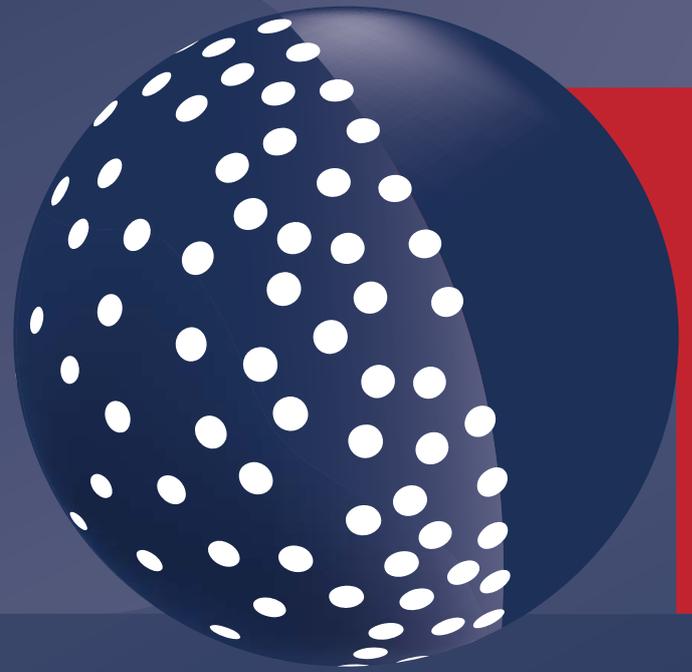


Earth System Governance Project



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Utrecht University



Earth
System
Governance

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The Earth System Governance Project

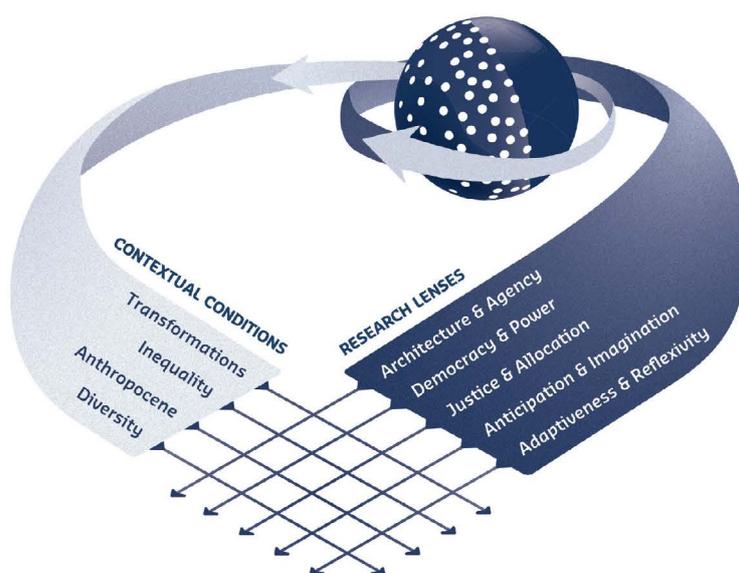
A snapshot of the Global Research Alliance

The Earth System Governance Project is a longstanding global research alliance focused on the politics and governance of earth system transformations, across local to global scales. Originally formed in 2009 under the International Human Dimensions Programme, the Earth System Governance Project comprises the largest social science research network in the area of governance and global environmental change. It brings together a highly interdisciplinary research community, spanning disciplines such as international relations, political science, human geography, urban studies, development studies, and sustainability science, among others.

The Earth System Governance Project is implemented through a global alliance of Research Centres at leading institutions across six continents, an extensive network of Lead Faculty and Research Fellows, a vibrant annual global conference series, collaborative Taskforces and Working Groups, and a portfolio of affiliated/endorsed research projects (see www.earthsystemgovernance.org). It is managed and administered through an International Project Office, currently hosted by Utrecht University, The Netherlands (2018-2023). The Earth System Governance Project is overall steered by a Scientific Steering Committee comprised of 11 scholars spanning diverse disciplines and geographical regions.

The Earth System Governance Project is driven by its 2018-2028 Science and Implementation Plan. This Plan outlines the conceptual rationale, research agenda, and implementation mechanisms for the Earth System Governance Project. The Plan revolves around shared framework for conceptualizing and organizing Earth System Governance research. The framework articulates five Research Lenses which structure the activities of the Earth System Governance research community: Architecture and Agency, Democracy and Power, Justice and Allocation, Anticipation and Imagination, and Adaptiveness and Reflexivity. Transversally, four Contextual Conditions characterize core contemporary challenges facing Earth System Governance: Transformations, Inequality, Anthropocene, and Diversity.

Overall, the Earth System Governance Project advances ground-breaking interdisciplinary scholarship spanning analytical, critical, normative orientations. Members of the Earth System Governance community – ranging across a wide range of sectors and scales, disciplines, career stages, and geographical regions – stimulate and lead international debates on environmental politics, advance insights into governance opportunities and solutions, and push the frontiers of our understanding of earth system transformations in the social sciences.



Overarching research framework of the Earth System Governance Project (2018-2028).

Foreword from the Scientific Steering Committee

The Earth System Governance Project has accomplished much in 2019. Just a few highlights include: a vibrant and successful 2019 Oaxaca Conference on Earth System Governance with 245 participants, the first to be held in Latin America; the welcoming of a new Research Centre hosted by the University of Brasília; a plethora of research outputs produced by various Taskforces and the establishment of new Taskforces; the launch of the first issue of the Earth System Governance journal, the launch of the new Cambridge Elements series (and publication of the first book in this series), and steady growth in network membership among all categories of Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, and Lead Faculty. At the same time, 2019 saw the fruition of several transitions within the network: the full upscaling of our new Science and Implementation Plan 2018-2028, leadership under the new Scientific Steering Committee, and a new International Project Office headed at Utrecht University, and later also a new Managing Director.

At the same time, 2019 was a tumultuous time for the planet and for global politics. Raging fires in the Amazon and Australia demonstrated the heavy toll that human activities are incurring on earth's life-support systems and the rapid speed of growing climate change impacts. Anti-environmental populism continued to circulate in many parts of the world. Yet we also saw the new social movements forming to mobilise against ecological degradation, perhaps most markedly through the widespread climate activism of school student strikes and Extinction Rebellion. Climate change urgency seemed to elevate to a new degree of political and social recognition, although the extent to which ambition among nation states grew to match is less clear.

These clashing forces left 2019 as a puzzling picture containing both optimism and pessimism, but with an undeniable sense of turbulence. The Earth System Governance community collectively interrogated these dynamics at the 2019 Oaxaca conference, through the theme of 'Urgent Transformations towards Sustainability and Justice'. The implication for our Community is perhaps best summed up by the words of the Conference Chair *Prof. Leticia Merino* in her closing remarks, where she argued that in the face of these multiple intersecting crises "we have an obligation to offer hope – realistic hope, but hope".

Looking forward, humanity has already been experiencing seismic shocks in these first few months of 2020 with COVID-19 sweeping across the globe, causing unprecedented changes across all facets of social and economic life. The implications of this crisis for sustainability and justice are largely unknown, and will unfold throughout 2020 and beyond. Yet, they look set to cause profound disruptions that will cut across many areas of earth system governance in a multitude of ways (e.g. climate change governance, Sustainable Development Goals, biodiversity, oceans, urban sustainability, among many others). For example, it may reshape how societies and policymakers anticipate and respond to radical uncertainty, pacify or amplify political populism, and open up scope for reimagining economic structures and social norms. At the same time, we need to already be thinking about what comes after corona. Will there be democratic backsliding and retreats to nationalism, or a new recognition of interdependence in society and politics? Will there be lasting geopolitical shifts?

"clashing forces left 2019 as a puzzling picture containing both optimism and pessimism, but with an undeniable sense of turbulence."

Will new opportunities open up and innovations be unleashed? The Earth System Governance community will certainly take a leading role in unravelling these complex implications.

In 2020 our work will continue, albeit in ways that will be inevitably modified from what we all envisioned at the beginning of the year. Many Taskforces continue and new ones are being formed, and the Earth System Governance agenda is as important as ever. September 2020 will mark a new leaf in the story of the Earth System Governance Project as we will gather together virtually for the first time, in place of a physical conference. As always, this will enable us to discuss, debate, and reflect on where we should head next as a community. Crucially, it will also provide an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and forge new connections at this challenging time, and to feel the collegiality and shared endeavour that is one of our great strengths as a network.



Dr. Agni Kalfagianni



Dr. Åsa Persson



Prof. Aarti Gupta



Prof. Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue



Prof. Atsushi Ishii



Prof. James Meadowcroft



Prof. Sarah Burch



Prof. David Nguatha Mungai



Dr. James Patterson



Dr. Jonathan Pickering



Prof. Lorraine Elliott

Scientific Steering Committee of the Earth System Governance Project, April 2020

Update from the International Project Office

Late in 2018, the International Project Office moved from 10 years of being hosted at Lund University, Sweden, to a new phase now hosted at Utrecht University, The Netherlands from 2018-2023. At Utrecht University, the International Project Office is hosted by the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development and the Faculty of Geosciences. Through this generous support, Utrecht University plays a vital role in supporting the activities of the Earth System Governance Project. At the same time, the Earth System Governance Project also reciprocally contributes to addressing core strategic themes of Utrecht University, namely 'Pathways to Sustainability', and 'Institutions for Open Societies'.

In this vein, The Earth System Governance Project has hosted a Speaker Series at Utrecht University, to facilitate cross-faculty collaboration and global outreach. To date, this has included lively and highly-attended events on topics such as science-policy interactions, climate skepticism and polarization, geoengineering governance, and ecological justice.

Another significant change was the stepping down of longstanding Executive Director of the International Project Office, *Ruben Zondervan*, who has been instrumental in building the network up to its current size and success. In his stead, *Gustav Thungren* took over, first in an Interim role, and was then subsequently appointed as the new Managing Director of the Earth System Governance International Project Office. Meanwhile, *Lisa Bettoni* joined the International Project Office as Network Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, replacing *Charlotta Kjällerström* who remained with Lund University.

The International Project Office wish to express our gratitude to *Ruben* and *Charlotta* for their hard work and long service.



Gustav Thungren,
Managing Director
International Project Office
Earth System Governance Project
Utrecht University



2019 - @ESG_Project Twitter in numbers

Twitter Followers start of 2019	2.693
New Followers	445 (+16.5%)
Profile Visits	7.288

2019 - Newsletter in numbers:

Number of Recipients	7.869
New Subscribers	189
Profile Visits	3.870

Earth System Governance Project – a Growing Community

The Earth System Governance network is composed of Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows and Lead Faculty Members. Research Fellows are early to mid-level career scientists and Senior Research Fellow are senior scientists and faculty members who seek to link their own research projects with the broader themes and questions of earth system governance.

The Earth System Governance Lead Faculty is a small group of scientists of the highest international reputation who take shared responsibility for the development of research on analytical problems or crosscutting themes. Members are invited by the Scientific Steering Committee considering academic criteria while striving for a geographical, disciplinary, and gender balance. The Earth System Governance Project has grown significantly into a vibrant community of scholars. In 2019, the community we added 50 new names to the annals of the Earth System Governance Project, 32 Research Fellows, 16 Senior Research Fellows and two new Lead Faculty members - *Prof. Peter Dauvergne*, University of British Columbia, and *Prof. Imme Scholz*, the German Development Institute.



The circles above display the Community numbers of Fellows and Lead Faculty at the start of 2019, in red, as well as the growth of new scholars over the year, in blue.



World map displaying the location of Earth System Governance Project scholars, based on their university affiliation, derived from responses received for the 2019-2020 Earth System Governance Information Update.

The International Project Office of the Earth System Governance Project is structurally updating and improving the research and contact information of the Earth System Governance network. The geographical data above of the university affiliations of the Community's scholars is based on responses received from the 2019-2020 Earth System Governance Information Update, and does not provide a complete representation of the network or the nationalities of its scholars. According to the data collected, Earth System Governance Fellows and Lead Faculty are located in a total of 41 countries. United States hosts the scholars in the network with a count of 53, followed by the Netherlands with 37, and Germany with 27.

Global Alliance of Research Centres

The Global Alliance of Earth System Governance Research Centres is a key academic and institutional mechanism by which the Earth System Governance Project is implemented, underpinning the success of the network.

In 2019, Research Centres continued to actively advance the Earth System Governance research agenda in various ways, including hosting regional meetings and through involvement in the 2019 annual conference. Importantly,

fifteen became sixteen as Research Centre Brasília joined the Global Alliance and became the first institutional focal point of the Earth System Governance Project in South America.



Research Centre Norwich
Research Centre Amsterdam
Research Centre Brasília
Research Centre Australia
Research Centre Chiang Mai
Research Centre Colorado
Research Centre Bonn
Research Centre Accra
Research Centre Shonan Fujisawa

Research Centre Lund
Research Centre Kenya
Research Centre Central and Eastern Europe
Research Centre Stockholm
Research Centre Toronto
Research Centre Utrecht
Research Centre Yale
Research Centre Oldenburg



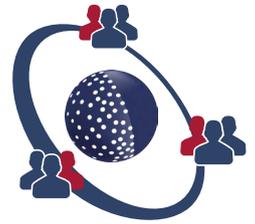
World map displaying the Global Alliance of Earth System Governance Research Centres

RESEARCH CENTRE BRASÍLIA

The Research Centre Brasília is linked with the research group on International Systems in the Anthropocene and Global Climate Change (CLIM) at the International Relations Institute within the distinguished University of Brasília.

Its research agenda focus on multi-level interactions, chiefly related to Brazil, with focus on the Amazon and Cerrado biomes, the South American Amazon and by extension, the whole South America.

Under the leadership of *Prof. Eduardo Viola*, *Prof. Cristina Aoki Inoue* and *Dr. Ana Flávia Barros-Plataiu*, the introduction of the Research Centre Brasília thereby strengthens and facilitates Earth System Governance research in a previously under-represented region within the network.



Through Taskforces, the Earth System Governance Project seeks to push the frontiers of research in specific areas of its research agenda. Taskforces are led by Lead Faculty or Senior Research Fellows, with numerous Research Fellows participating. Taskforces are open for all and often interact with other research communities, organizing events, webinars, and publications, and facilitating research all over the world. The current Taskforces are:

- Taskforce on Planetary Justice in Earth System Governance Research**
This Taskforce brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars who are concerned with questions of justice in the context of profound transformations of the earth system. It is coordinated by *Prof. Frank Biermann*, Utrecht University and *Prof. Agni Kalfagianni*, Utrecht University.
- Taskforce on Ocean Governance**
This Taskforce seeks to address the multi-level challenge of oceans governance in the Anthropocene. It brings together scholars from the Earth System Governance network, with outside researchers and practitioners to advance knowledge and develop policy solutions in the marine domain. The Ocean Governance Taskforce is led by: *Prof. DG Webster*, Dartmouth, *Dr. Leandra Gonçalves*, University of Campinas, *Dr. Judith van Leeuwen*, Wageningen University, *Prof. Atsushi Ishii*, Tohoku University, *Dr. Candace May*, South Dakota State University.
- Taskforce on Earth System Law**
A major objective of this Taskforce is to explore novel legal developments in and for the Anthropocene, where the earth as a whole is now seen to have become a socio-ecological system with human societies acting as a global geophysical force capable of changing this system, and at once as stewards of earth system care. This Taskforce is coordinated by *Dr. Rak Kim*, Utrecht University, *Prof. Louis Kotzé*, North-West University and *Dr. Peter Lawrence*, University of Tasmania.
- Taskforce on Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance**
This Taskforce explores key ideas that are coming to frame international discussion of the challenge of governance in times of global environmental change and earth system transformation. The Taskforce is coordinated by *Prof. James Meadowcroft*, Carleton University, *Prof. Aarti Gupta*, Wageningen University and *Dr. Hayley Stevenson*, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella.
- Taskforce on Accountability in Global Environmental Governance**
This Taskforce explores approaches to accountability, to assess the necessity and potential for greater accountability in the system of global environmental governance that has been riddled by fragmentation and duplication of efforts, dispersed political authority and weak regulatory influence. This taskforce is coordinated by *Prof. Teresa Kramarz*, University of Toronto and *Prof. Susan Park*, University of Sydney.



Working Groups

Working Group on Democracy and Earth System Governance

The aim of this working group is to critically explore the tensions and synergies between democracy and environmentalism on local, national and global levels. The 2019 Working Group annual meeting was held as part of the 2019 Mexico Conference on Earth System Governance and is coordinated by *Dr. Jonathan Pickering*, University of Canberra, *Prof. Karin Bäckstrand*, Stockholm University and *Dr. Thomas Hickmann*, Utrecht University.



The Working Group on Democracy and Earth System Governance during the Taskforce & Meeting Day at the 2019 Mexico conference.

Taskforce on New Technologies

In the midst of 2019, another cutting-edge Earth System Governance research collaboration was welcomed to the family of Taskforce projects through the Taskforce on New Technologies. This Taskforce focuses on the diverse roles of emergent technologies in causing and responding to environmental change in the global epoch of the Anthropocene. New technologies - such as solar radiation management, carbon capture storage, artificial intelligence, big data and biotechnology – are bound to fundamentally change how humans interact with Earth Systems and by extension, the governance of these relations, which consequently gives rise to a myriad of normative governance questions and considerations.

Led by *Dr. Jesse Reynolds* and *Prof. Eduardo Viola*, the Taskforce on New Technologies aims to facilitate communication, cooperation, and collaboration among scholars of environmental governance and novel technologies; and to raise the profile of novel technologies in environmental governance scholarship as well as that of environmental governance in the scholarship of technology and regulation. Its members are diverse with respect to disciplines, methodologies, research questions, and normative standpoints.



Members of the Taskforce on Earth System Law met in Oaxaca, Mexico, for the Taskforce & Meeting Day hosted in conjunction with the Annual Conference.

Affiliated Projects & Endorsed Activities

New additions of 2019

Affiliated Projects

Affiliated Projects are projects and other structured activities existing independently of the Earth System Governance Project and undertaking research or other activities relevant for and relating to the Earth System Governance Science and Implementation Plan. Affiliated Projects can be existing research projects or research projects explicitly developed as Affiliated Projects by, or in cooperation with, researchers affiliated to the Earth System Governance Project.

GOVTRAN

In May 2019, the Earth System Governance Project welcomed the Jean-Monnet network '*Governing the EU's Climate and Energy Transition in Turbulent Times*' (GOVTRAN) as a new Earth System Governance Affiliated Project. GOVTRAN brings together senior and early career scholars working in a broad range of fields, including climate and energy policy, European integration, and governance studies. Network activities focus on two key aspects of recent EU climate and energy policy: the EU climate and energy policy framework for 2030, and the impact of the European Union's climate and energy policy/governance on, and contribution to, the longer-term future of Europe, European integration, and the EU.

GOVTRAN is a collaboration of four consortium partners with firmly established track records in relevant fields: The institute for European Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, University of East Anglia, University of Eastern Finland, and Ghent University. The GOVTRAN Management Board includes Earth System Governance Lead Faculty members *Sebastian Oberthür* (IES-VUB), and *Andrew Jordan* (University of East Anglia) as well as Earth System Governance Research Fellow *Claire Dupont* (Ghent University).



GOVTRAN

Endorsed activities

The Earth System Governance Project can endorse activities (including conferences, workshops, lectures, research activities) or products (including books, articles, reports, websites) that are relevant for and explicitly relate to the questions and themes of the Earth System Governance Science and Implementation Plan.

Earthly Entanglements

This international conference aimed to consolidate the ideas and critique generated from within the social sciences and humanities about the Anthropocene and to deepen the understanding of how this idea can inform - and potentially transform - longstanding debates about political theory and practice. Held on 13-14 February 2019, and hosted by the Centre for Deliberative Democracy, Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra. Convened by *Dr. Jonathan Pickering* and *Prof. John Dryzek*.



Earthly Entanglements

Improving Earth System Governance through Purpose Ecosystems

The project explores the roles that emerging Purpose Ecosystem plays in Earth System Governance, and specifically in endorsing and accelerating action aligned with achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Purpose Ecosystems are herein conceptualized as the myriad emerging intermediaries, initiatives and organisations that aim to drive wider systems change by advocating and advising the private sector to reconsider and broaden their fundamental '*raison d'être*'. The project partners are Monash University, Warwick University and University of Technology, Sydney.



Purpose Ecosystems

GLOBALGOALS

This 5-year research project examines goal-setting, such as the ambitious 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as a new central approach in global governance. How can global governance through goals be effective – and under which conditions? GlobalGoals seeks to address this research question and break new ground in sustainability and global governance theories. The GlobalGoals project is led by *Prof. Frank Biermann*, with the core team based at Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University.



GlobalGoals

Earth System Governance Annual Conferences

The main event and highlight of the community's year was the annual conference on Earth System Governance, this time held in Oaxaca, Mexico, together with the host University the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and Conference Chair Prof. Leticia Merino. In the long-standing series of Earth System Governance Project Conferences, the Mexico Conference held a special status as it marked the first time that such an event be held in Latin America. The 2019 conference was also the first event structured around the new Science and Implementation Plan. As a result, the conference marked a major first step towards realizing the project's broader global research agenda.

2019 Oaxaca Conference on Earth System Governance

Running over 3 days from 6-8 November, with an additional day of Taskforce & Meeting Day on 9 November, the conference brought together 245 delegates from over 40 countries in what was a memorable and ultimately successful event, marked by a warm and friendly atmosphere. Attendees were greeted by the culinary, cultural and environmental richness of Oaxaca, as well as by 35 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers

and staff members. Sessions were spread across a variety of historically significant buildings in central Oaxaca, amongst them the UNESCO-listed library Biblioteca Burgoa and two former Dominican Order monasteries. Uniquely, delegates were also welcomed on the first evening with a traditional Oaxacan street parade ('Calenda').



2019 Mexico Conference - in numbers

Abstracts submitted 445

Registered participants 245

Countries Represented 40

Parallel Panels 60

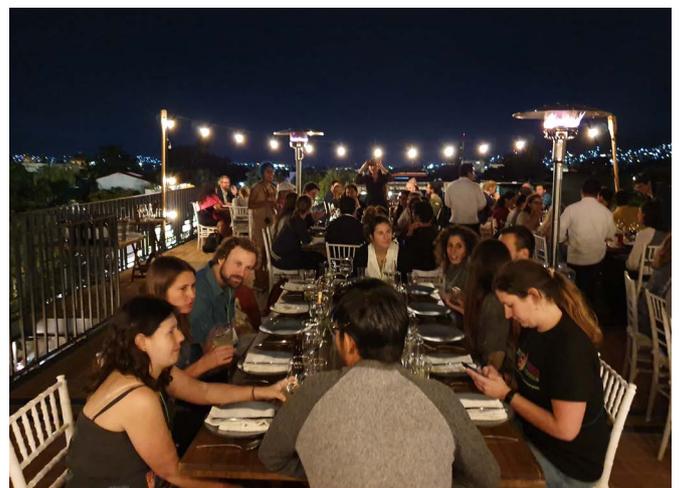
Innovative Sessions 11

Semi-Plenaries 6

The theme of the conference *'Urgent Transformations and Earth System Governance: Towards Sustainability and Justice'* motivated diverse and stimulating sessions which were very positively received by participants. This included two Plenary sessions, 6 Semi-Plenary sessions (including on environmental governance in South America, environmental justice across contrasting global regions, and prospects for a global 'common good'), 60 panel sessions, and 11 innovative sessions. Semi-Plenaries were organized in collaboration with a variety of institutions including the University of Arizona and the German Development Institute (both official Co-Hosts), as well as the University of Brasília, UNAM, and the Global Environment Outlook-6/ United Nations Environment Programme.



For contributing to both the warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as the resounding success of the Conference, the Earth System Governance Project would like to express sincere gratitude towards Conference chair Leticia Merino, staff and volunteers of the Conference host UNAM, co-hosts Utrecht University, the German Development Institute and University of Arizona, the sponsor Elsevier as well as all attending participants and supporters.



Earth System Governance Community Publications 2019

For the year of 2019, the International Project Office collated data to analyse the overall publications from Earth System Governance Fellows and Lead Faculty based on the responses received from the 2019-2020 Earth System Governance Information Update.

The purpose of the analysis was to better understand the scholarly interests and undertakings of the community. The data was gathered through web searches on the online repositories Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar, using the individual member name as search term and only including publications of the year 2019. The resulting data is provided in graphs on this page and include the publications of 308 Earth System Governance scholars. The publications were filtered to exclude duplicate publications co-authored with other network members, highlighting only unique publications. In total, 734 unique publications have been published in the year 2019. This collection of unique publications was categorized into 540 peer-reviewed articles, 78 book chapters, 21 complete books, 25 editorials or commentaries, 22 reviews of literature, 18 reports, for example on conferences, project plans, or scientific assessments, and 30 publications were classified as other, meaning they take form of either a note, conference paper, letter, policy brief, forum, symposium article, synthesis paper or a case.

These 734 unique publications have been published in a total of 391 academic journals and books. Of the academic journals, 18 journals have 7 or more ESG publications, with the most publications found in the journal of Environmental Politics with 16 articles.



Count of Earth System Governance Publications in 2019 per category

Journal	Count of Publications per Journal
Environmental Politics	16
Global Environmental Politics	13
Journal of Environmental Planning and Management	12
Climate Policy	11
Nature Sustainability	10
Energy Research and Social Science	9
Environmental Research Letters	9
Geoforum	9
Regional Environmental Change	9
Ecology and Society	8
International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics	8
Marine Policy	8
Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change	8



Word cloud of the most frequently used key words from the 734 unique publications of Earth System Governance Scholars. Only key words referenced four or more times are included in the word cloud, with 55 out of the 81 most referred key words included.

Earth System Governance Flagship Publications

The Earth System Governance Project is linked to four Flagship publication outlets, presented below, in which the cutting-edge and collaborative research efforts of the global research alliance are disseminated. This year, the flagship outlets were presented at the semi-plenary session of the 2019 Mexico Conference on Earth System Governance, titled “Engaging with Earth System Governance publications: Research dissemination, collaboration and network-building” in an interactive exchange of information between the ESG research community and editors and authors.

Earth System Governance Book Series (MIT Press series)



Susan Park and Teresa Kramarz (editors). 2019. *Global Environmental Governance and the Accountability Trap*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Earth System Governance journal (Elsevier)



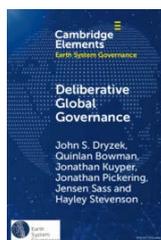
The open access Earth System Governance Journal released its inaugural volume in 2019. A flagship publication of the Earth System Governance research alliance, the journal is for all those interested in the study of institutions, political processes and governance mechanisms related to environmental change, earth system transformations and the quest for global sustainability.

In the editorial of its first issue, Editor-in-Chief *Prof. Frank Biermann* stated that

“a unique characteristic of Earth System Governance is the integration of discourses, research lines and scholarly traditions. The journal brings together debates that cross disciplinary boundaries; integrates insights from local to global levels; combines analysis and critique with the quest for political reform and societal transformation; and shares insights for scholars and practitioners alike.”

For the Earth System Governance community, the journal welcomes a broad range of submissions, from original research articles to engaging policy arguments or provocative forum contributions.

Cambridge University Elements series



Dryzek, J.S., Bowman, Q., Kuyper, J., Pickering, J., Sass, J. and Stevenson, H. 2019. *Deliberative global governance*. Cambridge University Press.

Earth System Governance Harvesting Series (Cambridge University Press)



Biermann, Frank and Eva Löwbrand (editors). 2019. *Anthropocene Encounters: New Directions in Green Political Thinking*.



Van der Heijden Jeroen, Harriet Bulkeley and Chiara Certomà (editors). 2019. *Urban Climate Politics: Agency and Empowerment*.



Linnér Björn-Ola, Victoria Wibeck. 2019. *Sustainability Transformations: Agents and Drivers across Societies*.

Early Career Activities

As an early career researcher in earth system governance there are many opportunities to develop your research, skills and professional network. Within the Earth System Governance Project we like to support early career researchers. Therefore we have set up specific early career activities:

Oran R. Young Prize 2019 awarded to Dr. Janina Grabs



[The Oran R. Young Prize](#), awarded by the Earth System Governance Project, seeks to reward and encourage cutting-edge research on earth system governance by early-career scholars who could become the next generation of leading scholars in the field of environmental governance research – a field shaped and significantly influenced by the pioneering work of *Prof. Oran R. Young*. We congratulate *Dr. Janina Grabs*, (in the photo above) postdoctoral researcher in ETH Zurich's Environmental Policy Lab, for winning the Oran R. Young Prize for the best early-career paper of the 2019 Mexico Conference on Earth System Governance, titled: *Is private environmental governance an oxymoron? The effectiveness of market-based sustainability standards in improving ecosystem conservation.*

2019 Oaxaca Winter School on Earth System Governance

The annual Early Career School, usually organized prior to the Earth System Governance Annual Conference. The 2019 Early Career School was held in Capulalpam, a

village in the Sierra Nevada mountains of Mexico, known for its successful local community organization and its sustainable forest management practices. The 2019 Winter School, led by *Prof. Leticia Merino*, *Prof. Cristina Inoue* and *Prof. Paul Wapner*, integrated practice-oriented sessions with the local community, discussions on the research agenda of the Earth System Governance project and individual feedback on the 17 participants' diverse work.



Early Career Communications Newsletter

This Newsletter collects and shares resources and experiences including advice from mid-career and senior scholars, experiences from early-career colleagues, online resources relevant to the field, and more. The Early Career Communications is sent out approximately four times per year. The editors and initiators of this newsletter are *Ina Möller*, Wageningen University, *Jennifer Bansard*, University of Potsdam, *Carole-Anne Sénit* and *Sandra van der Hel*, both Utrecht University (all pictured below).



Earth System Governance Speaker Series at Utrecht University

The key role of Utrecht University in supporting the Earth System Governance Project leverages this global research network towards addressing core strategic themes of Utrecht University, namely Pathways to Sustainability, and Institutions for Open Societies.

In this vein, the Earth System Governance Project initiated a Speaker Series at Utrecht University, which aimed to increase cross-faculty collaboration as well as global outreach.

The first three events saw:

- *Prof. Peter Bridgewater*, University of Canberra and Co-Chair IPBES External Review Panel, talk about the IPBES and its Global Outlook report with *Sandra van der Hel*, Utrecht University, as discussant.
- *Jan-Paul van Soest* discuss climate skepticism and scientific polarization with *Prof. Appy Sluijs*, Utrecht University, as discussant.
- *Dr. Jesse Reynolds*, University of California present on the governance of solar geoengineering with *Prof. Aarti Gupta*, Wageningen University, as discussant.

The Earth System Governance Speaker Series at Utrecht University has thus far been successful, with a total of 176 participants across the three events. In the coming year, the ambition is to record these sessions, ultimately facilitating our ability to further share our activities and knowledge with the global community of the Earth System Governance Project.





Earth System Governance



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LinkedIn: Earth System Governance Project



Utrecht University

The Earth System Governance Project is a Global Research Project of the Future Earth Program

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