**Session Proposal**

# Session Title

Language of Soil – Mapping Concepts across Interdisciplinary Fields of Soils Research

# Session Organizers

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# Session Description

The chair and co-chair of Commission 4.5 History, Philosophy and Sociology of Soil Science, Alexandra Toland and Anna Krzywoszynska will host a special session for the 23rd WCSS to launch the book publication, *The Language of Soil* *– A Handbook for Transdisciplinary Research.* The book presents work from the last 4 years that frames the need for a shared language across disciplines and communities of practice. Soil protection is a quintessential ‘wicked problem’. With soils situated at the nexus of interconnected social, cultural, and environmental crises, caring for soils requires a transdisciplinary approach. Transdisciplinarity, however, does not just happen. Researchers from different disciplines and backgrounds need support in recognizing societal relevance, building reflexivity, dealing with antagonisms, and integrating knowledges. This is precisely the aim of *The Language of Soil* *– A Handbook for Transdisciplinary Research*. This handbook is an in-depth and inspiring soil research glossary which can be used across disciplines and communities of practice. The approx. 90 entries are all “boundary objects” – i.e. concepts, methods, tools and practices which allow members of different disciplines to talk and work together. The entries are written by leading and emerging scholars from a range of disciplines and geographies, as well as contributors from outside academia. Following a long publication tradition of Div. 4.5, the editors invite members of the IUSS community to celebrate this important contribution to literature on the history, philosophy and sociology of soil knowledge. Rather than a traditional session format of presentations, the session will open with a keynote from one of the contributing authors and then give participants an opportunity to discuss the contents of the glossary in small groups, mapping concepts in their own fields and unpacking concepts, for example, from the fields of human geography, anthropology, science and technology studies, philosophical phenomenology, urban studies, and visual art.

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# Format

Session introduction by chairs of Div. 4.5, followed by online invited impulse (keynote) presentation and in-presence interactive workshop

# Proposed Speakers

NN, author from upcoming *Language of Soil* book.