

# Beyond deep-sea mining

Shaping narratives for a socially and ecologically safe future



**Claudiu Eduard Nedelciu**  
claudiu.nedelciu@uib.no

System Dynamics Group, Department of Geography

## Background and motivation

Coming from a sustainability sciences perspective, I started SEAS with an ambivalence that I often see in academia: I was initially aiming to assess the potential impacts of developing the deep-sea mining sector in Norway, while feeling very uncomfortable about legitimizing deep-sea mining through my research. This is why I now use an interdisciplinary framework to explore alternative development pathways beyond deep-sea mining, that are based on resource efficiency, sufficiency, regeneration and meeting social needs. This project has also opened a whole new set of questions, which seem urgent and important: How is academia reproducing the narrative of growthism? What is the role of academia at a time of climate and ecological crisis? How can academia contribute to guiding visions for a good life for all (human and non-human) within ecological limits?

## Highlighted results and activities

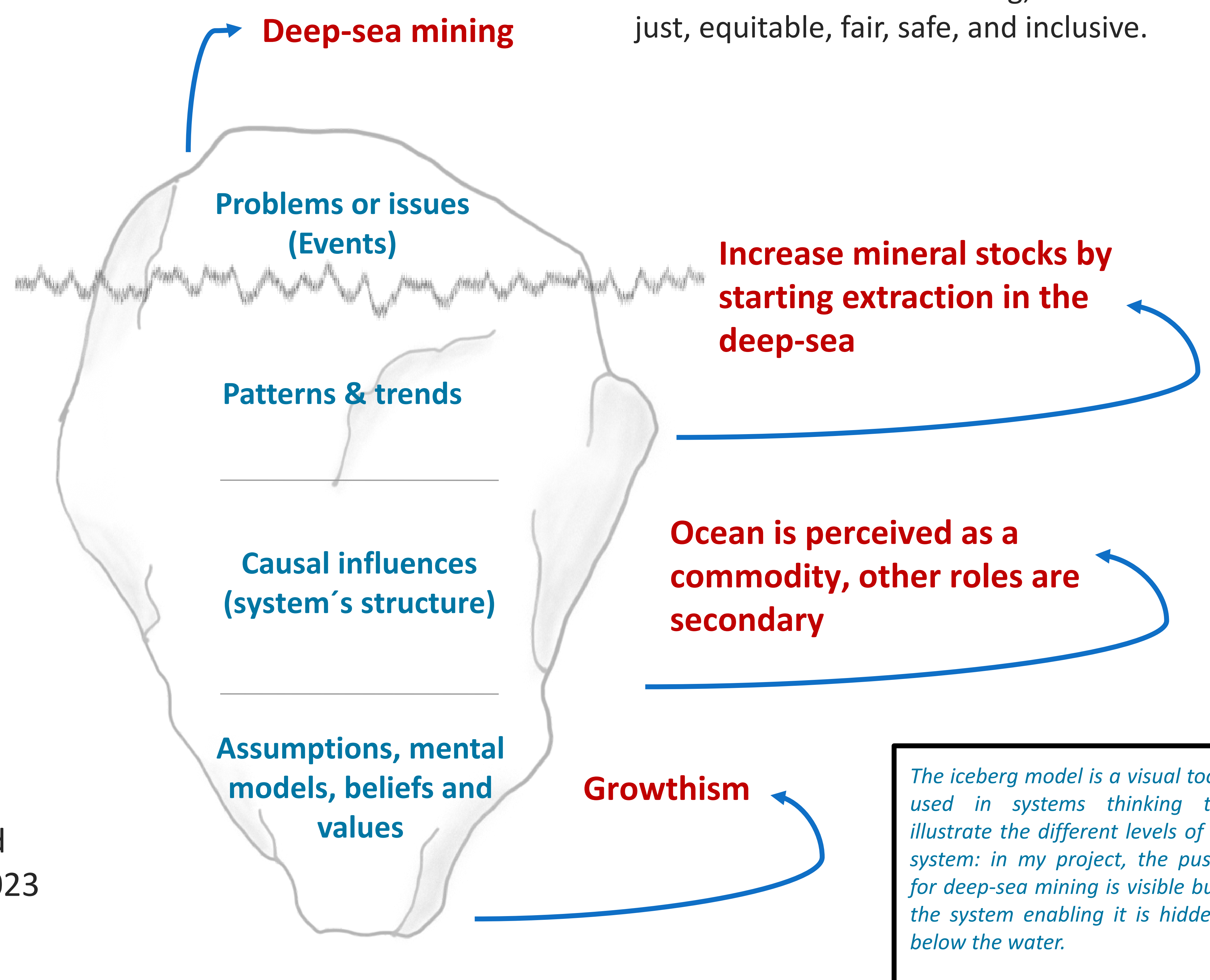
- Conference presentations: Beyond Oil 2023, Arctic Circle Assembly 2023
- Co-editing a special issue on post-growth in the Journal of Political Ecology
- Lead an expert workshop on energy and resource-efficient pathways in the transport and housing sectors for Germany; led another workshop on postgrowth in food systems
- SEAS blogposts and featuring in one of SEAS's podcast episodes;
- Established SEAS connections: collaborating with Aiste Klimasauskaite (check her poster!)

## Aims (and/or milestones)

- Degrowth critique of deep-sea mining and seabed governance;
- Role of academia in challenging growthism;
- New narrative models.

## Project description

I use an interdisciplinary framework rooted in systems thinking, degrowth, environmental justice, and sustainability sciences to critique the dominant growthist narrative. The project starts from a critique of deep-sea mining as a product of growthism and aims to put forward new models of narrative building, that are more just, equitable, fair, safe, and inclusive.



## Marine sustainability

In this project, I am challenging the growthist paradigm within which we approach ocean sustainability. Concepts like "green" or "blue" growth enable the continuation of extraction. They make other roles of the ocean secondary to supplying resources for infinite economic growth.

## Supervisory team

Roger Strand, UiB



Birgit Kopainsky, UiB



SCAN ME



SEAS

