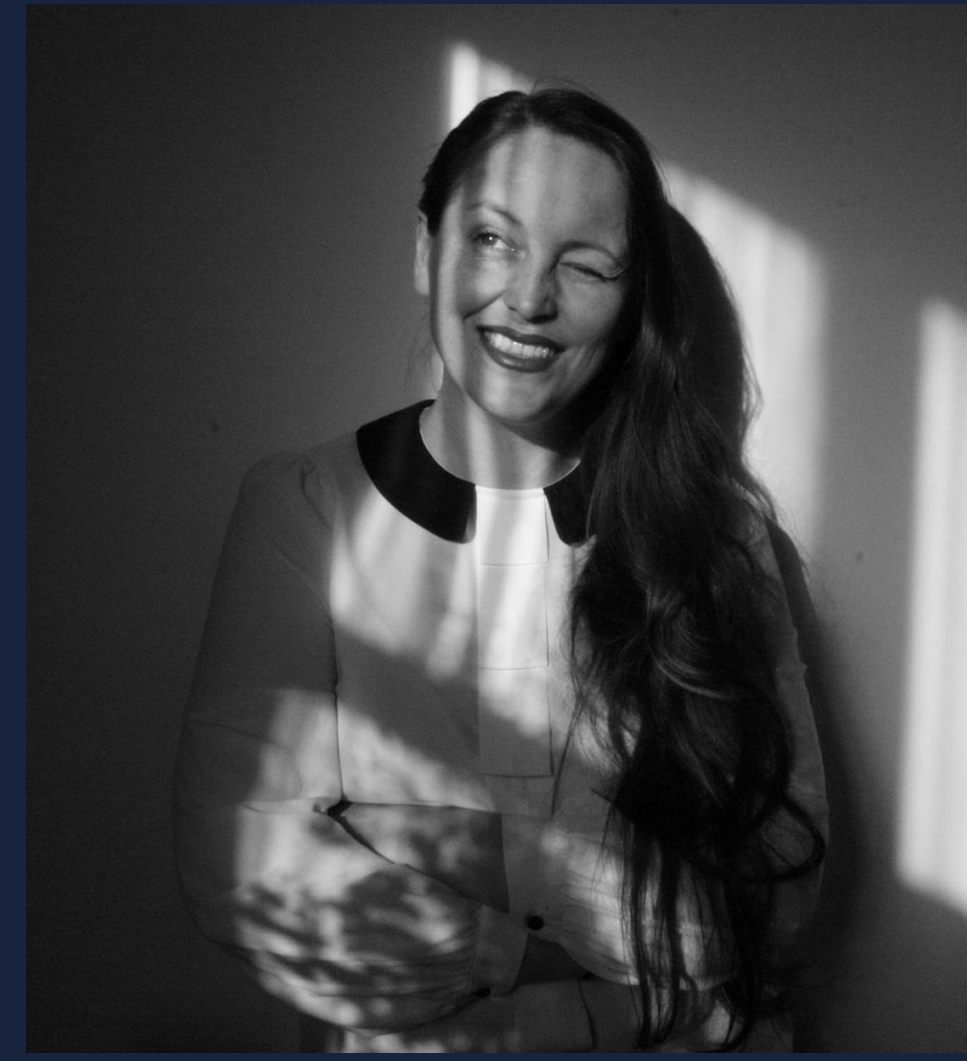


Policy research – why you should care

Blue growth and the future(s) with a focus on deep-seabed mining

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Background and motivation

I “grew up” in business and environmental studies programs, with final touches made by a PhD in public policy.

With the rise of blue growth hopes and initiatives in the Ocean Decade, who has a say and who benefits? Why should you care? Politics often trumps science. So, to understand the future, it is crucial to have policy research.

Project description

I arrived in Bergen with an idea for one project. Today, I have two. One is about the SEAS programme, the other one is about the deep-sea mining policy process in Norway. The projects have a strong focus on science-politics interface.

Main guiding research questions

- What blue future(s) is emerging through the use of science for policy?
- Whose and what knowledge is deemed relevant in creating blue futures?
- How do experts deal with uncertainties?

Marine sustainability

The larger context of my two specific research projects is the idea of *blue growth* – that acceleration of industrial activities needs to move to the Ocean space. That vast space, in turn, needs to accommodate various ideas of sustainable development as we move from land to water. There are various definitions of marine sustainability that I come across in my fieldwork. I am curious as to what are these ideas of sustainability offering for the blue future?

Highlighted results and activities

- I have initiated a few interdisciplinary commentary articles with the SEAS fellows from different backgrounds and it all went very well! We have one paper out and one ready for submission.
- I went to one of the largest marine minerals conferences – UMC2024. I have met some of my favorite scientists, joined a research cruise & watched a box core landing in the Pacific.



- I wrote a few texts on our SEAS blog. Check it out if you are interested in behind the scenes work and life in the SEAS team. Scan the QR to read my favorite blog post.



Aims

- To collect valid, saturated data that is useful in the real world.
- To engage the public and policy makers.
- To publish academic and media articles.
- Would like to know more about my work? Scan the QR code;)



- While with SEAS, I have presented my work at 6 different conferences. But my favorite event was a symposium ‘The future of deep-sea mining’ that we organized together with SEAS Ed here in Bergen.



- I directed and shot one of the most famous SEAS documentaries. Scan the QR to see the final cut:
- One of the greatest privileges at SEAS? To me it’s the ability to attend courses. My favorites were two: ecotoxicology course co-organized by CIMA/ARNET and the field course on minerals, organized by the Centre for Deep Sea Research (where I got to teach as well!).



Supervisory team

- Mentor: Laura E. Drivdal.

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SEAS

