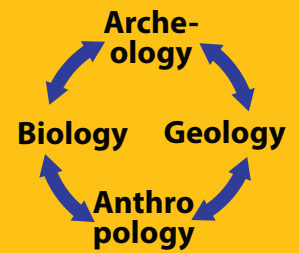


# ESD – Center for integrated Earth-Society Dynamics



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.

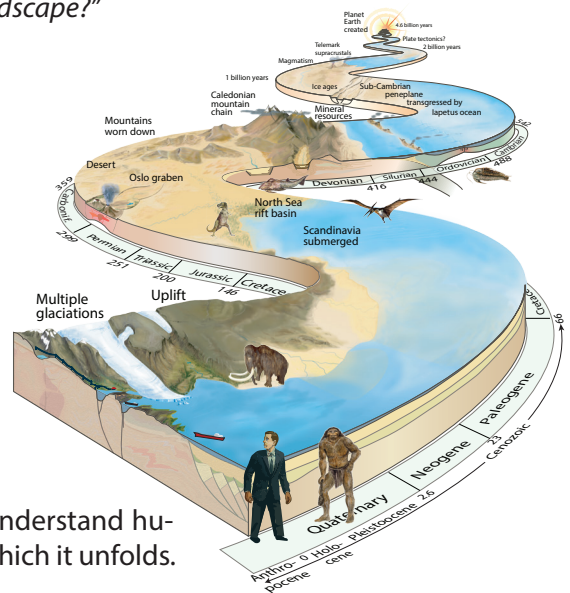


## what if...

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.

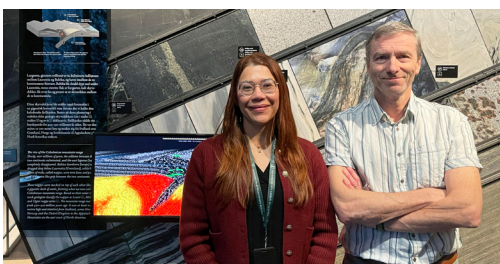
## why?



**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  
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OF BERGEN

## The past is the key to the future!