

PLENARY LECTURE

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The Regeneration Renaissance: A Transmodern Leap Toward a Truly Sustainable Future

A decade into the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, we find ourselves at a critical inflection point where the promise of transformation faces the reality of systemic inertia. Despite progress in several domains, the acceleration of ecological collapse, widening social inequalities, and the continued dominance of unsustainable economic models signal the limits of the current development paradigm.

In this keynote, I argue that we now need to move beyond sustainability toward a paradigm of regeneration, one that is grounded not in mitigation and adaptation but in healing, reciprocity, and planetary responsibility. Drawing from the philosophical notion of transmodernity and decades of academic, policy, and field experience across multiple sectors, I propose that what we are witnessing is not just a crisis of implementation but a deeper epistemological and ontological crisis.

I introduce the concept of the Regeneration Renaissance as a necessary leap of consciousness, a shift from modernist separation and postmodern fragmentation to a holistic worldview rooted in interbeing and care. Highlighting examples from my work in regenerative tourism, food systems innovation, and community-based resilience in Croatia and beyond, I explore how transdisciplinary alliances and place-based approaches can animate a truly transformative agenda. This perspective repositions the SDGs not as fixed targets but as evolving tools within a larger cultural metamorphosis. The path forward demands we talk the walk as well as walk the talk by embodying new systems of value, collective leadership, and regenerative economics.