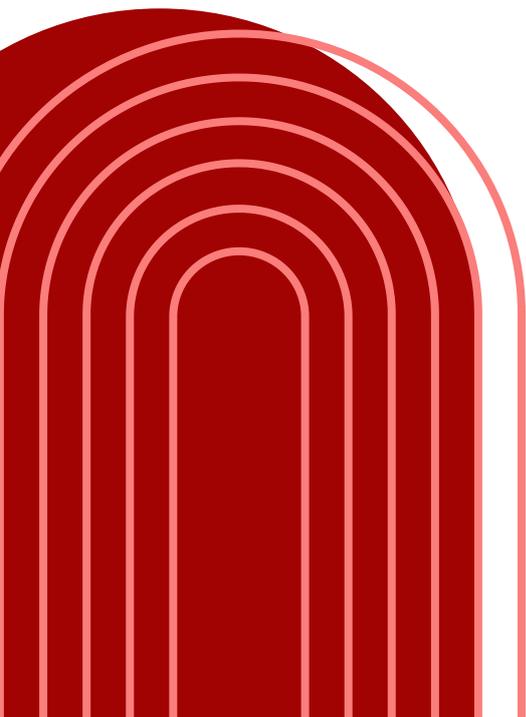


GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

This report was edited by Ariadna Romans i Torrent, under the editorial guidance of Maggi Leung, with contributions from all members of the Governance and Inclusive Development research group.

We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to our research group since its foundation, as well as those who work every day to advance the field of international development studies.



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

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Welcome to the 2024 GID report

Welcome to our first annual report! It gives you a sense of the wide range of research, educational and social engagement activities of the Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) research group in 2024.

Embedded in the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) and the Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development (GPIO) at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), GID colleagues critically examine what has been done in the name of 'development' in the past and present, and how the impacts of 'development' have been distributed among people and places. These insights allow us to (re)imagine a future of development that is more just, sustainable and inclusive. Through our research, education and social engagement, we aim to foster a more just, sustainable and inclusive world. Within the overarching focus on governance and inclusive development, we specialise in three intersecting themes: (i) environmental justice in the Anthropocene, (ii) global inequalities, and (iii) the politics of knowledge. While advancing academic excellence and contributing to methodological innovation, we also place impact at the heart of our efforts. We work across academic disciplines, engage with stakeholders in sectors beyond academia, and integrate diverse knowledge into our work.

As we look back and celebrate our achievements in 2024, we must not forget the many conflicts, miseries and global challenges we face. In particular, the war in Gaza drew widespread global protest and international condemnation, also on our campus. In May, students initiated a pro-Palestinian protest occupation on campus, demanding transparency about the University's links with Israeli institutions and calling for these links to be severed. The protests took on added significance as the right to demonstrate itself came under attack. Riot police were deployed against students demonstrating peacefully outside the buildings. Many members of the GID community took part in the successive demonstrations, some of whom felt the blows of batons and worse. It was a challenging time when judgements and expectations were constantly being contested. Communication was difficult or sometimes lost. Some students vehemently demanded a firmer stance and commitment from GID staff to join them on the front line.

We did our best to navigate and find common ground with different groups of students who had different priorities. It was an extremely challenging and emotionally draining time as we learned to manage these differences as best we could, to provide stability for academic work while not ignoring the reality of the ongoing and escalating war - one among many in our world - and its impact on many of our community members.

At the graduation ceremony in October, we reunited with our master students, who returned to campus with their families and friends as proud graduates. The sense of hope, gratitude and optimism was overwhelming, especially considering the pain our students had experienced during their studies. We could only be impressed and inspired by the incredible courage, solidarity and strength of our students.

As we look forward from here, we are excited about ongoing and new research projects in GID, and a stable student body in our educational programmes. However, we are gravely concerned about the impacts that proposed budget cuts by the Dutch government will have on our longer-term goals, in the sectors of education, research and international development cooperation alike. The combination of cuts in these three sectors could destroy decades of work and the connections built with our partners worldwide and severely restrict our future opportunities. Together with tens of thousands of students, lecturers, and university staff, we took part in demonstrations in Utrecht and The Hague in November to make our voice heard. In addition, we feel the pressure of the 'de-internationalisation' discussion going on in society at large, in the government and in our institution. We are proud of the international constitution of our research group and student body, and also see it as obvious and necessary for the kind of work we do. Through our research, teaching and societal partnerships, we will continue to demonstrate the tremendous value and contribution of our international staff and students.

Looking back to this challenging year, we are all the more grateful for and proud of being part of the GID community. We would like to thank colleagues and our partners for their support and collaboration in research and education over the past year. We look forward to another fruitful year, hopefully one that is more just and peaceful.



Professor Maggi W.H. Leung
Chair of Governance and
Inclusive Development
research group



Dr Courtney Vegelin
Education Director of
International Development
Studies master programmes

GID Vision, Themes and Approaches

Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) is a research group within the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), based in the Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Through research, education and social engagement, we foster a more just, sustainable and inclusive world. We do this by engaging with, examining and challenging dominant patterns and understandings of ‘development’, as a contested notion, and its relationship to (in)justice. We critically examine what has been done in the name of ‘development’ in the past and the present, and how the impacts of ‘development’ have been distributed among people and places. These insights allow us to (re)imagine the future of development that is more just, sustainable and inclusive.

Since its inception in the 1990s, the GID group has responded to and set research agendas for understanding the ever-changing field of international development studies. Transformations in political, environmental, economic, social, cultural and technological contexts can contribute to progress, but also to persisting, and often deepening injustices within and between population groups. As an interdisciplinary team, we scrutinise the underlying assumptions and premises of those transformations which exacerbate deepening inequality and injustice, from diverse perspectives and using different research methods. Our work focuses on linking up a range of themes to governance and inclusive development within and across the Global South and North, East and West. In addition, our research applies relational perspectives, highlighting the transnational/local and inter-scalar nature of development processes and their impacts.

Our work advances academic excellence, contributes to methodological innovation and focuses on impact. We work across academic disciplines and engage with stakeholders in sectors beyond academia and integrate diverse knowledges into our work.

Themes

Under the overarching theme, GID focuses on three intersecting areas:

Environmental justice in the Anthropocene

Under this theme, we examine human–environment relations, with particular attention to issues of access, rights, responsibilities, and control over environmental resources. Our work highlights the disproportionate exposure of marginalised groups to both historical and emerging ecological risks. We investigate how socio-environmental inequalities and injustices are (re)produced through the entrenchment of dominant discourses and associated technologies, infrastructures, instruments, and governance arrangements. We also explore pathways towards a more sustainable future. Specific areas of focus include water, oceans and coasts, forests, and climate change, across the urban–rural spectrum.

Global inequalities

This theme addresses social inequalities, injustices, and conflicts. We adopt an intersectional approach to examine the discursive, structural, and multi-level causes and dynamics of poverty and systemic marginalisation, which are produced and reproduced through global processes and their associated localised effects. We analyse various paradigms and theories concerned with social justice; the role of different actors, institutions, and social movements; as well as the technologies, instruments, and infrastructures that influence (in)justice. Specific areas of focus include migration and mobilities, education, fair labour practices, degrowth, food security, inclusive finance and wellbeing economics, participatory governance, and sustainable peacebuilding.

Politics of knowledge

In examining the above, we also investigate the politics of knowledge. Using an inclusive development lens and critical analytical approaches, we explore development ideologies, hegemonies, discourses, and policy instruments from diverse perspectives—questioning whose knowledge counts, why, and how certain forms of knowledge remain underrepresented in debates, policies, and practices. Transdisciplinary research and the co-creation of knowledge are threads that run through, and connect, all our work.

Approaches

Our themes link with two core approaches: ‘**governance**’ and ‘**inclusive development**’.

- **Governance is the process of collective decision making and implementation.** Appropriate governance in different settings is fundamental to achieving more just, sustainable and inclusive societies. We investigate the workings of governance in our diverse research contexts. We focus on policies, practices and contestations, and on the who, why, what and how of various processes to improve governance outcomes.
- We define **inclusive development in terms of social inclusion** (focusing on justice, human well-being, regenerative economics and society) **and ecological inclusion** (as ecosystems are essential for preserving planetary health and human welfare, particularly of the marginalised). For us, inclusion is inherently relational, and we examine the underlying politics of such relations from local to global levels, with a focus on reducing persistent and emerging inequalities.



The GID Team

We are a team of scholars and educators with expertise across a diversity of disciplines, including geography, anthropology, economics, public policy, international relations, and law, as well as a range of epistemological and methodological approaches. Our work is complemented by colleagues from the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, who focus on the politics of water governance. We also host numerous postdoctoral researchers and doctoral candidates from varied backgrounds, who find a temporary home with us and carry out research in different parts of the world.

We are embedded in international networks of academics, development practitioners, policymakers, and civil society actors. We draw on these connections to co-create and share knowledge and, in turn, to generate impact on policies and practices.



The GID Team



Maggi W.H. Leung

Professor in International Development Studies

Keywords: migration and development, labour, Global China, climate adaptation and resilience.



Hebe Verrest

Associate professor International Development Studies

Keywords: urban inequality, urban flooding and disaster, wellbeing and social justice, Caribbean cities, entrepreneurship, comparative geography.



Karen Paiva Henrique

Assistant professor International Development Studies

Keywords: spatial and environmental planning, climate change adaptation, loss and damage, and multidimensional justice.



Crelis Rammelt

Associate professor Environmental Geography and Development Studies

Keywords: political ecology, unequal exchange, degrowth, systems science.



Nicky Pouw

Associate Professor in the Economics of Wellbeing

Keywords: wellbeing economics, SDG interactions, inclusive development, sustainability, marginality.



Mieke Lopes Cardozo

Associate Professor in Regenerative Education and Development

Keywords: regenerative education, living systems thinking, teaching innovations, co-creative design.



Michaela Hordjik

Associate Professor International Development Studies

Keywords: urban sustainability transitions, transdisciplinary research, regenerative education.



Joyeeta Gupta

Distinguished Professor on Environment and Development in the Global South

Keywords: adaptive, inclusive multi-level governance; changing governance patterns; human rights and environmental principles; inclusive development, Earth System justice

Disclaimer. Instead of presenting our team in a conventional way, such as by name or rank, we have mixed them up at random in this report. We hope that this approach will lead to some surprises.



Joeri Scholtens

Assistant professor
International Development
Studies

Keywords: fisheries, food
security, ocean justice,
environmental conflict.



Line Kuppens

Assistant Professor of
Conflict Studies at the
University of Amsterdam

Keywords: conflict studies,
peace education,
reconciliation, memory
politics, horizontal
inequalities.



Robbin-Jan van Druijne

Assistant professor of
human-environment
geography

Keywords: geography,
livelihoods, migration.



Courtney Vegelin

Senior lecturer and Director
of the Master Program in
International Development
Studies

Keywords: critical
development, inclusive
development, re-imagining
international development.



S. Shakthi

Assistant professor
International Development
Studies

Keywords: labour
geographies,
intersectionality, feminist
approaches.



Klaas Schwartz

Professor by Special
Appointment in Urban
Water Governance, IHE-
Delft and University of
Amsterdam

Keywords: water
governance, practice of
commercialisation, pro-
poor water services, water
operator partnerships.



Margreet Zwarteveen

Professor by Special
Appointment in Water
Governance, IHE-Delft and
University of Amsterdam

Keywords: water governance,
feminist political ecology,
interdisciplinary collaboration,
groundwater sustainability,
careful irrigation.



Mirjam Ros-Tonen

Associate professor
International Development
Studies

Keywords: landscape
governance, inclusive
development, knowledge
co-creation, value chains,
environment-development
interface.



Yves van Leynseele

Lecturer in International
Development Studies

Keywords: rural and urban
transformation, sub-
saharan africa, inclusive
business and knowledge
regimes.



Elisabeth Krueger

Assistant Professor of
Resilience of Social-Ecological
Systems

Keywords: complex systems,
resilience, social-ecological-
technological systems (SETS).



Esther Miedema

Lecturer in International
Development Studies

Keywords: feminisms, health
promotion, reproductive and
sexual health and justice.

The GID Team

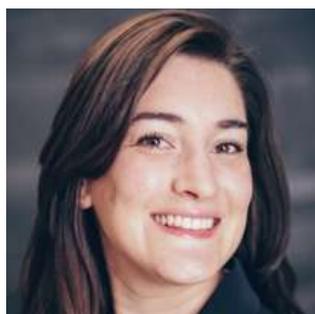
Postdoctoral Researchers



Edith van Ewijk

Stepping Out: Learning for Sustainability Transitions (NWO)

Keywords: sustainability transitions, professional learning, organisational learning, urban redevelopment.



Andrea Mueller

Water Allocation and Rights

Keywords: water allocation, water permits, quasi-property rights, water governance, water atlas.



Hilmer Bosch

Water justice, water property rights, and inclusive development in the Global South

Keywords: water justice, equitable water allocation, quasi-property rights in water, water system justice.



Melanie van Driel

Cross-border policy coherence for Sustainable Development: bringing together insights from multiple research consortia

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, cross-border policy coherence, alignment mechanisms, coherence, development policy.



Yang Chen

Stranded Assets Index and Interactive Atlas (CLIFF-climate change and fossil fuels)

Keywords: climate justice, stranded assets, spatial analysis, mapping, assessment, modelling, climate policy



Ming Luo

Chinese civil society in the Netherlands and Europe

Keywords: China, social movements, LGBTQ+ rights, Chinese diaspora and transnationalism.

The GID Team

Support staff and Student advisors



Eva van der Sleen

Fieldwork and Partnerships Manager and Lecturer for the MIDS programme



Agnieszka van Laar

Student Advisor for the IDS and RIDS Master's Programme



Valeria Cavallin

Administrative and Research Assistant, NWO Spinoza Project

The GID Team

PhD candidates



Patrick Arhin

Power, Participation, and Relational Justice: Examining Corporate-Community Negotiations in Ghana's Lithium Mining



Benjamin Haokip

Armed Conflict and its Implications in Manipur, India: Role of Education and Youth Agency towards Peace building



Marleen Spieker

Youth empowerment, social change & justice through an intersectional lens: perspectives from youth, development workers and community-led initiatives in post-conflict Liberia and Syria



Bota Sharipova

The role of trust in transboundary water cooperation



Ivan Valencia-Saez

Wellbeing Across Marginalized Communities in Amsterdam: Wellbeing in Context



Serena Adhiambo Adede Nasongo

Putting the house in order: Institutions and governance systems in the Nyando Wetlands, Kenya



Sharon Suri

Reaching last mile consumers: How mobile traders facilitate stable access to nutritious foods



Marie Belland

Volatile city life: Knowing-and-making coastal subsidence in Semarang



Vikas Bagde

Influence of narratives on the process of bottom-up mobility innovations



Felix Van Hoften

Degrowth economic measurement informing alternative pathways for transformative urban governance



Ain Contractor

Water-care practices in agroecology: From 'productivity' to 'dignity', and 'incentives' to 'dreams'



Aarthi Sridhar

Fishing for Autonomy: The Making of Indian Fisheries Science



Mustika Anggreani

The cost and value of participation in water governance: A case study of Indonesia



Frank De Morrée

Climate Philanthropy: the role of institutional philanthropy in phasing out fossil fuels (CLIFF)



Malaika Yanou

Exploring the politics of luzibo kusangana. The potential of Tonga local, integrated and hybrid knowledge for equitable landscape approaches in Southern Zambia



Ivan Mugga

Enhancing Consistency between Climate and Energy Law and Policy in Fossil Fuel-Rich LDCs – A Case Study of Uganda



Rashmila Shakya

Exploring the intersection of masculinities and early marriage: insights for policy and practice



Jennifer van Beek

Measurement and policy formulation of Economic Wellbeing needs



Catalina Garcia Chaves

Understanding maritime boundary-making dynamics from a sociolegal perspective in the Western Caribbean



Augusto Heras

Climate change, fossil fuels, and the energy transition in the Global South (CLIFF)



Caroline Murungi
Towards Sustainability of Operations: Understanding Water Supply Infrastructure Maintenance Practices



Bernice Ephraim-Armoo
How water utilities seek resilience



Clara McDonell
Pension funds and their role in phasing out fossil fuels (CLIFF)



Julius Muchemi
Governing Forests and REDD



Juantong Ye
Translocal Entanglements: Chinese Migrants and the China-Bordeaux Wine Industry



Jolanda Robinson
International Development Cooperation and the Challenges of Gender Mainstreaming Strategies for ICT: The Case of Ethiopia



Eric Bayala
Prospects for operationalizing an integrated landscape approach in northern Ghana



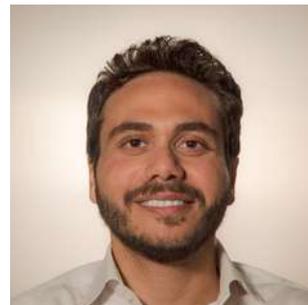
Freddie Siangulube
Multi-stakeholder platforms for actor engagement in landscape governance: Towards Integrated Landscape Approaches in Zambia



Janina Herzog-Hawelka
The role of multinational oil and gas companies and relevant agents of change in leaving fossil fuels underground (LFFU - CLIFF)



Eric Vaughan
Post-growth inclusive development perspectives for reconciling biodiversity conservation and development challenges in the Global South



Moataz Yakan Talaat
Green debt colonial practices' discourse (CLIFF)



Opal Morales Asencio
Risk allocation in public-private partnership contracts in the water and energy sector (CLIFF)



Jane Aggrey

Reconciling artisanal gold mining and food production in multi-functional landscapes: A case study in Ghana



Augusta Anandi

What are the prospects of implementing an integrated landscape approach in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan, within a context against the backdrop of polycentric governance, legal pluralism, and ongoing collaborative governance initiatives?



Budi Santosa

Indigenous People, National Park and Tourism: Value Negotiation in a National Park Landscape, Indonesia



Eunice Amboka Likoko

Women Food Entrepreneurs in Kenya and Burkina Faso. Building inclusive business models for food security in the city slums of Kisumu and Ouagadougou



Armstrong Mudzengerere

The Political Economy of Chinese Lithium Mining Investments in Zimbabwe: Power Dynamics, Resource Flows, and Social Justice



Rizkyana Dipananda

Fish consumption practices, small fish trade network and poor people food and nutrition security



Glen Robbins

Port Cities, governance, Durban, South Africa



Shubhagato Dasgupta

Scaling City Institutions for India (Sci-Fi) Sanitation initiative



Cristina Buza

People's livelihoods in 'inner-peripheries' in Germany and Romania and how these places are interconnected in relation to the transnational regime of mobile work



Lekha Samant

The question of water justice through a comparative analysis of everyday life and spatial planning systems for flood adaptation in the cities of Mumbai and Amsterdam



Adriano Biza

Sustainable water supply in Maputo (IHE- Delft)



Andres Cabrera-Flamini

Fostering the sustainability of water utilities: A comparative analysis of strategic accounting practices and staff values

The GID Team

Researchers



Luc van Vliet
Global Commission on the
Economics of Water (GCEW)



Maaïke van Heijningen
Junior Researcher - Stepping
Out: Learning for Sustainability
Transitions (NWO)



Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Catalá
The Earth Commission



Michele Castrezzati
Urban Blue Justice



Aljoscha Karg
The Earth Commission



Ariadna Romans i Torrent
Project Management and
Social Impact

Research projects

GID research examines and challenges dominant patterns and understandings of 'development', as a contested notion, and its relationship to (in)justice. We critically examine what has been done in the name of 'development' in the past and the present, and how the impacts of 'development' have been distributed among people and places. These insights allow us to (re)imagine the future of development that is more just, sustainable and inclusive. Here are our on-going research projects:

Glocal Water Governance

The 'Glocal' Water Governance Research Agenda consists of two separate but synergising projects. The first research project 'Water Justice and Beyond' contributes to the work of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water and is aiming to redefine the way we value and govern water for the common good.

The second research project 'Water Allocation, Rights and Institution Study' reviews a small sample of countries regarding the nature and effectiveness of the current legal, regulatory, and administrative practices in the application of water valuation and water allocation.



Person in charge: Joyeeta Gupta

Period: 2024-2027

Funding: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Team: Joyeeta Gupta, Hilmer Bosch, Andrea Mueller, Luc van Vliet, Aljoscha Karg.

Website link: [Water Quasi-Property Rights Atlas v1.0](#)

Small fish for food and nutrition security in Africa (SmallFish4Food)

The SmallFish4Food project addresses critical gaps in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, and 14 by emphasizing the importance of small fish in food and nutrition security across Africa. Fisheries, which support 200 million people, are vital to African economies, yet small fish species are often overlooked despite their nutritional benefits and environmental efficiency.

More specifically, the project works in Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa to understand and alleviate obstacles for small pelagic fish to be utilized for domestic food security instead of industrial feed production. By addressing challenges such as the political prioritization of larger species and limited access for fishers targeting small species, SmallFish4Food aims to combat nutritional deficiencies and foster sustainable, inclusive food systems.

Person in charge: Joeri Scholtens

Period: 2024-2027

Funding: NWO/Global Research Council

Team: Joeri Scholtens, Jennifer Whittingham (postdoc), and colleagues from Norway and South Africa

Website link: [SmallFishFood](#)



Development of bottom-up Wellbeing Dashboards with Amsterdam neighborhoods

The Development of Wellbeing Dashboards for Amsterdam project addresses the limitations of GDP as the dominant economic indicator, which often overlooks social and personal well-being, the lived realities of marginalized groups, and reinforces urban-centric growth. In the wellbeing dashboard residents and researchers jointly develop robust measurement tools based on themes and indicators selected by residents themselves

Despite economic expansion, inequality persists, highlighting the need for a shift towards a well-being-focused economy. Half of the indicators on the co-created wellbeing dashboards are not measured by official databases - thus pointing to blind spots in data and policy. The majority of indicators on the dashboards are about basic needs and reflect an 'urgency' bias. People prioritize what they need short-term, including healthy food, less financial stress, feeling accepted by the people around them, and being mentally stable. Together with existing neighborhood platforms and alliances, the wellbeing dashboards are co-designed into governance tools that build-up a credible and trusted data-to-action infrastructure.

Person in charge: Nicky Pouw and Hebe Verrest

Period: 2021-2028

Funding: UvA/ Stadsdeel Nieuwwest/ Stadsdeel Zuidoost/ Masterplan Zuidoost/ Samen Nieuwwest/ VSB fonds/ Fair & Resilient Society IP Fund (UvA)

Team: Jennifer van Beek, Ivan Valencia-Saez, Yamen Hannoush

Website link: [Welzijnsdashboard](#)



CLIFF – Climate Change and Fossil Fuels

The CLIFF – Climate Change & Fossil Fuels project examines the critical need to leave fossil fuels underground (LFFU) to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement goals, emphasizing the profound implications for global investors and developing countries reliant on fossil fuel industries for economic growth. With fossil fuel resources and assets valued at \$16-300 trillion potentially stranded, CLIFF investigates the roles of major stakeholders, including fossil fuel firms, shareholders, debt financiers, and governments, and how LFFU can be equitably mobilized.

Combining institutional analysis and a theory of change for inclusive development, the project employs a transdisciplinary, comparative case study approach across key global regions. Outputs include an Interactive Atlas, a Stranded Asset Index, and equitable policy instruments designed to make climate-resilient strategies politically feasible and effective. Funded by the European Research Council, CLIFF runs from November 2021 to November 2026.

Person in charge: Joyeeta Gupta

Period: 2021-2026

Funding: European Research Council

Team: Joyeeta Gupta, Frank de Morrée, Clara McDonnell, Janina Herzog-Hawelka, Augusto Heras, Moataz Talaat, Opal Morales Asencio, Yang Chen, Luc van Vliet.

Website link: [CLIFF project](#)



Earth Commission

The Earth Commission is an international team of 17 scientists from 12 countries working across five groups: Modelling, Biodiversity, Nutrients & Pollution, Transformation, and Translation Methods, led by Johan Rockström, Joyeeta Gupta, and Dahe Qin. In 2024, there was a new leadership with J. Gupta staying on as Commissioner.

The commission translates scientific findings into actionable targets to guide stewardship of the global commons at local and global levels. Working Group 4, co-led by Joyeeta Gupta and Diana Liverman, integrates justice into climate action by analyzing policies, socio-economic drivers, and governance mechanisms for transformative change.

In May 2023, the commission published the *Nature* paper ‘Safe and Just Earth System Boundaries’, incorporating justice into boundary setting and gaining significant public and academic engagement and the integrated *Lancet Planetary Health Earth Commission 2024* paper was led by J. Gupta. Funded by the Global Commons Alliance and other foundations, the project spans Phase 1 (2020–2023) and Phase 2 (2023–ongoing), with the University of Amsterdam as a key partner in Working Group 4.



Person in charge: Joyeeta Gupta

Period: 2019-2026

Funding: Global Challenges Foundation, Earth Commission

Team: Joyeeta Gupta, Luc van Vliet, Joeri Scholtens, Crelis Rammelt, Aljoscha Karg

Website link: [Earth Commission](#)

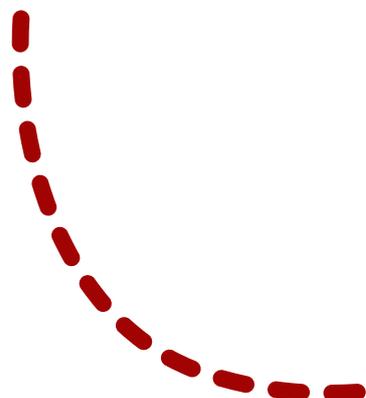


VISION Project: Envisioning Convivial Europe

The VISION Project studies the nature and impact of cross-border work and mobility. Focusing on peripherised regions in Germany, Romania and Europe, the project aims to understand how these households and regions are linked via labour mobility. It analyses what it takes to make Europe a place where diverse people can thrive and pursue their aspirations together. This collaborative research is led by the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Paris Lodron University Salzburg, and the University of Amsterdam, and is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation under the 'Challenges for Europe' initiative (2022-2025). Cristina Buza, PhD based at GID, conducts research on the translocal labour and other social links between peripherised regions in Romania and Brandenburg, Germany.



Person in charge: Maggi Leung
Period: 2022 - 2026
Funding: Volkswagen Foundation
Team: Maggi Leung, Cristina Buza (PhD candidate)
Website link: [VISION project](#)



Researching Innovations Supporting Higher Education for Regenerative Societies (RISERS)

The RISERS project brings together various action research initiatives, led by dr Mieke Lopes Cardozo in collaboration with a range of academic and non-academic knowledge partners and co-creators. Initiated in 2023, and building on prior action research projects in former years, this research project aims to explore the regenerative potential existing and emerging within the broader ('higher') education system. Ongoing action research is conducted in the context of a number of academic courses, in which Mieke stewards regenerative education design in combination with an action research and collective auto-ethnographic methodology.

Regenerative education design principles and frameworks (see Lopes Cardozo et al, 2025) inform:

- 1) the co-creative course design;
- 2) the actual implementation of regeneratively co-created academic courses; and
- 3) a connected action-oriented research methodology, resulting in a range of co-authored outputs by diverse stakeholders.



HOT (Higher Education in Transition): Documenting and analyzing this transformative movement's workshops, sessions, and outputs. Conducted by Sam Hamer and Mieke Lopes Cardozo.



CoP Regenerative Higher Education: Developing a living book exploring regenerative education through dialogical and collaborative autoethnography, led by Bas van den Berg, Mieke Lopes Cardozo, and Koen Wessels, with support from Sofia Sarmiento Arboleda.



DEGASTEN x UvA – Researching the in-between space. Since 2023, DEGASTEN and the UvA have co-created workshops in various courses. In 2025, this evolved into a transdisciplinary project combining DEGASTEN's In Between Lab and regenerative education design to foster creative and reflective learning spaces for contemporary and future challenges.

Person in charge: Mieke Lopes Cardozo

Period: 2023 - 2029

Funding: Stimulation grant AISSR

Team: Mieke Lopes Cardozo, Sidsel Petersen (2023-2024), Sam Hamer (2023-2024), Irmak Tankurt (2025), Wilbert Slagboom (Theatergroep DEGASTEN, 2023-ongoing), Bas van den Berg (HHS/School of Regenerative Educators), Koen Wessels (UvA/School of Regenerative Educators)

Website link: [Education and Development](#)

FRIS SIG - Fair, Resilient, Inclusive Societies Special Interest Group

The SIG 'Fair, Resilient & Inclusive Societies (FRIS)' at the University of Amsterdam brings together around 50 educators from diverse faculties, dedicated to transforming education into a driver for social justice, resilience, and inclusion. Through collaborative grants and a vibrant co-learning community, participants explore systems-change approaches, regenerative design principles, and innovative pedagogy—ranging from auto-ethnographic storytelling and reflective journaling to mindfulness, theatre workshops, Socratic dialogue, and living-systems frameworks. FRIS grant recipients (up to €6500) co-develop educational innovations—action-research or curriculum redesign—to embed FRIS values in their teaching, while engaging in deep personal and professional development. This developmental learning community offers a unique space for educators committed to rethinking and renewing their practice in alignment with societal and ecological justice. In addition to the education innovation grants and projects, the FRIS community also funds small scale action research projects connected to the teaching innovations, and offers 0,2 fte Research Fellowships for 2 Fellows in the periods 2023-2025 (Hulya Kosar Altinyelken & Sindy Sumpter), and 2025-2027 (Line Kuppens & Roosmarijn van Woerden).

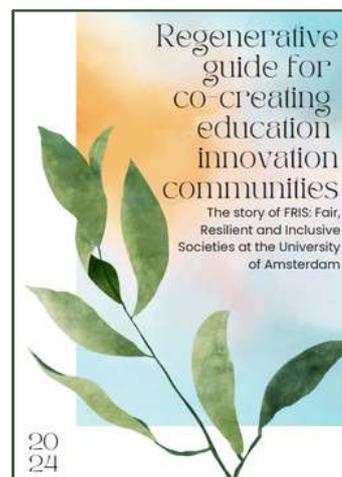
Person in charge: Mieke Lopes Cardozo

Period: 2021 - ongoing

Funding: UvA Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) and Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS)

Team: Mieke Lopes Cardozo (chair), Rosanne van Wieringen (organiser 2022-2023), Sidsel Petersen (organiser 2023-2024), Nithya Subramanian (organiser 2024-2026), Hulya Kosar Altinyelken & Sindy Sumpter (FRIS Research Fellows, 2023-2025), Line Kuppens & Roosmarijn van Woerden (FRIS & NPuls Research Fellows 2025-2027).

Website link: [SIG-Fair Resilience Inclusive Societies FRIS](#)



Regenerative Education

Co-creation of more regenerative forms of (higher) education, together with Haagse Hogeschool, Rotterdamse Hogeschool, Daan Buijs (Wageningen University) and School of Regenerative Educators, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (UvA). This project evolved from the succesful Senior Comeniusfellowship 'Navigating Uncertain Futures: a pedagogical compass'. We founded the Community of Practice on Regenerative Education and published a White Paper on Regenerative Education that found resonance in many educators. The Community of Practice implemented two series of practicals, each followed by approxamitely 20 educators in higher education from over 15 Higher Education Institutes from all over the Netherlands. It resulted in local Communities of Practice founded at various participating institutes. The publication of 'The Art of Regenerative Educatorship: a developmental guide' is foreseen for 2025.

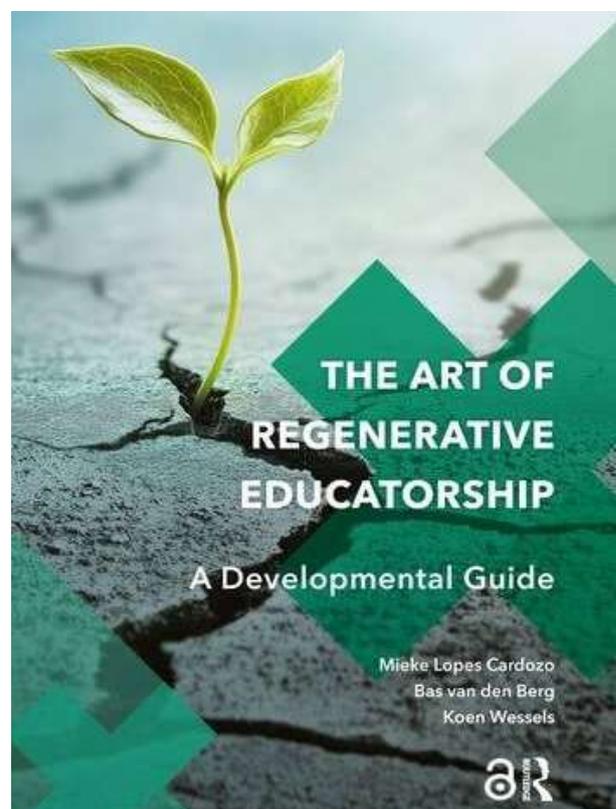
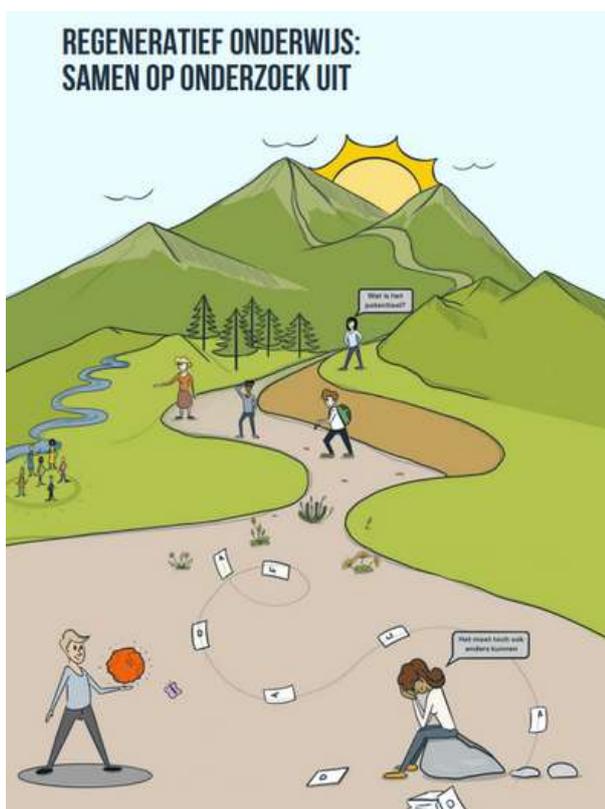
Person in charge: Michaela Hordijk and Mieke Lopes Cardozo

Period: 2022-2025

Funding: NRO (Senior Comeniusfellowship)

Team: Michaela Hordijk and Mieke Lopes Cardozo, Bas van den Berg (Haagse Hogeschool), Marlies van der Wee en Ingeborg van Heezen (Hogeschool Rotterdam), Koen Wessels (School of Regenerative Educators), Debby Gerritsen (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies).

Website link: [White paper on Regenerative Education](#)



Knowledge Brokering and Synthesis project on Sustainable Development Goal interactions



This five-year research programme, supported by the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA) and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explores how Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) interact and how policy interventions can optimise synergies and reduce trade-offs, particularly in developing countries. Through three interlinked themes focusing on SDG governance, women's empowerment and child health and nutrition security, and climate-conflict dynamics, research consortia work across disciplines and regions to provide evidence-based insights that inform more coherent and inclusive global development policies. Case studies range from East Africa (with a focus on Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda) to Asia (with a focus on Bangladesh).

The consortium plays a central role in bringing together findings from the different projects, fostering policy dialogue, and strengthening knowledge exchange between science, policy, and practice. By connecting diverse perspectives and generating actionable insights, the project aims to support innovative solutions to complex development challenges and enhance the societal impact of SDG-related research. The project works closely with key research institutes, policymakers and practitioners in the Netherlands as well as in the study countries.

Person in charge: Nicky Pouw

Period: 2021 - 2026

Funding: Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Interactions and Policy Interventions in Developing Countries of the Dutch Research Agenda, NWO.

Team: Melanie van Driel (Postdoctoral Researcher), Dzodzi Tsikata (University of Ghana, SOAS London).

Website link: [SDG Interactions](http://www.SDGinteractions.org)



Graduate Research of Worldwide Challenges (GROW)

Co-funded by the EC Marie Skłodowska-Curie Programme, GROW is a network of universities in the Netherlands and their partners in Africa. The core part of GROW is a PhD programme that offers tomorrow's leaders a unique opportunity to do high quality and novel research, related to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals on the African continent.

Two of the 51 GROW PhD candidates, Patrick Arhin and Armstrong Mudzengerere, will be based in GID. They will be supervised and supported by academics and societal actors in the Netherlands as well as Ghana and Zimbabwe respectively. Both of them will focus on the impact of lithium mining.



Person in charge: Maggi Leung leads the UVA work: Gupta was part of the National GROW team that wrote the proposal which was approved.

Period: 2024 - 2029

Funding: EC Marie Skłodowska-Curie Programme

Team: Maggi Leung, Joyeeta Gupta, Patrick Arhin (PhD - supervisors: Maggi Leung, Karen Paiva, and Mirjam Ros-Tonen), Armstrong Mudzengerere (PhD - supervisors: Maggi Leung, Joeri Scholtens, and Crelis Rammelt), Lenin Chisaira (PhD supervised by Marja Bartl and Joyeeta Gupta - law faculty)

Website link: [Grow in Research](#)

Urban Blue Justice

The global climate emergency creates a clear adaptation imperative in cities in the Global South and North, with water emerging as a key resource at the centre of impacts and responses. Such transformations are particularly tangible in urban blue spaces – here defined as urban areas adjacent to surface water bodies (salt, fresh and brackish) – where risks, vulnerabilities, and value entwine to produce a complex landscape of urban living, planning, development, and governance. This AISSR research project aims to understand how climate justice materializes in cities, particularly in relation to urban blue spaces and locates climate justice in the ordinary adaptation practices of professionals and citizens working and living at the margins of urban waters in the Global North and South.

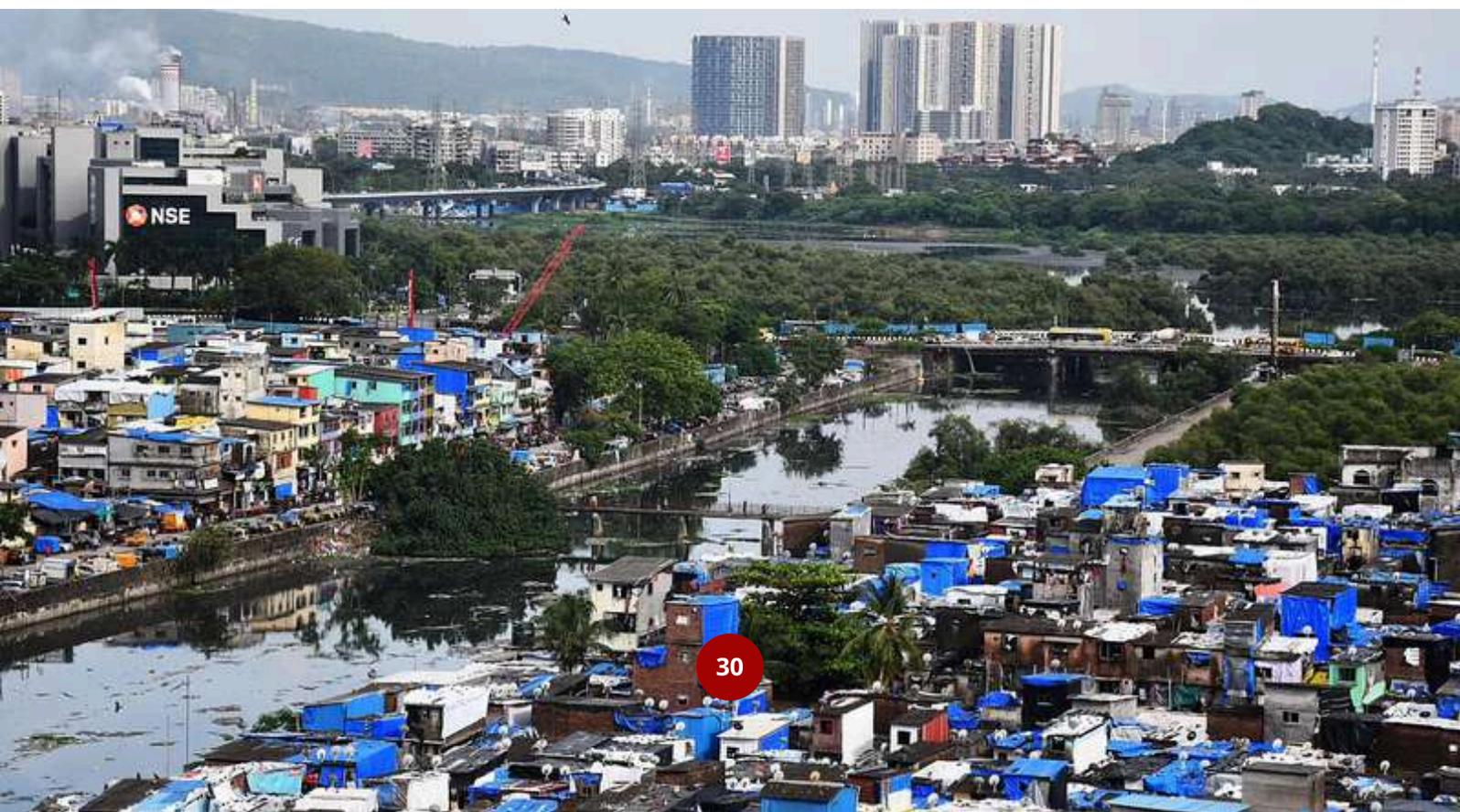
Person in charge: Hebe Verrest, Karen Paiva Henrique, and Jannes Willems

Period: 2023 - 2029

Funding: Starting grant/Stimulation grant/AISSR

Team: Hebe Verrest, Karen Paiva Henrique, Lekha Samant, Vivian Yeboah, Jannes Willems

Website link: [Urban Blue Justice](#)



Welcoming Spaces

The WELCOMING SPACES research programme, funded by EU Horizon 2020, aims to tackle the dual challenge of revitalising shrinking regions in the EU while creating inclusive environments for non-EU migrants. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the project investigates successful revitalisation approaches through geographical context, institutional frameworks, discourse, and the interactions between locals and migrants. WELCOMING SPACES investigates new forms of collaboration and engagement between governments, citizens, and migrants, aiming to overcome challenges of depopulation and limited economic opportunities in rural and small-town settings. By collecting and analysing best practices and facilitating sharing between regions, Welcoming Spaces seeks to foster inclusive and sustainable development. Drawing inspiration from existing but often overlooked 'welcoming spaces' in Italy, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland, the project seeks to bring them to the forefront and better understand their impact. Furthermore, it explores avenues for expanding these initiatives. By bridging communities and migrants, WELCOMING SPACES endeavors to contribute to the sustainable revitalisation of shrinking areas and forge a path towards inclusive engagement within the EU.

In the GID team, **Maggi Leung** is the key research in the WELCOMING SPACES programme. In particular, she supervises Jana Finke, a PhD candidate based at Utrecht University, on her research on welcoming spaces in the peripheralised regions in the Netherlands.

Person in charge: Maggi Leung

Period: 2020-2025

Funding: Horizon 2020, H2020-SC6-Migration-2019, under grant agreement 870952

Team: Maggi Leung, Jana Finke (PhD candidate)

Website link: [Welcoming Spaces](#)



Chinese civil society in the Netherlands

The project examines the emergence, structure, networks, impact and challenges of new Chinese civil society organisations (CCSO) in Europe, with a primary focus on the Netherlands. It is funded by the China Knowledge Network with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and managed by the think tank Clingendael. Together with Ming Luo (Leiden University), Pál Nyiri (Budapest University of Economics (Corvinus) and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and Michael Liu (Leiden University), Maggi Leung explores how these new Chinese civil society organisations –distinct from traditional Chinese diaspora associations–have developed since the 2010s in response to shifting migration patterns, political pressures, and digital infrastructure. Based on 32 in-depth interviews with CCSO initiators and participants, this study provides a grounded account of the civic landscape shaped by Mainland Chinese migrants in contemporary Europe.

Person in charge: Maggi Leung

Period: 2024-2025

Funding: China Knowledge Network | Clingendael CKN

Team: Maggi Leung, Ming Luo (postdoc)

Website link: [Welcoming Spaces](#)



TransB

The project examines in a transdisciplinary way experiences and possibilities for combining functional needs such as zero energy housing, water-based recreation, avoidance of sewage overflows and river floods, the use of grey water and re-use of (upcycled) materials.

The aims of the project are to offer actionable insights about the identification and implementation of synergistic solutions in four projects involving climate adaptation, recycling, sustainable energy, housing and citizen participation: (1) Systeem-sprong, Limburg; (2) Koppelkansen, Amsterdam; (3) Brainport Smart District, Helmond; and (4) SUPERLOCAL, Kerkrade, through reflexive interactive design (RIO). The present project allows us to strengthen the co-creation process in each of these projects and come up with recommendations for governance, co-creation guidelines for multiple value creation projects, and conducive institutional arrangements. Methodologically novel aspects of the project are 1) the use of the arts and design thinking to enable broad participation and connect innovations to the ways in which citizens act and think 2) the use of transition experiments to learn about behaviour and system change, and 3) the attention to arrangements and structures that enhance Societal Readiness Levels for projects based on multiple value creation.

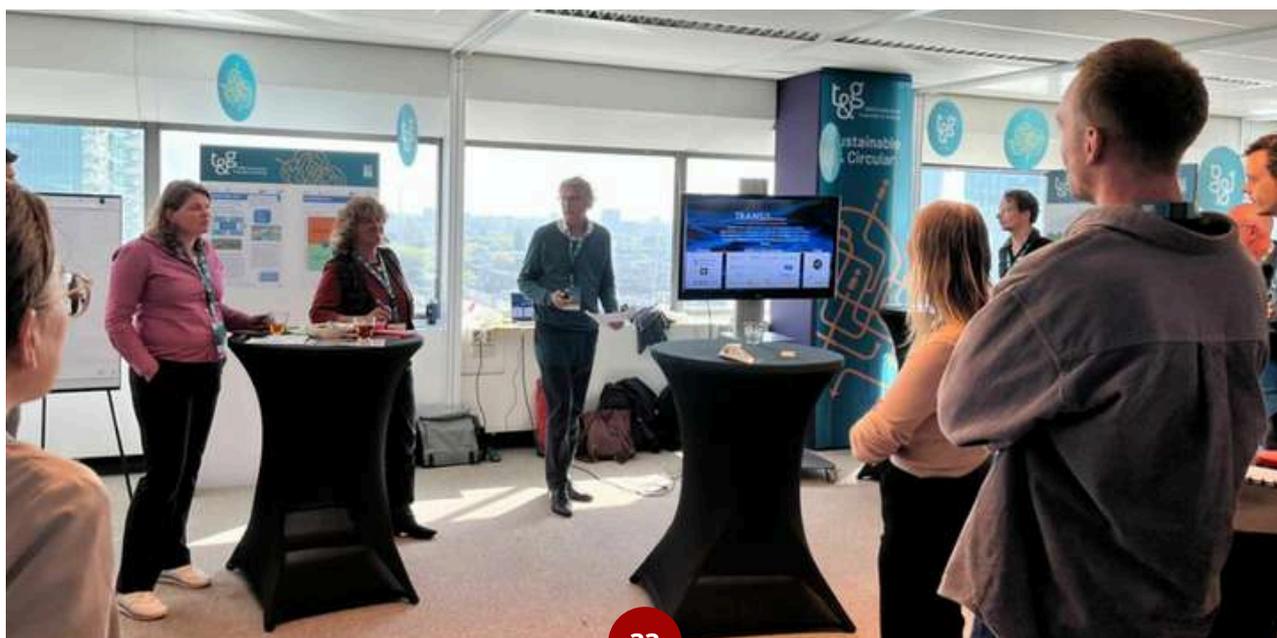
Person in charge: Michaela Hordijk and John Grin

Period: 2020-2025

Funding: NWO program 'Transitions and Behaviour'

Team: Michaela Hordijk, John Grin, Selina Abraham (UvA) René Kemp (UM)

Website link: [TransB](#)



Stepping Out

The transformation of cities faces ‘deep sustainable transitions’ where multiple sociotechnical systems from transport, water, energy and housing are simultaneously changing. To address deep sustainable transitions transdisciplinary and interprofessional approaches need to transcend current knowledge domains to develop new actions, interventions and strategies. Yet, evidence shows that transforming disciplinary and professional knowledge domains remains weak as domains still operate within established language, interpretive and pragmatic boundaries. Disciplines and professions must change behaviour to challenge these boundaries to achieve ‘deep transdisciplinary and interprofessional learning’. This project responds to this challenge by asking two questions on deep learning for deep sustainable transitions: how can professional actors (micro), sector-based organisational actors (meso), and place-based actor networks (macro) drive deep transdisciplinary and interprofessional learning to co-create solutions for deep sustainable transitions, and; how do these actors overcome emergent paradoxes in deep transdisciplinary and interprofessional learning? To answer these, action research takes place in two urban living laboratories – Havenstad Amsterdam and Rotterdam Makers District to co-produce knowledge on triggers and barriers to deep transdisciplinary and interprofessional learning, and identify promising practices for overcoming emergent paradoxes to break down language, interpretive and pragmatic boundaries. The consortium also evaluates how deep transdisciplinary and interprofessional learning can produce innovative solutions for deep sustainable transitions. The consortium creates a living archive of documentary evidence from systematic review, observational fieldnotes, archival analysis, interviews and reflective practitioner accounts to drive curriculum development for educating future professionals working in sustainable transitions.

Person in charge: Michaela Hordijk

Period: 2020-2027

Funding: NWO program ‘Transitions and Behaviour’

Team: Dr. Michaela A. Hordijk (lead), Dr. Edith van Ewijk (Post-doc researcher), and Maaïke van Heijningen (researcher)

In cooperation with: Prof. dr. Paul W. Chan (Main applicant, TU-Delft), , Dr. Ir. Gert-Joost Peek (The Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences), Dr. John L. Heintz (TU-Delft), Kees Stam (PhD researcher TU-Delft)

Website link: [Stepping Out - NWO Project](#)



Power to the People in Sri Lankan shrimp culture

This project strives to develop community based environmental monitoring mechanisms in support of communities being affected by shrimp farming in Northern Sri Lanka. Shrimp farming is rapidly expanding in Sri Lanka as it is considered valuable for boasting export earning, providing local employment, and an alternative to capture fisheries under pressure. However, communities living around both old and new shrimp farms have long been adamant about the negative environmental impacts created by these farms, and the marginal benefits to ordinary people. In collaboration with state authorities and farm owners, we strive to develop a monitoring mechanism with fisheries and other communities to systematically and transparently document these impacts.

Person in charge: Joeri Scholtens

Period: 2024-2025

Funding: ISEAL Switzerland

Team: Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) and OpenE Sri Lanka



New projects in 2025



We look forward to starting the following new projects in 2025. They are testaments to our success, dynamic research profile, and forward-thinking vision. They reflect our ongoing commitment to impactful, long-term initiatives.

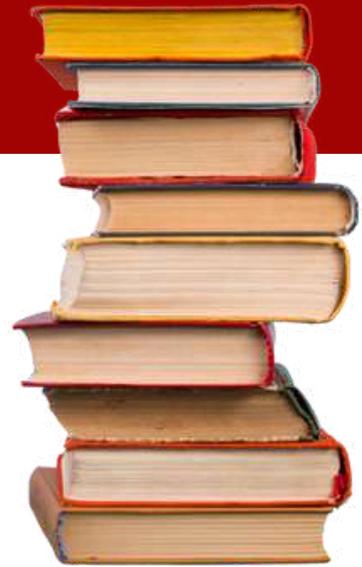
The Global Constitution project

Joyeeta Gupta is undertaking a research project to write a Global Constitution. The aim of this draft Constitution is to identify rights and responsibilities for all within the context of the Anthropocene. It aims to promote social wellbeing and environmental prosperity within an equitable world. The Open Science Justice Lab (globalconstitution.org) is dedicated to collaborative research, public engagement, and open-access knowledge sharing to promote research to develop a Global Constitution. It is funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) under the Spinoza Price awarded to Joyeeta in 2023. It explores how a 21st-century Global Constitution could address today's global challenges without marginalizing local issues. By inviting diverse perspectives, we aim to shape a framework for a more just and sustainable world.

Climate Resilience in Diverse African Contexts: Co-Creating Knowledge Action Networks (CLIMARES)

Funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) through the Research on Routes by Consortia (ORC) programme under the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA), Climares explores climate risks affecting vulnerable populations across diverse environmental, governance, and socioeconomic contexts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, and Uganda. The project fosters collaborative knowledge production and action-oriented research. As one of the consortium partners, the UvA GID team (led by Maggi Leung, Joyeeta Gupta, and Margreet Zwarteveen) will focus on the livelihoods and adaptation practices of street vendors in Mozambique and fisherfolks in DRC. Two PhD candidates will join the UvA Climares team in the fall of 2025.

Education



GID colleagues actively contributes to the teaching of International Development Studies at both Bachelor and Master levels. Teaching within the programme is deeply interconnected with ongoing research, ensuring that students engage with contemporary debates, methodologies, and case studies that reflect the latest developments in the field.

Integration of Research and Teaching

Teaching within International Development Studies is not only informed by research but also actively contributes to shaping ongoing inquiries. The dynamic relationship between research and teaching ensures that students engage with real-world issues, develop critical perspectives, and acquire practical skills applicable in diverse professional settings. By fostering interdisciplinary approaches, the programme equips students to address global development challenges in a way that is both theoretically informed and policy relevant.

Master Programmes

MSc International Development Studies (MIDS)

The one-year Master in International Development Studies (MIDS) explores the economic, social, and political challenges faced by countries in the Global South. The programme provides students with analytical tools to assess development strategies, examine social inequalities, and explore solutions to contemporary global challenges. The curriculum incorporates case studies from both rural and urban contexts to provide a comprehensive understanding of development processes.

Research Master International Development Studies (RMIDS)

The two-year Research Master in International Development Studies (RMIDS) offers an in-depth exploration of development processes, transformations, and shifting power structures in the Global South. The programme engages with cutting-edge debates on political, social, cultural, environmental, and economic issues. Students receive advanced methodological training to prepare them for careers in academic research, policymaking, and international organisations.

Bachelor Programme

Minor in International Development Studies

The Minor in International Development Studies is closely linked to the research agendas of the GID and Geographies of Globalisation (GOG) groups within the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR). The minor consists of a semester-long programme, beginning with a compulsory course, Introduction to International Development Studies (12 EC), followed by electives (18 EC) that allow students to tailor their studies to specific interests within the field of development studies.



Master Theses (2024)

Research Masters

- **Ayse Nur Akin** - What If We Stop Pretending? Exploring the Realities of Corporate Solar Power Plant Investments and the Mobilization of Local Activism Shaping Energy Transition
- **Francesca Bonomelli** - Migrants Moving Within the Borders of Chile: Staying or Moving Onward?
- **Jan Borchert** - After Prosperity: Small-scale Fishermen Navigating Wellbeing Changes and Fishing Conflict After a Ban on Purse-Seine Nets
- **Benjamin Capuzzello** - Assembling Refugia through Affective Food-Bodies: Insights from an Alternative Food Initiative in Salento, Italy
- **Ricardo Diaz Garcia Frade** - 'This is not renewal, this is politics': Gentrification as Assemblage in Exarcheia, Athens
- **Carla Diem** - The Paralyser and the Catalyser: Affective Decolonisation of Development Studies and its Facilitation
- **Sara Grambs** - Dignity in Adversity? Fisherwomen's Agency to Pursue a Livelihood in 'Broken' Family Structures in Tamil Nadu, India
- **Elise Granlie** - The Role of Civil Society Actors in Leaving Fossil Fuels Underground: A Case Study of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline
- **Joram Groen** - From 'you wouldn't want to be caught dead there' to a 'cultural attraction': Investigating the Planning and Experiences of Urban Development and their Links to Gentrification in Amsterdam Noord
- **Greta Maria Grossek** - 'Being Pregnant in This Camp is the Most Difficult Thing in the World': Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health in Transit Through Participatory Action Research with Displaced Women on Lesbos, Greece
- **Jan Hauptmann** - Navigating Socio-Economic Changes and Power Dynamics: The Role of Fishermen's Foreign Labor Migration amid Coastal Infrastructure Transformation in Tamil Nadu, India
- **Chloe Haywood** - Indigenous Women-Led Climate Change Adaptation Efforts in Palawan, Philippines
- **Anna Heredia** - 'If the Process Is Not Fully Feminist, What Will the Outcome Look Like'? Understanding Feminist Foreign Policy-Making in the Netherlands
- **Aljoscha Karg** - Between 'Paradigm Shift' and 'Business-As-Usual' Climate Finance: The Just Energy Transition Partnerships
- **Emile Kwa** - Ontology in Action: Shifting Grounds in Vhavenda Indigenous Social Movement Strategies, South Africa

- **Isabella Lanza Turner** - Cultivating Care: Rural Youth Leading the New Wave of Environmental Stewardship in the Amazon
- **Sveva Lazzati** - Negotiating the Urban Possible: The Politics of Socio-Environmental Change in Nepal's Growing Urban Centres
- **Carmen Müller** - The Hands-on Technocrat: Depoliticisation in Development Work of German Private Development Initiatives in Malawi
- **Cecilia Nogueroles González** - The Fish That Bites Its Own Tail: Unravelling the Relationship between the Neoliberal Spanish Prison System and the Co-optation of Female Loved Ones of Incarcerated Men
- **Aisling O'Connell** - Harvesting Hope? Exploring the Knowledge Systems Within Climate-Smart Agriculture and its Potential to Increase the Adaptive Capacity of Smallholder Farmers in Northern Ghana
- **Rosa Padt** - Reimagining Teacher Agency: A Decolonial Approach to Language Education on La Réunion
- **Janne Piper** - 'We Won't Just Grab and Go' - A Pathway to Just Transitions? Exploring Africa-EU Cooperation regarding Energy Transition Mineral Value Chains
- **Ingrid Ronglan** - Promoting Electrification for an Inclusive Energy Transition: The Role of Off-Grid Solar Systems
- **Siem Rothengatter** - The Impact of Ecological Unequal Exchange on Population's Ability to Access Minimum Needs in Resource-Drained Countries
- **Viktoria Ruseva** - Working for Energy (In)justice? Exploring the Contested Transition Temporalities in the Perceptions of Energy Injustice of Maritsa-East Workers
- **Adriana Scribani** - A Grape Redemption: Nurturing Anti-Mafia Rural Development in Sicily with Libera Terra
- **Sterre Stam** - Agents of Survival: Sri Lanka's Small-Scale Rice Farmers Navigating Modernisation, Economic Turmoil and Environmental Change
- **Elisa Terragno Bogliaccini** - Chile's Lithium Odyssey: Unpacking Evolving Development Imaginaries in the Wake of Social Unrest
- **Charlotte Tierolf** - Voluntourism in Ghana: Navigating Unequal Power Dynamics in Everyday Encounters Among Volunteers, Development Practitioners and Hosting Communities
- **Becca Unsworth-White** - A Political Ecology Lens on the Institutional Framing of the 2015-18 Drought in Cape Town, South Africa
- **Ivan Valencia-Saez** - Wellbeing in Action: Analyzing the Wellbeing Effects of an Informal Foodbank in Amsterdam, Venserpolder
- **Saoirse Walsh** - Waste Colonialism/Wasting Otherwise? Investigating the Justice Implications of a Circular (Textiles) Economy
- **Katherine Whiteside** - Sowing the Seeds of Desirable Futures: Cultiva and Alternative Development Pathways
- **Leianne Wijnhoud** - Sandy Promises, Shattered Realities: Power, Identity, and Livelihoods in Chibuto's Heavy Mineral Sands

- **Marissa Wolfert** - Dried Up Fish: How and Why the Senegal-based Fishmeal and Fishoil Industry Affects the Contributions of Dried Fish Processors to Food Security in Senegal
- **Denis Zeković** - Governing Regions, Governing People? Exploring Peripheries through Regional Development and Civil Society in the Light of Multi-Level Governance: The Case of the Tesla Gigafactory in Oder-Spree (Germany)

IDS Masters (one year)

- **Julian Allnoch** - Ethnic Identity vs. Social Class: Shifting Dynamics in Kenyan Youth's Voting Behavior? A study on the salience of ethnicity and class in explaining voting behavior among Kenyan students at the University of Nairobi
- **Cloë Boogers** - Fortress Europe or Fragile Frontier? Unraveling Militarized Border Control Policies at the Melilla Enclave
- **Malte Brinkmann** - Seeding Beyond Subsistence? A Case Study of Smallholder Farming in Tamale's Urban Green Spaces, Ghana
- **Boo Brouwers** - The Commercialisation of Emerging Tree-Crop Farmers in Vhembe: An analysis of the South African smallholder commercialisation-approach and subsequent trajectories and strategies taken by emerging tree-crop farmers in the Vhembe district, Limpopo Province
- **Loraine Burger** - Securing the Soil: A qualitative study on the land sovereignty of agroecology farmers in The Netherlands
- **Meike Bus** - Powerful and Complex: Unveiling the interrelatedness of informal and formal urban water provision in a low-income community, in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Nadia Carrieri** - Morocco's Development Discourse: Between Sustainably Inclusive Aspirations and Neocolonial Realities
- **Mariangela Castillo Ochoa** - 'Somos Guerreras': Boundaries to Social Integration of Venezuelan Mothers in Moravia, Medellín
- **Madalena Chantre de Cruz Ferreira** - Echoes of Colonialism: Navigating Power, Autonomy, and Development in Cape Verde- Portugal Relations
- **Mariam Charara Ruiz** - To be a Young Working-Class Women of Moroccan Origin in Barcelona - The Formation of an Intercultural Collective Identity. A critical look from translocational positionality
- **Valentina Couceiro** - Unveiling Shadows: The Role of Lobbying Transparency Measures in Reinforcing Power Imbalances between Fossil Fuel and Green Interests Groups
- **Lana Dolgoplova** - Developing a Comprehensive Diaspora Policy: Balancing Ontological Security and Cultural Identity, The Case of 'Global Lithuania' in the UK

- **Amanda Doornik** - Empowering BIPOC Voices: Bridging the State-Citizen Divide in Local Participatory Governance in Amsterdam Zuidoost
- **Marco Eitzen** - Incorporation of local knowledge into policies regarding the use of sand rivers for food production in Kajiado county
- **Martina García Miñaur Parreño** - Building a Bridge to Decolonial Primary Education. A case study on decolonization processes in different primary school types in Barcelona, Spain
- **Koen Gerritsma** - Neocolonialism in Dutch secondary geography education. The conceptualisation of the relationship between the Majority and Minority world in the context of international development in Dutch secondary geography education
- **Demi Griffioen** - 'Wheelchairwashing' or True Inclusion? How Disability Rights and Principles of Inclusion Are Taken into Account in the University of Amsterdam's Disability Policies and Measures
- **Amalia Girtan** - Community-based rural tourism and its contribution to the tourism-driven inclusive development in Romania. A route-based case study: Via Transilvanica
- **Liselore Hoeksma** - Enhancing Policy Coherence: The Role of Climate-Smart Agriculture in Aligning Dutch-Ugandan Efforts Towards SDGs 6, 2, and 8 Amidst Climate Change
- **Dina Jdaa Maniari** - Integrating Community Empowerment, Cultural Preservation, and Sustainable Development: A Case Study of Community-Based Tourism in Al Haouz, Morocco
- **Michael Johnson** - From Green to Grey: An Exploration of Urban Green Space Loss and Inequality in Tamale, Ghana
- **Hannah Kampos-Green** - Beyond the Gap: Health Inequality in the Australian Healthcare System
- **Jainaba Keita** - Beyond Good Intentions: The Impact of Citizen Aid Performed by Dutch Tourists on Young Gambian Men in Waithood
- **Krystian Kennedy** - Navigating transnational care responsibilities and working conditions: The lived experiences of Ukrainian migrant workers in Poland's elderly care sector amidst the war in Ukraine
- **Sanne Klarenbeek** - The Interplay of Social Cohesion, a Sense of Place, and Wellbeing Among Urban Youth in Amsterdam Southeast
- **Jolien Knobben** - Exploring the dimensions of context: Using the Ecological Systems Theory to understand Vhembe youth's perceptions of agricultural careers
- **Marieke van Lagen** - Food vs. Nature? Bridging the gap between SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 15: Life on Land In Kenya
- **Teresa Lai** - Water as Leverage in Semarang: Inclusivity in Process and Power Dynamics in Impacts
- **Madeleine Lauer** - Navigating Policy (in-)Coherence: Dutch-Ethiopian Policy Alignment and the Quest for Sustainable Development. A global to local exploration of Integrated Landscape Management efforts in Ethiopia
- **Chiara Laut** - Challenges and Chances of Change: A Case Study of Life and Empowerment of Acholi Women in Northern Uganda
- **Manasha Lemmens** - Navigating Water Insecurity in Tamale's Dry Season: An Embodied Urban Political Ecology Analysis of Experiences, Coping Strategies, and Adaptive Capacity in the Urban Waterscape

- **Lelde Marcinkeviča** - Sustainable Community Development in the Himalayas: The Case of Waste Warriors
- **Marit Meijer** - Resilience as resistance: Politicizing the ‘nonpolitical’ within Dutch civil society organizations working in Palestine
- **Anouk Meijers** - Navigating NGOs’ Intersectional Approach Towards Genderqueer Persons: The Dynamics between Transnational Development Assistance and Domestic Regulation
- **Dóra Nándorfi** - Gender Politics in Hungary: How Diverging Discourses Between the Fidesz National Government and Women’s Rights Civil Society Organisations on Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Can Hinder the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5
- **Charlotte Ruitenber** - Value-Based Climate Change Adaptation: A Case Study of the Char Villagers in Gaibandha, Bangladesh
- **Sofia Sarmiento Arboleda** - Regenerative development. Teachings from the Arhuacan indigenous community in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta
- **Marit Scheidel** - Unraveling the Organization of Informal Street Traders: Geographical and Relational Perspectives from Vhembe, South Africa
- **Rosalie Schoemaker** - The (Im)Possibilities of Equal Partnerships in Mission Projects linked to Migration. Exploring Reflections of A Mission of Being With in Dutch Christian Non-Governmental Organisations
- **Uri Scholten** - Shortening The Chain: Deglobalization and short food supply chains in the Netherlands
- **Rebekah Sharp** - Leaving Class to Learn. An exploration of the national exam and private tutoring systems, reconciliation, and social justice in Tbilisi and Telavi, Georgia
- **Craig Skillman** - Reimagining Informality: the importance of informal vendors in the city of Bogotá
- **Julia van Stenis** - The Ones Left Behind: Giving Them the Wings to Fly
- **Bregje Sterk** - The Value(s) of Wellbeing. The role of value driven citizen-based initiatives in fostering wellbeing and solidarity in the context of welfare decentralization, studied from a philosophies of solidarity lens
- **Elliot Stevens** - Institutionalising Hunger: The Intersection of Austerity, Food Insecurity, and Governance in London, United Kingdom
- **Trix Tegenbosch** - Navigating Socio-Economic Exclusion: Structural Violence and Everyday Resistance Among West-African Manteros in Barcelona
- **Charlotte Tijburg** - Youth Advocacy in Climate Action in Naivasha, Kenya
- **Nica Vermeulen** - Dancing for the Right to the City
- **Eva Visser** - Food for thought: Digging deeper into Community Food Initiatives in Watauga County, North Carolina
- **Roos Visser** - Women vs Oil: A Comparative Study of Gendered Resistance Against Oil Extractivism Across Ecuador, Guyana, and Nigeria
- **Paula Vits** - Aligning Dutch International Development Policy with the SDGs: Exploring Dairy Food Systems to Achieve Food Security in Kenya

- **Eden Wudufanta** - Fostering Inclusive Urban Green Spaces. An Exploratory Study on the Challenges of Women's Engagement with Urban Green Spaces in Tamale, Ghana
- **Salih Yidirim** - Subsidizing The Future of Work At All Fronts: Türkiye's Institutional Perception and Responses to FoW
- **Catherine Yu** - Urban Development and Food Gentrification in Brooklyn, New York City: When 'Trendy' Becomes the Driver for Displacement
- **Gwyneth Zomerdijk** - Africanising Higher Education in a Post-Apartheid World: UniVen's Role in Promoting Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Fostering Community Engagement
- **Emma Vrijzen** - On the Wrong Track? Assessing Tren Maya's Impact on Social Justice for the Indigenous Peoples of Quintana Roo. Investigating whether Tren Maya is made for the Mayans
- **Sadie Levi** - Homestay Practices and The Homes for Ukraine Scheme: An examination of domesticated responsibility and exceptional hospitality
- **Kevin Li** - Home-making of Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Migrants in London, UK: An Intersectional Approach
- **Kimmy Mac Donald** - Countering the Dutch Golden Age: Memory, Trauma, and Reparation in the Afro-Diaspora
- **Mahmoud Mansour** - Countering Exclusion: Feminist Grassroots Organizing in Lebanon and the Kafala System



Highlights for 2024

In 2024, the Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) research group at the University of Amsterdam deepened its commitment to critical, inclusive, and interdisciplinary approaches to global development through a rich variety of activities. From public lectures and workshops to collaborative research and community-building, the year reflected GID's core values of participation, justice, and knowledge co-creation.

The **GID Seminar Series** continued as a monthly space of intellectual exchange, offering an informal yet stimulating setting for early-career and senior researchers alike. Across the year, participants engaged in dialogue on themes such as feminist political ecologies, food sovereignty, and climate adaptation. These sessions not only provided opportunities for constructive feedback but also fostered a vibrant scholarly community and sharpened the group's collective analytical lens.

June was a particularly active month for GID. On June 6, researchers contributed to the University of Amsterdam's Africa Symposium, dedicated to strengthening partnerships between Dutch and African institutions. Colleagues including Dr. Nicky Pouw and Prof. Joyeeta Gupta shared insights from long-term collaborations such as INCLUDE and GROW, highlighting the importance of ethics, mutuality, and sustainability in academic partnerships. Just days later, GID co-organized sessions at the Sustainable Global Economic Law (SGEL) Summer School (June 11–13). Here, discussions focused on issues such as sustainable finance, corporate accountability, and social reproduction, illustrating the group's ongoing engagement with global economic debates and justice-oriented scholarship.

Highlights for 2024

The year was also marked by the successful completion of several PhD theses within GID's supervision. These works showcased the breadth and depth of critical, interdisciplinary inquiry pursued by the group's students.

- **Malaika Pauline Yanou** explored the politics of *luzibo kusangana*, examining how Tonga local, integrated, and hybrid knowledge can inform equitable landscape approaches in Southern Zambia.
- **Freddie Sayi Siangulube** investigated the role of multistakeholder platforms in fostering inclusive and negotiated environmental governance for landscape approaches in Southern Zambia.
- **Sofie te Wierik** developed an interdisciplinary perspective on governance of atmospheric and green water in the Anthropocene.
- **Eric Bayala** studied community engagement in landscape governance and the potential for operationalising integrated approaches in Northern Ghana.

The year concluded with **Storying Climate (Through) Mobilities**, a storytelling workshop held on December 13. Facilitated by Karen Paiva Henrique, Maggi Leung, and Hebe Verrest, the event invited participants into story circles to explore how lived experiences of climate mobility could inspire inclusive adaptation strategies and climate action.

Looking back, 2024 was not only a year of activities and outputs, but also of strengthening the very fabric of GID as a collective. The group's work demonstrated how collaboration across disciplines, geographies, and generations can shape more equitable approaches to knowledge and practice. As GID moves forward, these shared experiences —of research, teaching, dialogue, and solidarity— lay a foundation for new questions, deeper partnerships, and a continued commitment to just and inclusive development.

Looking back on 2024: Voices from GID

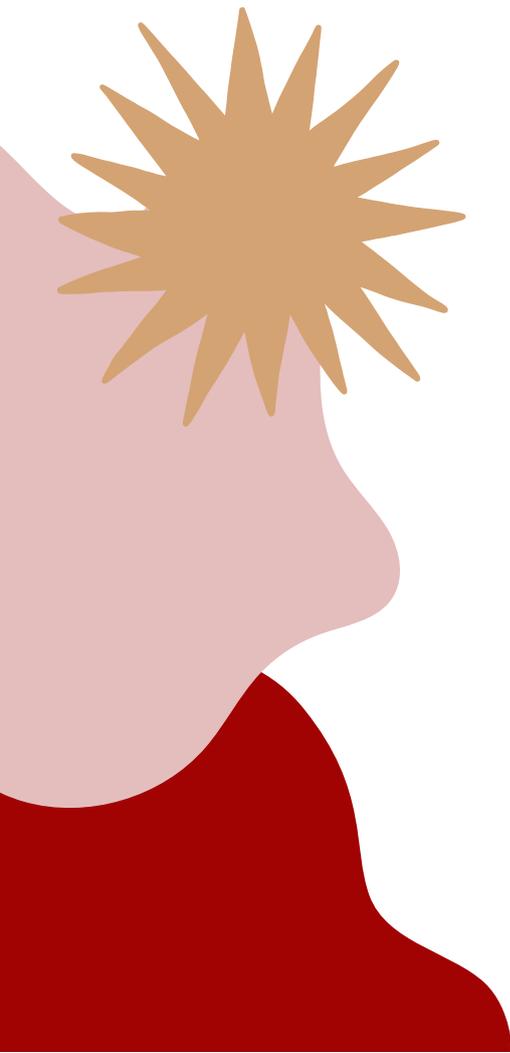
Academic staff

Hebe Verrest - This year I worked energetically as PI on two research programs: Urban Blue Justice and Wellbeing Dashboard Amsterdam. The Urban Blue Justice project has been growing and expanding with the involvement of three staff members (from GID and from UP), two PhD candidates (within UP and GID), and an intern, all engaged with questions related to water, justice, and cities globally. A highlight for me was presenting a historical project on blue justice in Paramaribo at RGB. The Wellbeing Dashboard program began as a small project in Amsterdam Zuidoost. Over the past couple of years, it has slowly expanded to other communities and now has an increasingly large network of PhDs, students, and staff members (from FEB and GPIO) contributing to it. A highlight here was securing funding from Amsterdam Nieuw-West to expand the program to this district, and beginning work with the first community there.

Joyeeta Gupta - I had a highly active 2024, engaging in 70 national and international events, including keynotes, panels, and discussions. I contributed to the ClimateMuseum Exhibition and the Climate Justice in Four Seasons project, merging music with climate debates. I launched the Water and CLIFF atlases and co-authored *A Just World on a Safe Planet* with 60 scientists, calling for urgent economic and technological transformations. I also contributed to *The Economics of Water* report and published the LFFU book on JSTOR. In addition, I joined the UN's 10-Member Group for Science, Technology, and Innovation and secured funding for the GROW and CLIMARES projects, advancing climate resilience in Africa.

Maggi Leung - In 2024, I continued my teaching and research, including supervising a number of IDS Masters and PhD projects. One of the highlights this year was the completion of 'Welcoming Spaces', a Horizon 2020 programme that explored the relationships between migration and inclusive development of 'shrinking' regions in Europe.

On a related theme, the VISION project, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, entered its third year. With Cristina Buza, we focus on the impact of labour mobility between peripheralised regions in Romania and Germany. In collaboration with Ming Luo (Leiden), Pál Nyiri (Budapest University of Economics (Corvinus) and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and Michael Liu (Leiden), I received funding from the Dutch Chinese Knowledge Network to start a research project on Chinese civil society in the Netherlands and Europe. I also started working with Patrick Arhin and Armstrong Mudzengerere, studying lithium mining in Ghana and Zimbabwe respectively, as part of the GROW PhD research network, a Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND programme. I worked on several publications and served as an editor of Geoforum.



Michaela Hordijk - I served as a panelist in September 2024 at the symposium *Under Influence: Symposium on Power in Transdisciplinary Research*, organized by the Rathenau Institute. The event aimed to foster debate among research funding institutions, researchers, and societal partners. Key themes included the tension between academic freedom and accountability, systemic barriers within research funding institutions, and the need for open discussions about power dynamics—both within transdisciplinary consortia and between consortia and funding bodies.

In November 2024, the teams from two NWO projects under my co-leadership (*Stepping Out* and *TransB*) participated in the final NWO symposium *Transitions and Behaviour*. Our sessions focused on measuring the impact of transdisciplinary projects and exploring the implications of research findings for higher education.

Mieke Lopes Cardozo – I had an inspiring and collaborative 2024. One of the highlights was the FRIS Festival, a community building event for education innovators held on 28 March at Spui 25 by our *Fair, Resilient & Inclusive Societies (FRIS)* Special Interest Group (SIG). The festival featured inspiring stories, workshops, a fishbowl plenary and networking sessions, organized by the SIG FRIS in collaboration with TLC Central and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies. I was also invited to give two keynote speeches at UvA for the Chief Diversity Office Week against Racism, and the University Forum and I co-presented a paper on education in displacement at the BAICE 2024 conference in Sussex University.

My publications this year include an article on holistic programming in education and displacement, and a guide on co-creating education innovation communities. Together with GID staff and IDS students, I co-organized a workshop reflecting on how the IDS community can engage with Palestine solidarity protests, which will lead to a co-authored article. Additionally, I co-founded the School of Regenerative Educators, aimed at fostering regenerative education practices.

Karen Paiva Henrique – I am Assistant Professor (tenured) and co-director of the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS). In 2024, I advanced my work along two research lines: decolonizing flood adaptation and methodological innovations for studying changing climates. I worked closely with junior assistants to assess scientific knowledge on everyday climate adaptation in the Global South (Urban Blue Justice) and on knowledge production for disaster risk prevention, management, and recovery (Knowledge Exchanges in Times of Urban Crises). Between April and June 2024, I was a visiting scholar at the Penn State Humanities Institute, where I explored how design methodologies can be mobilized to critically examine the urban experience in a climate emergency. Together with the Storying Geography Collective, of which I am co-founder, I signed a contract to publish our first manuscript on storytelling and place *with Palgrave Pivot*. I have continued to extend my commitment to socio-environmental justice through teaching, supervising (research) master's students and PhD candidates, and civic engagement. I was also appointed as an editorial board member for the leading geography journal *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.

Crelis F. Rammelt - This year has been dynamic and productive for me as an Associate Professor. I launched the Ending Unequal Exchange research project through the AISSR Stimulation Grant, collaborating closely with Dr. Joeri Scholtens and Raimon Cardelús. I also completed a study on ecological unequal exchange with Raimon and began drafting a book on unequal exchange, supported by an AISSR postdoctoral grant. My contributions to journals like *Nature Sustainability* and *The Lancet Planetary Health*, working with Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, have focused on exploring safe and just Earth-system boundaries. Together with Dr. Valentina Carraro and Dr. Joeri Scholtens, I co-developed the elective course *The Capitalocene: Understanding Unequal Exchange and Environmental Conflict*. I also served as guest editor for a special issue on *Just International Development* with Dr. Karen Paiva Henrique and Prof. Maggi Leung. This year showed me that even modest grants can enable meaningful research with significant impact.

Joeri Scholtens - My 2024 academic year was marked by several key moments. Delivering my first keynote presentation on 'Fish trade as if food security mattered' was especially rewarding. I participated in the Political Ecology POLLEN conference on just and plural futures. I co-authored a paper with Maarten Bavinck arguing for Maximizing Employment as new Beacon for fisheries management and collaborated with Joyeeta Gupta on adding justice logics to the Earth System Boundaries. We also had the pleasure to launch the SmallFish4Food project with partners in Norway and South Africa and started a new initiative with Crelis Rammelt and Raimon Cardelús exploring '*Fishy Ecological Unequal Exchange*'. Reflecting on the year, it was also a time of profound discomfort and learning when students were questioning what was the point of studying critical IDS at a times of western complicity in a ruthless genocide.

Nicky Pouw - In 2024, I made important strides in research on sustainable development and wellbeing. I played a key role in the Governance of SDG Interactions project and co-led a co-learning event at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to foster dialogue on sustainability governance. I co-created *Wellbeing Dashboards* with residents and civil society organizations across six Amsterdam neighborhoods, ensuring the process was equitable and based on shared principles (see protocol Venserpolder). My work on these dashboards advances tools for robust, broader wellbeing measurement, emphasizing bottom-up credibility and relevance. These initiatives reflect my dedication to impactful, participatory research with a robust methodology.

Elisabeth Krueger – I work to build bridges between the GID group and the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED-FNWI), where I have been an Assistant Professor since 2021. 2024 was a very engaging year for me, especially in recruiting new PhD and Postdoc researchers and mentoring a large number of students. I was part of the development committee for the new, cross-faculty Master programme Complex Systems and Policy, which will launch in the coming academic year. I really enjoyed working on projects with four PhD researchers studying the resilience of human-water interactions in both urban and rural areas, locally and internationally. I taught interdisciplinary courses for the *Bachelor programs Future Planet Studies* (Water Management, Water Governance) and the *Master Earth Sciences* (Human-Environment Interactions, Vulnerable Earth), where I also served as track coordinator in Environmental Management. I was fortunate to receive two university research grants and published my work in two articles and presented at two workshops of the *Earth Resilience and Sustainability Initiative*. Looking ahead to 2025, I'm excited about the growing exchange between my two home departments and the inspiring research that is taking shape through new projects and collaborations!

Courtney Vegelin – In 2024, I continued my role as director of the two educational programmes linked to GID research: the Masters and Research Masters in International Development Studies (IDS). For both programmes, I helped build new networks with academic partners across different parts of the world and established a growing number of MOUs with other institutions to facilitate student research abroad. This year, as part of the Research Master IDS, an Erasmus+ grant came into effect, enabling staff and student exchanges with SD Dombo University in Ghana for the next two years. I remain deeply involved in teaching across the masters programmes as well as the minor IDS, and I have been active in exploring curriculum reform for the research masters programmes more broadly at the UvA.

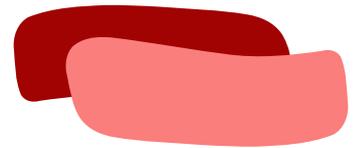
S. Shakthi has been an assistant professor in the Governance and Inclusive Development research group within the Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies (GPIO) department at the UvA since September 2023. As a feminist geographer and South Asian studies scholar, her research aims to bring these disciplines into dialogue with each other. Her research highlights for the year include having an article accepted in the journal *Social & Cultural Geography* and signing a contract to co-edit a special issue of the journal *Contemporary South Asia*. She also presented her work at the Royal Geographical Society's annual international conference in London. Much of the year was spent developing her pedagogical skills and focussing on teaching across different programmes in the GPIO. Outside academia, she continued in her role as a Trustee at Prajnya, an Indian feminist non-profit organisation, contributing to a number of activities including co-supervising research and media fellowships and overseeing the publication of a well-known annual report on gender violence in India.

Yves Van Leynseele - In 2024, I focused on educational innovation, aiming to integrate decolonial approaches and teaching methodologies into our Research Master IDS programme. That year, I completed my Senior Teaching Qualification with the title 'Decentring International Development Studies: Mobilising Education Innovation for Critical Dialogue'. As part of this project, I co-designed and co-taught a new course, Re-imagining IDS, in which students engaged in collaborative, transdisciplinary research with local organisations interested in rethinking development and addressing coloniality in their work. To deepen my conceptual engagement with decolonial thinking, I attended the Summer School Decolonizing Knowledge and Power. My ongoing research interests focus on the contestation of land and the changing dynamics of market-oriented, small-scale farming in Sub-Saharan Africa, which are reflected in a co-authored publication. In line with this work, I am currently finalizing a book with Practical Action Publishers, expected in early 2026, on the theme of farmer-centred action research.

Mirjam Ros-Tonen - In 2024, my first full year after retirement, I remained highly active and productive. I successfully supervised and defended three PhD candidates: Freddie Siangulube, Eric Bayala, and Malaika Yanou. I also contributed extensively to high-profile publications in *Environmental Management*, *Landscape Ecology*, and *Global Environmental Change*, focusing on landscape governance, natural resource management, and the preservation of local knowledge in Ghana and Zambia. While I did not attend conferences, I organized and contributed to significant research papers on inclusive landscape governance and ecosystem services. Retirement has not slowed me down—I continue to actively engage with the academic community, mentor new scholars, and make substantial contributions to my field.

Student Advisors

Agnieszka van Laar - My 2024 has been full of challenges and joyful moments. As a MIDS Study Advisor, I have continued to support master students and staff in their teaching responsibilities and duties. With unwavering commitment, I have guided students through academic hurdles and personal transitions, always offering a listening ear and practical advice. My collaborative spirit has helped strengthen the MIDS community, and my dedication to student wellbeing has been deeply rewarding. I have also embraced new professional opportunities and personal growth, making this year a fulfilling journey. I am grateful that my contributions continue to shape the learning environment at the university.



Eva van der Sleen - In 2024, I had the privilege of engaging in inspiring conversations with incredible individuals from around the globe. My central goal was to lay the groundwork for partnerships between their institutions and the University of Amsterdam (UvA), aiming to establish dedicated field research placements for Social Sciences students—a stepping stone toward broader collaboration. I fondly remember speaking with Mustika and Meidiana, two remarkable women working in Madang, Indonesia. We sat together, smiling and sharing stories about work and everyday life. Another memorable moment was my conversation with Bernard in Ghana, accompanied by the cheerful background of crowing roosters.

By the end of the year, I had successfully facilitated the signing of 14 Memoranda of Understanding—all through virtual meetings. It's incredible what modern technology makes possible. One of the most significant milestones was securing European funding for a two-year collaborative project with UBIDS, a university in Ghana's Upper West Region. This initiative includes a blended learning program for eight Ghanaian students enrolled in an IDS course, along with a staff exchange between UvA and UBIDS. While I am proud of what has been accomplished remotely, I am especially looking forward to meeting partners in person. After all, nothing compares to the simple joy of sharing a cup of coffee—face to face, without a screen in between.



Postdoctoral Researchers

Hilmer Bosch - In 2024, I contributed as a Postdoctoral Researcher to the work of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, focusing on Water Justice. I was also involved in the Water Allocation, Rights and Institutions Study in collaboration with IHE Delft, Institute for Water Education. Some key highlights of the year include the publication of the Commission's final report, *The Economics of Water: Valuing the Hydrological Cycle as a Global Common*, which integrated justice as a central theme and received global attention. I also developed an online Global Water Quasi-Property Rights Atlas, visualising the status of water quasi-property rights across 60 countries in Africa and Asia, and had two policy briefs accepted for the UNDESA Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs—including one on SDG 16 and Water (Re)allocation: Promoting the Rule of Law for Water Justice, and another on AI's excessive water consumption threatens to drown out its environmental contributions. I presented this work at both the 10th World Water Forum and the 2024 Earth System Governance Forum, and collaborated with the Law Faculty on a project examining access to, distribution, and quality of water resources in the Netherlands.

Andrea Mueller - My 2024 academic year was shaped by impactful events and contributions to the field of water governance. A major highlight was the World Water Forum 2024, a thought-provoking event bringing together diverse perspectives on water management and governance. I co-organized and participated in several events, including an online workshop on water allocation and rights for Spanish-speaking case studies in January, and spoke at the Forum in May on creating water justice. I also contributed to policy briefs on SDG 16 and water reallocation and developed the Global Water Quasi-Property Rights Atlas. Key projects I worked on include Water Allocation & Rights and Navigating Urban Water Allocation. Reflecting on the year, it felt fast-paced and remarkable, with time flying by as I immersed myself in these transformative projects and events.

Yang Chen - In 2024, my academic year was marked by the successful launch of CLIFF-IA, an interactive online platform developed with CLIFF researchers and students, which provides access to insights and statistics related to fossil fuels and climate change. I attended the GTGC global conference in Leiden and the ESG 2024 online conference, and contributed to several publications, including studies on earth system boundaries, justice in fossil fuel phase-out, and climate change impacts on European winegrowing regions. In May, I organized an expert workshop for the CLIFF project. On a more personal note, I earned a B2.2 Dutch language certificate, which finally allowed me to follow conversations at the lunch table. Reflecting on the year, I found it unexpectedly fulfilling, blending professional accomplishments with personal growth.

Edith van Ewijk - In 2024, I marked the year with the Ander (samen)werken aan transitie event at Pakhuis de Zwijger, reflecting the impact of the Stepping Out project. Collaborating with Michaela Hordijk, Maaïke van Heijningen, and the Municipality of Amsterdam, I advanced the Leergang Systeeminnovatie. I presented at the AMS Conference 2024 with Kees Stam (TU Delft) and attended the Sustainability Summit at Erasmus University. My publications included a peer-reviewed article on farmer-centered multi-stakeholder platforms and Dutch online contributions for KennisActieProgramma. Key projects included engaging managers in system innovation and reflexive monitoring of Haven-Stad's integrated development. I am looking forward to publishing the digitalization of Leergang Systeeminnovatie and a Timeline analysis in 2025. Summing up, I see Stepping Out as a journey of interprofessional learning—even for action researchers like myself.

Melanie van Driel - In 2024, I defended my PhD and published two papers that I had started during my time at Utrecht University. I also became Managing Editor of the Journal INEA (International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics). For my postdoctoral research on the Knowledge Brokering and Synthesis project regarding Sustainable Development Goal interactions, I conducted several interviews, began preparations for a series of Focus Group Discussions, and presented my work for the GID team in Amsterdam, at a mid-term event in Nairobi, and for the SDG Localization Working Group of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI).

I also contributed to organizing an SDG interactions co-learning event in The Hague, bringing together policymakers, researchers, and other practitioners. In addition, I served as the economic expert for the BSc course Energietransities for Future Planet Studies.

Ming Luo - In 2024, I was a visiting researcher at Leiden University. I also worked with Maggi Leung on a research project examining Chinese civil society in the Netherlands and Europe. My work involved collecting information on Chinese civil society organizations and conducting interviews with dozens of organizers and members of these networks. The findings were used to analyse the local and global impact of Chinese civil society organizing and the challenges these groups face. This project, running from 2024 to 2025, was funded by the Chinese Knowledge Network (CKN), which was established to develop knowledge and awareness in support of Dutch government policies.



PhD candidates



Patrick Arhin - I am a PhD candidate in the Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) programme group at AISSR, supervised by Prof. Maggi Leung, Dr. Mirjam Ros-Tonen, and Dr. Karen Paiva Henrique. My research is part of the Global Research on Worldwide Challenges (GROW) network, a collaboration between universities in the Netherlands and partners in Low and Middle-Income Countries. I explore how power dynamics shape relational justice in corporate-community mining negotiations, focusing specifically on Ghana's upcoming lithium mining project. My work critically examines the politics of participation and decision-making processes in mining-affected communities.

Armstrong Mudzengerere - I am a PhD candidate in the Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) programme at AISSR, University of Amsterdam. My research examines the political economy of Chinese lithium mining investments in Zimbabwe, focusing on power dynamics, resource flows, and community responses. I critically investigate the actors, institutions, and discursive strategies that shape these investments, the mechanisms of resource drain and value capture, their associated impacts on people and the environment, and how communities navigate and respond to these challenges. My research is part of the GROW project, and I am supervised by Prof. Dr. W.H.M. (Maggi) Leung, Dr. Crelis Rammelt, and Dr. Joeri Scholtens.

Vikas Bagde - In 2024, I completed fieldwork in Delhi, India, for my research on Influence of Narratives on the Process of Bottom-Up Mobility Innovations, focusing on the ecosystem of Electric Rickshaws. I am now working on my monograph with great enthusiasm. I also presented part of my findings at the Tensions of Europe 2024 conference. Beyond my individual academic work, I have taken steps to foster a supportive scholarly environment by initiating a writing club for fellow PhD researchers, providing regular peer feedback, encouragement, and support throughout the writing process.

Juantong Ye - In my dissertation *Translocal Entanglements: Chinese Migrants and the China–Bordeaux Wine Industry*, I investigate the involvement of Chinese migrants in the Bordeaux wine industry through a translocal and multi-scalar approach. My study analyzes how macro-level transformations, meso-level industrial structures, and micro-level practices intersect to shape both individual migration trajectories and the development of the sector. Emphasizing themes of migration, entrepreneurship, and emplacement, I illustrate how migrants mobilize resources, overcome constraints, and pursue their aspirations across interconnected geographic and social spaces. Drawing on qualitative fieldwork in China and France, my research offers insights into the diversification of Chinese migration and the shifting dynamics of global-local relationships in a post-pandemic, partially de-globalizing context.

Benjamin Haokip - In my dissertation *The Role of Educated Youths in Conflict and Peacebuilding in Manipur, Northeast India*, I examine the involvement of educated young people in peacebuilding efforts within the conflict-affected Hill Areas of Manipur. Adopting an autoethnographic approach, I draw on personal narratives and lived experiences of violence to explore themes of identity, resistance, and reconciliation. Situated at the intersection of peace, conflict, and youth studies, my work emphasizes locally grounded perspectives and highlights the agency of young people in shaping peacebuilding processes. Through this research, I aim to contribute to a more inclusive and context-sensitive understanding of conflict transformation in this complex regional context.

Marie Belland - In 2024, I continued working on my doctoral project *Volatile City Life: Knowing-and-Making Coastal Subsidence in Semarang*, which offers an ethnographic inquiry into the unstable landscapes of a sinking coastal city in Indonesia. Focusing on the everyday practices through which diverse actors—scientists, engineers, residents, and policymakers—perceive, trace, and intervene in land subsidence, I adopt a ‘following-the-action’ approach. My work reveals how interactions between sediment, water, and capital produce layered temporalities and spatial contradictions that resist alignment. By foregrounding these entangled rhythms, my thesis contributes a nuanced perspective on environmental volatility and urban transformation in the context of coastal precarity.



Jennifer van Beek - A highlight of 2024 for me was participating in the RC21 Conference in Santiago de Chile, The politics and spaces of encounters: advancing dialogues between and within the Global North and the Global South. There, I presented one of my manuscripts in a panel on the challenges of participatory practices, focusing on (dis)empowering solutions. This manuscript has since been accepted for publication in the Journal of Urban Affairs, co-authored with Nicky Pouw and Hebe Verrest, and titled Co-creation to measure what matters: The case of Venserpolder, Amsterdam. As part of the Amsterdam Wellbeing research project (PI's: Nicky Pouw & Hebe Verrest), I organized various co-creation workshops with residents in so-called ontwikkelbuurten in Amsterdam Southeast. This work, among other outcomes, resulted in the completion of the second Wellbeing Dashboard in Amsterdam (in the G-Buurt).

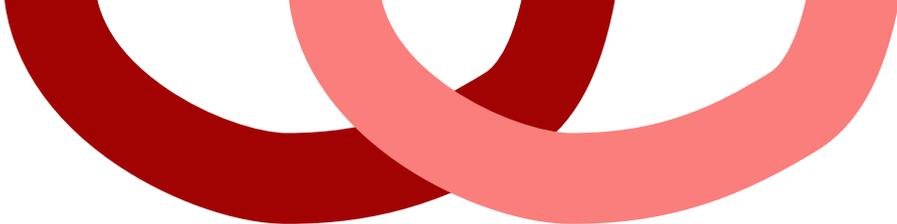
Felix van Hoften - My 2024 was marked by significant progress both within and beyond my PhD. I am currently finalizing my first doctoral article, which explores themes of degrowth and alternatives to GDP as a measure of progress, with the aim of publishing it in Ecological Economics. In recognition of my innovative teaching approach, I received the Teacher Innovation of the Year Award at the Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences. In addition, I am leading a research programme on electronic waste and justice, in collaboration with Triodos Bank. It has been a fruitful and inspiring year of growth and impact.

Ivan Valencia-Saez - In October 2024, I joined the Wellbeing Dashboard project as a PhD candidate, after having been involved in it during my Research Master's studies. I am excited to continue working on this project and to further develop the field of Wellbeing Economics. This year, the project expanded into a new Amsterdam neighborhood, Wegener Sleswijk, where we are now developing a Wellbeing Dashboard. I contributed by analyzing the data and setting up indicators, while also leading a small research team of two student assistants in fieldwork and face-to-face surveys. Over time, the project will gather multiple datasets across different neighborhoods in Amsterdam, allowing us to analyze findings and compare differences. These results will build on the concept of 'basic safety,' interpreted through material, relational, and subjective wellbeing. I look forward to sharing publications on these insights in 2025!

Mustika Anggraeni - My name is Mustika Anggraeni, and my PhD project *The Cost and Value of Participation in Water Governance: A Case Study of Indonesia* explores how participatory processes in flood risk governance—often presented as inclusive—can, in reality, generate unequal costs and benefits. As a PhD candidate in Governance and Inclusive Development, I study stakeholder participation in Indonesia’s water governance systems, examining how different problem structures in flood risk governance affect participation at various decision-making levels. Using the Split Ladder of Participation (SLP) model, I analyze who participates, at what expense, and with what outcome, with the aim of developing more equitable and effective governance practices.

Jolanda Robinson - In 2024, I made important strides in advancing gender inclusivity within international organizations. At the Global Congress on Gender and Sexuality, I presented my work on strategies for transforming international organizations’ policies to mainstream gender inclusivity across the Global North and South. I also delivered a presentation in Ethiopia, at a conference attended by the Dutch Ambassador, where I emphasized the importance of inclusive policies in global governance. While these two events were not directly linked, both helped raise awareness about my department’s work and our commitment to integrating gender perspectives into international policy. For me, this year was pivotal in highlighting the need for systemic change to ensure gender equality within international frameworks.

Sharon K. Suri - I am a PhD researcher in the Governance and Inclusive Development (GPIO) and Moving Matters (Anthropology) research programme groups. As part of the Innovative Knowledge About Networks – Fish For Food (IKAN-F3) project, I study mobile traders and fish trade networks in North Sumatra, Indonesia. In 2024, I worked on a scoping review of seafood market intermediaries in small-scale fishery supply chains and drafted an article based on my fieldwork. The working title of my PhD is *Reaching Last Mile Consumers: How Mobile Traders Facilitate Stable Access to Nutritious Foods*.



Augusto Heras - My 2024 was shaped by academic activism, mobilizing within GID, GPIO, FMG, and UvA against the genocide in Gaza. This engagement allowed me to put critical perspectives into practice and strengthen ties with fellow young researchers. I took part in key conferences, including the GROW event (NWO), GTGC (Leiden University), and the ESG Forum. My research contributions included two published papers—one single-authored and another co-authored with Prof. Joyeeta Gupta. As part of CLIFF, I contributed to discussions at the World Economic Forum and co-organized an expert workshop in May, supported by student assistant Elisha Aaron. Through research, advocacy, and collaboration, I navigated a politically charged year, reaffirming the role of engaged scholarship in global governance.

Clara McDonnell - In 2024, I continued my PhD research on pension funds and their role in phasing out fossil fuels as part of the CLIFF project. I published findings examining how pension fund climate strategies have evolved in relation to international climate agreements, as part of a special issue on supply-side fossil fuel policy. Together with the CLIFF team, I helped organize a full-day workshop for experts on fossil fuel phaseout, co-authored a policy brief with the UN's Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, and participated in a panel session at the 2024 Earth System Governance forum. I also presented new research on pension-climate governance at the Finance and Society Conference in Sheffield and took part in a green finance workshop at Warwick Business School. Alongside research, I taught courses in IDS and supervising Master's theses in Geography and IDS.

Frank de Morrée - For me, 2024—year three of the PhD—like any other year requires a good look in the infamous Dutch agenda to start the analysis. It was the year I delved into how philanthropy acts both as an agent of change and as a disruptor in phasing out fossil fuels; the first year I supervised a group of Bachelor students on their theses; the third year of representing GID PhDs at the AISSR, focused on building a close-knit PhD community, safeguarding rights for diverse PhD positions, and improving teaching experiences. It was another year of collaboration with the lovely CLIFF team. It was also a year of protests, whose goals remain unmet but whose spirit was sustained by GID's supportive and advocative nature. Above all, it was a year of mind-nourishing events, with kind and inspiring colleagues, and meaningful work; all things I am deeply grateful for.

Janina Herzog-Hawelka - I began my third year as a PhD student with the CLIFF – Climate Change and Fossil Fuels team under the supervision of Joyeeta Gupta at GID. The year opened with bureaucratic hurdles while securing a research visa for my fieldwork in South Africa, but once that was resolved, I was able to refocus on preparations. In May, I attended the GROW conference in Egmond aan Zee as one of five GID PhDs working on Africa-focused research, which helped me build valuable fieldwork contacts. Later that month, I presented at the CLIFF Expert Workshop on Countervailing Powers to Leave Fossil Fuels Underground, where I spoke about civil society’s role in phasing out fossil fuels. Before leaving for the field, I also presented a paper at the GTGC conference in Leiden, which is now under review. My fieldwork, based at the University of Cape Town, included interviews with industry, government, and civil society representatives. I concluded the year with a zero-order draft of my thesis.

Bota Sharipova - My PhD research, *The Role of Trust in Transboundary Water Cooperation*, explores how trust shapes international collaboration over shared water resources. Grounded in the Social Constructivist tradition of International Relations, my dissertation investigates the meanings, sources, and implications of trust in interstate relations. I focus on two post-Soviet contexts—the Sava River Basin in Southeastern Europe and the Syrdarya River Basin in Central Asia—to examine how trust influences both cooperation and conflict. In 2024, I advanced this work by analyzing how trust dynamics affect governance outcomes, contributing insights that I hope will help foster more resilient and effective mechanisms for transboundary water management.

Eric Vaughan - In 2024, I continued my PhD research with the Governance and Inclusive Development group, where I study the relationship between biodiversity conservation and development in eastern Africa through a post-growth lens. This year I completed fieldwork in Kenya and Rwanda, meeting with pastoralists, smallholder farmers, government officials, development workers, and academics. I also worked on a comparative analysis of conservation and development policy across five eastern African countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Beyond my dissertation, I contributed to research, monitoring, and evaluation projects for development partners across Africa, including leading a monitoring visit to Zambia as part of the UK’s Africa Regional Climate and Nature Programme.

Catalina Garcia Chaves - While pursuing my PhD as part of the GID group, I also joined the Centre for Latin American Studies (CEDLA) at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) as a guest researcher. This opportunity allowed me to continue advancing my dissertation while actively engaging in the lectures and activities organized by the CEDLA team. Being part of an inspiring and critically engaged PhD community focused on Latin America has enabled me to collaborate across disciplines. In 2024, I published two papers on my research into decolonizing ocean governance. I also presented my work at the annual Society for Latin American Studies conference and participated in discussions at the Environmental Justice Network Conference (ENJUST) in Hamburg.

Augusta Anandi - In 2024, my academic progress temporarily slowed as I focused on supporting my autistic three-year-old daughter through a six-month, intensive transition from regular daycare to a structured treatment program. This required parent training, therapy sessions, and parent-child consultations with specialists. Despite these responsibilities, I continued to contribute academically. I authored a blog post for the CIFOR-ICRAF COLANDS (Collaborating to Operationalize Landscape Approaches for Nature, Development and Sustainability) project, reflecting on my experiences as both a mother and researcher in celebration of International Women's Day and women in science. I also submitted my first academic journal article, based on a chapter of my PhD thesis, which is now under review after resubmission. In addition, I co-authored a peer-reviewed journal article with my COLANDS colleagues, drawing on insights from my field research.

Marleen Spieker - In 2024, I began my fieldwork for my PhD research in Syria, which focuses on transitions in the humanitarian and development field in Liberia and Syria through the lens of youth interventions. Alongside my PhD, I continued working with ZOA in the Netherlands, South Sudan, and Syria. In my work with ZOA, I concentrate on coordinating humanitarian interventions in Syria and promoting gender equality and inclusion across ZOA's programming. I also contributed to the quality and evaluation of interventions addressing food security, sustainable livelihoods, access to water, and the promotion of social cohesion.

Adriano Biza - I am finalizing my PhD dissertation on the governance of wastewater in Maputo, Mozambique, while serving as an assistant lecturer at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Eduardo Mondlane University. My research explores the historical and contemporary shaping of sanitation infrastructure and policies, examining how these have reinforced or contested patterns of social and spatial inequality in the city. Drawing from political ecology and governmentality studies, my work contributes to critical urban studies by highlighting the intersection of environmental governance, postcolonial legacies, and everyday urban experiences in one of southern Africa's rapidly changing capitals.

Glen Robbins - This year I continued to work on my PhD, focusing on the interactions between South Africa's national economic programmes and its cities. In March, I presented my work on large port city infrastructure projects in a seminar at the PRISM research unit in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town, where I am also a Research Associate. In October and November, I presented papers at the African Urbanisms International Conference at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and at the ERSA Cities Conference. My paper, A tale of no cities? The neglect of cities in South Africa's post-apartheid national economic policies, was published in the journal *Area, Development and Policy*. I also co-authored a UCT PRISM Working Paper on planned large-scale green hydrogen projects in South Africa and Chile and contributed to a UNU-Merit research project on green hydrogen-related industrial development paths. Throughout the year, I assisted with several civil society engagements on the crises faced by South Africa's large cities.

Bernice Bonsu A. Ephraim-Armoo - I joined GID as an external PhD candidate in 2024. Over the past year, I successfully submitted an abstract titled 'How Water Utilities Seek Resilience—A Case Study of Ghana Water Limited, which was accepted for presentation at the 22nd African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA) International Congress and Exhibition in Kampala, Uganda. I also had the opportunity to mentor a student who graduated from the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education last year. A significant portion of my year was dedicated to writing and defending my PhD proposal.

Rashmila Shakya - In 2024, I focused on refining my dissertation by incorporating feedback from my supervisor across chapters one to nine, ensuring alignment with the research framework, theoretical approach, and methodology. I finalized chapters two to five by clarifying arguments and strengthening the analysis, making sure each chapter conclusion addressed the relevant sub-questions. Chapters six to ten were revised to improve structure and coherence. I also drafted chapter one, the executive summary, and the conclusions chapter. Currently, I am finalizing chapters six to ten while refining the introduction and executive summary, aiming to submit a fully revised draft by mid-2025.

Caroline Murungi - I am a PhD candidate at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and the University of Amsterdam (UvA). My research focuses on understanding water supply infrastructure maintenance practices in Kisumu, Kenya, and how these affect water provision. During fieldwork, I worked closely with utility plumbers, training them to use the KoboCollect Tool to map infrastructure maintenance locations. Since then, the water utility (KIWASCO) has adopted the KoboCollect Tool across its operations, marking a significant step towards regular data collection to support decision-making

Cristina Buza - In 2024, I continued advancing my PhD trajectory by finalizing and submitting my research proposal, “Translocal Interconnectedness and Convivial Spaces in Peripheralised European Localities: A Study of Romanian Labour Mobility in Brandenburg.” I refined my methodology, focusing on ethnographic research, and carried out multiple field visits in Brandenburg and rural Romania. These fieldwork experiences allowed me to collect rich migration stories from labor migrants and local residents, sparking new ideas for exploring translocality, mobility, and conviviality in my dissertation. Together with the project team, I co-organized and participated in a workshop, theatre play, and collaborative session at IMISCOE 2024, where we creatively examined the interplay between labor mobility and gender. Over the year, I also developed two ideas for my dissertation chapters, laying a strong foundation for my analysis of these interconnected themes.”

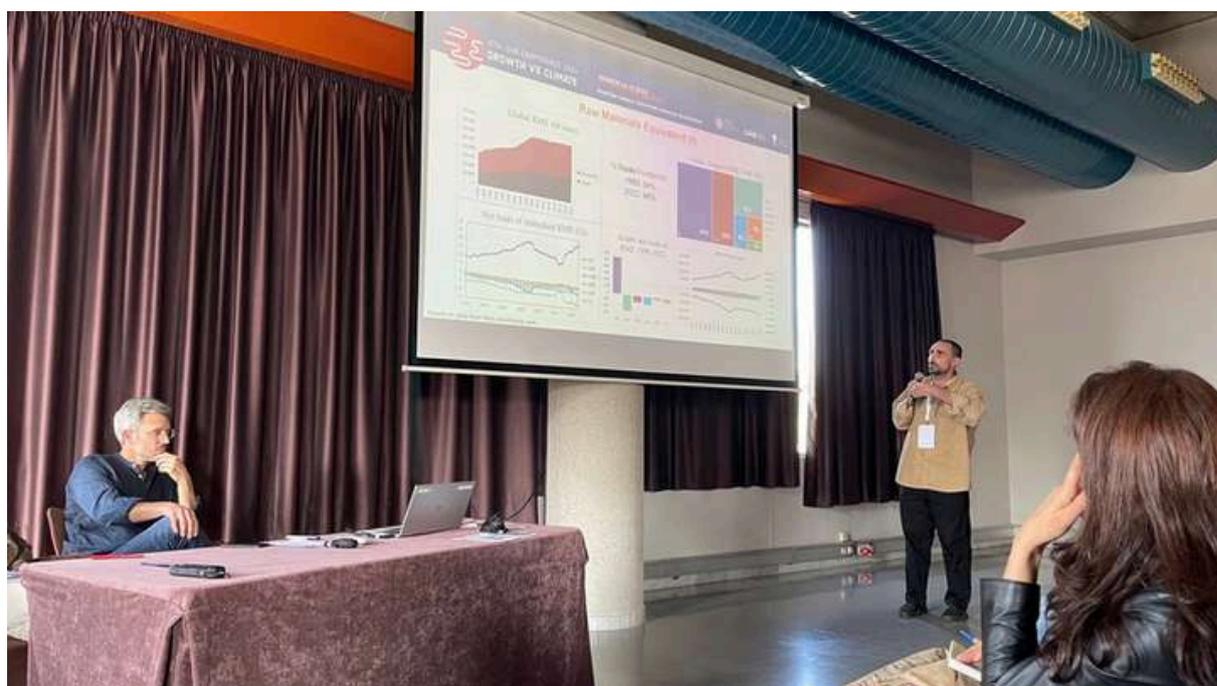
Serena Adhiambo Adede Nasongo – I am continuing work on my doctoral dissertation titled Putting the House in Order: Institutions and Governance Systems in the Nyando Wetlands, Kenya. Using Elinor Ostrom’s 2005 Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework, I investigate the institutional and governance systems influencing wetland resource management in the Nyando Wetlands. I analyze stakeholder interactions and the rules shaping resource access and use, while considering the effects of institutional pluralism, population growth, climate change, and recurrent flooding. My preliminary findings reveal the complexity of overlapping institutional arrangements, some of which impede effective governance, and emphasize the importance of flexible management strategies in the face of environmental and demographic pressures.

Andres Cabrera-Flamini – I am finalising my doctoral dissertation while working as Senior Policy Officer at the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in Australia. My research examines how sustainability is conceptualised, operationalised, and valued within water utilities, using case studies in the Netherlands and Colombia. I unpack the ‘blackbox’ of water utilities to investigate how staff perceptions, indicators, and strategic aims reflect different understandings and uses of sustainability, with a focus on enabling radical, socially just transformations in public service provision. My work contributes to rethinking sustainability beyond technical performance, emphasizing relational and place-based approaches in water governance.

Ain Contractor – I conduct doctoral research within the Care(ful) Irrigation project at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. My work responds to the shortcomings of technocratic irrigation management approaches, which are closely linked to unsustainable, intensive agriculture. Using ethnographic methods, I examine how agroecological water-care practices reshape socio-nature relations by prioritizing care for soils, people, and biodiversity. Drawing on case studies from Maharashtra, India, and Ede-Wageningen-Bennekom in the Netherlands, I explore how alternative farming systems can contribute to more just and sustainable water futures. My research emphasizes the transformative potential of care in agricultural water governance.

Moataz Talaat - I am in my third year as a PhD student within the CLIFF project at GID. In 2024, I attended the GROW conference in the Netherlands, which brought together researchers focused on Africa-related topics. I also joined the final conference for the Impact Hau research project at the University of Bologna, Italy, which focused on critiques of sustainable finance. I participated as part of the CLIFF team in organizing an Expert Workshop on Countervailing Powers to Leave Fossil Fuels Underground. I concluded the year conducting fieldwork, including interviews with actors in the financial institutions industry.

Opal Morales Asencio - I am completing the fourth year of my PhD as part of the CLIFF project, with research on risk allocation in public-private partnership (PPP) contracts within the water and energy sectors. My work examines how different PPP models distribute financial and operational risks between public authorities and private entities. Using critical institutional analysis, I explore the implications of these risk arrangements for long-term service provision, public accountability, and climate resilience. By situating PPPs within the broader context of infrastructure governance and sustainability transitions, I aim to advance understanding of how to structure fair and effective partnerships.



Researchers

Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Català - In 2024, I highlighted the academic year with a festive touch, marking it with a memorable Christmas event. I attended the Growth vs Climate Conference and contributed a photo from the event. While I did not publish any papers this year, I am close to having one published. My main project of interest for the GID 2024 Annual Report was my involvement in the Earth Commission Phase II, specifically within the Justice, Governance, and Economics workstream. Looking back, I like to reflect with a lighthearted note: 'The early bird catches the worm', emphasizing a proactive and opportunistic approach to the challenges ahead.

Michele Castrezzati - In 2024, I worked as an intern with the Urban Blue Justice project. I assisted in the FLOODSCAPES project (Floods and Small-scale Common Adaptation Practices in Everyday Spaces), led by Dr Hebe Verrest and Dr Karen Paiva Henrique. My work focused on scoping the literature on everyday flood adaptation interventions to make visible alternative ways of living with floodwaters, trace the underlying logics of community-based responses, and identify trade-offs when the exceptional meets the everyday. I refined the literature review protocol, analyzed articles from a predefined sample, and produced a short report outlining key findings to inform a co-authored publication. Additionally, I supported researchers in the GREEN-INC project (Growing Green and Equitable Nature-based Solutions through Inclusive Climate Actions), conducting in-depth interviews with public and private officials working on climate adaptation in the City of Amsterdam.

Aljoscha Karg - In 2024, I was actively involved in research and dialogue processes focused on climate governance and sustainability transformations. I contributed to initiatives exploring how to operationalize safe and just Earth system boundaries, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams across Europe. I participated in workshops and collaborative platforms aimed at co-developing actionable transformation pathways, linking scientific insights with policy and practice. My work during this year emphasized justice, equity, and systemic change as essential pillars for addressing the climate and ecological crisis.

Luc van Vliet - In 2024, I worked as a Junior Researcher in the Governance and Inclusive Development research group, focusing on environmental justice and Earth System Governance. I completed a 1.5-year contract as part of the University of Amsterdam team working on the Global Commission on the Economics of Water. I contributed to the Commission's final report, *The Economics of Water: Valuing the Hydrological Cycle as a Global Common Good*, and supported Professor Joyeeta Gupta at two conferences for the Commission in Zurich and Rome. Additionally, I co-authored both academic and non-academic publications on water justice, including a piece on reframing water security using Water System Justice and Earth system boundaries, as well as an article for *The Conversation* on the water justice implications of artificial intelligence. I am particularly proud of my piece reflecting on the work of the GCEW, *Water Crisis or Capitalist Opportunity? A Critical Take on the Global Commission on the Economics of Water Report*.

Maaïke van Heijningen - In 2024, I worked as a Junior Researcher on the NWO-funded project *Stepping Out: Learning for Sustainability Transitions*. I contributed to designing participatory processes and facilitating learning spaces that support inclusive and just sustainability pathways. My interdisciplinary perspective and commitment to co-creation enriched the project's engagement with civic actors and local initiatives. For part of the year, I was on maternity leave, which allowed me to spend special time with my family. I look forward to returning and continuing my contributions to the project's collective research and learning efforts.

Ariadna Romans i Torrent - I joined the Governance and Inclusive Development research group as a Junior Researcher in September 2024. In just a few months, I have greatly appreciated being part of such a dynamic and inspiring team, contributing to its social impact initiatives. This year, I published two papers and drafted another currently under revision. I also published and publicly presented my book/report, *Dones i sequera a la Catalunya Rural: una perspectiva feminista* (Fundació Irla), after receiving the Beca Nativitat Yarza 2023. In my research, I presented at conferences in Barcelona, Wageningen, and Arenys de Mar, exploring topics such as water governance, rural women's experiences of drought, and post-growth cities. I am also proud of the initiatives developed within the Feminist Section I currently coordinate. The highlight of my year has been securing my first publishing contract for a non-fiction book, marking an exciting milestone in my academic and professional journey.

Sharing widely...

At the heart of our work lies a renewed strategic priority to deepen social impact and communication impulse through meaningful engagement, inclusive knowledge sharing, and collaborative innovation. In 2024, the Programme Group prioritized transforming our research and activities into accessible, actionable insights that reach beyond academia and contribute to real-world change. This commitment guides how we design initiatives, foster participation, and communicate results—always with a focus on justice, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Annual Report 2024: Documenting Progress and Impact

Our first Annual Report captures the achievements and learnings of 2024, showcasing how we have translated our strategic priority into concrete outcomes. The report reflects a year of growth, innovation, and stronger connections with communities and partners.

A New LinkedIn Page: Expanding Our Network and Dialogue

To further amplify our impact, we launched a dedicated LinkedIn page, enabling us to connect with a broader professional audience, share timely updates, and stimulate dialogue on governance and inclusive development themes.

Mural Board of Announcements: Fostering Internal Engagement

Internally, the mural board from our programme group in our department has become a lively tool for communication and collaboration, making information transparent and encouraging participation among team members.

GID Seminars and Blog Articles: From Dialogue to Digestible Insights

The GID seminar series remains a core space for interdisciplinary exchange. Building on this, we have begun digesting seminar content into accessible blog articles, widening the reach of critical debates and research findings.

Affiliated research centres

GID hosts the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and chairs the social-science Centre for Maritime Research. Both centers create spaces to stimulate vibrant exchange of knowledge through events, academic journals, publications, newsletters and websites.

Centre for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS)

The Centre for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS), established in 2015 by the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), is a pioneering, bottom-up initiative dedicated to advancing sustainability. Bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines, the CSDS fosters connections with societal actors across various scales, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. It defines sustainability as a process that addresses urgent environmental challenges while tackling issues of poverty, inequality, and human dignity. By providing the University of Amsterdam with a hub for addressing contemporary sustainability challenges—both local and global—the CSDS nurtures a vibrant academic community within the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, promotes cutting-edge research, and advances innovative education.

Centre for Maritime Research (MARE)

MARE is an interdisciplinary social science organization dedicated to the study and management of marine resources. Its mission is to foster a stimulating intellectual environment for academics and policymakers focused on coastal and marine issues. While rooted in the social sciences, MARE actively collaborates with other disciplines to ensure a comprehensive approach. It maintains a balanced focus on both academic and policy-oriented research, adopting a global perspective with particular emphasis on the coastal zones of Europe, Asia, and Africa. MARE's work spans a wide range of topics, drawing expertise from diverse fields such as law, history, economics, political science, public administration, anthropology, and geography. In addition to its research endeavours, MARE organizes international courses, conferences, and seminars on key maritime issues. It also hosts a respected publication series and publishes the specialized journal *Maritime Studies* (MAST).

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What do we look forward to in 2025?

Nicky Pouw

I'm excited to launch the Research Centre Economics Wellbeing Institute!

Crelis Rammelt

In 2025, I look forward to engaging with bachelor's, master's, and PhD students on our shared research interests; attending the 11th International Degrowth Conference; and launching a podcast on Just Development through EADI. We are also working towards completing a draft monograph that introduces the theory of (ecological) unequal exchange to a broader audience!

Maggi Leung

I am looking forward to starting a new research programme (Climares) and making progress with my current PhD colleagues!

Joeri Scholtens

In 2025, I'm excited to begin working with a new team to critically examine the implications of South Africa's Blue Economy policies for fisheries and food security. At the Centre for Maritime Research, we also look forward to hosting the XIIIth People and the Sea Conference in Amsterdam, gathering hundreds of marine social scientists once again. And it's also time to wrap up a few long-pending papers!

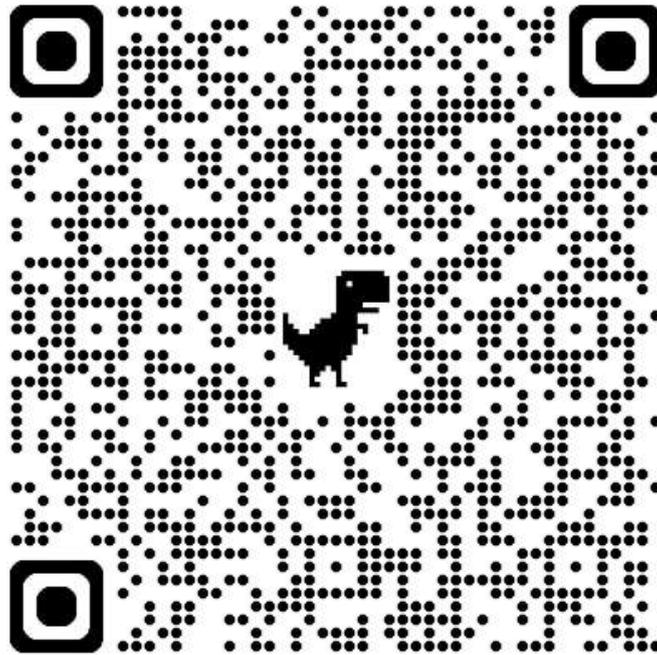
Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Català

Impact, impact, and impact... that's my focus!

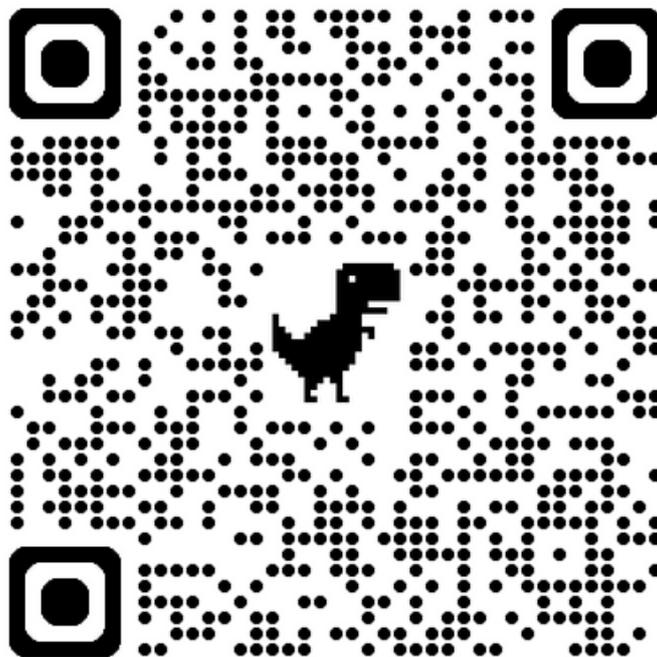
Mieke Lopes Cardozo

In 2025, I look forward to working with amazing colleagues, PhDs, and students, to continuously develop our collective capacity to reimagine and enhance the relevance of development studies in a context of complex challenges!

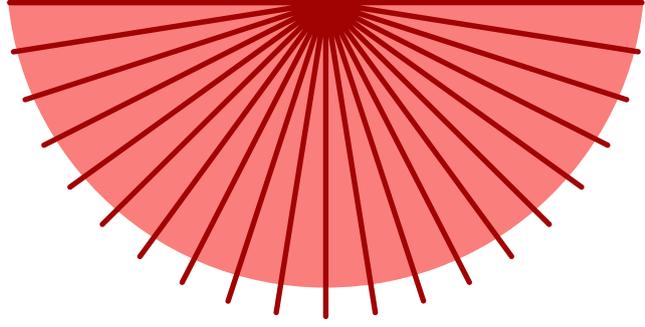
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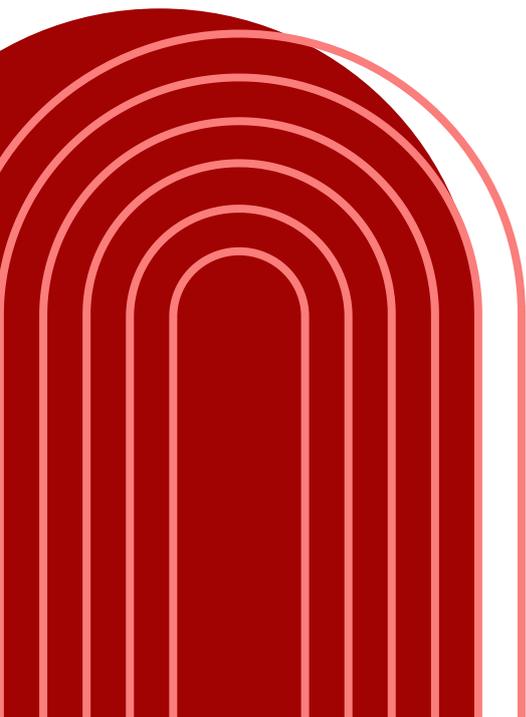


Write your notes and memories here!



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