initially used in the

USA, being taken over by the UK and expanded as Bachelor's and Master's specializations and subsequently initiated throughout the European Community. [3]

Also, an important role in promoting interdisciplinarity was played by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), established in the United States of America, which elaborated in 1964 a list of fundamental concepts common to sciences in order to enrich the curriculum [4]. At the same time, UNESCO has played a key role in promoting the principle of interdisciplinarity, initiating at the beginning of the seventh decade projects based on integrated sciences.

A prominent epsiod in promoting interdisciplinarity was also represented by the report published in 1972 by the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), structure of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a report that triggered a joint international effort in this direction, going on the idea of preserving the disciplinary identity, but without rejecting certain forms of conceptual, methodological integration, by addressing the following definition: "*Interdisciplinarity is an adjective that describes the interaction between two or more disciplines. This interaction can go from the simple communication of ideas to the mutual integration of organizing concepts, methodology, procedures, epistemology, terminology, data and the organization of research and education from a wide field of study. An interdisciplinary research group consists of people with training in different disciplines, with different concepts, methods and data, organized in a joint effort around a common problem, based on permanent communication*". [5]

Under the aegis of the OECD, many international conferences on the advantages, disadvantages of interdisciplinary research were conducted, working seminars were held in prestigious universities, activities that gradually led to the shaping and development of the principle of interdisciplinarity, the interdisciplinary route characterizing the peak of modern science and the revival of the educational system. [6]

The interest in promoting the approach of interdisciplinary education and research has also intensified through the establishment of organizations such as Association for Integrative Studies - AIS, International Association for the Study of Interdisciplinary Research - INTERSTUDY, Center for the Study of Higher Education, etc., made up of members from governments, industry, business area, specialists in various fields co-

opted from universities, which have focused on strengthening the methodology, interdisciplinary research strategies and approach of an interdisciplinary curriculum within the educational system.

Regarding transdisciplinarity, its foundations were laid in the framework of the Venice Colloquium, entitled "*Science and the Boundaries of Knowledge: the Prologue of Our Cultural Past*" and organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Giorgio Cini Foundation on March 3-7, 1986 [7], at which point the idea was promoted that scientific research and knowledge have reached the point where a dialogue with other forms of knowledge can begin. Thus, the urgency of a truly transdisciplinary research was put at the forefront through a dynamic exchange between the "exact" sciences, the "human" sciences, art and tradition, such a transdisciplinary approach being inscribed in our own brain through the dynamic interaction between its two hemispheres. In this regard, the researchers concluded that "*the joint study of nature and imagination, of the universe and of man, could thus bring us closer to the dimension of the "real" and allow us to better face the various challenges of our time*".

The ideas of the transdisciplinary vision were consolidated at the Congress of "Science and tradition: transdisciplinary perspectives, openings towards the 21st century", held in Paris and organized by UNESCO from 2 to 6 December 1991, at which time it was proposed to build a new scientific and cultural approach -transdisciplinarity. [8] The ideas resulting from this Congress were translated into a declaration, called *The Paris Declaration,* UNESCO, 2-6 December 1991, in which it was noted that "*transdisciplinarity does not seek to build any kind of syncretism between science and tradition: the methodology of modern science is radically different from the practices of tradition. Transdisciplinarity is looking for points of view from which we can make them interactive. It seeks spaces of thought that value their unity while respecting their differences, especially thanks to a renewed conception of nature*".

The year 2025 marked 31 years of existence of the Charter of Transdisciplinarity, an immense joy and satisfaction for researchers thirsty for transdisciplinary vision. The Charter of Transdisciplinarity, adopted at the First World Congress of Trandisciplinarity, Convento da Arrábida, Portugal, 2-6 November 1994, promotes the idea of opening all disciplines to what they have in common and to what lies beyond their borders, in the

hope that a higher degree of analysis is reached, capable of interpreting the planetary complex dimension, so that humanity can face the contemporary danger of the material and spiritual self-destruction of our species, as affirmed by the researchers who promote and create through the filter of transdisciplinarity.[9] This document, developed by the greatest thinkers of the contemporary world, paved the way for numerous studies and made a huge contribution to the evolution of scientific research worldwide. Its rapporteurs were Lima de Freitas, Edgar Morin and Basarab Nicolescu. In order to achieve this goal, Basarab Nicolescu highlighted "*three pillars of transdisciplinarity - levels of reality, logic and complexity, which determine the methodology of transdisciplinary research*".

Thus, the promoters of transdisciplinarity invoke the interconnection between things, sciences but also complexity, in the sense that besides the analysis of the object itself, other aspects of the object are taken into account, namely the global context, the multidimensional, which in no case exhausts the object of research and does not cancel the disciplinary research, but offers a richer analysis when the elements of analysis are positioned in a complementary relationship.

In the spirit of promoting transdisciplinarity, Centre International de Recherces et d'Etudes Transdisciplinaires - CIRET [10] was also established, elaborating in collaboration with UNESCO "*The Transdisciplinary Evolution of the University"*, project whose foundations were consolidated in the International Conference "*Which University for Tommorow?*" in 1997. This is the moment that "seeded" in the vision of the great academicians the idea and the need to create an educational system based also on the transdisciplinary approach, being promoted the establishment of transdisciplinary research workshops and the elaboration of doctoral theses that aim to transpose the principles of the Transdisciplinarity Charter.[11] Moreover, CIRET constantly organizes conferences dedicated to world peace, education, spirituality and energy, through the immense potential of transdisciplinarity, through every contribution, every collaboration and every dialogue, this organization demonstrating its commitment to a more united, empathetic and, hopefully, wiser world.[12]

We must also consider *World Transdisciplinary Network*, at whose World Congress, personalities from all over the world, manage to introduce in the same "mixer" of analysis and research, peace, the universe, the human spirit, the human being,

biosphere, intelligence, culture, art and the perspective of the future. Thus, in a transdisciplinary dialogue that starts from a global vision of the human being, specialists manage to consolidate solid bridges between science, law, morals or faith, the law coexisting with all aspects and phenomena of socio-economic life.

Law remains a humanistic science, which evolves at the same time as people, by creating “channels” of coexistence with sociology, psychology, history, philosophy, morals and even religion. Moreover, the preamble of The Book of Transdisciplinarity reinforces the idea of a double belonging of the human being, namely, to a nation, but also to the Earth, this last aspect outlining the universal values and the need for balance in which the human being must find himself/herself with them. Let us therefore give the law the “right” to penetrate into all aspects of life, so that life in all its forms, nature, animals, human beings, enjoy respect, evolution and protection, the legal norms representing the “business car” of humanity. It is from them that our spiritual and moral values, as well as the degree of civilization reached, emerge.

The boundary between interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity. “Plea” for new research visions

If disciplinary research is characterized by “scientific rigidity”, the interdisciplinary approach stimulates innovation, creativity, the ability to analyze and connect concepts and ideas from different, even contrasting perspectives, developing new research areas that correspond to current social, economic and political interests.[13]

We must start from the premise that law is a dynamic phenomenon, constantly resized by the social, historical, cultural, moral, political and economic context, which gradually renounces the status of an autonomous, closed system, moving towards an open, integrative, interdisciplinary system, specific features. In fact, our century is a century of complexity. This vision is based on actual reality, complexity being “a state of the natural, social, human world”.[14]

Moreover, man is by nature a complex human being, which evolves in an even more complex world, which imposes an overall, integrative perspective but also a capacity to synthesize, in order to adapt and achieve a balance between the needs of the human being, the society regarded as a single whole with the specific implications of economic,

legislative, social, political, administrative, but also the environment characterized by its own universal rules. In this sense, we could refer to M. Djuvara who stated that “all history, all past, all social forces, language, economy, industry, trade, agriculture, politics, moral and scientific conceptions, compete to exert a strong influence on legal evolution, just as law exerts a strong influence on their evolution”. [15]

The research involves a rigorous path of knowledge, starting from the deepening of the disciplinary type, segmented, to understand the essence, then following the multidisciplinary, pluridisciplinary approach, juxtaposition of information, respectively interdisciplinary approach, which offers that integrative vision, synthesizing, up to transdiciplinarity, which involves overcoming disciplinary boundaries and the ability to work with concepts, theories or methodologies that are not actually specific to any discipline, branch. This high level of knowledge actually offers the opportunity to be able to respond in a favorable way to such complex global challenges.

The border between interdisciplinarity and transdiciplinarity is almost imperceptible, extremely “fine” in nuance.

The interdisciplinarity of scientific research creates a multiplication of perspectives, resulting in fragmentation of branches of law, cohesion with other sciences, setting up new institutions of law, new branches, ensuring a complex research of legal phenomena in an attempt to shape an all-encompassing legal order, capable of adapting to the dynamics of social, economic, administrative, environmental, health, etc.realities, triggers of the legal mechanism.

Basically, in the interdisciplinary approach, strict boundaries of different sciences, institutions are ignored and common aspects of different objects of study are identified, disciplinary boundaries are thus blurred.

Transdisciplinarity transcends all boundaries and creates bridges between people and disciplines.[16] This remains the highest degree of integration of the sciences, reaching the perfect merging between them and the “multifaceted” of the object subject to research until its integration and “disintegration” in the complex reality determined by the social, economic, political or cultural context.

Transdisciplinarity does not claim to be a hyper-science or a science of all sciences, but defends the existence of a unity of science that is achieved through

articulation between the plurality of research areas and the establishment of a true network in which each discipline retains its autonomy, but participates in a larger unity that represents the complex system.[17]

In a realm of the analytical approach, we tend to start from the premise that transdisciplinarity represents an abstract, purely theoretical, philosophical notion, but we cannot deny its profound, marked imprint on society in general, man by his nature being a complex human being, who lives, creates, builds and evolves in a world “hit by the magnitutdine of challenges”.

Moreover, new technologies, which subtly and surely penetrate everything that means legislation, economy, business environment, education, research fields and disciplines, certainly “unravel” the road to transdisciplinarity, [18] phenomenon capable of creating the necessary bridges between science, law and morals or faith, through a comprehensive view of reality.

We must also take into account the fact that at present the resonances of AI on research are revolutionary, inciting researchers to develop new methods or to combine them in an innovative way to “overturn” the paradigms of the science of law and to be fully consonant with the revolutionary trend of digital transformation, abundant in quantum computing software and applications.

For example, in the same “tones” of inter- and transdisciplinary research, researchers are increasingly talking about *jurimetry* [19], which comes from *jus, juris*-law, respectively *metrum*-measure, a method that involves the analysis of legal phenomena in relation to mathematics and statistical data, practically competing with AI, capable of storing huge amounts of data and instantly making statistics based on algorithms.

In any case, law is in itself a science, [20] and not just a documentation and interpretation activity, each “work” of jurisprudential or doctrinal nature contributing to the development of positive law, the stakes of scientific research being more complex and adapted to the new realities.

The research of today and tomorrow claims an analysis passed through the filter of the challenges of the globalized world, achieving “a nodal point”, a binder, between the object subject to research and its “anchoring” in the socio-economic reality, according to

the principle of “sphere in sphere”, the law being “a living instrument”, “shaped” and “reshaped” permanently by the given context.

Reconfiguration of traditional branches of law under the “impulse” of inter- and transdisciplinarity

The social and economic realities are constantly “reshaping” the normative form, the real context imprinting a slow or sudden transformation in the legal content, through fragmentation of branches of law, their mergers or break-up of some law institutions that gradually substantiate their status as a branch of law based on their own principles, procedures and resources.

Interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity are only answers to the diversity of changes, and the “decompartmentalization”, the “decomposition” of a discipline or even the “assembly” of a new one, are inevitable effects of globalization and interdependencies generated more recently by technological innovations, the law being after all “a living instrument”, having to adapt to the constantly changing realities.

In fact, disciplines interact in time and space, generating new disciplines, branches and fields of knowledge that involve many social, economic, technological, ecological, political, legislative factors, etc.

The traditional branches of law are gradually reconfigured, oscillating between fragmentation and fusion, which determines the emergence of new disciplines, fields, legal institutions, inevitably creating “bridges” between the legal sciences and auxiliary sciences through connections, transfers of concepts, ideas, methods and techniques of analysis, interrelations, interference, imposed by the exigencies of the legal approach in shaping the set of legal norms that retain their identity.

Law has been explored in all its hypostases, starting from the fundamental division, public law - private law, traditional division of legal systems that retain their actuality, followed by multiple ramifications under the impact of external factors. Thus, legal regulations have expanded and continue to expand in the most diverse areas of life, constituting branch legal sciences, such as civil law, commercial law, criminal law, administrative law, constitutional law, etc., branches that have fragmented in their turn into law institutions (Special contracts, Main rights in rem, Obligations, Administrative act,

Insolvency, etc.), legal orders, fragmentation continuing to produce other “legal pieces”, [21] and smaller ones of analysis, studied and in-depth individually.

In the tumult of this normative flow emerged sciences ancillary to the legal sciences, which, however, participate equally in the research of the legal phenomenon and its concrete application, namely: legal sociology, legal ethnology, legal anthropology, legal logic, legal psychology, legal economics, legal informatics, etc., these representing, in fact, interdisciplinary sciences. Therefore, law cannot remain singular in its approach, since it interferes with numerous other sciences and creates connections, interference, transfers of concepts, manifesting itself in diversity, from which it cannot evade and by virtue of which it oscillates between unification and specialization.

Perhaps fragmentation gradually produced a phenomenon of absolutization of research by approaching a complex perspective. However, many legal institutions have managed to define themselves and create their own rules and principles, thereby breaking away from a particular branch of law and gradually claiming the title of branch of law. Such examples are: electoral law, detached from constitutional law, environmental law, public health law, urbanism law, detached from administrative law or maritime law, negotiable instrument law, transport law, competition law, insolvency law, detached from commercial law.

Moreover, “crossing” the traditional jurisdictions, the legal norm has undergone new “constructions” due to interference with international, Union norms of law, the birth of international law, European Union Law, Corporate Law, international arbitration, cross-border insolvency, etc.

The complex research of legal phenomena is the one that ensures the dimension of synthesis and deepening, by exceeding the level provided by the branch sciences.[22]

The boundary between a branch of law and an institution can often be imperceptible, which is a controversial topic in the literature. The shaping of a new legal discipline, or even of a real branch of the legal system, knows a thorough and long-term path, such as that of the insolvency institution, which gradually manages to impose itself with a new status, going beyond the stage of a legal institution crowned by the provisions of the Commercial Code, with its repeal and the entry into force of the New Civil Code, a

revolutionary moment that marked the affirmation and evolution of special, particular rights.

We must admit that gradually new branches of law will be born, one of them being certainly the law of artificial intelligence, the start of testing such a "coagulation" of regulations being given by French professors researchers of the University of Paris and Sorbonne [23], meaning in which they declared it as a stand-alone law, built by virtue of their own principles and institutions of operation that touches areas such as ethics, persons law, liability and insurance law, autonomous vehicles, justice, criminal law, intellectual property, personal data, labour law, health law, military law, administrative decision-making and cyber security, blockchain, civilian drones and even international law.

New branches of law and new rights that "revolve" around the hard core of AI (artificial intelligence) regulations

Around the hard core of AI (artificial intelligence) regulations, outlined by *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence* [24] and *Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights*, [25] as the first international treaty on AI, new branches of law or special rights related to robotics, autonomous vehicles will gradually emerge. These two normative acts, one related to the Union and another international, which have merged, we would say, into the "hard core" of AI law, foreshadow new milestones, stimulate the consolidation of new human rights and open horizons to a new world legal order, which will mark human existence in the coming period. The mission of law will be to adapt at a rapid pace to the new metamorphoses of the legal equation.

All these "metamorphoses" of rights will generate, will foreshadow new principles and concepts, new challenges in rethinking the "world of law subjects", new challenges in shaping other categories of human rights, such as "*the human right to the beneficial use of artificial intelligence*", "*the primal right to existence of man as a species among species*" and new interferences between the branches of law, the researchers foretelling the birth of a new branch of law, that of AI, as a multidisciplinary scientific discipline. [26]

Preserving the “picture” of these emerging interdependencies that cause a reassessment of how domains and disciplines influence each other, researchers [27] speak of a new branch of law called *international corporate governance law*, particularly targeting the interference of digital transformations with transnational businesses, society and the environment. In this sense, corporate governance is no longer so far from international law, but penetrates law into the midst of legal, political and societal phenomena of visible interference. Such a path could have, why not, also the development of a *digital economy law*.

Therefore, law is forced to conceptualize new links, to contribute to the evolutionary actions of the economic-social system, to face different forms of crisis, all branches of law being permanently “connected” to the same circuit although they can function autonomously. The lack of a permanent connection to socio-economic evolution would cause legal norms to remain without form and meaning.

It is obvious that the fourth scientific-technical revolution, which outlined a new reality, a reality of humanoid robots, of Metaverse or quantum computing, but also the new context of geostrategic re-establishment, generated by demondialization and the creation of new power poles, triggered the need of society to adapt quickly to this complex picture by identifying the “new legal”, well “articulated and coagulated” so as not to “slip” into the abyss of the chaos of humanity.

This “new legal construct”, this normative corpus “unveiled” by the reality generated by AI, was also debated at the last Action Summit on AI which was held on 10-11 February 2025 in Paris, during which Paris became the “world capital of artificial intelligence”, through the induced orientation and the positions expressed laying the foundations of the global governance in the matter and shaping, at the same time, the continental legal model, which becomes the founding core of the law of artificial intelligence, a law based on its own principles and functioning institutions, which will in turn generate the crystallization of new branches of law. [28]

The world AI Summit in Paris created the favorable context for the conclusion of the *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* and affirmed and reinforced the importance of the legal dimension in “mastering”

and keeping under the control of humanity of AI (r)evolution, through everything that means international law, humanitarian law, human rights.

However, extremely radical mutations of law are looming, the last years being evidence of an “avalanche” of regulations and a “technologization” of law. And here we consider *Digital Service Act, Digital Market Act* or *AI Act*, an ambitious strategic plan for the development of a regulation on quantum chips - *EU Quantum Chips Act*, [29] all these legal instruments being of the type *hard law* and no *soft law*, which once again reinforces the importance and urgency of such less flexible regulations in implementation and application through transposition at national level. The new regulations underline the need for a global reflection on the interference between AI and international law, intellectual property law, consumer protection, but above all interference with humanitarian law and human rights.

At the same time, let’s not forget that on 22 September 2024 the UN General Assembly adopted *The Global Digital Compact* [30] as part of *The Pact for the Future*, together with the Declaration on Future Generations, setting out the objective principles and general actions to be taken to ensure an open and secure digital future centered on the human being, aligned with the UN Programs and Charter.

Moreover, new fundamental rights such as digital rights, neurorights, digital human rights in the context of AI challenges, the human right to the beneficial use of atificial intelligence, the primary right to existence of man as a species among species, the right to security from the risks of AI technologies, the human right and responsibility to control an AI [31], the right to a sustainable AI [32], the need to reconfigure traditional branches and institutions of law being increasingly present in doctrinaire and jurisprudential concerns.

It will require a constant creative effort, “articulated” by the given context, on a “changing terrain” of legal norms in a process of “remodeling”, resetting and multiplying. In fact, the last few months have triggered a real legislative inflation under the “domination” of AI.

Conclusions

"*Who truly learns to see, approaches the invisible*!" [33]

We have to overcome the narrow framework of monodisciplinarity in favour of innovation and creation "reborn" from transdisciplinary approaches, this being the new reality in which legislation is emerging and reforming.

It is said that once you connect to "this frequency of research", it becomes part of the way of looking at the world around you, it becomes part of your way of being, it becomes a "way of life" of the researcher and why not, a way of life of the student, Master dtudent, Doctoral student and subsequently, the professional, who will seek "intensity and colour" in the subjects studied and thus deepened in a holistic manner, by integrating any idea into the absolute.

This high and refined level of knowledge is becoming the answer to increasingly complex global challenges. The transdisciplinary vision is felt, not imposed, it is discovered and gradually sedimented, through the inevitable acquisition of a new attitude towards research and knowledge. We must give that space to the complexity of human nature in its dimension, which is not only rational, but also emotional.

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