



Global Challenges

A priority area at the University of Bergen

Activities 2025



Global Challenges at UiB

Global Challenges is one of three priority areas at the University of Bergen, alongside **Climate and Energy Transition** and **Ocean**. These areas serve as mechanisms to generate multidisciplinary collaboration and activities across the University.

We connect people and create meeting places for academic and administrative staff, organise events and research schools, and support and promote projects and efforts of collaboration.

Inequality is at the core of global challenges today—we experience pervasive disparities in access to resources, health, safety, education, and rights. Inequality is the focus of the work at Global Challenges.



ORGANISATION

Scientific steering group

Marit Bakke (leader)
Faculty of Medicine

Silje Skrede (leader from Aug. 2025)
Faculty of Medicine

Simon Øverland (Director)
Global Challenges

Nils Anfinset
University Museum

Knut Hanevik
Faculty of Medicine

Gro Mjeldheim Sandal
Faculty of Psychology

Marry-Anne Karlsen
Faculty of Social Sciences

Martin Paulsen
Faculty of Humanities

Henriette Sinding Aasen
Faculty of Law

Katrine Hjelde
Faculty of Fine Art, Music
and Design

Inger Elisabeth Måren
Faculty of Science and Technology

Devyn Remme (PhD representative)
Faculty of Social Sciences

Lars Lier
Desirée Fredheim Lundberg
(Student representatives)



ORGANISATION

The secretariat

Simon Øverland
Director

Nils Gunnar Songstad
Head of Office

Howaida Faisal Abdelrahman
Adviser

Tord K. Rø
Senior Adviser

Inge Tesdal
Higher Executive Officer



BERGEN SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOOL

A Bergen collaboration

Since the first summer school in 2008, more than **1500 PhD students** from **59 countries** worldwide have spent two weeks with some of the best researchers in Bergen, creating a unique international network.

Bergen Summer Research School is the only **interdisciplinary** research school at PhD level in Norway. Over the years, more than **100 different PhD courses** from all academic fields have addressed different aspects of global challenges.

BSRS is a joint effort between NHH Norwegian School of Economics, NORCE, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, and Chr. Michelsen Institute, under the leadership of the University of Bergen.



The five partner institutions recommitted to BSRS in 2024.



NHH



Western Norway
University of
Applied Sciences

NORCE

CMI

CHR.
MICHELSEN
INSTITUTE



BERGEN SUMMER
RESEARCH SCHOOL
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

BERGEN SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOOL 2025

“Sustainability and justice”

Sustainability and justice with a **systems perspective** was the overarching theme of this 18th edition of the Bergen Summer School.

More than 90 PhD students and lecturers from 37 countries attended the **five parallel courses** between 10-20 June.

In addition to the five courses, the participants took part in a joint workshop on **systems thinking and creative problem-solving**, developing tangible products in the form of policy briefs on climate mitigation options.

BSRS 2025 was led by **Professor Birgit Kopainsky**, Department of Geography, UiB.

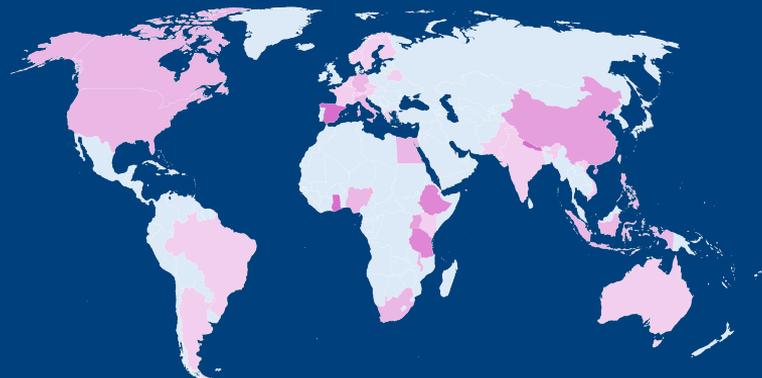


BERGEN SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOOL 2025

BSRS 2025 courses



- **Health financing towards Universal Health Coverage**
Oddvar Kaarbøe (UiB)
- **Accounting for sustainability**
Carmen Olsen (HVL)
- **Democratic practices and sustainability**
Kjellrun Hiis Hauge (HVL)
- **Creative innovations in higher education**
David Hebert (HVL)
- **Interdisciplinary perspectives on climate change and health**
Esperanza Diaz (UiB)
- **Joint workshop: Systems thinking and creative problem-solving**
Birgit Kopainsky (UiB) and Ingunn Johanne Ness (UiB)



BSRS 2025: 69 PhD candidates from 37 different countries



**BERGEN SUMMER
RESEARCH SCHOOL**
GLOBAL CHALLENGES



EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Making sense of global challenges

Bergen Global collaborates with researchers, policymakers and the civil society to create events that address current affairs, promote research on global challenges, and support interdisciplinary collaboration.

In 2025, we organised **47 events** about topics such as democratic development, natural resource management, international law, health, gender and migration,

We engage researchers and audiences through **in-person** and **hybrid** meetings, all free and open to the public.

Bergen Global is a joint initiative of **UiB** and **Chr. Michelsen Institute**, managed by an editorial team that plans and coordinates all activities.



SDG CONFERENCE BERGEN

Day Zero of the SDG Conference

Day Zero, the **academic festival** and kick-off on the day before the annual SDG Conference Bergen (5-6 February) featured **22 parallel sessions** around the world.

The opening keynote by Viktoria Cologna (Eawag) focused on the eroding **trust in science** and how to meet the spread of disinformation.

Day Zero is a **hybrid happening** and an open space to discuss across disciplines, topics, and goals, and to learn from one another in critical applications of the Sustainable Development Goals.



SDG CONFERENCE BERGEN
5-6 February 2025

SUPPORT

Initiatives and activities

Global Challenges involves itself and support many initiatives that take place across UiB, such as:

- The national **Pandemic Conference** in October gathered 75 researchers, students, NGOs, and national and local authorities around the theme *Preparing for health crises in a changing world*.
- The **GRIP annual lecture** (May) by Jason Hickel, Autonomous University of Barcelona, on *The struggle for development in the 21st century: capitalism, imperialism and eco-socialism*.
- The pilot project **Anarchival Sudan**, in the Research Group on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, develops new ways of interpreting the rich Sudan collection at UiB.



Preparing for health crises (top, left) Joost Van Wijchen (HVL), the Pandemic Centre leader Esperanza Diaz and student Ingrid Cardoso.



Professor Jason Hickel (above) at the annual GRIP annual lecture 2025.



Anarchival Sudan (left) seeks new ways of interpreting the rich Sudan collection.

SUPPORT

Together for Global Health

The annual conference of the **Global Health Norway network** gathered researchers and practitioners from all over Norway and beyond for two days of discussions around North-South partnerships, climate change, future challenges in global health.

The Norwegian Research School in Global Health for Sustainable Futures was launched by Mari Sundli Tveit, Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway.

Centre for International Health at UiB was the organiser and host of the conference on behalf of the Global Health Norway network. The conference was supported by Global Challenges.

Frode Forland (right), Specialist Director at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health talked about changes in global health.

Norwegian Research School in Global Health for Sustainable Futures, funded by the Research Council of Norway, will strengthen research training in the field of global health towards 2033.



NETWORK

Africa-Europe collaboration



Inspired by the **Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations**, this symposium sought to explore ways of strengthening North-South collaboration.

The symposium featured presentations of collaborative activities from several European universities, discussions about the situation in Sudan and the work with the Africa Charter.

The event was organised by UiB and the university network **Coimbra Group**, in collaboration with the **SANORD** network at UiB and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

Professor Isabella Aboderin (right) of the University of Bristol presented the Africa Charter for Transformative Collaborations. UiB is one of the 120 signatories.



Sudan panel Dr. Howaida Abdelrahman and activist and educator Babiker Osman (online) talked about the situation in Sudan with Dr. Wesley Maraire.



NETWORK

PhD network

Eight **cross-disciplinary PhD projects** were funded as a Global Challenges initiative between 2018 and 2021.

The cross-disciplinarity of the projects and administrative issues cause enthusiasm, possibilities and challenges for the PhD candidates. This network is a forum to address issues and support their pursuits.

Ludvik Olai Espeland (Faculty of Science and Technology) and **Theogene Habumugisha** (Faculty of Medicine) have thus far successfully defended their thesis.



PhD seminar with four of our PhD candidates and some of their advisers.



NETWORK

The PhD network

Anders Rubing (2018)	Securing the future: Resilient cities in the context of migration	Randi Gressgård , Faculty of Humanities Bjørn Enge Bertelsen , Faculty of Social Sciences
Mulu Beyene Kidanemariam (2019)	Accounting for maternal deaths in the era of SDGs: Juridification, social practices and implications on maternal death audits in Ethiopia	Henriette Sinding Aasen , Faculty of Law Astrid Blystad , Faculty of Medicine
Ole Kristian Einarsen (2020)	Music, Health and Policy. Child-focused and music therapy-based health research to meet European challenges for migrant minors – a qualitative field study	Viggo Krüger , Faculty of Fine Art, Music, and Design Marit Skivenes , Faculty of Social Sciences Ingunn M. S. Engebretsen , Faculty of Medicine
Fridah Siyanga- Tembo (2020)	Small fish for small children: Dietary intake of small fish to reduce child malnutrition in Uganda	Ragnhild Overå , Faculty of Social Sciences Jeppe Kolding , Faculty of Science and Technology Peter Andersen , Faculty of Social Sciences Godfrey K. Kubiriza , Makerere University
Devyn Helen Avhild Remme (2021)	The global implications of Norway's electric car revolution	Håvard Haarstad , Faculty of Social Sciences Kjetil Rommetveit , Faculty of Humanities Siddharth Sareen , Faculty of Social Sciences
Tobias Bashevkin (2021)	Effects of singing on brain plasticity, mood, and quality of life in individuals with, or at risk for, Alzheimer's disease (ALMUTH)	Stefan Kölsch , Faculty of Psychology Geir Olve Skeie , Faculty of Music, Fine Art and Design Christian Gold , Faculty of Music, Fine Art and Design
Ludvik Olai Espeland (2019 - 2024)	Exploring FabF as a new target for antibiotic-resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> : Assay development, fragment screening and hit optimization	Bengt Erik Haug , Faculty of Science and Technology Ruth Brenk , Faculty of Medicine
Theogene Habumugisha (2018 - 2024)	Implications of replacing animal-sourced foods in the diet of the older population, focusing on protein intake and muscle mass	Ingunn M. S. Engebretsen , Faculty of Medicine Jutta Dierkes , Faculty of Medicine Inger Elisabeth Måren , Faculty of Science and Technology Matthias Kaiser , Faculty of Humanities

SUPPORT

Collaborative activities

We seek to connect people across our seven faculties and stimulate to cooperation between departments, both in education and research. This is the backdrop for our calls for funding.

Twelve applications for seed funding, meetings and conferences, and guest researchers were funded in 2025.

Awarding criteria:

- Thematic focus and relevance to global challenges
- Innovative interdisciplinary collaboration
- The activity's contribution to career development and/or to the strengthening of the academic milieu



SUPPORT

Collaborative projects 2025

Identifying factors and impacts of insecurity among fishing communities around Kisumu and Lake Victoria Matthew Pflaum, Faculty of Social Sciences / Faculty of Science and Technology	100 000
Health data synergy, bridging medicine and mathematics Guttom Alendal, Faculty of Science and Technology / Faculty of Medicine	100 000
Antibiotic resistance – A global problem Magne Sydnes, Faculty of Science and Technology / Faculty of Medicine / Faculty of Social Sciences	100 000
AI in Higher Education: Bridging or widening the inequality gap? Mohammad Khalil, Faculty of Psychology / Faculty of Social Sciences	100 000
Conservation inequalities: Integrating remote sensing, machine learning, and qualitative methods to assess socio-ecological impacts of the UNCBD 30x30 target Connor Joseph Cavanagh, Faculty of Social Sciences / Faculty of Science and Technology	100 000



SUPPORT

Events/activities 2025

Symposium on cancer inequalities: Diverging policies in the EU and US, and global implications

Daniela Elena Costea, K1, Faculty of Medicine

70 000

Reproductive justice for migrant populations in the Global South

Carmeliza Rosario, IGS, Faculty of Medicine

90 800

Anarchiving the Bergen Sudan Archives

Anne K. Bang, AHKR, Faculty of Humanities

82 400

Organising the Global Health Norway conference 5-6/11-25 "Together for global health"

Bente E. Moen, IGS, Faculty of Medicine

65 000

International conference: Preparing for health crises in a changing world: The need for new evidence-informed narratives

Esperanza Diaz, IGS, Faculty of Medicine

40 200



SUPPORT

Guest researchers 2025

The Threat Against Equality, Diversity and Democracy from Anti-Gender Actors

Livia Buzolin, Law School of Franca, Brazil

Kari Jegerstedt, SKOK, Faculty of Humanities, UiB

82 650

Equality Re-Imagined: Constitutional Futures of Equality in India and Beyond

Jayna Kothari, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and
Executive Director, Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR), Bangalore

Karl Harald Søvig, Faculty of Law, UiB

90 000





uib.no/globalchallenges

