

Dear Pathways community,

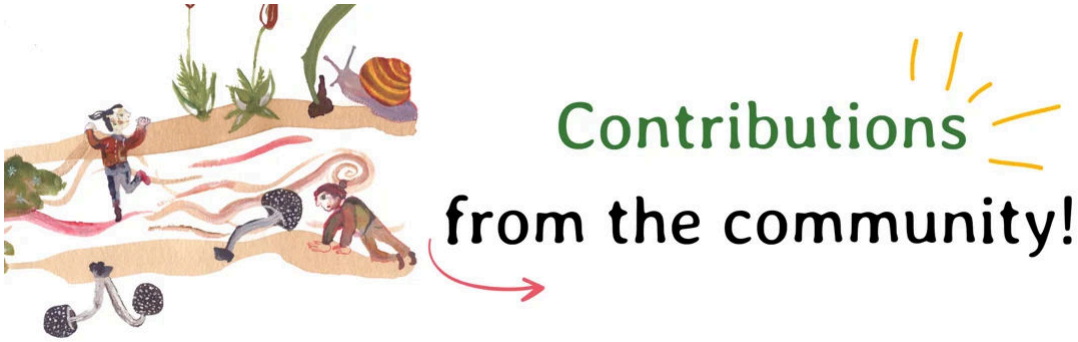
Welcome to our December Newsletter! As the year winds down, we bring you our usual transformative resources and opportunities along with two important calls for action.

We need your help with a key Pathways project. In the context of the Pathways Deep Dive, we have launched a questionnaire exploring how far-right narratives and rising authoritarianism are affecting researchers, students and practitioners working on socio-ecological transitions.
Your insights - big or small - will help us map this community's shared challenges, highlight what researchers and practitioners are facing, and how we can support each other. Please take 6 mins to fill in this form by 19 December 2025. This will form the basis of a synthesis report planned for next year.

Our call for sessions is still open for the conference "*Towards a just and habitable world: exploring the role of technology*". Submit a session proposal and join us in Lausanne next June for discussions and critical reflections on how we might transform technological systems towards justice, equity, and resilience.

We would also like to take this space to wish you a very happy holidays, in whatever form that might look like for you.

Stephanie
& the Pathways Initiative Steering Group



We always welcome relevant contributions to share (events, opportunities and publications) for our next Pathways newsletter and Pathways social media.

Please send content for consideration to stephanie.otoole@futureearth.org

Pathways News



Submit your session proposal! ***Towards a just and habitable world: exploring the role of technology | Lausanne, 2-5 June 2026***

In an era of polycrisis, the need to interrogate the role of technologies in shaping our shared future has never been more urgent. To tackle the many questions this raises, our next conference *Towards a just and habitable world: exploring the role of technology* will explore how technological systems — past, present, and emerging — have the potential to both sustain and undermine well-being and life on Earth for humans and non-humans. **Deadline for submission: 9 January 2025.**

We welcome proposals for:

- Thematic sessions
- Workshops
- Cultural events
- Poster presentations

The conference is organised by University of Lausanne, Centre des Politiques de la Terre (Université Paris-Cité) and Future Earth Pathways Initiative, in partnership with CNRS, DKN (German Committee Future Earth), INRAE, IRD, and SCNAT (Swiss Academy of Sciences).

Learn more and apply!



Our new project “Pathways Deep Dive: Ecological Crises and Political Tensions” is exploring how far-right narratives and rising authoritarianism are affecting researchers, students and practitioners working on socio-ecological transitions. Learn more about the Pathways Deep Dive here.

Across the sustainability science community, many colleagues are feeling the impacts of growing political tensions, yet there lacks a clear, collective picture of how these pressures are shaping people's work and experiences.

Would you be willing to share your experiences in a short, anonymous questionnaire (it takes only 6 minutes to answer)?

Your insights - big or small - will help us map our community's shared challenges, highlight what researchers and practitioners are facing, and how we can support each other. We welcome responses from all sustainability science disciplines and from every region. Please share your experiences by 19 December 2025. This will form the basis of a synthesis report planned for next year.

Click here if you want to contribute to the questionnaire

Spotlight

Podcast: "Planetary Planning: Explorations of human and more-than-human futures in planning and beyond"

This podcast defines "planning" broadly as a discipline that imagines a given future and then devises the steps that might bring the world closer to that future (or avoid it). In doing so, we are fully aware that the boundaries to countless other disciplines become blurry.

Listen here!



Sustainability, Inclusion, and Arts for Fostering Local Connection, with Rui Monteiro

With beautiful examples from the work of...

DEC 1 · KIM C V SCHÖNFELD



Thinking Otherwise through "Third Cultures"

Some ideas and an exercise based on the...

NOV 3 · KIM C V SCHÖNFELD



Reconnecting to Nature-scapes and Water-scapes, with Sharon Sand

Planning with communities for better...

OCT 6 · KIM C V SCHÖNFELD

Snails ahead! Metaphors of change and distributed prefiguration in the degrowth movement (2025, Futures). Read here.

From the ground up: Exploring the potential contribution of citizens' assemblies in radical food-system transformation (2025, Journal of Political Ecology). Read here.

Entanglements of knowledge and action in sustainability science: reclaiming reflexivity to embrace the uncomfortable (2025, Sustainability Science). Read here.

Social-ecological conflicts: An emancipatory conceptual approach by bringing other-than-humans into environmental conflict analysis (2025, Environment and

Planning E: Nature and Space). Read here.

Boko Haram in the Capitalocene: Assemblages of climate change and militant Islamism in Nigeria (2025, Political Ecologies of the Far Right). Read here.

Opportunities

Call for abstracts: Engaging utopias: Workshop for critical theorising, conceptualisation, and methodologies in future-oriented research

We welcome researchers from political science, international relations, sustainability studies, law, or other disciplines who engage with these debates around concepts of utopia. Funding is available to support travel expenses to Dublin, Ireland.
Learn more here.

Deadline to apply: 19 December 2025

Call for contributions: Looking for (the) Just Judges: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Well-Being

The 6th Biennial Conference of the ESEE in Ghent has a call for abstracts within the scope of the main conference theme and the different subtracks also connected to ecological economics and the just governance for the common good.
Learn more here.

Deadline to apply: 19 December 2025

Call for applications: Earth System Governance Mentoring Initiative 2026

This one-year program is designed to support and guide emerging scholars in the field. Experienced mentors from the ESG Lead Faculty and Senior Research Fellows volunteer their time to share insights, offer professional guidance, and help foster the next generation of leaders within the Earth System Governance community.
Learn more here.

Deadline to apply: rolling applications

Call for contributions: Handbook on Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research: Co-Creating New Narratives

This book aims to co-create spaces for critical, creative and hopeful reflection, amplify diverse experiences and epistemologies, offer practical guidance and inspiration for experienced researchers as well as those new to the field. We aspire to seed new collaborations, ideas, and trajectories for transdisciplinary sustainability research.
Learn more here.

Deadline to apply: 31 January 2026

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