

# Solidarity Research Network

## A Transdisciplinary and International Research Network

Solidarity is the cohesive force that binds modern democratic societies. Welfare states and norms of solidarity are founded on political participation, social justice, and cultural self-determination, but solidarity's development is neither inevitable nor linear. Current ecological, economic, cultural, and social crises and conflicts pose threats to democracy and are undermining established forms and key aspects of solidarity. These crises and conflicts erode fundamental aspects of solidarity such as protection and recognition. Therefore, it is crucial to understand how and what new forms of solidarity are emerging to meet the threats, address the concomitant social problems, and drive change and innovation.

By addressing the question **What solidarities are developing in response to social change?** the *Solidarity Research Network (SRN)* aims

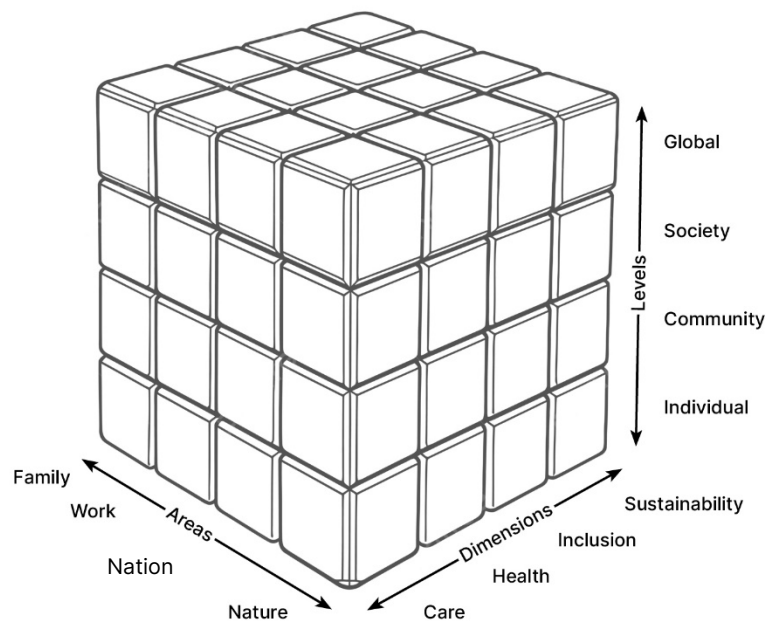
- (1) to map solidarities by identifying their *norms, practices* and *actors* in the key areas *family, work, nation, and nature*;
- (2) to examine *continuities* and *transformations* of solidarity in different political and socio-geographical contexts by understanding what triggers or weakens solidarities regarding the dimensions *care, health, inclusion, and sustainability*; and
- (3) to provide evidence of the *potential* and the *limits* of solidarity for addressing societal problems at *individual, community, society, and global* levels.

### Network activities

The research network is committed to strengthening teaching and research collaborations in the field of solidarity and social work from an intersectional, international, and interdisciplinary perspective. It organizes meetings and conferences for the ex-change of ideas and promotes publication opportunities. Get in touch to join the network and receive regular updates on activities.

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**Family** is a social space in which “family practices” occur and in which “family responsibilities” such as care are negotiated. It is also where intra- and intergenerational solidarity among family members develops.

**Work** includes both paid and unpaid labour. Solidarity shows in manifold forms within the complex system of organisations, regulations, and functions that govern collaboration and different forms of work.

**Nation (including civil-society and welfare state)**, *civil society* is a diverse social space ranging from elective ties (friendship) and mundane relations (work, neighbourhood) to social, cultural, and political engagement. It includes the activities of social movements and NGOs, which fill gaps in state services and address emerging social issues. *Welfare State* is a social space in which professional and state-regulated interventions offer support to individuals and groups in need. It includes social policy and political institutions and constitutes a place in which interaction and social reciprocity occur among professionals and clients.

**Nature** encompasses both the embodied human experience and the external living environment. In the area of nature, solidarity challenges notions of human supremacy and overcomes species boundaries.

**Care** refers to the transfer of material (e.g. cooking and cleaning) and non-material forms of support (e.g. personal attention and affection). Care spans institutional forms of care, semi-formal engagements like volunteering, and informal care.

**Health** refers to mental and physical well-being. Health inequalities show that well-being depends not only on individual factors, but also on the interplay between social structures, working and living conditions and effective prevention and health promotion programs.

**Inclusion** addresses subordination and recognition of difference and equality e.g. in terms of class, gender, race, ethnicity, health, disability, age, and citizenship. Institutions and policies support or hinder inclusive relationships. Inclusion both signals a need for and represents a practice of solidarity.

**Sustainability** addresses the complex relations between the social and nature. It involves ecological responsibility within the household, the integration of ecological education into school curricula and workplaces, and the implementation of sustainable social welfare models.

## Save the date

2024 December 4<sup>th</sup>  
2025 June, 11 - 13  
2025 September

SSW @ Hochschultag FHNW  
25<sup>th</sup> International Migration Conference, Focus Solidarity  
1<sup>st</sup> Working Conference Solidarity Research Network