

Sustainability Day

CHALLENGES



At the School of Business, Economics, and Law, we explore future challenges and discuss solutions to global sustainability goals through research, education, and collaboration with our partner companies, public organizations, and international partners. Today, perhaps more than ever, there is a need for knowledge and understanding of social, ecological, and economic sustainability issues in both the private and public sectors. These questions about the future are increasingly important in research and educational programs. Therefore, we consider it essential that by the time you graduate, you will have acquired a sufficient level of knowledge and the relevant tools to address issues of ethics, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability in your professional life. In light of this, the school is organizing mandatory Sustainability Days for all program students to complement the sustainability education provided within the various courses of the programs. Sustainability Day: **Challenges** is held during your first year of study, while your second and third years include two days focused on **Responsibility** and **Solutions**, respectively.

Welcome to Sustainability Day: Challenges

Your first Sustainability Day in the program takes place on **September 17th** and focuses on global challenges for sustainable development. The day is designed as a mini-conference, where in the morning you will listen to a conversation between researchers from different disciplines, with the central question being: *What will it take to move from words to action and create the necessary transition to meet the Sustainable Development Goals? What roles do business and policy play in this transition, and how is this relevant to your future professional role?*

In the afternoon, you choose between five different lectures that will give you more insight into some of these challenges, and why they are relevant to you in your future professional role.

Read more about the program on the following pages.

Practical information

Sustainability Day: Challenges will take place on September 17th and is a mandatory component in all programs. **Registration for the different afternoon sessions opens on September 11th at 12:00 PM.** Until then you have the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the program. The morning session will be held at Haga Konserthall on Haga kyrkogata 2, and all afternoon sessions will take place in the School of Business, Economics and Law's facilities on Vasagatan 1.

Welcome to an inspiring and educative day!

The Sustainability Office

Read more about the Sustainability Days on our website:
www.gu.se/en/school-business-economics-law/sustainability-days



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET
HANDELSHÖGSKOLAN

Sustainability Day

CHALLENGES



TID/TIME	TRACK A1: ALL STUDENTS				
	<p>The world has agreed on 17 Global Sustainability Goals – What will it take to move from words to action and create the sustainable transition required?</p>				
10.15- 11.45	<p>Keynote speaker: Johan Holmén Panelists: Aron Westholm, Annika Lindskog, Ellen Lagrell, & Niklas Egels Zandén Moderator: Anders Sandoff</p> <p><i>Haga Konserthall (Haga kyrkogata 2)</i></p>				
11.45 - 13.15	<p>FREE LUNCH - <i>By the Main Entrance and at Hyllan (Vasagatan 1)</i></p>				
TID/TIME	SPÅR B1	TRACK B2	TRACK B3	SPÅR B4	SPÅR B5
	Vår antibiotika i deras vatten	Artificial Intelligence as Opportunity and Threat	Democracy in Decline	Förmögenhetsfördelning i världen och i Sverige	Framtidens energi som global utmaning
13.15 - 15.30	Johan Bengtsson-Palme & Elina Lampi	Olle Häggström & Mattias Sundemo	Anna Persson, Marina Nord & Olof Johansson Stenman	Björn Gustafsson, Anna Nordén & Katarina Nordblom	Filip Johnsson, Anders Widman & Staffan Granér
	<i>Malmstenssalen</i>	<i>B22</i>	<i>Volvo</i>	<i>E44</i>	<i>SEB</i>

PLEASE NOTE

- ◊ The morning track A1 and the electable seminars track B2 and track B3 in the afternoon are held in English. The remaining seminars are held in Swedish.
- ◊ The morning session will take place at Haga Konserthall, Haga Kyrkogata 2, while the lunch and all afternoon sessions will be held at the school on Vasagatan 1.



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Track A1

The world has agreed on 17 Global Sustainability Goals

– What will it take to move from words to action and create the sustainable transition required?



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart there are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all in a global partnership.

They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

In this interactive session, a panel of researchers will discuss these challenges as well as why the challenges will be relevant in your future professional life.

Prepare for the session by:

Reading up on the SDGs and think of questions you would like to ask the panel. Also think about what you would like to learn more about during your studies in terms of sustainability issues.

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

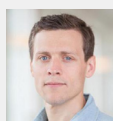
SPEAKERS

Keynote



Johan Holmén, Senior Lecturer, PhD in Physical Resource Theory and Sustainability Transitions, University West

Panel participants



Aron Westholm, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, School of Business, Economics and Law



Ellen Lagrell, PhD, Human Geography, School of Business, Economics and Law



Annika Lindskog, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law



Niklas Egels Zandén, Professor, Department of Business Administration, School of Business, Economics and Law

Moderator



Anders Sandoff, Senior Lecturer, Department of Business Administration, School of Business, Economics and Law

Track B2

Artificial Intelligence as Opportunity and Threat

Artificial intelligence is no longer science fiction. When OpenAI released Chat GPT to the public in November 2022, it took no more than 2 months to reach 100 million users. In a short period of time, the technology has opened up a range of new opportunities but also challenges in various industries – from programming to the review of legal contracts.

Even though LLMs (large language models like GPT-4 and GPT-5) get much of the attention, there are other important AI applications in more technical areas. DeepMind's AlphaFold, for example, has quickly managed to map all human protein structures. This breakthrough is expected to revolutionize medical research and lead to new drugs and better treatment methods.

It is undoubtedly easy to see the opportunities with the technology. At the same time, many experts are urging caution. Are we handing over increasingly more important decisions to AI, thereby losing control over our lives and the development of society at large? How can and should we reason about risks and opportunities in relation to a development that is happening so incredibly fast, and is considered to have the potential to create incredible prosperity while also potentially solving the climate crisis, but at the same time risking humanity's downfall?

In this session, Olle Häggström, a professor of mathematical statistics at Chalmers, who do research in AI development, will be our main speaker. Olle is genuinely concerned about the existential risks that uncontrolled AI development could bring. Moderating the seminar is Mattias Sundemo, who is a Sustainability coordinator and a PhD student in the Department of Economics.

SPEAKERS



Olle Häggström, Professor, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Mathematical Sciences Chalmers University of Technology



Moderator: Mattias Sundemo, Sustainability coordinator and PhD student, Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law

Track B3

Democracy in Decline

In recent years, the world has witnessed a concerning trend of countries moving away from democratic principles in favor of autocratic regimes. This wave is deeply entwined with rising corruption: corruption prevents democratization, and weakened democratic institutions in turn pave the way for corruption. The result is a decrease in transparency, accountability, and public trust. It is a dangerous feedback loop that affects not only freedom - but also fair markets, human rights, and our collective efforts toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 16: “Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies”).

Anna Persson will open the session with an overview of democracy’s decline and it’s close ties to corruption. Drawing from research in comparative politics and development, she will explore why corruption persists despite reform efforts, how it undermines the prospects for democratization and the legitimacy of democratic systems, and under what conditions corruption can be successfully fought.

Marina Nord will present the V-Dem (the Varieties of Democracy) Institute’s findings about the latest trends for democracy and autocracy in the world. She will explain the common patterns of the ”third wave of autocratization”, review potential causes of global democratic decline, and discuss potential consequences for sustainable development.

TALARE



Anna Persson, Senior lecturer at the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg



Marina Nord, Postdoctoral research fellow at the V-Dem Institute, based at the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg



Moderator: Olof Johansson Stenman, Professor Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg