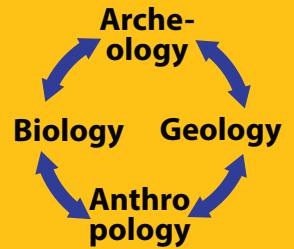


ESD – Center for integrated Earth-Society Dynamics



An ambitious, long-term initiative of foundational and curiosity-driven research to fundamentally advance the science of human-environment interaction. Submitted as a SFF-VI proposal.



what if...

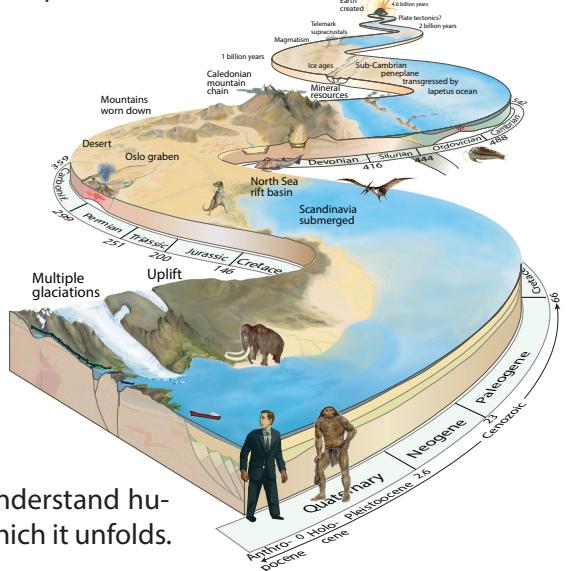
“...we could understand the future of humanity not by looking forward 50 years, but by looking back at 500 million years?”

“...the key to building resilient societies lies buried in the deep-time history of a single, remarkable landscape?”

ESD’s goal is to generate a new paradigm for understanding the co-evolution of social and natural systems. We will reveal how today’s society is a product of integrated processes unfolding over geologic and historical time—from the formation of the bedrock to modern communities—and use this insight to build actionable, evidence-based scenarios for a resilient future.

Current models for navigating global challenges are often short-sighted, treating environmental and social systems separately. This prevents us from understanding the deep, foundational forces that have always shaped human prosperity and resilience. **We must fully integrate geology, biology, archaeology, and anthropology.** You cannot understand human history without first understanding the planetary stage upon which it unfolds.

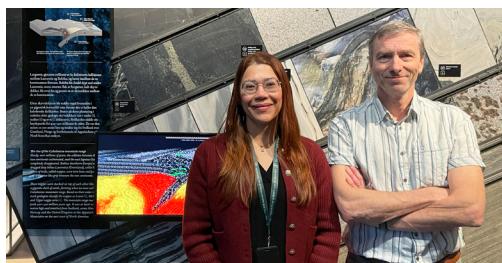
why?



The profound societal benefit is strategic foresight. Our research begins with the 500-million-year geological history that formed much of Norway’s rocks, landscape, and mineral resources. We trace how this deep-time foundation, directly enabled the first societies and shaped subsequent human history. By analyzing this complete record of interaction, we identify fundamental principles of resilience, providing decision-makers with an unparalleled, evidence-based knowledge base to design sustainable policies for the future.

why us?

The University Museum provides the ideal foundation: a stable organization with deep expertise, vast collections, and a 10+ year horizon for developing this research and communicating its results. By collaborating with multidisciplinary researchers within and beyond UiB, we have a unique capacity to achieve our ambitious goals.



Center directors: Haakon Fossen, Carolina Cavalcante

PIs: Björn Nilsson, Heidi Lie Andersen, Trond Lødøen, Youri van den Hurk, Haakon Fossen, and Carolina Cavalcante



UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM
OF BERGEN

The past is the key to the future!