The intent of the webinar is to help bridge the gap between knowledge, policy, action and ultimately, social change. We believe that the production of knowledge vis-à-vis sustainability of production-consumption systems is dynamic, insightful and significant. Yet, this stands in contrast to the limited success of realizing social change in directions suggested by this knowledge. The webinar series is a modest effort to bridge this gap. We seek to invite and engage interlocutors whose work tries to bridge these worlds and grapple with the complexity of bringing about social change.

This web meeting is the first in a series of two, focusing on science - civil society / NGO - policy interaction. In the first meeting on the 23 November, we will explore experiences in fruitful collaboration among these groups and discuss how the KAN SSCP can inspire and enable more active interaction. In a follow-up meeting, we look at how researchers and NGOs can plan collaborative activities and develop joint funding proposals. We will also provide an update on current funding opportunities that are suitable for such collaborative proposals.

Organised by: Sylvia Lorek and Magnus Bengtson (Future Earth SSCP KAN)

This webinar series is hosted by Working Group on the Political Economy under the Future Earth Knowledge and Action Network (KAN) on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SSCP).

Future Earth:
Future Earth is the largest ever international research and development collaboration focused on long term sustainability solutions for the planet and human societies, supported by a range of leading global institutions.
Program

Introduction

Interventions on:

1. Transdisciplinary Research: Perils and Possibilities for (Pr)Academics (Hali Healy)
2. Getting in exchange with policy makers—bridging the gap between policy makers and science (Céline Charveriat)
3. Pros and Cons for CSO to be engaged with scientific communities (Leida Rijnhout)

Discussion in break out groups on the topics above

Plenary

Speakers

Leida Rijnhout
Cultural Anthropologist, more than 30 years active in civil society activism and advocacy work, on national, European and international level. She founded SDG Watch Europe, an alliance of 100+ NGOs, to coordinate cross-sectoral collaboration to improve advocacy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development at EU level. She facilitates civil society groups to actively engage with UN processes (New York, Nairobi) and support NGOs in developing their long term strategies.

Celine Charveriat
Executive Director, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP). She has more than 20 years of experience in sustainable development recently with a focus on the domestic implementation of SDGs in Europe. She founded the Think2030 platform and the Think Sustainable Europe network. Céline worked for 10 years at Oxfam International, where she conducted campaigns on inequality, climate change, gender and humanitarian crises and conflict. Céline is a member of the European Commission’s high-level expert group ESIR and of the Assembly of the Soil Health and Food Horizon Europe mission. She was also the Chair of the Board of the Climate Action Network Europe until 2019, where she conducted multiple stakeholder consultations and consensus-building exercises within civil society.

Hali Healy
Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Johannesburg. Hali is a “pracademic” with experience in both civil society and academic realms. Currently her research is focused on post-colonial environmental justice in South Africa. She also has over 10 years experience in writing, implementing and evaluating co-operative research proposals involving CSOs and social sustainability scientists.

Links to interesting readings