



Taskforce on Conceptual Foundations

The Taskforce on Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance is a research initiative established by the Earth System Governance Project to explore key ideas that are coming to frame international discussion of the challenge of governance in times of global environmental change and earth system transformation. It is concerned with understanding, refining and critically interrogating concepts that increasingly provide the foundation for contemporary theory and practice in the environmental domain.

The thought categories which we use to make sense of the world, frame arguments, organize collective action, and establish new institutional practices are embedded in a world of major political and social change. So at a time when human societies are placing ever greater stress on global ecosystems, and are only beginning to appreciate what it would mean to move onto a more sustainable development trajectory, we need to devote critical efforts to examining and further refining novel governance ideas.

The taskforce is an international research collaborative with a series of working groups focused on particular ideas or idea clusters. Scholars from different regions, disciplines and career stages are involved in a combined effort to make sense of contemporary environmental problems and to build new governance institutions suited to promoting sustainability in the twenty-first century.

earthsystemgovernance.org/conceptual-foundations

A new foundation for the international discussion of governance in times of global environmental change and earth system transformation

Interested in participating in the work of the Taskforce?

Please come to our working meetings at the 2015 Canberra Conference (see over for details)

Or contact the taskforce convener, Prof. James Meadowcroft (Carleton University)

James.Meadowcroft@Carleton.ca

Or approach the working group of your interest; contact details can be found on the webpage.

Concepts

- Resilience
- Environmental policy integration
- The Anthropocene
- Sustainability Science
- Ecological/green democracy
- Environmental Security
- Transformations and transitions

New concepts will be added over time and suggestions are welcome!

Taskforce on Conceptual Foundations at the 2015 Canberra Conference on Earth System Governance

Semi-Plenary II - Interrogating the Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance

Monday @ 3:30pm, Hedley Bull LT1

This semi-plenary focuses on understanding key concepts, which provide new ways of thinking about the challenge of Earth System Governance. It draws on the activities of the Taskforce on the Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance, which began its work earlier in the year. Two of the presentations engage with critical notions which have been proposed to make sense of the complex challenges facing human societies in the twenty first century – the concepts of *Resilience* and of the *Anthropocene*. The third presentation looks more generally at the challenge of critically interrogating key concepts in the global environmental domain.

Chair: Michelle Scobie, University of the West Indies. **Speakers:** Lennart Olsson, Lund University; Eva Lövbrand, Linköping University; James Meadowcroft, Carleton University (*via skype*)

Parallel Sessions

CF1: Monday 11:00-12:30 - *Understanding the Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance 1*

Rm: Headley Bull Theatre 1

“Transformations towards sustainability: critical reflections on an emerging concept”

James Patterson (University of Waterloo)

“Governing transformation: The case of the sharing economy”

Chris Riedy (University of Technology Sydney)

“Transformational Communities: Privilege and Marginalization in Commons-Based Governance”

Petra Tschakert (U of Western Australia)

“How to achieve a low carbon transition: Diverging strategies and competing interests”

Oluf Langhelle (University of Stavanger)

CF2: Monday 13:30-15:00 - *Understanding the Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance 2*

Rm: Headley Bull Theatre 1

“Understanding conceptual innovation in the environmental policy realm”

James Meadowcroft (Carleton University)

“Development, resilience and the problem of transitions”

Jon Barnett (University of Melbourne)

“Is resilience a normative concept?”

Henrik Thoren (Lund University)

Lennart Olsson (Lund University)

Anne Jerneck (Lund University)

“Normative Dimensions of Sustainability in the Anthropocene. A Critical View from the South”

Aliyu Barau (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)

CF3: Tuesday 9:00-10:30 - *Understanding the Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance 3*

Rm: Headley Bull Theatre 1

“Socioenvironmentalism: filling some gaps in the Earth System Governance framework.”

Cristina Inoue (University of Brasilia)

Matias Franchini (University of Brasilia)

“Understanding sustainability to understand earth system governance”

Michelle Scobie (University of the West Indies)

“Earth System – Earth Mother: a conceptual analysis from a critical feminist perspective”

Annica Kronsell (Lund University)

CF4: Tuesday 13:30-15:00 - *The Good Anthropocene – Exploring the Meanings of a Big Concept*

Rm: Headley Bull Theatre 1

“The search for a ‘Good Anthropocene’: An urgent need for building greater ecosystemic reflexivity in law and legal institutions?”

Jeffrey McGee (University of Tasmania)

Jonathan Pickering (University of Canberra)

Sylvia Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen (Wageningen Uni)

“Ecosystemic reflexivity in the Anthropocene: deliberative potential and constraints in the IPCC and the IPBES”

Jonathan Pickering (University of Canberra)

“Imagining A Good Anthropocene – Tracking the Development of a Big Idea”

Manjana Milkoreit (Arizona State University)

“Good Anthropocene vs. Sustainable Development – What’s the Difference?”

Manjana Milkoreit (Arizona State University)

Frank Biermann et al. (Utrecht University)

Lunchtime working group meetings

- Transformations and Transitions, Monday 12:30-13:30, Coombs Extension SR 1.13
- The Anthropocene, Tuesday 12:30-13:30, Coombs Extension LT 1.04
- Ecological/Green Democracy, Wednesday 12:30-13:30, Coombs Extension LT 1.04

If you are interested in learning more about the Taskforce:

- General Meeting, Tuesday 12:30- 13:30, Coombs Extension SR 1.13