New ERC Starting Grant research project on transformative modes of knowledge production and values mobilization for sustainability transformation
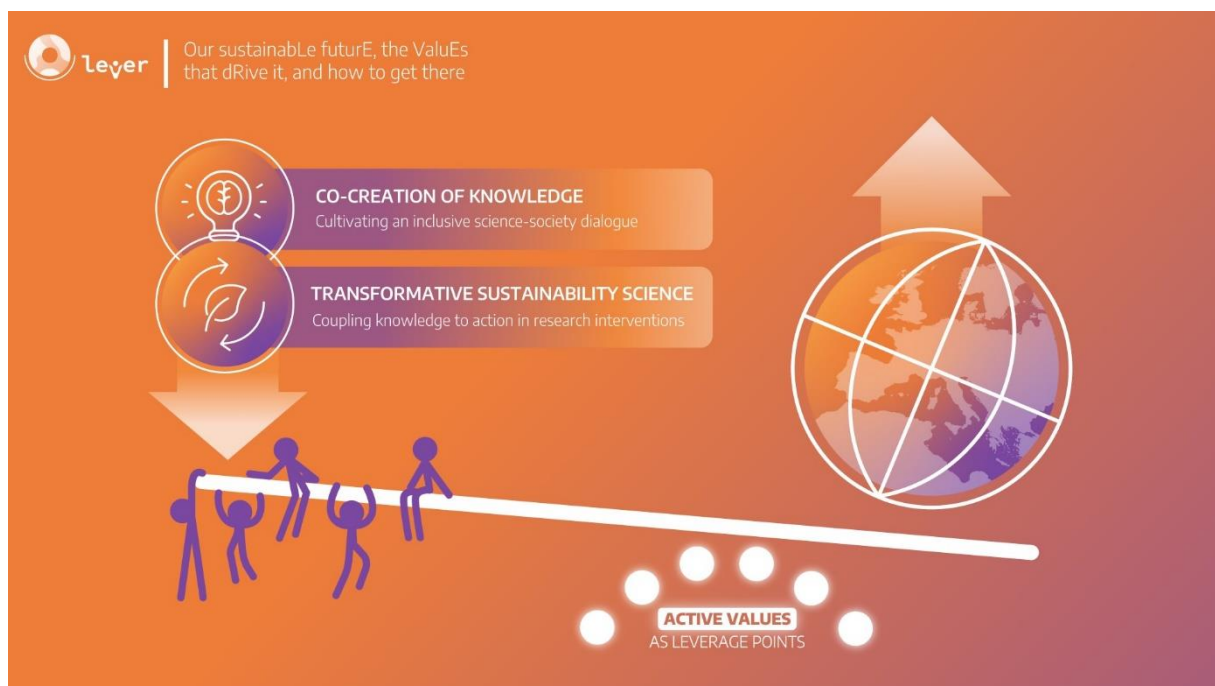
LEVER

Our sustainabLe futurE, the ValuEs that dRive it, and how to get there

1 Postdoc and 3 PhD positions coming soon – we are seeking expressions of interest now

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About Lever

Dominant research modes are not enough to respond to current sustainability crises. Between studying change and contributing to change, sustainability science seeks both to analytically understand sustainability problems, but also to design interventions that can contribute solution-options to these problems. However, most of the sustainability research to date has largely focused on descriptive-analytical knowledge. Knowledge about how to intervene in order to reach a desirable vision (i.e., transformation knowledge) is typically missing.

lever seeks to develop the theory and practice of how to conduct research that purposefully supports sustainability transformation, with a special focus on how to activate sustainability-aligned values for sustainability transformation(s).

About the positions

Official advertisements for the Postdoc and PhD positions will be posted online in the second half of 2024 with an envisaged starting date around January 2025.
Please register your interest in any of these positions now by sending a short CV and a short motivational letter as one single pdf file (of maximum three pages) to andra.milcu@uni-kassel.de. Please write the position you are interested in as the subject line of your email. Once the official job adverts are published anyone who has provided an expression of interest will be contacted directly with instructions on how to apply for the positions.

Postdoc 1: Social media values survey
This position will focus on designing, implementing, analyzing and visualizing the results of a survey about normative/core human values in relation to the present and the future, distributed via a social media channel. This position requires strong quantitative skills and ideally previous experience with large scale survey analysis. The starting date and general organization are slightly flexible as this position is modular relative to the whole project.

PhD 1, PhD 2, PhD 3
All three PhD positions will focus on carrying out a transdisciplinary case study employing transformative methods in order to co-create transformation pathways. These positions require empirical, interdisciplinary (interviews, surveys), transdisciplinary (workshops, focus groups), and transformative skills, as well as a firm foundation in sustainability science, as opposed to sustainability research.

PhD 1: Transdisciplinary transformative case study with a focus on the role of visions and visioning for transformative change (Moldova as case study country)
Romanian language competency is a prerequisite for this position. Previous experience in sustainability transformation visioning is desirable.

PhD 2: Transdisciplinary transformative case study with a focus on sustainability initiatives as actors of transformative change (Romania as case study country)
Romanian language competency is a prerequisite for this position. Previous experience in working with grassroots movements or non-governmental organizations is desirable.

PhD 3: Transdisciplinary transformative case study with a focus on the role of values for transformative change (Germany as case study country)
German language competency is a prerequisite for this position. Previous experience in working with deep leverage points (values, inner worlds, worldviews) is desirable.

All four positions will be located in the newly developing Kassel Institute for Sustainability within University of Kassel in the center of Germany. UniKassel promotes professional gender equality and heterogeneity among its members. The research will be led by Andra-Ioana Horcea-Milcu. For any clarifications or requests for additional information: email andra.milcu@uni-kassel.de X: https://twitter.com/andra_milcu website: https://www.uni-kassel.de/forschung/en/lever