



Programme for the

SDG Conference Bergen 2022: Ways of knowing, modes of living

9–11 February 2022

The 5th annual SDG Conference Bergen will trace paths within and among different ways of knowing to explore the transformative ambition of the 2030 Agenda. The conference includes speakers from around the world with representation from academia, government, civil society, the arts, trade unions, industry, and others.

Keynotes and speakers include:

- Emma Stewart (Netflix)
- James Honeybourne (Freeborne Media)
 - Tim Lenton (University of Exeter)
 - Andy Stirling (University of Sussex)
- Gabriele Bammer (Australian National University)
 - Karen O'Brien (University of Oslo)
 - ...and many others

SDG CONFERENCE BERGEN – PROGRAMME

Day Zero: Wednesday 9 February

- [Visit this page for full Day Zero programme.](#)

Moderator: Associate Professor [Sofie Høgestøl](#), University of Oslo

Day 1: Thursday 10 February

Digital conference platform open from 09:00.

WELCOME AND FORMAL OPENING (10:15-10:30)

- Dr. [Margareth Hagen](#), Rector, University of Bergen
- Ms. Tuva Todnem Lund, President, [National Union of Students in Norway](#)

SESSION 1: URGENCIES (10:30-12:00)

Abstract

Climate change can be discussed differently across countries, cultures and disciplines, but there is one aspect that unites everyone – we don't have much time to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda. Urgency is clearly expressed through the lens of the natural sciences and the risk of abrupt and irreversible changes in climate and ecosystems. However, the awareness of such risks may generate not only a sense of urgency, but also a despair. What actions do we take? On which premises? The perceived urgency may indeed be the starting point of fast cultural transformations that may counteract the dangerous tipping points in natural systems. In this session we will explore the multiple aspects that define the sense of urgencies and the role of the individual in societal transformations.

Programme and participants

10:30-10:40 “Why urgency?”

- Mr. [Espen Barth Eide](#), Minister of Climate and Environment, Government of Norway

10:40-10:50 “Status report”

- Dr. [Kikki Kleiven](#), Director of the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research

10:50-11:05 “Positive tipping points to avoid climate tipping points”

- Dr. [Tim Lenton](#), Professor, Director of Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter

11:05-11:20 “Taking the Urgency seriously: You matter more than you think”

- Dr. [Karen O'Brien](#), Professor, Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo

11:20-11:30 “Can Media play a meaningful role in supporting societal transformation?”

- Mr. James Honeyborne, Creative Director of Freeborne Media

11:30-12:00 Discussion

- Mr. [Xavier Erbai Matsutaro](#), National Climate Change Coordinator, Republic of Palau
- [Mr. James Honeyborne](#), Creative Director of Freeborne Media
- Dr. [Kikki Kleiven](#), Director of the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research
- Dr. [Karen O’Brien](#), Professor, Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
- Dr. [Tim Lenton](#), Professor, Director of Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter

Sessions organisers and resource persons

- Dr. [Dorothy Dankel](#), Senior Researcher SINTEF Ocean; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Bergen
- Dr. [Dag O. Hessen](#), Professor, University of Oslo
- Ms. [Emilie Flønes](#), Student, University of Bergen

Lunch break (12:00-12:45)

An opportunity to catch up with other conference participants, explore the SDG conference exhibiton or visit the special PhD/Postdoc poster session.

PhD/Postdoc posters and videopresentations (12:45-13:15)

Explore digital posters made by PhDs and postdoctoral researchers presenting their research related to the conference theme.

SESSION 2: PRACTICES (13:15-14:30)

Abstract

In this session speakers will explore the contestation of knowledge and its implications for environmental sustainability. Three themes are highlighted: Defending the environment through knowledge, indigenous knowledge in practice, and the politics of knowledge. The panel highlights particular cases that exemplify this and highlight the political nature of particular ways of knowing, or ontology. These cases include the knowledge practices of indigenous reindeer herders, scientists and citizen groups where knowledge is contested from courtrooms to violent conflicts alike.

Programme and participants

13:15-13:30 “Defending the environment through knowledge”

- Dr. [Phillippe Le Billon](#), Professor, Department of Geography, The University of British Columbia

13:30-13:45 “Wind power on trial in Áarjel- Saepmie: Competing claims to truth?”

- Ms. [Eva Maria Fjellheim](#), PhD student, Center for Sámi Studies, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway

13:45-14:00 “The knowledge of sustainability and the sustainability of knowledge”

- Mr. [Anders Oskal](#), Association of World Reindeer Herders and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry

14:00-14:15 “Epistemological injustices in the global South”

- Dr. [Maria Paula Meneses](#), Principal researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra.

14:15-14:30 Discussion

- Dr. [Phillippe Le Billon](#), Professor, Department of Geography, The University of British Columbia
- Ms. [Eva Maria Fjellheim](#), PhD student, Centre for Sami Studies, The Arctic University of Norway
- Mr. [Anders Oskal](#), Association of World Reindeer Herders and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
- Dr. [Maria Paula Meneses](#), Principal researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra

Sessions organisers and resource persons

- Dr. [Camilla Brattland](#), Associate Professor, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway
- Dr. [John Andrew McNeish](#), Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

Break / mingling opportunity (14:30-14:45)

SESSION 3: FUTURES (14:45-16:15)

“Imagining Sustainability and Development Otherwise - Artistic Provocations of Utopian and Dystopian Futures”

Abstract

In this session we want to explore ways of knowing the future through the lens of popular culture media and art. In our take on the subject, we see the SDG framework as a particular form of utopia, carrying a specific history and way of framing the sustainability field. We want to challenge and contrast this outlook through demonstrating and discussing various popular cultural narratives of our future existence spanning from film, TV series and video games. What can we learn from this journey into artistic utopian and dystopian futures and how may they influence our way of knowing our current society and the challenges we are facing?

Programme and participants

14:45-14:55 "Science & Stories: Netflix Sustainability Journey"

- Dr. [Emma Stewart](#), Netflix Sustainability Officer

14:55-15:10 "Climate fiction, Dystopias, and Human Futures"

- Dr. [Julia Leyda](#), Professor of Film Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Dr. [Kathleen Loock](#), Professor of American Studies and Media Studies at Leibniz University Hannover

15:10-15:25 "Fictional perspectives on climate revolutionary children, crypto mining, and more"

- Mr. [Trygve Luktvaslimo](#), Film Director

15:25-15:40 "Video games – playing with the future – and then what?"

- Dr. [Pawel Frelik](#), Professor, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw

15:40-15:55 "The sun doesn't shine on TV – any hope for a unifying narrative?"

- Mr. [Gjermund Stenberg Eriksen](#), Screenwriter

15:55-16:15 Discussion

- Dr. [Julia Leyda](#), Professor of Film Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Dr. [Kathleen Loock](#), Professor of American Studies and Media Studies, Leibniz University Hannover
- Mr. [Trygve Luktvaslimo](#), Film Director
- Dr. [Pawel Frelik](#), Professor, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw
- Mr. [Gjermund Stenberg Eriksen](#), Showrunner/Writer

Sessions organisers and resource persons

- Dr. [Stig A. Larssæther](#), Coordinator, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
- Dr. [John Andrew McNeish](#), Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

Screening of the documentary "Solutions" (18:00-20:45)

Screening of documentary "Solutions" by Pernille Rose Grønkjær (Denmark), followed by an interview discussing the role of science and film in finding solutions for a sustainable future between the film's director Pernille Rose Grønkjær and student Emilie Flønes (University of Bergen). More information on the film [in English](#) (IMDB) and [in Norwegian](#) (BIFF).

Day 2: Friday 11 February

Digital conference platform open from 09:00.

SESSION 4: WAYS OF KNOWING (09:30-11:00)

Abstract

The challenges and existential threats that underlie the sustainable development goals demand action. What kind of action? Which ways of knowing should guide it? If the goals, targets, and indicators of Agenda 2030 are designed within the framework of science, is this framework sufficient? What is the role of universities in answering the challenge of sustainable development goals through education and research? This session focuses on how research and higher education should meet sustainability challenges in the 2030 agenda and beyond.

Programme and participants

09:30-09:55 Keynote 1: “Ways of knowing”

- Dr. [Andy Stirling](#), Professor of Science and Technology Policy, University of Sussex

09:55-10:20 Keynote 2: “Integrating ways of knowing”

- Dr. [Gabriele Bammer](#), Professor, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

10:20-11:00 Discussion panel

- Ms. [Hannah Johansson](#), Master student in [sustainability at University of Bergen](#)
- Ms. Anna S. Blome, Master student in [sustainability at University of Bergen](#)
- Ms. [Vanya Bisht](#), PhD Student, School for Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS), Arizona State University
- Mr. [Bjørn Kjærland Haugland](#), CEO, Skift
- Dr. [Andy Stirling](#), Professor of Science and Technology Policy, University of Sussex
- Dr. [Gabriele Bammer](#), Professor, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Session organiser and resource person

- Dr. [Rasmus T. Slaattelid](#), head of the Programme Committee for SDG Conference Bergen 2022

Break / mingling opportunity (11:00-11:15)

SESSION 5: JUSTICE AND EQUITY (11:15-12:30)

“Justice and Equity: Diversity and the human wealth in modes of knowing”

Abstract

While diversity in knowledge is commonly acknowledged, interventions in and conversations about the 2030 Agenda too often treat this wealth of knowing as mere ‘local perspectives’. By many critical scholars, such an instrumentalization of non-Western or non-scientific modes of knowledge as ‘local’ has been seen as comprising cognitive injustices reflecting patterns of colonial and imperial conquest and domination.

Sustainable human development is faced with uncertainties of enormous proportions stemming from intensified planetary pressures, as well as the widening of the existing fault lines heightening social and economic inequalities. A vital easing of such pressures calls for transformational change based on recognizing the diversity of knowledge and its worth for survival and adaptation to a rapidly changing environment.

This panel discussion starts from recognizing both the right and worth of assuming differentiated perspectives on knowledge. We do so, however, not by making rigid distinctions between different modes of knowing but by creating a forum allowing participants to voice their visions of knowledge and its importance for sustainability. We ask:

- Which perspectives are eclipsed by the current format of policy and intervention work on sustainability?
- How can we bridge the epistemic differences to form new alliances between forms of knowledge?
- How can strengthened knowledge help in strengthening the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?

Programme and participants

11:15-11:25 “From Local Answers to Global Ways of Knowing”

- Dr. [Godwin R. Murunga](#), Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)

11:25-11:50 Panellists

- “Pluriversity and Diversity: knowledge as wealth”: Dr. Luis Fernando Sarango Macas, Rector, [Pluriversidad Amawtay Wasi](#), Ecuador
- “Empowering the South to generate new forms of knowledge”: Ms. [Andrea Ordóñez](#), Director, Southern Voice
- Mr. [Arvinn Gadgil](#), Director, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre
- “Facts informing policy – use of knowledge in development cooperation”: Mr. [Bård Vegar Solhjell](#), Director General, Norad

11:50-12:00 Comments by student satellites

1. PhD Students in Intercultural Education at Universidad de las Regiones Autónomas de la Costa Caribe Nicaragüense (URACCAN), Nicaragua
2. Master Students at University of Nottingham, Malaysia

12:00-12:30 Discussion

- Dr. [Godwin R. Murunga](#), Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)
- Dr. Luis Fernando Sarango Macas, Rector, [Pluriversidad Amawtay Wasi](#), Ecuador
- Ms. [Andrea Ordóñez](#), Director, Southern Voice
- Mr. [Arvinn Gadgil](#), Director, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre
- Mr. [Bård Vegar Solhjell](#), Director General, Norad

Session organisers and resource persons

- Jeanette da Silva, [Norad](#): Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Aseem Andrews, [UNDP Oslo Governance Center](#) (OGC)
- Bjørn Bertelsen, [Global Research Programme on Inequality](#) (GRIP) University of Bergen

Lunch break (12:30-13:30)

An opportunity to catch up with other conference participants, explore the SDG conference exhibiton or visit the special PhD/Postdoc poster session.

FINAL PANEL (13:30-14:30)

Abstract

The Bergen SDG conference has explored various ways of knowing that may help build a more robust knowledge base on which to ground decisions for sustainable action. Are universities equipped to engage with all ways of knowing in fruitful and responsible ways? If not, what changes are needed? Are universities capable of teaching the knowledge, competencies and skills that students need to handle the challenges of sustainable development? To what extent has the conference elucidated these questions, and what questions have been left unanswered?

Programme and participants

- Ms. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Minister of International Development, Government of Norway (video)
- Dr. Dag O. Hessen, Professor, University of Oslo
- Ms. Tuva Todnem Lund, President, National Union of Students in Norway
- Mr. Bjørn Kjærland Haugland, CEO, Skift
- Dr. José Frantz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation, University of the Western Cape

Closing remarks (14:30-14:45)

- Closing remarks by Dr. [Rasmus T. Slaattelid](#), Leader of the Programme Committee for the SDG Conference Bergen 2022 and Head of Department [Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities](#) and Vice-rector for Research and International relations at the University of Bergen, Dr. [Benedicte Carlsen](#).