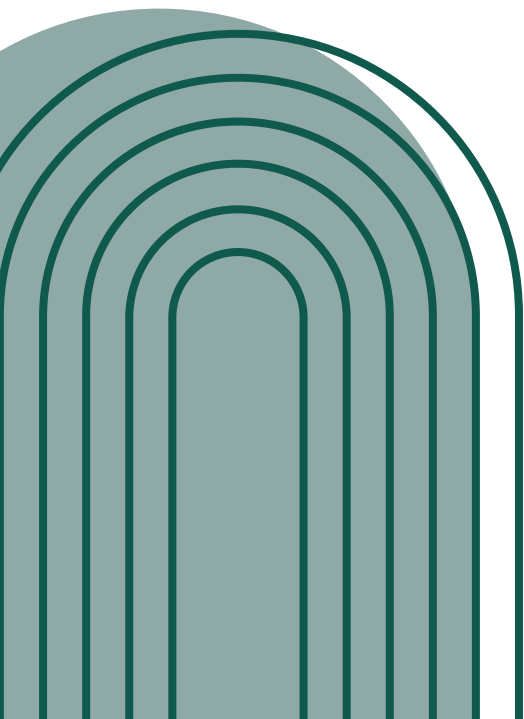


**GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP**

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

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

Contents

1. Welcome to the 2025 GID Report
2. GID Vision
3. Themes and Approaches
4. The GID Team
5. Research Projects
6. Education
7. Highlights for 2025
8. Looking Back on 2025: Voices from GID
9. Sharing Widely...
10. Affiliated Research Centres
11. Publications
12. What Do We Look Forward to in 2026?

Welcome to the 2025 GID report

This report gives you a sense of the wide range of research and educational activities of the Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) Research Group in 2025.

Looking back on 2025 brings us a sense of great joy and pride. Aarthi Sridhar and Marie Belland successfully completed their PhD journey. We hosted the successful MARE People and the Sea Conference that brought together over 400 colleagues from around the world – congratulations to Joeri Scholtens and team for making the conference such a success! Margreet Zwarteveen won an ERC Advanced Grant for her project Aquiverse. Joyeeta Gupta and the CLIFF team organised their final conference in November. Mieke Lopes Cardozo received the UVA Collaborative Teaching Award in recognition of her commitment to co-create, reflexive and transformative education. Linked to this, several of our GID/IDS staff members, along with IDS alumni, published an article entitled ‘Rethinking Pedagogical Design in International Development Studies to Foster Epistemic Justice’, to bring broader changes to the field. Three of our IDS master graduates, Erik van der Lee, Patricia and Dija Forster, received the SDG Interactions Essay Awards. These are just a few of the highlights.

Over the years, we have had the ambition to build more robust partnerships with other educational programmes and scholars with our own educational programme, as a way of de-centring IDS. This has continued into 2025 with the establishment of MoUs with more universities in different parts of the world. As part of our Erasmus+ grant, we were able to welcome three students in May from the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) in Wa, Ghana. They participated in our research master's Re-Imagining IDS course, working in collaboration with three students from our programme to develop a discussion document on what it means to be students of IDS, but from parts of the world with different resources, influence and access. They also presented their own research at our GID seminar. In September, we were likewise able to welcome two staff members from UBIDS who joined in sessions with students and held a very well-attended seminar on their research topics.

In October, we welcomed both our one-year and our research master's students back on campus for their graduation ceremony. While these are always joyful events, there was particular meaning to these ceremonies, which represented the closure of a difficult time for some of the students at the UvA who were involved in the demonstrations in the prior year. The appreciation and gratitude we felt for our students at the graduation ceremonies cannot be overstated. They came to the ceremony full of optimism and enthusiasm for their achievements and for being together again. They engaged with staff with positivity and kindness, reminding all of us that it is possible to overcome challenges with active engagement. We all left with the feeling that we had travelled somewhere together.

As we celebrate our achievements in 2025, we cannot ignore the many challenges facing our world: climate change, the expansion of autocratic regimes, the rise of the far right, protracted armed conflicts, militarisation, deepening inequalities, anti-migration and anti-minority politics and cuts to international cooperation and education. All these issues are highly relevant to our work at GID, as it is the poor and marginalised who will be the most vulnerable. These are all concerns that catch the attention of our staff and students and keep many of us awake at night. In class, we make space for discussing these topics, but we are far from having answers or solutions. Our students look to us for some guidance, and while we can give day-to-day support, we fall short of bringing about the major changes that we would all like to see. As such, it is more critical than ever that we stay closely connected to our students, to nurture our younger generations to understand the nature and impact of these intersecting challenges, collaborate with partners around the world to conduct socially and academically relevant research and push for interventions that promote justice and equity.

Looking back on this eventful year, we are all the more grateful for 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, sensible and peaceful.



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



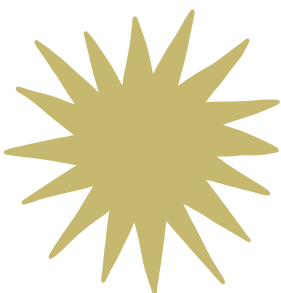
Courtney Vegelin
Education Director of
International Development
Studies master programmes

GID Vision

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 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 and Approaches

Our overarching theme links two core concepts: **‘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.



Under the overarching theme of **Governance and Inclusive Development**, we focus 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 as well as 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.

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 many 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 active 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 and Dean of the GSSS

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

Note. 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 brings 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.



Dr 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

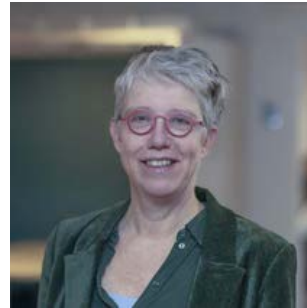
Keywords: labour
geographies,
intersectionality, feminist
approaches.



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
(Emeritus) 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 Miedma

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)



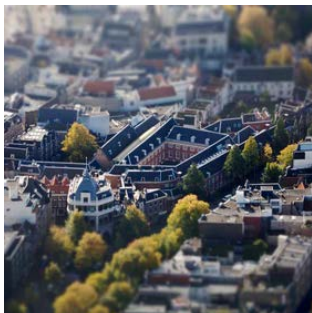
Andrea Mueller

Water allocation and rights



Melanie van Driel

Cross-border policy coherence for sustainable development: bringing together insights from multiple research consortia



Hilmer Bosch

Water justice, water property rights, and inclusive development in the global south



Yang Chen

Stranded assets (CLIFF) and water allocation and rights



Ming Luo

Chinese civil society in the Netherlands and Europe

The GID Team

Support Staff and Student Advisors



Eva van der Sleen
Fieldwork and
Partnerships Manager and
Lecturer of MIDS programme



Agnieszka van Laar
Student Advisor for IDS
Master's programmes



Valeria Cavallin
Administrative and
Research Assistant,
NWO Spinoza Project (J. Gupta)

The GID Team

D4 Lecturers



Siem Rothenga



Emma van der Plas



Roshn Najmeddi

The GID team

PhD Candidates



Patrick Arhin

Power, participation, and relational justice: examining corporate-community negotiations in Ghana's lithium mining



Benjamin Haokip

Educated youths' role in conflict and peacebuilding processes in conflict-prone hill areas of Manipur, North-East India



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 marginalised 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

Fish trade networks in Indonesia: facilitating stable access to nutritious foods



Vikas Bagde

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



Frank De Morrée

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



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'



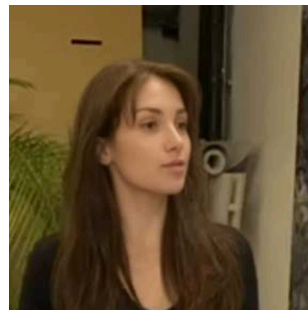
Julius Muchemi

Governing forests and REDD



Mustika Anggreani

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



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



Ivan Mugga

Enhancing consistency between climate and energy law and policy in fossil fuel-rich LDCs: case Study of Uganda



Rashmila Shakya

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



Bernice Ephraim-Armoo

Resilience practice among water utilities



Clara McDonell

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



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



Lekha Samant

Constructing urban blue justice: comparative study of stormwater planning and its impacts on everyday life in Amsterdam and Mumbai



Adriano Biza

Sustainable water supply in Maputo



Andres Cabrera-Flamini

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



Juantong Ye

Mapping translocal lives: Chinese migration, entrepreneurship, and the China-Bordeaux wine economy



Jolanda Robinson

International development cooperation and the challenges of gender mainstreaming strategies for ICT: the case of Ethiopia



Moataz Yakan Talaat

Development banks and their role in leaving fossil fuels underground (CLIFF)



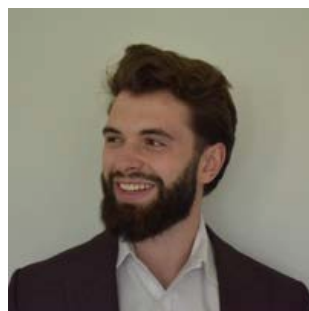
Opal Morales Asencio

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



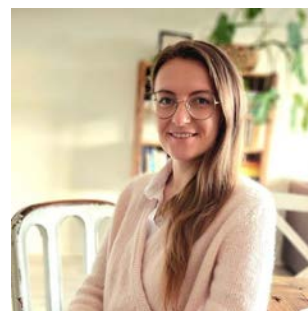
Nina Herzog-Hawelka

The role of multinational oil and gas companies and relevant agents of change in leaving fossil fuels underground (CLIFF)



Eric Vaughan

Post-growth inclusive development perspectives for reconciling biodiversity conservation and development challenges in the global south



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



Glen Robbins

National economic policies and South African cities



Jane Aggrey

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



Augusta Anandi

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



Endratno 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



Shubhagato Dasgupta

Scaling city institutions for India: (Sci-Fi) sanitation initiative



Nina M. Waals

Impact of emerging technologies on global governance and constitutionalism (Global Constitution Project)



Espoir Kulimushi Mugabo

Climate impact on and resilience practices among fisherfolks in DR Congo (CLIMARES)



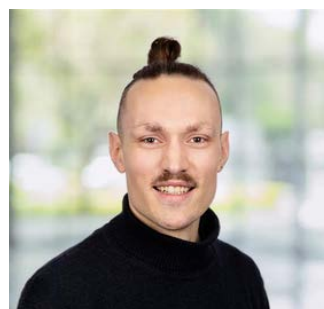
Filipe Mate

A gendered perspective to understand street vending activity and the challenges of resilience faced by street vendors in the city of Maputo in Mozambique (CLIMARES)



Vivian Yeboah

Exploring intersectional climate adaptation in informal settlements in Accra, Ghana



Aljoscha Karg

Asymmetries in the international financial and monetary system as institutionalised in the law (Global Constitution Project)



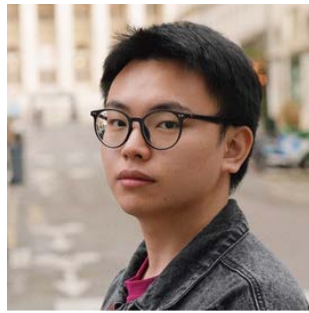
Miradian Isyana Wistyani

National policy goals and local projects: the (mis)alignment between policy and public-private partnerships for water supply infrastructure projects In Indonesia



Rizkyana Dipananda

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



Xingcheng Wen

Reimagining diasporic activism: a multi-sited ethnography of Chinese queer mobilisation



Lars Wiersma

Water (re)allocation: governance arrangements and the distribution of resources, risks and responsibilities



Alexandra Brown

Women food entrepreneurs in Kenya and Burkina Faso. building inclusive business models for food security in the city slums of Kisumu and Ouagadougou



Georgios Dikaos

Law, environmental sustainability, green transition and human rights (Global Constitution Project)



Maaïke van Heijningen

Stepping out: learning for sustainability transitions



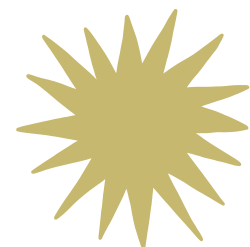
Raquel Dos Santos

Inclusive urban water supply and sanitation services: a multi-level analysis of São Paulo city, Brazil



Jonas Da Costa Carinhas

The work of educators creating regenerative, community-focused learning in the Netherlands and other European countries



The GID Team

Researchers



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



Ariadna Romans i Torrent
Project Management
and Social Impact



Sofie Carpaij
Blue Urban Justice Project



Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Catalá
The Earth Commission

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 ongoing 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 aims 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 emphasising 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 utilised for domestic food security instead of industrial feed production. By addressing challenges such as the political prioritisation 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 and colleagues from Norway and South Africa

Website link: [SmallFishFood](https://www.smallfish4food.org)



Co-creation of Wellbeing Dashboards in Marginalized Neighbourhoods in Amsterdam

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 marginalised 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 prioritise 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 neighbourhood platforms and alliances, the wellbeing dashboards are co-designed into governance tools that build up a credible and trusted data-to-action infrastructure.

Persons in charge: Nicky Pouw and Hebe Verrest

Period: 2021-present

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

Team: Nicky Pouw, Hebe Verrest, Jennifer van Beek, Ivan Valencia-Saez, Yamen Hannoush

Website link: [Welzijnsdashboard](https://welzijnsdashboard.nl)



The Global Constitution Project

Distinguished Professor Joyeeta Gupta of the University of Amsterdam 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 well-being and environmental prosperity within an equitable world. The Open Science Justice Lab 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 Prize awarded to Prof. Joyeeta Gupta. It explores how a 21st-century Global Constitution could address today's global challenges without marginalising local issues. By inviting diverse perspectives, we aim to shape a framework for a more just and sustainable world.

Person in charge: Joyeeta Gupta

Period: 2024 - 2029

Funding: University of Amsterdam and NWO

Team: Joyeeta Gupta, Valeria Cavallin, Nina M. Waals, Aljoscha Karg, Georgios Dikaios, Sophia Ikpia

Website link: <http://globalconstitution.org/>



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, emphasising 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 mobilised. CLIFF asks: What is the role of big investors in LFFU? What are the North-South implications of LFFU? And what measures can be taken by whom to equitably allocate and accelerate shareholder and stakeholder responsibility in energy transformation for inclusive development?

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](#)



This year we also organised the ‘New narratives for leaving fossil fuels underground’ Conference in November, which united more than 150 people in Amsterdam for three days to discuss our research and results.



Earth Commission

Within the international Earth Commission, the Justice, Governance, and Economics (JGE) workstream asks: How can we define planetary boundaries that are not only safe for the Earth system but also fundamentally just for all people? What constitutes ‘significant harm’ to humanity from environmental degradation, what are the minimum levels of access to resources everyone needs for a dignified life, and what governance structures can ensure we achieve this within planetary limits?

As a co-lead of this workstream, Professor Joyeeta Gupta and her UvA team are at the forefront of operationalising the ‘justice’ dimension of the Safe and Just Earth System Boundaries. Her work involves developing conceptual frameworks and quantification methods to define both the environmental ceiling of ‘no significant harm’ and the social foundation of ‘minimum access’ to resources such as energy, food, and services such as health and education. Professor Gupta investigates the critical governance, power, and political economy dynamics that perpetuate inequality, and through her team's research, proposes transformative policy instruments and governance models capable of achieving an equitable distribution of resources for a just and sustainable future for all.

Person in charge: Joyeeta Gupta

Period: 2019-2026

Funding: Future Earth

Team: Joyeeta Gupta, Luc van Vliet, Joeri Scholtens, Crelis Rammelt, Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Català

Website link: [Earth Commission](#)



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 analysing 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](#)

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 (Contract researcher)

Website link: [Welcoming Spaces](#)



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 materialises 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.

Persons in charge: Hebe Verrest and Karen Paiva Henrique

Period: 2023 - 2029

Funding: Starting grant/Stimulation grant/AISSR

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

Website link: [Urban Blue Justice](#)



SDG Interactions and Policy Interventions in Developing Countries



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

Website link: [SDG Interactions](#)



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

The GID group is a key consortium partner in the NWA-ORC funded project 'CLIMARES: Climate Resilience in Diverse African Contexts: Co-creating Knowledge ∞ Action Networks'. This six-year project aims to advance knowledge of how climate threats and uncertainties affect small-scale farmers, fishermen, urban outdoor workers, pastoralists and displaced people. Researchers identify their specific weather information requirements and facilitate knowledge-action networks among communities, stakeholders and resource providers to enable early adaptation. CLIMARES is conducted in regions with different climates, governance frameworks and socioeconomic conditions, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda. GID colleagues co-lead three of the project's work packages, focusing on fisherfolk (Margreet Zwarteveen), urban outdoor workers (Maggi Leung) and global connections (Joyeeta Gupta). A key element of the project is the CLIMARES Academy. This new approach to training the next generation of researchers is based on the principles of co-creation, inter- and transdisciplinarity and equal partnerships (CITE). Two of GROW's 12 PhD researchers, Filipe Mate and Espoir Mugabo, are based at GID. Filipe is examining the impact of extreme weather on the livelihoods of street vendors in Maputo, Mozambique, while Espoir is focusing on fisherfolk in the DRC.

Persons in charge: Maggi Leung, Joyeeta Gupta and Margreet Zwarteveen

Period: 2025-2031

Funding: NWO

Team: Maggi Leung, Joyeeta Gupta, Margreet Zwarteveen, Filipe Mate (PhD, supervised by Maggi Leung and S. Shakthi), Espoir Mugabo (PhD, supervised by Margreet Zwarteveen and Joeri Scholtens)

Website link: <https://www.climares.nl/>



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. It is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation under the 'Challenges for Europe' initiative (2022–2027). Cristina Buza, PhD, based at GID, researches the translocal labour and other social links between peripherised regions in Romania and Brandenburg, Germany.



Person in charge: Maggi Leung

Period: 2022 - 2027

Funding: Volkswagen Foundation

Team: Maggi Leung,
Cristina Buza (PhD candidate)

Website link: [VISION project](#)



Graduate Research on 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.



Persons in charge: Maggi Leung and Joyeeta Gupta

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 - UvA Faculty of Law)

Website link: [Grow in Research](#)

Teaching Peace: Enhancing Future Teachers' Readiness and Competencies to Teach about Conflict

This project examines the relevance of the 'Conflict-history education framework' for teacher training on violent and politically sensitive pasts in two distinct contexts: Kenya and the Netherlands. In Kenya, it focuses on the legacy of the 2007–08 post-election violence, a period marked by social fragmentation, displacement, and contested narratives of responsibility and justice. In the Netherlands, it explores how teachers address discussions related to Gaza, a topic that often generates strong emotions and polarised debate in diverse classrooms. By placing these cases in dialogue, the project investigates how educators are prepared to engage with histories that remain politically charged and socially sensitive. It assesses whether the framework provides the pedagogical tools and critical reflexivity needed to navigate contested memories, foster respectful dialogue and support students in understanding complexity. Ultimately, the study evaluates the framework's potential to strengthen historically informed and socially responsive teacher education across different settings.

Person in charge: Line Kuppens

Period: 2025 - ongoing

Funding: RPA Conflict and Society

Team: Line Kuppens

Website link: [RPA Conflict and Society](#)

Museum of the Future Past of Colonialism in the Low Countries: Imagining Just Futures for An Unjust Past

Dutch and Belgian students collaboratively envision a post-colonial future by curating a speculative exhibition titled "Museum of the Future Past of Colonialism." Through this creative and critical exercise, they reflect on how colonial histories are remembered, represented, and contested in the present. By imagining themselves in a future that looks back at our current moment as the past, they explore how shifting temporal perspectives can transform public understandings of colonial legacies, responsibility and repair. The project invites them to critically examine existing redress policies and memorial practices, while proposing alternative narratives and forms of recognition that might shape more just futures.

Person in charge: Line Kuppens

Period: 2025 - ongoing

Funding: Impulse Grant

Team: Line Kuppens

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 project aims 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 how 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

Period: 2020-2025

Funding: NWO program 'Transitions and Behaviour'

Team: Michaela Hordijk, John Grin, Selina Abraham (UvA), René Kemp (UM), Multiple value creation in urban sustainability transitions, together with Municipality of Amsterdam, Waternet, Liander, UNIMAAS

Website link: [TransB](#)



Evidence and Gap Map for Informed Decision-Making: Visualising the Impact of SDGs in LMICs

The project aims to consolidate and visualise the existing evidence relating to the SDGs through an innovative methodology called Evidence and Gap Map. It will systematically map systematic reviews and impact evaluations across each SDG to identify areas of absolute gaps and empty reviews. The evidence will be assessed and mapped according to methodological rigour, volume, funding body and regional distribution. Co-led by Utrecht University and the University of Amsterdam, this project collaborates with nine cooperation partners from South and Southeast Asia, East Africa and Europe, leading to a valuable piece of knowledge infrastructure that can inform SDG decision-making bodies in future investments and allocation.

Person in charge: Maggi Leung

Period: 2025 - 2026

Funding: NWO (NWA Innovative projects within routes)

Team: Maggi Leung (Co-investigator, UvA), Ajay Bailey (Principal Investigator, Utrecht University), and Mowri Seama (post-doc, Utrecht University)

Website link: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/projects/ipgcr83528>

Greenpeace International Living Solidarity Matrix

The Living Solidarity Matrix project for Greenpeace International develops a practical framework to assess and strengthen solidarity in partnerships and movement building. The tool combines quantitative and qualitative indicators across values alignment, narratives and collaboration practices. It is designed as an evolving, co-created instrument to support reflection, learning and strategic alignment with climate justice principles.

Person in charge: Nicky Pouw and Yves van Leynseele

Period: 2025-2026

Funding: Greenpeace International

Team: Nicky Pouw, Yves van Leynseele, Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Català

Website link: coming soon!

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: 2020-2025

Funding: NWO program ‘Transitions and Behaviour’

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

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

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



Creative Methodologies for Studying Changing Climates

Extreme weather conditions, induced and intensified by a global climate emergency, increasingly impact communities across the world. In the face of multiple and overlapping climatic threats, designers and residents alike spend mounting energy and resources to reshape their surrounding environments and protect lives and livelihoods against such extremes. In response to this unprecedented challenge, scholarship across social sciences, humanities, and design advances methodological approaches to understand, on the one hand, how individuals and societies learn to coexist with climate, and, on the other, how new techniques and technologies can inform practices better attuned to changing weather conditions on the ground. Yet, more work is needed to bridge these bodies of knowledge and examine how diverse methodologies can reveal situated lessons of being and becoming with climate to cope with exacerbated yet uncertain climate futures. This symposium series aims to address this gap by bringing together scholars working within and across disciplinary divides to explore how diverse and creative methods can inform a more holistic understanding of preparing for and living with climate change. Two events are planned in March 2026 (at Penn State) and September 2026 (at UvA).

Person in charge: Karen Paiva Henrique

Period: 2025 - ongoing

Funding: Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the Hamer Centre for Community Design, Penn State University and Centre for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS), University of Amsterdam

Team: Karen Paiva Henrique, Aparna Parikh, Lisa Iulo (Penn State University)

Website link: [Symposium Website](#)

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 successful Senior Comenius Fellowship '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 approximately 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.

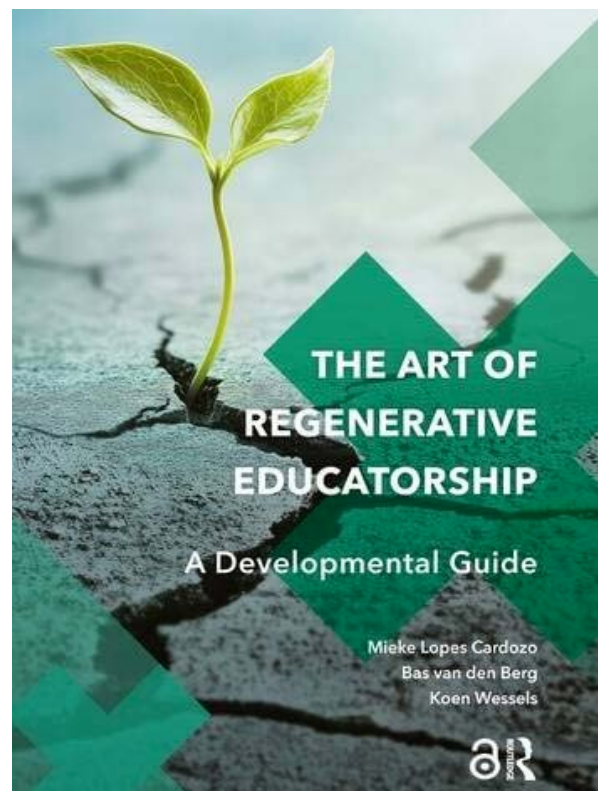
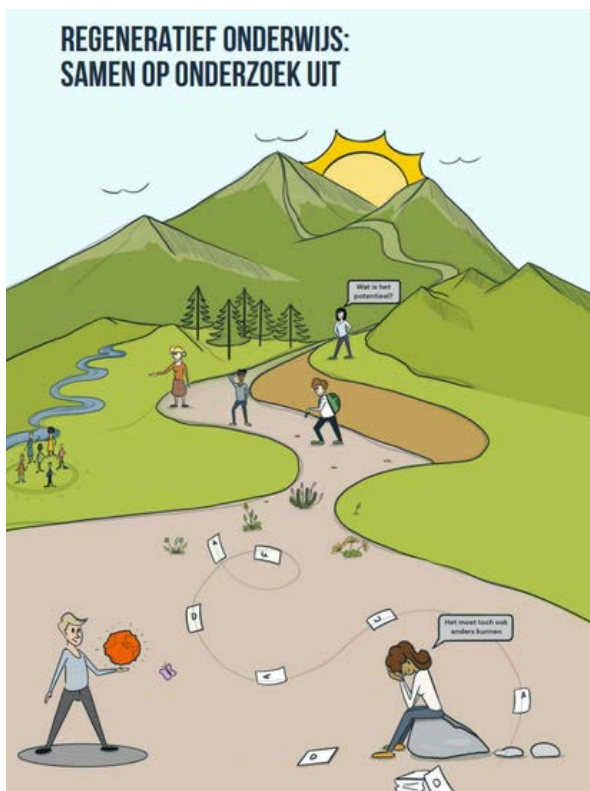
Persons in charge: Michaela Hordijk and Mieke Lopes Cardozo

Period: 2022-2027

Funding: NRO (Senior Comenius Fellowship)

Team: Michaela Hordijk, 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](#)



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).

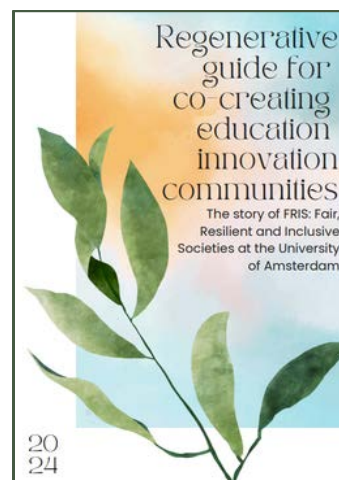
Person in charge: Mieke Lopes Cardozo

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](#)



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 endeavours 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 researcher 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 peripherised 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, Utrecht University)

Website link: [Welcoming Spaces](#)



Power to the People in Sri Lanka

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 boosting export earnings, 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

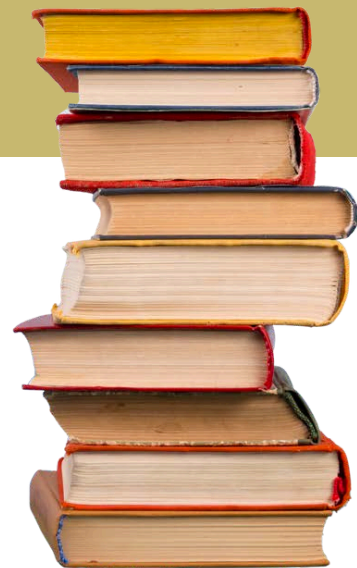
Period: 2024-2025

Funding: ISEAL Switzerland

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



Education



GID colleagues actively contribute to the teaching of International Development Studies at both Bachelor's and Master's 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's 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's International Development Studies (RMIDS)

The two-year Research Master's 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 (2025)

Master in IDS (1-Year) Programme

- **Erik Aldas Quintuña.** The Condor and the Dragon: Equal Partners or Economic Dependence?
- **Tereza Barková.** Climate Change Adaptation and Informal Settlements in Kigali, Rwanda: Exploring Residents' Everyday Lived Experiences of Climatic Hazards, Upgrading, and Relocation.
- **Leila Belkhiria.** Rhizomatic Fragility: On Staying with What Breaks.
- **Lidewej van Berkomp.** Health in Motion: Traditional Healing Practices in Kenya's Dynamic Health Landscape.
- **Marta Biancotto.** Industrial Decline and Community Resilience: An Institutional Analysis of Just Transition Instruments in Taranto, Italy.
- **Sophie van den Bosch.** How The Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank's Impact Measurement Strategy of Investments in Agora Microfinance Zambia Fosters Financial Inclusion in Rural Zambia.
- **Franca Brugman.** Wasting Paradise? Governing Circular Waste Management in Gili Trawangan
- **Daphne de Deugd.** Cultivating the Future: Challenges and Opportunities to Engage Surinamese Youth in Agriculture
- **Margot Dhainaut.** We are Nothing to Them: A Study on the Housing Situation of African Migrant Women in Cape Town
- **Manon Dilling.** Navigating Masculinities: Feminist NGOs and the Politics of Male Engagement in Mumbai
- **Lois Douma.** Breaking the Cycle of Division: Cross-Community Programmes as a Bridge to Youth Agency in Post-Troubles Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- **Elena Draganov.** Beyond Survival: Refugee Well-Being Through Co-Created Welcoming Spaces. A Case Study of NGO-Led Initiatives in Paris, France
- **Nick Drijver.** Flood Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity in Rapidly Urbanizing Cities:
 - A Case Study of Gendered Environmental Justice in Tamale, Ghana
- **Max Einvall.** 'If You Don't Go All In, What's the Point of Trying?': Dilemmas of Decolonization and Nation-Building in Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education in Senegal
- **Pelle Folman.** Impacts of Climate Change on Livelihoods and Mobility Patterns of Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Communities in Baringo and Nakuru Counties, Kenya
- **Dija Adjani Forster.** Aging and Care among Migrant Domestic Workers in Malaysia: Navigating Transnational Labour, Financial Uncertainty, and Return
- **Diana Getachew.** Borderless Divides: Digital Engagement and Belonging Among the Ethiopian Diaspora in the Netherlands

- **Coco van Gils.** Women's roles in adopting farmer managed natural generation in northern Ghana
- **Emma Groot Rouwen.** Shield and Shadows: How Masculinity Shapes Gender-Based Violence and Protection in Rio de Janeiro's Zona Sul
- **Gergely Halász.** La Carpio: Housing, Segregation and State Neglect
- **Laura Herwin.** Power, Participation and Precarity: Tourism's Uneven Impact
- **Veerle Huiberts.** Indigenous food sovereignty in Venda, South Africa: Negotiating agricultural methods, traditional foods and autonomy within a changing system
- **Sayaka Ikemiz.** Decolonization in practice: lecturers' decolonial pedagogies at the University of Venda, South Africa
- **Vincent Jaillat.** Land Tenure Pluralism and Land Fragmentation in Nakuru County: A Multiplicity of Combinations between Legal Frameworks' Uses and Understandings and the Dual Perception of Land
- **Amita Janssen.** Strengthening the Sociocultural Resilience Capacity of Indigenous Communities: Decolonial Approaches to Countering the Effects of Coloniality in Powakka, Suriname
- **Loulou Janssen.** Empowerment or Imposition? Intersectional Engagements of NGOs with Roma women in Lisbon
- **Kate Jeans.** Relations of Renewable Energy: How Land, People and Processes Shape Community Members' Well-being. A Case Study of the Menengai Geothermal Project, Nakuru County, Kenya
- **Ela Joos de ter Beerst.** The "Pacte pour un Enseignement d'Excellence": The solution to ending educational inequalities in Brussels? - Insights from primary school teachers
- **Ben Juurlink.** An Undesirable Necessity: Dealing with Development Financing in Kenya's Electricity Sector
- **Zoé Klindworth.** Locating Urban Injustices within Climate Adaptation Frameworks: A Critical Case Study of Flood Adaptation in Valencia, Spain
- **Anouck Lalauze.** An analysis of the Moroccan Moudawana: Navigating and implementing legal pluralism and its challenges
- **Benjamin Langgartner.** From Widening Gaps to Collective Growth: Realigning SACCOs with Well-Being
- **Maud Lason.** Teaching and Learning in a World of Many Worlds: Exploring a Regenerative Decolonisation Perspective on the Possibilities and Challenges for Transformative Learning at NGO Añañau in Cusco, Peru.
- **Erik van der Lee.** Clearing the Air: Intersectional (In)Justice in Chiang Mai's Haze Crisis
- **Joana Lino Carreiro.** Stories of Informality: The Impact of Rehousing and State-Led Demolitions on Immigrant Women-Led Families in Portuguese Informal Settlements
- **Emma Lips.** Unpacking the Double Burden: The Struggles and Strategies of Single Mothers in Balancing Paid Work and Unpaid Care Work in Nakuru, Kenya
- **Isis Lute.** Conflicting Goals in Building Peace: An Ethnographic Approach to Understanding Peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- **Greta Löcherbach.** A Gendered Vaccine: Maternal Perspectives and Decision-Making on HPV Vaccination for Young Males in Germany
- **Avshalom Matalon.** Dependent Entrepreneurs, Precarious Present: Assessing terms of Digital Financial Inclusion in Nakuru, Kenya
- **Austin Moreman.** Countering Cultures of Waste: Artisanality and its Impact on Social Constructions of Food Waste in the Dutch Artisanal Cheese Sector
- **Karen Mulder.** Sowing Life: How Mexico's Sembrando Vida Contributes to Well-being and the Revival of Rural Livelihoods
- **Tessa Naber.** From Exclusion to Engagement: Participatory Water Governance of the Stren Kali Community in the Kali Jagir, Surabaya
- **Sophie Oddens.** To Move or to Stay: Mobility Intentions under Rising Sea Levels in the Netherlands. Exploring Mobility as Adaptation through Multi-Level Adaptive Capacities and Decision-Making
- **Salome Orkoshneli.** Circular Fashion in Development: The Policy-Corporate Interface in the Dutch Textile Sector
- **Michelle Pullen.** Mental Health and Integration in Rwanda: Assessing the alignment between the mental health framework and lived experiences of citizens with mental health conditions
- **Ciprian Pîrăianu.** In-Between States of Development: Exploring Multi-Scalar Flood Adaptation at the Edges of Modernity in Galati County
- **Gerard Rivera Moral.** Are Greening Policies Triggering Commercial Gentrification?: A study case from Barcelona's Green Axes
- **Lena Reiß.** Wellbeing Under Pressure: How Remittance Taxation Shapes Household Wellbeing and Coping Strategies in Nakuru, Kenya
- **Alice Rondeaux.** Stakeholders Perceptions Shaping Water and Land Governance: Pathways to Sustainable Socio-Ecological-Technological Systems in Southern Tenerife
- **Julia Ruijter.** Innovating Under Pressure: How Emerging Farmers in the K2C Biosphere Adopt and Adapt CSA Practices to Manage Water Scarcity
- **Ella Rydingsvärd.** From Epistemicide to Disobedience: Centring Árbbediehto in Sámi Schools
- **Sara Scavizzi.** The MPU Trap: Exposing Injustice in Germany's Automobility System
- **Zoë Sigaloff.** Wastescapes: Living, Resisting, and Governing Waste at the Margins: An Urban Political Ecology Analysis to La Carpio Landfill
- **Finn van der Straaten.** Dutch carbon credit trading companies and Leaving Fossil Fuels Underground (LFFU): The Voluntary Carbon Market mechanisms, Strategic perceptions, and Societal impact
- **Ying Sun.** Smallholder farmers' food security impacted by urban sprawl and climate change in the city fringe of Tamale, Ghana
- **Arinti Sutarto Hardjosusono.** Youth Aspirations, Opportunities, and Imaginations: NGO Involvement at Yayasan LMU in Tulamben, Bali

- **Charmaine Trompell.** Pathways to Multidimensional Empowerment: Women's Enterprise Fund Supported Self-Help Groups in Nakuru, Kenya
- **Connor Urquhart.** Unpacking a 'Birdcage': A Feminist Urban Political Ecology Analysis of Multiple Vulnerabilities in Women's Experiences of Gender-Based Violence in Johannesburg.
- **Gao Wang.** Staying in Place: Climate-Induced Male Out-Migration and the Well-Being of Women Staying in Rural Uttar Pradesh, India
- **Joran Woltman.** Investigating the Alignment of the GBVF-NSP with Community Stakeholder Perspectives on the Safety Risks for Adolescent Girls in the Cape Flats
- **Matt Wood.** Reconciling praxis and policy: The pitfalls and potential of critical pedagogies in Nepal

Research Master (2-Year) Programme

- **Huda Abdel-Rahman.** United we struggle – Together we rise? Beyond Boundaries: The Intersection of Embodiment Practices and Conceptualisations of Solidarity in Amsterdam's Social Movements
- **Anne Besse.** Care In-Between Dislocations: Migrant-Led Organisation Responses Shaping Care for Women Affected by Female Genital Mutilation in Post-Migration Ireland
- **Sara Betetto.** "What Conservation?" – Local Perceptions, Understandings, and Responses to Marine Degradation in Dahab, Egypt
- **Camila Cuadrado Castellanos.** Behind the Screens: How Capital Inequality and Agency shape the decision to work in Colombia's Webcam Industry
- **Lucas Dann Ruiz.** The Complex Role of Water in Shaping Human-Nature Relations: A Study of Commons and Hydrosocial Territories in Ansiães, Northern Portugal
- **Louise Dupont.** "I Am Not Responsible for the Past": Whiteness and the Politics of Teaching Colonial History in Francophone Belgium
- **Gal Grosek.** Currency Hierarchy and Exchange Rate Dynamics in Sub-Saharan Africa: Monetary and Financial Development in Rwanda
- **Valerie Heere.** The (Re)Production of Power and Conflict in Water Services: Intersecting Social and Political Dynamics in Climate Adaptation and Water Provision in Low-Income Areas of Accra, Ghana
- **Jonas Jeunink.** Understanding coherence between commercial and development objectives in Public-Private Partnerships for Development (PPPDs) through interactions and collaborative inclusive business typology
- **Jeska de Jong.** Towards Just Energy Futures Beyond the Grid. Exploring Energy Imaginaries and Just Energy Futures in Hanover Park, South Africa
- **Tamara Kristensen.** Navigating Capabilities: How Young Women in Coastal Tamil Nadu Negotiate and Aspire Towards Social Mobility

- **Camilla Lindschouw.** Navigating transformation in Amazonian sociobiodiversity value chains: Carving transformative pathways in asymmetrical commercial relationships
- **Nada Maidame.** Social Mobility and Education: Youth Experiences in a Fishing Village in Tamil Nadu, India
- **Simon del Marmol.** Between Resistance and Routine: Navigating the Lived Experiences in an Institutionalised Movement
- **Annika Nolte.** The personal and professional in tension: A mixed methods study on dilemmas and the interplay of development professionals' motivations, reflections and actions
- **Käthe Ploeger.** What the Garden Can Teach Us. Multispecies Justice as an Assemblage in Toronto's Urban Gardens
- **Djamila Saadi.** How can Lahaina lands remain in Lahaina hands?
- **Balthazar Sellier.** The Source of Life: The role of rivers in shaping peasants' life and mobilisation against hydropower projects
- **Giovanni Simioni.** Centering Care: Investigating the Doing of a New Activist Culture
- **Joyce Tunnissen.** Achieving restorative justice through the implementation of renewable energy?: Placing the introduction of renewable energy against a broader background of unresolved land claims in Mpumalanga, South Africa
- **Myrthe de Vree.** Held by History, Carried by Hope: Exploring how active engagement with silenced legacies of the past transforms Indo-youths collective memory and sense of belonging
- **Phoebe Zhuang.** Who Provides for Whom? Food Sovereignty and Small Pelagic Fisheries on the West Coast of South Africa



Highlights for 2025

This year, we celebrated the successful completion of two **PhD theses**:

- Marie Belland (2025): *Volatile City Life: Knowing-and-Making Coastal Subsidence in Semarang*, which examines the socio-political processes through which urban environmental risks are understood and governed.
- Aarthi Sridhar (2025): *Fishing for Autonomy: The Making of Indian Fisheries Science*, a historical and political analysis of how fisheries science has shaped governance and knowledge production in India.

GID researchers and students organised and participated in major academic events and networks. Members spearheaded initiatives linked to the **MARE** – Centre for Maritime Research and engaged with wider debates at the **CLIFF Final Conference**, creating spaces for interdisciplinary dialogue on ocean governance, fisheries and environmental change. These engagements reinforced the group's commitment to connecting academic inquiry with pressing global challenges.

These events were complemented by more casual moments of community building, including our annual heidag, writing retreat and reading groups. One particularly appreciated initiative was the Capital Reading Group, where colleagues completed reading Volume I of *Das Kapital* together.

GID scholars were key contributors to the newly funded **CLIMARES** project, a large international research consortium focused on strengthening climate resilience among vulnerable populations across several African regions. The project emphasises knowledge co-creation between researchers, local communities and policymakers, aiming to produce actionable climate information and inclusive adaptation strategies.

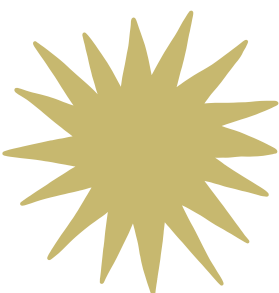
Another important intellectual initiative was the Global Constitution Project, led by Joyeeta Gupta. The project explores the possibility of a global constitutional framework capable of addressing planetary boundaries, social justice and global governance in the Anthropocene. By inviting contributions from scholars, practitioners and citizens worldwide, the initiative aims to stimulate new imaginaries for equitable and sustainable global governance.

A central pillar of GID's intellectual life remained the **GID Seminar Series**, which continued to serve as a monthly space of exchange and reflection among researchers, students, and invited guests. These seminars fostered an informal yet stimulating environment for both early-career and senior scholars to share work in progress and discuss emerging debates in international development studies. Throughout the year, discussions addressed themes such as feminist political ecologies, regenerative development, food sovereignty and climate adaptation, strengthening a vibrant scholarly community while sharpening the group's collective analytical lens.

The year also saw a strong emphasis on student engagement and academic excellence. Through the SDG Interactions Essay Competition, three graduates from the International Development Studies programme were recognised for their outstanding contributions, highlighting the next generation of scholars working at the intersection of sustainability, governance and global justice. Moreover, we impulsed an initiative called **The Masters' Tools** where our graduates shared their master's theses in the form of blog articles.



Teaching and mentorship also stood out as important highlights. Many colleagues highlighted the privilege of supervising PhD candidates and Research Master students, and witnessing their intellectual development and growing engagement with critical and socially engaged scholarship. **Innovative teaching** practices were also introduced. In one course on conflict studies, for example, students were invited to donate voluntarily while sharing baked goods prepared by the instructor. The donations were collectively allocated to an organisation working in conflict-affected contexts, resulting in a €400 contribution to War Child. The initiative aimed to connect academic learning about conflict with concrete solidarity and reflection on global responsibility.



Methodological and pedagogical innovation continued to develop through initiatives such as the symposia on **Creative Methodologies for Studying Changing Climates** and collaborative teaching in courses such as Rethinking IDS. These efforts are contributing to ongoing discussions within the group about decolonising research and teaching, decentring Eurocentric perspectives, and exploring more experiential and participatory forms of learning.

Institutionally, the establishment of the **Amsterdam Social and Economic Wellbeing Institute** – initiated by Nicky Pouw and scheduled to open in April 2026—was recognised as an important milestone for strengthening research collaboration across the university. At the same time, colleagues highlighted the importance of continuing to expand research agendas on social and economic well-being and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration within GID.

Looking back, 2025 was another fruitful year with numerous individual milestones and broader engagements of the collective. Through research, teaching and engagement, the GID group demonstrated its commitment to advancing more just, sustainable, and inclusive approaches to development. As one colleague noted, the real highlight lies in the accumulation of both large and small achievements across the group – each representing steps forward in research, teaching and collective intellectual life.



Looking Back on 2025: Voices from GID

Academic Staff

Margreet Zwarteveen - One highlight of 2025 was the news that I had won an ERC Advanced Grant for the project Aquiverse, which looks at promising initiatives by communities to care for - protect or restore - the aquifers that they depend on for their livelihoods. As always, I enjoyed my various involvements in teaching and student supervision, most notably experimenting with techniques from Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed (guided by David Limaverde). With colleagues from other universities, I was involved in some exciting and fun reflections on how to combine hydrological modelling with critical social science, including in the Festival of Fluid Interdisciplinarity in Berlin. I am proud that some of these reflections resulted in publications.

Hebe Verrest - 2025 was an exciting year for teaching and research. The two research projects I am involved in further matured. The Wellbeing Dashboard in Amsterdam Nieuw-West expanded to three communities and our team is deepening relationships with residents and local partners. I was thrilled to see how residents took the full lead in meetings with relevant state- and non-state stakeholders to lobby for better sports facilities and financial support. I am also very happy with the two (co-authored) publications that came out. In the Urban Blue Justice project, the appointment of Sofie Carpeij meant that the research on (post-)colonial planning and blue justice in Paramaribo is taking off. Teaching wise, I have been appointed as Director of the Graduate School of Social Science and am excited to direct my attention to the future of our master programs.



Michaela Hordijk – In my 2025 academic year, I completed the Comenius Seniorfellowship that was awarded to me in 2020. The Comenius Fellowship significantly contributed to the development of the transdisciplinary learning trajectory in the bachelor's programme in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, which I have directed since 2018. I have conducted a workshop on the 'Pedagogical Compass' at the UvA Education day that resulted from this Comenius project. In 2025, we concluded the project "From adaptation and mitigation to regeneration" and the related project Koppelkansen with a public event in both the Balie and the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. The project Stepping Out has been granted an extension, which we use to work on additional academic output.

Maggi Leung - I had an eventful and productive 2025. I continued in my role as GID programme group leader and was active in education and research. One of the year's highlights was the launch of CLIMARES, a large consortium project funded by NWO. I am involved in the CLIMARES Academy and co-lead a work package examining the impact of extreme weather and climate change on precarious urban outdoor workers. Together with numerous inspiring colleagues, I made progress with other research endeavours. I completed a research project on Chinese civil society in the Netherlands, which was commissioned by the Dutch Chinese Knowledge Network. The VISION project, in which Cristina Buza examines the impact of labour mobility between peripheral regions in Romania and Germany, entered its fourth year. I have also enjoyed working with Patrick Arhin and Armstrong Mudzengerere on their research into the impact of lithium mining, as part of the GROW programme.

Joeri Scholtens - The highlight of my 2025 academic year was the organisation of another successful MARE People and the Sea conference, which brought together over 400 valued colleagues from different parts of the world. Discussions focused on varieties of transitions towards (or rather away from) blue justice. As for my engagement with students, two courses stood out. The collaborative teaching of the second episode of our recently developed Capitalocene course was great for both students and lecturers. This is the type of course where, as a lecturer, you co-learn with your students. Another remarkable endeavour was the short 'qualitative research in practice' course that we teach in Sri Lanka in partnership with the University of Ruhuna to prepare students for their Bachelor's thesis fieldwork.

Esther Miedema – My 2025 centred on three themes: sexual and reproductive health and justice, alternatives to extractivism and decolonising development practices. First, I co-organised the 14th Share-net ‘Linking Research, Policy and Practice’ seminar, engaging with funding for anti-gender movements and launched a special issue call “Troubled Times for Sexuality Education.” Concerning the second theme, I co-edited and launched the propositional manifesto “Alternatives to Extractivism”, combining written and artistic work of a team of 16 people and co-moderated a CLIFF/CSDS round table on decarbonization. Regarding the final theme, I completed an action-oriented study and learning event on “authentic partnerships” with Oxfam Novib and wrote a think piece for WWF NL on the coloniality of conservation. I also co-organised a series of daily online writing sessions to stimulate more creative forms of non-fiction writing and began a solo long-distance hike across the Pyrenees.

Mieke Lopes Cardozo - 2025 was a year of highlights in regenerative education and collaborative scholarship. Together with Bas van den Berg and Koen Wessels, I published *The Art of Regenerative Educatorship* (Amsterdam University Press) and hosted its public launch at Pakhuis de Zwijger in June. Complementing this, our article *Regenerative Education Design* (Trends in Higher Education) explored co-creative online learning with diverse academic and non-academic collaborators. I delivered three keynotes: *Imagination in Education* at VU Education Day, *Regenerative Education* at Groene Peper 2025 and a keynote/chair role at UvA Education Day on the Academic Compass. I co-authored a blog on biocultural peace with Wuasikamas/Econeêra and received the 2025 Collaborative Teaching Award, reflecting our commitment to co-creative, reflective and transformative education.

Robbin Jan van Duijne – My 2025 centred on three themes: sexual and reproductive health and justice, alternatives to extractivism and decolonising development practices. First, I co-organised the 14th Share-net ‘Linking Research, Policy and Practice’ seminar, engaging with funding for anti-gender movements and launched a special issue call “Troubled Times for Sexuality Education.” Concerning the second theme, I co-edited and launched the propositional manifesto “Alternatives to Extractivism”, combining written and artistic work of a team of 16 people and co-moderated a CLIFF/CSDS round table on decarbonization. Regarding the final theme, I completed an action-oriented study and learning event on “authentic partnerships” with Oxfam Novib and wrote a think piece for WWF NL on the coloniality of conservation. I also co-organised a series of daily online writing sessions to stimulate more creative forms of non-fiction writing and began a solo long-distance hike across the Pyrenees.

Nicky Pouw - In 2025, the Chair in Economics of Wellbeing and ASEWeBe were established within FEB. Jennifer van Beek completed her PhD; Ivan Valencia progressed well. With Hebe Verrest and Jennifer, key publications appeared. The dashboard expanded to six neighbourhoods, with three more agreed and work now focuses on embedding with the Municipality of Amsterdam. Follow-up actions include women's health activities in Wegener-Sleeswijkbuurt and food gardens in Venserpolder. MSc students Lana, Mina, Joep and Bente contributed. (ii) SDG Interactions Programme. Findings from three international projects feed into the "Debunking Notions" event (Jan 2026). Three MSc thesis prizes were awarded. Two papers with Melanie van Driel were written; MSc student Kate contributed. (iii) Greenpeace Living Solidarity Matrix. With Yves van Leynseele, the matrix reached the testing stage. MSc student Ewelina contributed.

Yves van Leynseele - My 2025 year was marked by a re-entry into research by following up on my PhD research (published in 2013). This longitudinal study involves a critical analysis of land dynamics in a 'failed' land reform project where the state has withdrawn and where new constellations around racialised land access are emerging. This research was also part of a sabbatical that helped me think through how to combine my part-time UvA position with other consultancy work in the NGO sector. The year is marked by going back to full-time work and also the finalisation of a book project with an international research team on smallholder farmer-centred (un)learning in Ghana and South Africa that has been a long time in the making and will be published in 2026. I experienced the GID and IDS environment as being extremely supportive in these pursuits and giving me room to explore this new - hopefully complementary - combination of roles and tasks.

Karen Paiva Henrique - In 2025, I advanced my work on critical climate adaptation and creative methodologies. I travelled to Porto Alegre, Brazil, to collect data on flood infrastructures in the aftermath of the devastating 2024 floods. This visit provided new insights and directions for the city's evolving flood management landscape. I continued my ongoing collaboration with colleagues at Penn State University and co-organised a symposium series on "Creative Methodologies for Studying Changing Climates" with upcoming events in March 2026 (at Penn State) and September 2026 (at UvA). I also started a new collaboration with colleagues in Anthropology and co-organised a workshop in Barrang Lompo, Indonesia, where we used art as a method to explore socioenvironmental entanglements across geographies as these are shaped by and through water flows. The year was very busy but also incredibly rewarding, and I am looking forward to continuing this work in 2026.

Line Kuppens - 2025 was a year of closure and new beginnings. The highlight was the publication of my open-access book, *Teaching about the Violent Past: Opportunities and Challenges for Teachers in Conflict-Affected African Societies*, co-authored with Justin Sheria Nfundiko. This book brings together the core of my research to date. It has generated 2 new projects with teachers on addressing violent pasts closer to home. One project examines how Dutch teachers navigate discussions on the genocide in Gaza, while a new Impulse grant (launched in September) supports research into innovative approaches to teaching the colonial past in the Netherlands and Belgium. I also turned the lens on my own practice. As an Education Research Fellow, I began exploring the potential of silent conversations in my 'Introduction to Conflict Studies' course. More generally, I started experimenting with new strategies to deepen student engagement and impact – very rewarding!

Crelis Rammelt - In 2025, I enjoyed running my familiar courses and developing a new IDS elective, "The Capitalocene", together with two excellent colleagues. I am also grateful to have received for some teaching buyout to focus on finishing my book "Commodifying Plunder", on the theory and empirics of unequal exchange. The year ended with the exciting news of finding a publisher. I'm also excited that two papers on the topic were published in 2025, which we presented at the "Growth versus climate" conference in Barcelona and the "International Degrowth" conference in Oslo. I also collaborated on two successful grant applications (ENLENS and EPICUR) for research on safe and just earth systems and boundaries, for which I am working with both UvA and international research partners. Finally, 2025 was also the year we recorded our very first "just development" podcast episode with support from EADI, which we will publish sometime in 2026.

Mirjam Ros-Tonen - In 2025, I continued collaboration with the University for Development Studies (Tamale, Ghana), enabling two MSc International Development Studies students to conduct fieldwork. One shed new light on women's roles in adopting farmer-managed natural regeneration of shea trees in northern Ghana—an important but climate- and deforestation-threatened source of income. The other analysed gendered flood vulnerability, adaptive capacity and environmental justice in rapidly urbanising Tamale. I was honoured to join the supervisory team of our new PhD candidate, Patrick Arhin, who works on relational justice in corporate-community negotiations in Ghana's emerging lithium sector and was excited to see Jane Aggrey's thesis approved for defence. I continued working on publications on landscape governance and inclusive smallholder farming, co-authoring papers in *Ecology & Society* (2x), *NJAS*, *Environmental Management and Landscape Ecology*.



Student Advisors

Eva van der Sleen - Together with my co-lecturers Clara McDonnell and Tomás Chang Pico, I taught the Job Market in International Development Studies (IDS) course. A highlight was our field visit to The Hague, hosted by Oxfam Novib and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where students engaged directly with professionals about career paths and sector challenges. Through the Erasmus+ programme, we welcomed three students and two staff members from the University for Business and Integrated Development Studies (Wa, Ghana) to the University of Amsterdam, where they attended and contributed to IDS classes.

In September, I hosted partners from Brawijaya University, strengthening collaboration opportunities. I also initiated field research collaborations with North-West University, Chiang Mai University, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Universidad de O'Higgins, and TRAC FM.

Agnieszka van Laar - As a study advisor for the Master's and Research Master's International Development Studies, I greatly value the close collaboration with our talented and highly motivated students. Supporting them in navigating their academic pathways, refining their interests, and making informed choices about courses, research projects and future careers is an important and rewarding part of my work. I am particularly proud of our students' resilience and critical engagement, especially given the current difficult geopolitical context and the increasingly fragile situation of the development sector. It is inspiring to see how committed they remain to understanding and addressing complex global challenges and to witness their growth over the course of their studies.

Postdoctoral Researchers

Yang Chen - Despite some health-related challenges toward the end of the calendar year, 2025 proved to be a highly productive period defined by the successful fulfilment of my commitments as a Postdoctoral Researcher for the CLIFF Project. I dedicated significant effort to ensuring all deliverables were met for the project's concluding conference in November 2025, while simultaneously maintaining a diverse publication record that spanned the Environmental Sciences and Social Sciences. These outputs included collaborative work with CLIFF, a study from my previous research project and a co-authored publication with Aljoscha, who has impressively transitioned from my MSc supervisee to a colleague as a PhD candidate. I hope those manuscripts in the pipeline will come out in 2026.

Edith van Ewijk - 2025 was the final year of the NWO research project Stepping Out, focusing on learning for sustainability transitions. In July, I organised the final seminar of Stepping Out, with our partners based in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. In November, a training course on system innovation was launched at Open Research of the municipality of Amsterdam, in a hybrid train-the-trainer format. I co-developed this training course with Prof. John Grin (Political Sciences, UvA) and the municipality of Amsterdam. I published several popular online articles and submitted a paper to the Learning Organisation Journal, which will be published in 2026. Last, together with Michaela Hordijk, Maaïke van Heijningen and Jennifer van Beek, I co-organised the last GID meeting of the year about the role of the researcher in transdisciplinary transition research based on a paper using auto-ethnography. This event also marked my farewell to the research group.

Melanie van Driel - My 2025 academic year consisted primarily of working on two joint papers as part of the Knowledge Brokering and Synthesis Project on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Interactions. For these papers, we worked together with PhD and Postdoctoral researchers across three research consortia working in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda. To collect input for these papers, I organised a series of focus group discussions with all the PhDs and Postdoctoral researchers involved to look for overarching insights. I also conducted a series of interviews with the principal investigators of the research projects. The key themes of SDG interactions, policy coherence and inclusive development form the backbone of these papers, which we aim to submit this year.

Postdoctoral Researchers

Andrea Mueller - My 2025 felt like a roller coaster between my personal and professional lives. The great support, familiarity and kindness of the GID team made all the difference. In terms of work, the FAO Water Tenure Workshop in May was one of the highlights. The workshop had an ad hoc feel to it, which was great, as we rarely get the chance to meet and discuss our own studies. We presented the Water Atlas, which was well appreciated. I also gave a presentation at the FAO Water Tenure Expert Group meeting and at the Kennisdag Zoetwater Deltaprogramma Zoetwater IenW. I was involved in these projects: (i) Water Allocation and Rights; (ii) Blueprint for an Integrated Global Water Security Assessment; and (iii) Balancing Demands: Exploring the 'Priority of Use' in Global Water Allocation. I made progress with my writing. A co-authored article was published in Environmental Science & Policy and a few more papers are in the pipeline.

Ming Luo - In 2025, 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 organisations and conducting interviews with dozens of organisers and members of these networks. The findings were used to analyse the local and global impact of Chinese civil society organising and the challenges these groups face. We concluded the project in October with a report and a seminar ([#41 Chinese Civil Society in the Netherlands and Europe | Clingendael CKN](#)). This project, which ran 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. I am excited about the opportunity to work on a follow-up project in 2026, also funded by the CKN, which focuses on (un)freedoms among Chinese-origin communities.

Hilmer Bosch - I was a Postdoctoral Researcher contributing to the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, where I focused on advancing the field of water justice. I also contributed to the Water Allocation, Rights and Institutions Study. In 2025, I made several contributions to the field of water justice. I published multiple papers, including work on the conceptualisation of Water System Justice, a critical analysis of evolving perspectives and persistent dilemmas in water justice and the development of a Water System Justice framework tailored to water utilities. These contributions strengthen the practical applicability of water justice in policy and governance contexts. In addition, I contributed to a book chapter in Elements on Water Allocation and Rights, further advancing scholarship on water allocation and governance. I also participated in the FAO's Water Tenure Expert Group, contributing to global discussions on the recognition, management, and governance of water access and rights.

PhD Candidates



Eric Vaughan - In 2025, I worked towards completing my PhD thesis on the relationship between biodiversity conservation and development in eastern Africa. Diving into my findings and the literature allowed me the opportunity to reflect more deeply on some of the practical and theoretical implications of my research, especially at a time when the environment risks being deprioritised in the global policy agenda. Beyond my doctoral research, I also contributed to several research, monitoring, and evaluation projects, including an evaluation of transboundary water management work in the Horn of Africa, an evaluation of a mangrove restoration project in Mozambique, and a human ecology analysis in Somalia.

Andres Cabrera Flamini - My 2025 saw the interactions and contradictions between academia and practice. I finalised the full draft of my PhD dissertation and published the article "Meeting multiple mandates: the increasing complexity of water management". In parallel, I have been working on the design of funding and regulatory reforms for local water utilities in New South Wales, Australia, from the State government perspective. Acting and reflecting from both a water utility's perspective and the State government has brought to life the value and challenge of making academia practical, particularly when my research is focused on one actor and my work on another. Overall, this year has been rewarding and challenging, and has set me even deeper in the complexities, worldviews and practicalities of making water safe and just.

Sharon Suri - I am a PhD Researcher in the Governance and Inclusive Development (GPIO) and Moving Matters (Anthropology) research program groups. As part of the Innovative Knowledge About Networks- Fish For Food (IKAN-F3) project, I research traders and fish trade networks in North Sumatra, Indonesia. In 2025, I published "The last mile: mobile traders, rural consumers, and access to fish" and submitted three others, including a scoping review of seafood market intermediaries in small-scale fishery supply chains, a perspective piece on integrating blue foods into food system approaches and frameworks, and an article on inequalities within the blue food sector in Indonesia.

Augusto Heras - My 2025 was shaped by continued research on the Global South's energy transitions. I conducted fieldwork in Colombia, Brazil and Argentina, interviewing policymakers, experts and social movements on contested energy pathways to leave fossil fuels underground. I published three articles with the CLIFF team and my supervisors, on the multiplication of climate injustices and the need for climate system justice, evolving North-South responsibilities in Earth System Governance and reconciling the right to develop with leaving fossil fuels underground. I presented my thesis conclusions at the CLIFF final conference and submitted my PhD, "Climate change, fossil fuels, and the energy transition in the Global South," to the doctoral committee, a milestone that capped years of intellectual and personal investment in CLIFF and GID.

Dan Liu - My 2025 marked the fourth and final year of my PhD and focused on consolidating my core research contributions. Two journal articles published in *Urban Studies* and the *Journal of Urban Affairs* examined governance transformations and the social impacts of urban regeneration policies, while a book chapter about tourism gentrification was also accepted. I completed my PhD thesis and entered the final revision stage toward submission. During the year, I presented my work at the Urban China conferences at Harvard University and UCL, where discussions with scholars working on China's urban transformation helped refine the theoretical framing of my final paper on resistance to gentrification. Overall, 2025 was a demanding but deeply rewarding year of synthesis, dialogue and scholarly maturation.

Filipe Mate - My 2025 academic year was marked by attending CLIMARES Academy in Rabat, Morocco. The main objective of the Academy was to equip us as PhD students with knowledge and skills, with common knowledge in the field of climate change. I was also able to gather knowledge on how to deal with a PhD, data collection, data analysis and report writing. Then, the year was shaped by the Inception Meeting held in Marrakesh, where the aim was to bring together discussions on the CLIMARES Consortium. Here, I was able to dive deeper into knowing how the project will work, held meetings with my supervisor and the working package. The year ended with a publication on "Surviving on Empty: Food Insecurity Among Mozambican Migrants in Johannesburg, South Africa".



Bernice Bonsu A. Ephraim-Armoo - In 2025, my work focused on advancing the resilience and governance of urban water utilities amid climate, environmental and institutional uncertainties. I chaired and presented at the Climate Change and IWRM track during the AfWASA Congress in Kampala, sharing insights on preparing utilities for a resilient future and moderating discussions on financing resilient utilities. I co-facilitated trainings on utility management under uncertainty and the Utility Management Simulation Game. I served as a teaching assistant for the BSc course Water Governance of Aquatic Resources and Environments at UvA. I co-authored a book chapter on urban water services in developing countries. With my promoter, we initiated a collaboration with VEI Dutch Water Operators to design a climate-resilient utility simulation course, linking research and practice.

Benjamin Haokip - In 2025, I reflected on my methodology and learned to connect theoretical ideas with practical insights. I improved my skills in writing more carefully and responsibly about sensitive conflict topics related to youths' lived experiences. Additionally, I participated in various online and offline workshops on peace and conflict studies and mindfulness.

Moataz Talaat - I am in my fourth year as a PhD student within the CLIFF project at GID. I started the year with a short fieldwork trip and interviews within the financial institutions industry. I was part of the CLIFF team organising the final conference of the project and contributed to the panel titled “Coherence in Financial Flows and the Role of Investors”. I am currently working on my dissertation.

Patrick Arhin - In 2025, my research took me to eight frontline communities along Ghana’s emerging lithium frontier, where I spent six months immersed in everyday life. I entered these communities not only as a researcher but as a participant in their daily routines—playing football with local youth, attending festivals and worshipping in churches alongside them. Through these shared socio-cultural spaces, I gradually became a “temporal native,” a term community members used to describe my presence among them. These everyday social and religious encounters opened space for more honest conversations and deeper insights, teaching me that in sensitive extractive contexts, meaningful data collection begins with trust built through immersion in everyday community life, before formal research questions are posed.

Jennifer van Beek - Looking back at my 2025 academic year, I can distinguish two phases. First, a high-tempo phase of field research, BSc. thesis supervision and three article submissions. I also got to participate in the 5th Forum of the International Sociological Association in Rabat. In a session deliberately created for PhD students, I presented one of my articles. This gave me a valuable opportunity to receive feedback and learn from peers (which also led to a finalised article!). My year was followed by a slower, more focused and reflective phase during which I completed my dissertation titled “Measuring what matters? A Wellbeing Economics Approach to Urban Marginality in High-Income contexts”. I am happy to share the final result soon and am looking forward to extending the research in the new academic year :)

Jolanda Robinson - In 2025, I undertook several activities I am pleased to share. I delivered a tailored lecture to Radboud University’s AMID postgraduate programme, whose participants work across diverse sectors in the Global North and South. It was rewarding to share experiences and engage in practical policy issues. I returned to Ethiopia, where my doctoral fieldwork and capacity-building activities are located. I presented research at the International Ethiopian Studies Conference (ICES22) in Hawassa, taking the opportunity to conduct preliminary interviews for future projects. I also developed a paper from my Copenhagen Women’s Conference presentation on male allies in ICT/AI governance, emphasising relational gender analysis. Later, I led a workshop with ARC-GS colleagues and finalised my doctoral manuscript. These activities advanced my research agenda and contribution to inclusive gender, technology and governance development practices.

Aljoscha Karg - I started my PhD on asymmetries in the international financial and monetary system with the GID program group in February of last year. For the purpose of my research, I attended the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development in Seville. My main highlights were the events and protests organised by civil society, which pointed to the pressing social and environmental contradictions in development finance. Besides my research, I also started to teach the seminars for the Philosophy of Science course in the Research Master's. I really enjoyed the fun and at times challenging engagement with the students and look forward to doing it a second time this year.

Vivian Yeboah - 2025 was both intellectually invigorating and personally transformative. A defining highlight was my participation in the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) Workshop and Congress in Istanbul, where I engaged with doctoral researchers and scholars examining critical questions in urban development, governance, and climate change. Sharing my research ideas within this environment significantly sharpened my analytical perspective and expanded my scholarly network. Equally formative was undertaking fieldwork in Accra, Ghana, where direct engagement with research participants deepened my empirical insights and strengthened the grounding of my research. In retrospect, 2025 was a positively demanding year—where navigating the intellectual demands and practical complexities fostered resilience, reflexivity and reinforced my commitment to advancing socially just urban climate governance.

Xingcheng Wen - In 2025, my first year as a PhD researcher, I laid the foundation for my PhD project. I was fortunate to secure funding for the next three years, which has given me both stability and confidence to develop the research further. I presented my work at the IMISCOE annual conference, where my paper was nominated for a best paper award—an encouraging recognition at an early stage of the project. Beyond academic spaces, I collaborated with different activist communities to co-organise workshops and contribute to community-oriented knowledge production. These experiences have helped me think more carefully about research ethics, positionality and how scholarship can remain accountable to the communities it engages.

Armstrong Mudzengerere - My 2025 academic year was shaped by impactful events that immersed me in transdisciplinary research and the practice of “unthinking thinking to rethink,” critically questioning the dominant global narrative about the green transition. A major highlight of my year included a presentation I delivered at the GROW Community Event in Elspeet, which emphasised transdisciplinarity, knowledge co-creation, epistemic justice and citizen participation. I am grateful to the GROW program for the opportunity to share my research on the political economy of lithium mining in Zimbabwe, examining responsible sourcing, value capture, community agency and social justice in the energy transition. Key projects I worked on included contributing to Silk Road Headlines at the Clingendael China Centre, writing on experiential learning in trade corridors and the interplay between China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Edratno Budi Santosa - The year 2025 is quite busy for me, considering my efforts to complete all chapters of my dissertation. To that end, I need to add a final survey to answer my last research question. I am intensively revising chapters and discussing them with my supervisory team. Two articles resulting from my research on the management of Alien Invasive Species and the dynamics of social change in protected areas were also published through conferences and journals, which I did in collaboration with other academics. In short, last year laid a strong foundation for me to be able to submit my dissertation to the Doctoral Board at the end of this year.

Cristina Buza - In 2025, my PhD research on labour mobility, conviviality and translocal connections gained clarity and focus. Through ethnographic fieldwork in Brandenburg and rural Romania, I explored how sociability emerges in places not usually seen as convivial and how mobility reshapes everyday life in peripheral regions. I defined the three core articles that will structure my dissertation, giving the project a clearer direction. I also designed and led a research team field trip to rural Romania, strengthening my experience in organising collective fieldwork. I presented work in progress at four conferences: Migration and Societal Change (Utrecht), the Neuchâtel Graduate Conference, RoMig (Romania) and DAMR (Groningen), where feedback helped refine my arguments. A major highlight of the year was publishing my first peer-reviewed article in *Global Networks*, a milestone that affirmed my earlier research.

Lars Wiersma - In 2025, I continued developing my research methodologies and selecting case studies on water (re)allocation from around the world. Alongside this, I collaborated with the Earth Commission on publications exploring just Earth System Boundaries – work that connects global sustainability science with the water governance questions at the heart of my PhD research. Beyond my own research, I engaged actively with the broader water community. I collaborated with students and peers from multiple universities and reviewed documentaries on water governance tensions, including those in the United States and Africa. I also attended presentations of water practitioners at Pakhuis de Zwijger and academic seminars hosted by Utrecht University, which offered valuable perspectives from both the field and the research community.



Lekha Samant - In 2025, I was mostly immersed in PhD fieldwork in Mumbai, but also took part in international conferences and workshops in Europe. Conducting extensive fieldwork across Mumbai, often in neighbourhoods I had never visited despite living there for over 28 years, helped me grow in confidence as a doctoral researcher. Attending the AESOP conference brought me to the magnificent city of Istanbul, while an international roundtable on 'compound urban crises' organised by the Utrecht University allowed me to explore Limburg with a globally diverse group of critical urban scholars. During my months in Amsterdam, I continued co-organising the UPE reading group sessions. It was a year of intense travel but also of grounding myself in research, as I navigate my PhD journey.

Glen Robbins - During 2025, much of my time was spent working on a collaborative international research project on renewable energy and industrial policy, with a series of research reports and academic papers produced, including some on the pitfalls and prospects of green hydrogen. I also presented some of my developing PhD papers at a number of seminars, including one on nationally directed port developments in Durban, at the seminar series organised by the Port City Futures group coordinated at TU Delft. My work with the South African-based NGO, Asiye eTafuleni, with its focus on supporting inclusive and responsive urban planning and management for informal workers, continued. In late 2025, I joined the Climate and Inequality research group at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (University of the Witwatersrand) as a part-time Visiting Researcher.

Adriano Mateus Biza - The 2025 academic year focused on a strategic recalibration of my doctoral research. To advance the development of my remaining manuscript drafts, I engaged in two high-level scholarly forums, presenting empirical insights central to my thesis: (i) 7th International Conference of the Institute of Social and Economic Studies (IESE): Presented a paper titled 'Pro-poor urban sanitation in Maputo City, Mozambique', within the conference theme of "Mozambique, 50 years of Independence: Policies, Crises and Social Transformation" (Maputo, September 23–24, 2025); (ii) XIII Scientific Conference of Eduardo Mondlane University: Presented the paper 'Hygienisation failure: Covid-19 and the attempts to re-ordering Maputo City'. (Maputo, September 16–19, 2025). These activities served as critical milestones for ensuring my research contributes to the contemporary discourse on water governance and urban inequality in Southern Africa.

Clara McDonnell - 2025 was a full year for me. I started the year with some short fieldwork visits to New York City and to London, where I interviewed pension funds and asset managers about their climate action. Much of the rest of the year was dedicated to furiously writing and finishing my thesis, which I submitted in December. Other key highlights for the year included attending the Finance and Society conference in Copenhagen in September, co-organising the CLIFF final conference, held in November, and supervising Bachelor's students working on topics related to Cities and Sustainability.

Janina Herzog-Hawelka - 2025 was an intense year as I entered the final stage of my PhD. In November, we held the final CLIFF conference on new narratives, marking the culmination of several years of work on climate governance and Leaving Fossil Fuels Underground (LFFU), where I presented key insights from my research on multinational oil and gas companies. To facilitate discussions on emerging narratives, I returned to South Africa to conduct a workshop at the ESG/Transformation Community Conference. Together with my colleague Yang, we presented a Theory of Change focused on equitable pathways to LFFU. Later in the year, I presented findings from my policy analysis on the global governance of oil and gas companies at the RIFS conference in Berlin. Alongside finalising my thesis, I co-authored two papers: one with Luc and Clara on the German–Senegalese gas partnership and another with the CLIFF team examining climate injustices in global climate governance.

Cut Augusta Mindry Anandi - Looking back, 2025 felt fast-paced and at times routine. Yet in retrospect, it marked a significant milestone in my academic development, particularly in terms of publications. I led my first peer-reviewed article in *Ecology and Society*, submitted a new manuscript to an international journal and contributed as co-author to a published article in *Progress in Development Studies*. I also presented my research in a pitch session at the Just International Development Forum 2026, hosted by GID. Compared to previous years, I feel more confident in articulating the contributions and positioning of my research.

Researchers

Sofie Carpajj - My 2025 academic year began in September as a Junior Researcher in the Urban Blue Justice group. In these first months, I focused on reviewing literature on environmental and climate justice, situating it in postcolonial contexts with a particular focus on water-related justice. Together with Dr Hebe Verrest, I drafted my research proposal, which will trace (post-)colonial planning and urban blue justice in Paramaribo, Suriname. I also had the opportunity to get to know colleagues in the GID department. I am looking forward to the coming year, when I will put these themes into practice.

Ariadna Romans i Torrent - My 2025 was a year marked by new projects and research opportunities. After completing the Annual Report 2024, I focused on supporting the activities of the Governance and Inclusive Development (GID) research group, while advancing my own research on the cultural politics of urban space in Barcelona's superblock programme. This included several weeks of ethnographic fieldwork in Barcelona on urban mobility transitions. During the year, I drafted an academic article for Ecology and Society, to be published in 2026 and began working as a research assistant for the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies. I also participated in the Liquid Entanglements workshop in Makassar, Indonesia, and co-organised the CLIFF Conference on "New narratives to leave fossil fuels underground" at the University of Amsterdam.

Raimon Cardelús Ylla-Català - In 2025, I contributed to several research projects at the intersection of justice, governance and ecological economics. I worked on the Earth Commission project with Joyeeta Gupta, contributed to the Solidarity Matrix Project for Greenpeace International with Nicky Pouw and Yves Van Leynseele and worked on the EPiCUR project with Crelis Rammelt. I also contributed to a project on the global trade of fish meal and fish oil with Crelis Rammelt and Joeri Scholtens. Throughout the year, I presented and engaged with academic and policy communities at several international events, including the International Ecological Economics and Degrowth Conference (Oslo), the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics conference (Montreal), the Sufficiency PhD Days (Paris) and the Post-growth Narratives Workshop (Exeter). These activities strengthened collaborations, contributed to ongoing research and supported science-policy engagement on post-growth, inequality and sustainability.

Sharing Widely...

Building on the strategic priority established in 2024, throughout 2025, we continued to strengthen our commitment to deepening social impact and communication through meaningful engagement, inclusive knowledge sharing and collaborative innovation. This year, the Programme Group further consolidated its efforts to translate research and activities into accessible and actionable insights that reach beyond academia and contribute to real-world change. Our initiatives have connected with a wider audience and strengthened the networks already forming around our work, fostering deeper collaboration and dialogue. This ongoing commitment continues to guide how we design initiatives, encourage participation and communicate results—always with a focus on justice, inclusivity and sustainability.

Our LinkedIn Page: Strengthening Visibility and Connections

Our LinkedIn page has played an important role in expanding our reach and strengthening connections with our growing network. In 2025, it enabled us to share updates on our activities, highlight research outputs and increase the visibility of events and initiatives, helping our work reach a broader professional audience while fostering dialogue and collaboration on governance and inclusive development.

Annual Report: Continuing to Document Progress and Impact

In 2025, we continued the initiative of producing an Annual Report as a key tool for documenting and communicating the work of the Programme Group. The first edition, covering the activities and achievements of 2024, received very positive feedback and proved to be an effective way to share our work more broadly. It has helped us clearly communicate who we are as a department, the projects we are developing and the wider impact of our research and activities. By presenting our initiatives, collaborations, and outputs in a structured and accessible format, the Annual Report has contributed to extending the visibility and understanding of our work among partners, collaborators and wider audiences.

The Master's Tools - A Series of Blog Articles from our Graduates

As part of our efforts to strengthen and expand our social impact strategy, we curated a series of blog articles on our website based on the master's theses of students who graduated in 2025. The initiative proved highly successful, resulting in more than ten contributions that helped showcase student research and make it accessible to a broader audience.

The *baldio* emerges as a contested space: on the one hand, it sustains communal forms of resource sharing; on the other, its functions have been partially eroded, as state appropriation of springs reconfigures access and control. What unfolds, then, is not a clear opposition between extraction and resistance.

Read the full article by **Lucas Dann**,
MSc International Development Studies



My thesis contributes to carbon lock-in theory by integrating sovereign external debt as a core mechanism of fossil entrapment. The central conclusion is that debt-driven carbon lock-in limits both the possibility and the pace of transitions in structurally exposed LMICs.

Read the full article by **Paula Haerle**,
MSc International Development Studies

“If we are serious about addressing the haze crisis, governance models that recognize the contributions of Indigenous highland communities are needed to confront the real drivers of pollution, and place justice at the center of environmental protection”.

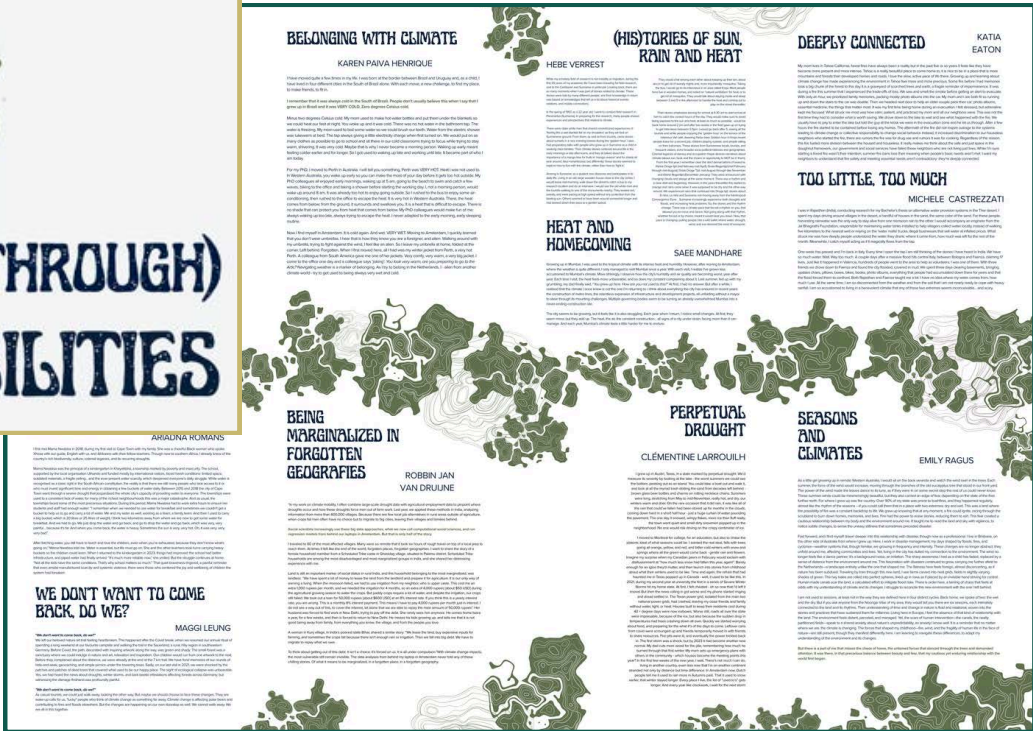
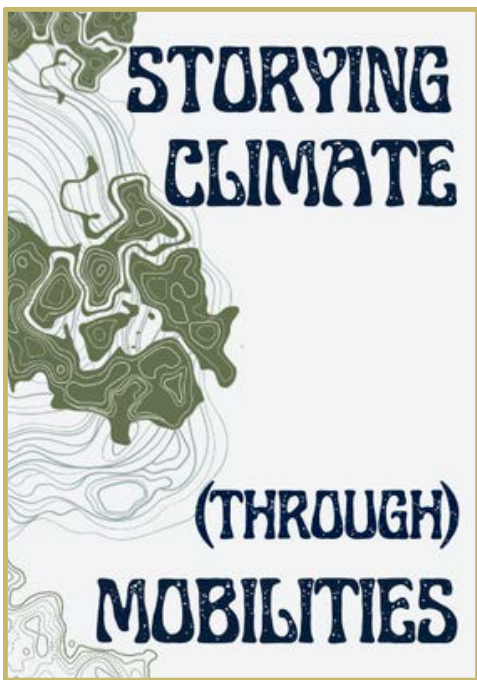
Read the full article by **Erik van der Lee**, MSc
International Development Studies



Fanzine Storying Climate (Through) Mobilities

Our student assistant Sae Mandhare and researcher Ariadna Romans i Torrent produced a workshop-based fanzine (<https://online.fliphtml5.com/gidfanzine/ifkh/>) following the Storying Climate (Through) Mobilities workshop held in December 2024. The fanzine compiles personal climate stories, reflections, and collective narratives shared by researchers, students and practitioners, documenting how storytelling can deepen understanding of climate change through lived experiences and mobility trajectories.

Beyond documenting the workshop, the publication represents an experiment in creative and accessible knowledge production. By using the fanzine format—collaborative, visual and non-academic—it expands how research insights can be communicated beyond traditional academic outputs. The initiative reflects GID’s growing commitment to exploring more creative, participatory and publicly engaging forms of impact, fostering dialogue across disciplines and communities. Through storytelling, the project demonstrates how research can connect emotions, experiences and knowledge, helping bridge the gap between academic debate and broader societal conversations on climate and mobility.



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 organisation 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 organises international courses, conferences and seminars on key maritime issues. It also hosts a respected publication series and publishes the specialised journal *Maritime Studies* (MAST).

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What do we look forward to in 2026?

Moataz

Having more conversations about the necessity of epistemic disobedience in the field of development

Clara

In 2026, I will be staying with the department as a full time lecturer. I'm looking forward to teaching a range of courses across the bachelors and masters programmes!

Karen

I am looking forward to working with colleagues in the GID to centre justice in development -- an urgent topic as societies seek to address multiple and overlapping social, political, and environmental crises.

Xingcheng

2026: Making ideas sparkle and research slay, one paper at a time.

Robbin-Jan

In 2026, I look forward to implementing the changes I've made to make my classes AI-proof and to give students more hands-on opportunities to practice critical thinking.

Line

I look forward to work together with teachers in Belgium and the Netherlands in the framework of my ongoing projects, but also to further redevelop my course 'Introduction to Conflict Studies'.

Patrick

I look forward to turning the rich insights from my fieldwork into publications that speak back to the communities who shared their lives with me.

Aljoscha

Teaching and getting to know a new cohort of students!

Nicky

The launch of the Amsterdam Social and Economic Wellbeing research centre!

Line

I look forward to work together with teachers in Belgium and the Netherlands in the framework of my ongoing projects, but also to further redevelop my course 'Introduction to Conflict Studies'.

Joeri

In 2026 I look forward to continue working with colleagues in Sri Lanka and South Africa. In Sri Lanka, our project community based environmental monitoring will come to close, and I look forward to write a reflection on political complexities of such processes. Then I look forward to work with colleagues in South Africa to further unravel and expose the powerful conservation and development myths that keep squeezing small-scale fishers to the benefit of export oriented fisheries industries.

Yves

I also have been developing a so-called Solidarity matrix with Nicky Pouw for Greenpeace International as part of my consultancy work outside of the university. This tool is set to be launched this year and there is a lot of excitement about it at Greenpeace. Besides that I have some more creative aspects: going on a wilderness trail of five days in Italy for developing personal leadership and doing more inner work with and without my partner.

Eva

In March 2026 together with Courtney and another colleague from EOSS we will be travelling to Ghana to visit our Erasmus + partner in Wa -Upper West. During this 10 day trip I will provide a.o several workshops on Intercultural communication and Transferrable skills, but also conduct a mid term evaluation of the project.

Jolanda

Sharing knowledge and experiences, making music, lecturing, publishing with colleagues, researching on gender, ICT/AI in the interdisciplinary areas GID is busy with.

Aljoscha

Teaching and getting to know a new cohort of students!

Vivian

I am looking forward to pleasant surprises, serendipity I guess!

Hebe

I am looking forward witnessing personal and academic development of PhDs and to embarking on new projects as a GSSS director.

Bernice

Together with my supervisory team, roll out the designed Climate Resilient Utility Stimulation Game in Ghana and Kenya.

Mirjam

I look forward to a better work-life balance, with more room for creativity!

Augusto

"There is a deadlock of imagination in the global north, and a deadlock in the possibility of action in the global south" (Alaa Abd El-Fattah): I'm looking forward to collectively breaking these deadlocks.

Lekha

In 2026, alongside academic reading, I look forward to immersing myself in non-academic literature, especially books in Hindi, Urdu, and Marathi. I hope these readings will nourish my thinking, knowledge, and connections to the languages that shape my everyday life.

Margreet

I am involved in a small experiment on groundwater and arts - bringing together hydrogeologists, social scientists, artists and others. Very curious to learn what comes out of that!

Maggi

I am excited about our second Just International Development Forum that will take place in January 2026!

Adriano

I hope that provision should be made to facilitate online participation in GID events for doctoral candidates based outside the Netherlands who are unable to attend in person due to various logistical or professional constraints.

Michaela

I look forward to co-creating Regenerative Education with and for peers at the UvA.

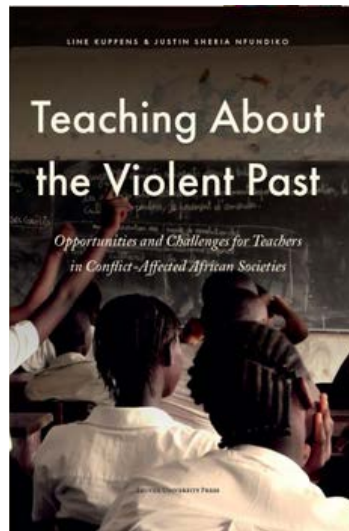
Clara

Hopefully a year of CLIFF PhD defenses!

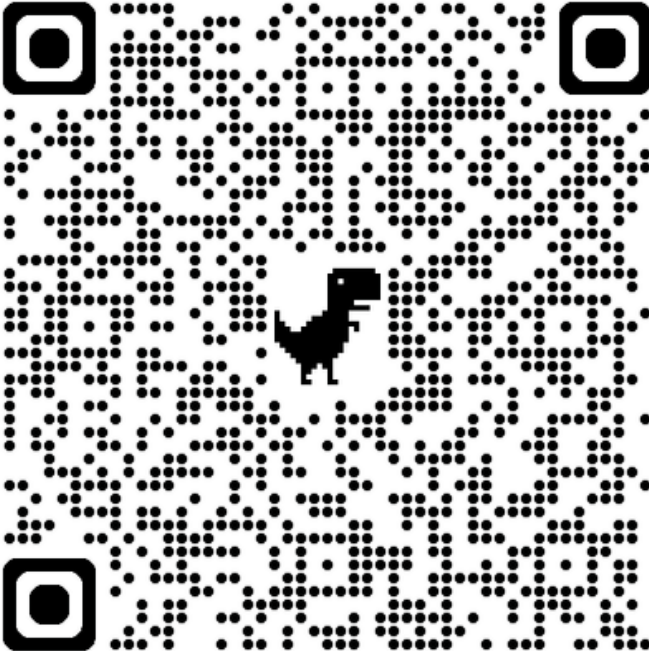
Glen, Augusta, Dan, Nina, Andres

Making progress on or completing our PhD!!

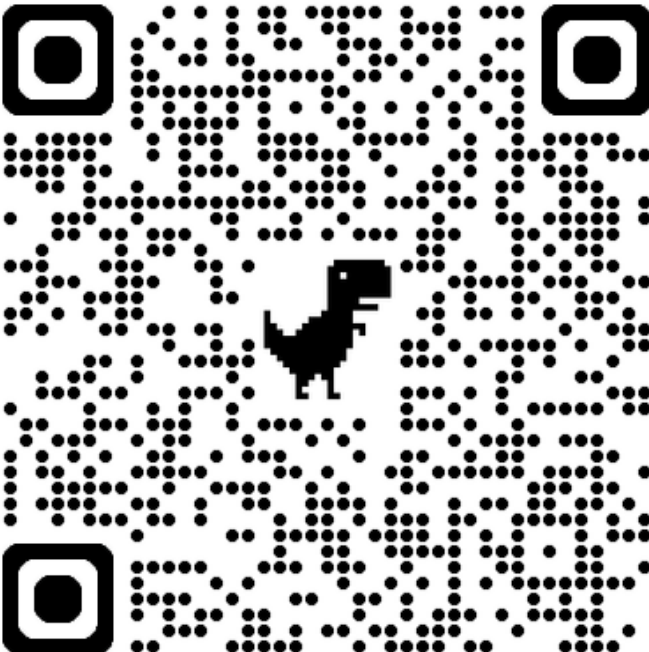
More than a thousand words... Here are some more snapshots of our 2025!

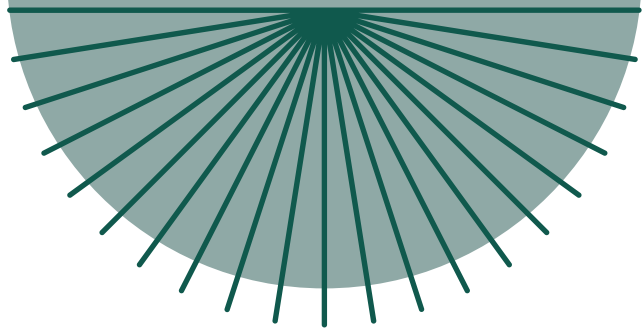


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