



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: Transnational Governance Initiatives at the Climate-Biodiversity Frontier

Workshop Chairs:

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Scholars and policy practitioners increasingly call for action that simultaneously addresses both global climate change and biodiversity loss (Patterson et al. 2017; Visseren-Hamakers et al. 2021; Pörtner et al. 2021). Despite recognition of the central role of transnational governance initiatives (TGI) in global environmental governance (Bulkeley et al. 2014; Hale 2020), we currently lack understanding of whether, how and with what effect such initiatives contribute to integrating governance efforts across issue areas. To date, research has tended to focus on climate TGI (e.g. Bansard et al. 2017; Gordon and Johnson 2017; Hsueh 2017; Sovacol and Van de Graaf 2018), with notably fewer studies on biodiversity (e.g. Frantzeskaki et al. 2018; Karlsson-Vinkhuyzena et al. 2017; Pattberg et al. 2019), and limited consideration on their consequences across policy domains.

New TGI are emerging at the climate-biodiversity frontier. TGI traditionally focused on climate change are recognizing nature as a means for achieving net-zero mitigation targets or contributing to adaptation measures (e.g. CDP, We Mean Business, Natural Climate Solutions Alliance). Non-state actors in the conservation sector are establishing TGI that aim to address climate change, especially through nature-based solutions (e.g. IUCN Urban Alliance, Nature4Climate, Tropical Forest Alliance). In addition, novel TGI are being established by new actor coalitions combining previously discrete climate and biodiversity interests (e.g. Business4Nature, Ocean Risk & Resilience Alliance). We currently lack the evidence base and conceptual frameworks to determine

what these developments mean for the climate and biodiversity agendas. There are growing concerns that the dominance of climate change on the global agenda may lead to adverse impacts for biodiversity with TGI seeking to develop ‘natural solutions’ to achieve net-zero emissions commitments without taking into account effects on biodiversity or society (Brandi 2017; Pörtner et al. 2021; Reside et al. 2017; Seddon et al. 2020). Equally, it will be crucial to understand what the growth of biodiversity focused TGI mean in terms of wider goals for climate, society, and sustainability given the evidence that making biodiversity the subject of private investment often leads to detrimental consequences (Asiyanbi 2016; Bryant 2018; Fairhead et al. 2012; Kay 2018; Ouma et al. 2018).

In this workshop, we aim to advance a research agenda that allows scholars to examine the development and implications of TGI at the climate-biodiversity frontier and to identify how such interventions can contribute to jointly advancing climate and biodiversity goals. We welcome papers that consider these issues both conceptually and empirically. Contributions might explore questions such as:

- What theoretical frameworks can help conceptualize cross-issue interactions through TGI?
- In what specific ways do TGI understand the linkages between climate and biodiversity?
- Is the landscape of TGI at the climate-biodiversity frontier clustered around particular discourses, governance instruments, or sectors?
- Is the emergence of TGI at the climate-biodiversity frontier reshaping how these linkages are understood within the respective multilateral regimes?

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.

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