



Earth  
System  
Governance

ESG Research Trip 2018: Visit to The Netherlands

## Current Topics and New Directions in Earth System Governance research

*When: Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June 2018*

*For whom: research fellows of the Earth System Governance project*

*Where: Utrecht University, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Wageningen University*

Thursday 31 May		Friday 1 June	
10:00 – 12:30	<b>New Directions in Earth System Governance research</b> Agni Kalfagianni  Utrecht University Vening Meinesz A, Room 1.04 Princetonlaan 8a 3584 CB Utrecht	10:00 – 12:00	<b>Earth System Governance at Wageningen University</b> Judith van Leeuwen  Wageningen University Leeuwenborch, <b>Room C84</b> Hollandseweg 1 6706 KN Wageningen
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	12:00 - 14:00	<i>Travel to Amsterdam</i>
14:00 – 17:00	<b>The Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation</b> Frank Biermann  Utrecht University Vening Meinesz A, Room 1.04 Princetonlaan 8a 3584 CB Utrecht	14:00 – 17:00	<b>Earth System Governance at the Institute for Environmental Studies</b> Philipp Pattberg & Oscar Widerberg  Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam WN Building, <b>Room C161</b> De Boelelaan 1085 1081 HV Amsterdam
17:00	<i>Drinks</i>  Utrecht University The Basket Genevelaan 8 3584 CC Utrecht		

## Detailed programme

### Thursday 31 May

#### 10:00 – 12:30 New Directions in Earth System Governance research

We welcome all participants at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University. We will start the day with a round of introductions. Subsequently, **Dr Agni Kalfagianni** will give an update on the [Earth System Governance New Directions Initiative](#).



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Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

The New Directions Initiative was launched in 2016 to develop a new, ambitious Science and Implementation Plan for the project that will inspire and guide research in the years to come, and to form a new leadership team to oversee the implementation of this next research agenda. The draft of the Science and Implementation Plan is currently available and will be peer reviewed by members of the earth system governance community. At this meeting Agni Kalfagianni, who is a coordination lead author of the New Directions Initiative, will discuss the main themes in the new science plan as well as feedback received to date. We will then break up in small groups to discuss specific aspects of the new science plan (during a walk outside if the weather allows). We will complete this morning sessions by sharing our collective reflections on new directions in earth system governance research.

#### 14:00 – 17:00 The Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation

In the afternoon, we will start with a presentation by ESG research fellow **Dr Nidia Catherine Gonzalez Pineros** about “Institutional challenges in Forestry policies, the incorporation of local ecological knowledge and technologies for accountability”. Then we will turn our attention to the role of the Sustainable Development Goals in environmental governance research. The prominence of the Sustainable Development Goals in both the international arena as well as at the local scale is hard to deny. But how can we meaningfully engage with the Sustainable Development Goals in the environmental governance community? **Prof. Frank Biermann** will introduce the research focus of his recently acquired ERC advanced grant on “Global Governance through Goals? Assessing and Explaining the Steering Effects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” (GLOBALGOALS). He will raise several questions with respect to the evolution, effectiveness and future prospects of ‘global governance through goals’ as a central novel steering mechanism in world politics. Subsequently we will, in a World Café setting, discuss challenges and share experiences on how to meaningfully address the Sustainable Development Goals in Earth System Governance research and teaching. After sharing the results of these discussions, we will close the afternoon with drinks at the Basket.

### Friday 1 June

#### 10:00 – 12:00 Earth System Governance at Wageningen University

At this visit to Wageningen University and Research we will be welcomed by the Environmental Policy group. Dr Judith **van Leeuwen** will, among other things, introduce the Taskforce on Ocean Governance. This Taskforce seeks to address the daunting multi-level challenge of oceans governance in the Anthropocene. It brings

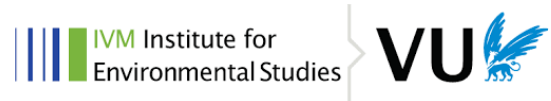


WAGENINGEN  
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together scholars from the global Earth System Governance network, with other researchers and practitioners to advance expertise and develop policy solutions in the marine area. After this, we will turn our focus to the climate challenge and global energy systems as ESG research fellow **Lisa Sanderink** will present her research on the institutional complexity of global climate and energy governance, discussing important questions about institutional linkages and the effect thereof on the effectiveness and legitimacy of global climate and energy governance.

#### **14:00 – 17:00 Earth System Governance at the Institute for Environmental Studies**

Final destination of the Earth System Governance research trip: Amsterdam. This is where the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) of the Vrije Universiteit (VU) is located. The visit to the



institute entails an interesting program, relevant for all. First, the [Green Office](#) will show the participants around the VU campus. The Green Office has been the sustainability platform at the VU since 2014 and their mission is to make sustainable and significant impact by empowering the VU community. The members of the Green Office will guide the participants along the sustainability initiatives on campus achieved in areas such as energy, (food) waste, recycling and water. Thereafter, the institute will host a workshop on new ways of communicating, visualizing and presenting academic research. Nowadays, there exist many innovative ways to communicate, present and visualize scientific studies and doing so in a clear and attractive manner is of growing importance. Therefore, the aim of the workshop is to share new ideas on this and to create a platform for discussion. To kick off the workshop, **Prof. Philipp Pattberg** and **Dr Oscar Widerberg** will present their project called CONNECT IT. This project takes stock of the existing level of fragmentation across issue areas in global environmental politics, explains the causes of fragmentation and the implications across different scales of governance, and finally, suggests policy responses to increased fragmentation. As part of the project, Prof. Pattberg and Dr Widerberg have mapped the institutional landscape of global climate change governance and have explored ways to visualize it by the means of a well-designed website. The participants will be shown around the website and its incredible features. Thereafter, ESG research fellow **Yu Yang** will present his research on the role of lineage networks and outmigration in rural China, and his way of communicating, visualizing and presenting his research while crossing geographical and cultural boundaries. This should result in much food for thought and there should be plenty of time for discussion, both on the workshop's topic and content-wise.

## Speakers:

**Dr Agni Kalfagianni** - Dr Agni Kalfagianni is Assistant Professor of Sustainable Business and Global Governance at the Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development. She specializes in the development of rules and standards for sustainability by businesses and civil society organisations, and examines the effectiveness, legitimacy, and ethical considerations of private forms of governance. She is (co)Editor-in-Chief of the Global Environmental Governance book series by Routledge, and member of the Editorial Board of International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics and Agriculture and Human Values journals. Her work has appeared in numerous international peer-reviewed journals including Global Environmental Change, Journal of Business Ethics, Globalizations, and edited volumes with major university presses, such as the MIT Press. Agni is a Coordinating Lead Author of the new Earth System Governance Science Plan. She also leads the Taskforce on Planetary Justice in Earth System Governance Research.

**Prof. Frank Biermann** - Frank Biermann is the founding chair of the Earth System Governance Project. He has led the Scientific Planning Committee for this project from 2006 to 2009, and since then the Scientific Steering Committee of the Project. Since 2015, he is research professor of Global Sustainability Governance with the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Biermann's current research examines multilateral institutions, options for reform of the United Nations, global adaptation governance, Sustainable Development Goals, the political role of science, global justice, and conceptual innovations such as the notion of the Anthropocene. Biermann sits on numerous boards and advisory councils, and is frequently invited to governmental commissions and panels and has spoken among others in the United Nations General Assembly, the European Parliament, and the European Economic and Social Committee. His most recent books are Earth System Governance: World Politics in the Anthropocene (MIT Press, 2014) and Governing through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation (MIT Press, 2017).

**Dr Judith van Leeuwen** - Assistant Professor at the Environmental Policy Group of Wageningen University. Her research interest lies with the nexus between changing architectures of global environmental governance and the changing role and authority of state and business actors. Business actors who have advanced environmental management systems not only have an internal corporate environment policy but also seek collaboration with governments, stakeholders and communities to address social and environmental concerns. As a result multi-stakeholder alliances and initiatives have emerged that complement, challenge and change governmental environmental policies. Using business administration insights, Judith investigates how corporate environmental management and multi-stakeholder initiatives influences architectures of global environmental governance. Judith is a Lead Author of the new Earth System Governance Science Plan. She also co-leads the Oceans Governance Taskforce of the Earth System Governance project.

**Prof. Philipp Pattberg** - Professor of transnational environmental governance and policy at and head of the Department of Environmental Policy Analysis, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He teaches Master's courses in environmental governance at the Faculty of Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences. Pattberg specializes in the study of global environmental politics, with a focus on private transnational governance, multi-stakeholder partnerships, network theory and institutional analysis. His work has been published in leading scientific journals including Annual Review of Environment and Resources, European Journal of International Relations, Global

Environmental Politics, Governance, and Science. Pattberg's most recent book is the Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Governance and Politics (co-edited with Fariborz Zelli, Edward Elgar 2015).

**Dr Oscar Widerberg** - Assistant Professor at the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) where he works and teaches on governance for sustainability. He is particularly interested in linkages between actors and institutions, examining institutional complexity and fragmentation using various methods such as network analysis. Oscar is a fellow to the Earth System Governance project, a member of UNEP's advisory group on the Climate Initiative's Platform, and member to INOGOV's Early Career Investigators' Network (ECIN). He has published academic articles, policy reports, debate articles and book chapters on a variety of global environmental issues. Before joining IVM, Oscar spent several years in consulting firms Trinomics and Ecorys, advising international public authorities, primarily European institutions, on sustainability policy. He also carried out various traineeships with the European Commission and the United Nations.

### **ESG Research Trip Participants:**

**Dr Karsten Schulz** – Assistant Professor of Political Science at Campus Fryslân, University of Groningen.

**Dr Nidia Catherine Gonzalez Pineros** – Research fellow and postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna.

**Lisa Sanderink** – PhD Candidate at the Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

**Muhammad Badrul Hassan** – PhD Candidate at Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University.

**Yu Yang** – PhD Candidate at Sichuan Agricultural University and visiting researcher at Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University.