



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Call for Papers for Workshops

for the Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference (NESS), University of Gothenburg, Sweden, June 7-9, 2022. [Link to Conference site](#)

Workshop: The climate and biodiversity crises are bound together: how could integrated solutions in politics and management be stimulated?

Workshop Chairs:

Eivind Brendehaug, Kyrre Groven and Torbjørn Selseng, Western Norway Research Institute, Norway, ebr@vestforsk.no

Sirkku Juhola, Helsinki University, sirkku.juhola@helsinki.fi

Erik Stange, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, erik.stange@nina.no

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) state that the climate and biodiversity crises are inextricably linked and must be solved in tandem:

“(…) achieving sustainable outcomes becomes progressively easier when integrating a mix of actions at larger spatial scales, through cross-border collaboration and joint consultative spatial planning, which is why it is important to also address the lack of effective governance systems and mechanisms to improve integration between solutions for climate change and biodiversity.”

While both scientific and policy-making circles recognize that the two crises are interconnected, the measures proposed to address climate and biodiversity arise from largely separate policy domains: climate change mitigation, renewable energy transition, climate change adaptation, and nature and biodiversity protection. The lack of comprehensive perspectives and integrated solutions has created a situation where measures within one policy area jeopardize goal achievement in the others. For example, one of the key conclusions from IPBES' first assessment report is that the main strategy for solving the climate crisis, decarbonization of the energy system, could potentially have a highly negative impact on biodiversity through the development of renewable energy and establishment of bioenergy plantations. These measures contribute to replacing fossil energy sources, but are all—in one way or another—in conflict with the goal of protecting nature and maintaining biological diversity. At the same time, destroying or inhibiting

natural processes reduces nature's ability to sequester carbon, thereby impeding climate change mitigation. If policies fail to acknowledge these insights, co-benefits and synergies might not be realized and we are left with a series of measures that inadvertently prevent the solution to one of the global crises – or even worse, both crises.

The workshop thematizes the interaction between four interlinked policy fields: climate change mitigation, renewable energy transition, climate change adaptation, and the protection of nature and biodiversity. Currently, several studies are exploring the links between climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation, and the links between climate adaptation and biodiversity. But so far, few studies have examined the ways in which all four are interlinked.

The workshop invites papers looking into both the scientific discussion of co-benefits, synergies, trade-offs and conflicts between two or more of these policy fields, and how politics and management stimulate or hinder integration. In other words, we invite both papers that address the *contents* of integration and the *process* of integration. We use the term integration to refer to: 1) ensuring consistency between the four policy fields and, 2) the mainstreaming of the four policy fields into overarching frameworks.

The integration challenge ranges from the local to the global level of management and different organizational levels: vertical and horizontal as well as diagonal levels of government; all perspectives are welcomed. Most of the social science studies have so far examined *whether or not* interaction occurs, while few studies look at *how* integration is carried out or how and why barriers arise. Papers that discuss these questions are very welcome.

Instructions for Workshop Participants

The NESS workshops follow a standing session format (similar to ECPR), which allows for substantive discussions on research in progress. The conference invites scholars from multiple disciplinary backgrounds in environmental social science. The overall **objective** of the **workshop** is to facilitate and encourage collaboration between younger and more established scholars. Each paper is expected to relate to the theme of the workshop, and the participant submits and presents a paper (or work in progress) for the discussion. Participants should only choose and attend one workshop for the duration of the conference, but you may send abstracts to more than one workshop. Workshop participants will be asked to comment on at least one other paper in the respective workshop, read the other papers and participate in the general discussion of the papers. The ambition with this format is that the workshops allow for in-depth and coherent discussions of the respective themes and provide opportunity for potential joint publications or other continuing collaborations between the participants.

Send your abstract of up to 300 words to all the workshop chairs no later than **December 15, 2021**. Chairs will respond to questions which relate to the workshop theme. For questions of a general nature (i.e. not workshop specific) they should be directed to ness@globalstudies.gu.se

The conference organizers will notify the participants of their acceptance to the workshops by **March 1, 2022**. Workshop papers are to be submitted to the workshop chairs and the other workshop participants at the latest **May 20**. May 20 is also the last day to register for the conference on the website. A workshop schedule including information on presentations, session chairs and discussants will be available on the conference website at the end of May. The workshop format only allows for very short paper presentations (ca. 5 min) and all workshop participants are expected to have read and be able to comment on the papers in the workshop.