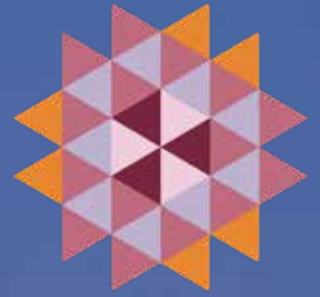


TC/ESG 2025 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Navigating Sustainability Transformations Towards Justice and Equity

August 18–21, 2025 | Johannesburg, South Africa



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Program at a Glance

Pre-Conference Activities		TC/ESG25 Program at a Glance				Post-Conference Activities
Mon Aug 18		TIME	Tue 19 Aug	Wed 20 Aug	Thu 21 Aug	Fri 22 Aug
11-15th Aug: ECR Winter School: Skukuza Research Station, Kruger National Park	Official TC/ESG25 Field Trip: Arts exploration in Alexander Township	08:30 - 10:00	Opening Ceremony & Plenary	Concurrent sessions, inc. 2nd Empatheatre performance	Concurrent Sessions	Recreational Tour: Sterkfontein
	Pre-Conference Workshops 09:00-12:00	10:00 - 10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Coffee/Tea Break	Coffee/Tea Break	
		10:30 - 12:00	Concurrent Sessions	Plenary	Concurrent Sessions	
		12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
		13:00 - 14:30	Semi-Plenaries	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions	
		14:30 - 14:40	Transition	Transition	Transition	
		14:40 - 16:10	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions	
		16:10 - 16:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Coffee/Tea Break	Coffee/Tea Break	
		16:30 - 18:00	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions	Closing Plenary	
		18:30 - 20:00	1st Empatheatre Performance, & Arts Sessions	Conference Dinner @ GCI Wits		
13-17th Aug: Official TC/ESG25 Field Trip: Kruger National Park. Including 14 Aug: Special Field trip: Agincourt, Mpumalanga						
Pre-Conference Workshops 14:00-17:00						
Welcome speech & cocktail reception 17:30-19:00						



Welcome to TC/ESG25, hosted in Johannesburg, 'eGoli', South Africa, from 18–21 August 2025. This global gathering is a collaboration between the Transformations Community, the Earth System Governance Project, and Wits University, bringing together researchers, practitioners, policy innovators, and community organizers from around the world.

This is not just a conference—it is a shared inquiry into how we navigate transformation in a time of rupture and possibility. We gather in one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities during a moment of converging crises—ecological, political, civic—that are destabilizing old systems and opening space for new alliances, narratives, and forms of practice.

In this unsettled terrain, questions of justice, equity, and democratic integrity are foundational. Amidst the backdrop of stark inequalities, but also inspirational diversity and hope, Johannesburg provides the perfect setting for unpacking these critical dimensions of transformation and governance in a global context.

Across the program, you'll find a rich mix of sessions: from conceptual frameworks and systems approaches to practical techniques, grounded case studies, workshops, and creative expressions. Throughout the program, we've created spaces to pause, reflect, and build together—through sensemaking sessions, experimental formats, and conversations that may lay the groundwork for lasting collaboration.

Many transformation initiatives around the world operate in isolation or without adequate support. At this gathering, you'll find efforts to change that, through conversations, connections, and collaborative experiments aimed at building shared infrastructure and strengthening our collective capacity. We invite you to join these efforts, or to start your own.

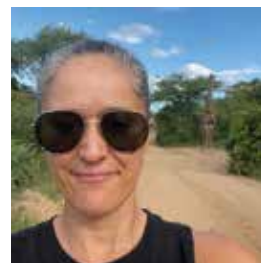
TC/ESG25 offers space to share insights, question core assumptions, forge new collaborations, and clarify your commitments. We invite you to engage in the ways that feel meaningful to you – and to try something new while you're here.



Bruce Goldstein
Transformations
Community



Kyla Tienhaara
Earth System
Governance Project



Laura Pereira
Wits University



The Transformations Community

The Transformations Community is a global network of action researchers and reflective practitioners dedicated to fostering transformations toward equitable, sustainable, and regenerative futures. Since 2013, it has convened dynamic international conferences and initiatives that connect transformative ideas with action. The community bridges theory and practice, embracing transdisciplinary collaboration across academia, policy, arts, and grassroots movements to co-create innovative solutions to complex social–ecological challenges.



The Earth System Governance Project

The Earth System Governance Project is a global, interdisciplinary research network advancing knowledge at the interface between global environmental change and governance. The project aims to explore political solutions and novel, more effective governance systems to cope with global environmental change. The network connects and mobilizes scholars from the social sciences and humanities working from local to global scales.



Wits University

The University of the Witwatersrand is a leading South African research-intensive university based in Johannesburg. Known for its academic excellence, social commitment, and historical role in advancing democracy and human rights, the university is home to world-class research centres and maintains strong partnerships with industry, government, and communities. Located in the economic and cultural heart of South Africa, Wits offers a vibrant environment for learning, innovation, and engagement with the country's most pressing societal challenges.



Time	Session	Room/Type
09:00 – 13:00	(Un)–Blanketing Indigenous Climate Observatories: a co-reflective and co-creative session on how to work knowledges together to support local communities. Lizette Reitsma, Meshack Dlodlu, Gugu Sibandze, Molibeli Taelle	Strikers WORKSHOP
	Transformative Researchers with Impact Karen O'Brien	Boundary WORKSHOP
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Members Lounge
14:00 – 17:00	Designing Inspiring Workshops in Transdisciplinary Research on Transformations: Tools, Concepts, and Proficiencies Susanne Moser, Connie Nshemereirwe	Captains WORKSHOP
	Leveraging anticipation and imagination in the governance of threshold changes in social-ecological systems Carina Wyborn, Michele–Lee Moore, Laura Pereira, Carla Alexandra, Joost Vervoort, Manjana Milkoreit	Gala A WORKSHOP
	Meaning ∞ Making: Artistic Transgressive & Transformative Research in the Polycrises Neil Coppen, Dylan McGarry, Mpume Mthombeni	Gala B WORKSHOP
18:00 – 20:00	Monday Evening Welcome Reception Bruce Goldstein, Francois Engelbrecht, Nithaya Chetty, Mikael Karlsson, Steffen Bauer	Members Lounge



Time	Session	Room/Type
08:30 – 10:00	Opening Plenary Bruce Goldstein, Francois Engelbrecht, Nithaya Chetty, Mikael Karlsson, Steffen Bauer	Ballroom PLENARY
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Members Lounge
10:30 – 12:00	Art, land & spatial politics: South African practitioner case studies in sustainability transformations Jessica Wu	Champions CREATIVE ★
	Moving with the Elements Lucy Draper-Clarke	Captains CREATIVE ★
	Navigating Ethical Place-based Research (PBR): Perspectives from Early Career Researchers Vitor Renck, Kinga Psiuk, Ella-Kari Muhl, Willem Malherbe, Mia Strand	Centenary DIALOGUE
	Why and how does transformative change sometimes happen but often not? Theorizing processes of transformative change of SES Rika Preiser, Maja Schlüter, Reinhold Mangundu, Sasha Quahe, Karen O'Brien	Marathon A DIALOGUE
	Towards a Just Governance of Transformation: Gender, Law, and Migration as Cross-Cutting Multilateralism Power Struggles Margot Hurlbert, Rosalind Warner, Andrea Simonelli	Strikers PANEL
	Advancing Equity Through Climate Justice Fikile Nxumalo, Pedi Obani, Maitreyee Sevekari, Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue, Veronica Korber Gonçalves, Tlou Mogale, Tia Madkins	Ballroom SPARK TALK
	Co-Designing Resilience for Community Transformation Marila Lazaro, Jakub Mácha, Monicah Mbiba, Gretel Evans, Allyson Quinlan, Zoe D'Arcy	Boundary SPARK TALK
	Empowering Communities for Sustainable Change Anthony Fry, Alimata Sidibe, Erin Bohensky, Yda Gray, Irene Portelli, Jessica Cockburn	Gala B SPARK TALK
	Bonding Knowledge Systems: Recognising Pluriversality in Transdisciplinary Science, Arts and Policy Eda Elif Tibet, Amanda Mokoena	Gala A T-LAB
	Bonding Knowledge Systems: Recognising Pluriversality in Transdisciplinary Science, Arts and Policy Eda Elif Tibet, Amanda Mokoena	Gala A T-LAB
	Playing the Planned Adaptation Game for Transformative Change: Roles, Strategies, and Capacities of Meso-Level Actors Darlington Sibanda, Ruth Magreta, Nadine Methner, Ekua Odoom, Hallie Eakin	Marathon B T-LAB
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Members Lounge



Time	Session	Room/Type
13:00 – 14:30	Situating African issues within the broader Transformation context Vítor Renck, Coleen Vogel, Joel Onyango, Maureen Kabasa, Memory Reid, Mia Strand, Hannelie Warrington-Coetzee, Janet Solomon, Dineo Sithole, Daniel Nyanganyura, Sashnee Searby	Ballroom PLENARY
14:40 – 16:10	The Work that Reconnects Spiral Workshop Rose Cairns	Captains CREATIVE ★
	Are we talking with or past each other? A Q-methodology analysis of discourses on transformation Karen O'Brien	Champions DIALOGUE
	Decolonising systems to change power relations and foster a safe and just planet – an example of national evaluation systems Ian Goldman, Thokozile Molaiwa, Joel Onyango	Centenary DIALOGUE
	If I can't stay how should I go? Disengagement strategies for transdisciplinary research projects Ignacio Gianelli, Mia Strand	Strikers DIALOGUE
	Notions of impact: How do higher education programs stimulate societal transformations Giedre Kligyte, Chris Riedy, Susanne Pratt	Marathon A DIALOGUE
	Publishing Roundtable Frank Biermann, James Patterson, Susan Park, Monica Contestabile, Hannah Harwood	Ballroom PANEL
	The Plausibility of Climate Futures and Implications for Just Transitions Anna Fünfgeld, Eduardo Goncalves Gresse, Lea Frerichs	Gala A PANEL
	Justice and Equity in the Energy Transition Sam Ashman, Jeremie Fosse, Danielle Smith, Nicole Almeida, Jonathan Pickering	Boundary SPARK TALK
	Opening Up Spaces for Deliberative Action on Climate Adaptation and Equitable Resilience in Complex, Diverse, Risk Prone Environments: Lessons from Transformations Labs in the Drylands of East and West Africa John Thompson, Devotha Mosha, Yagana Bukar, James Muthoka	Gala B T-LAB
	Shifting human-nature relationships in urban contexts: a case on the use of transition design methods in tackling societal transformations Elif Erdogan Öztekin, Kirsi Hakio	Marathon B T-LAB
16:10 – 16:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Members Lounge



Time	Session	Room/Type
16:30 – 18:00	Inner Development in Academic Education Franziska Gaupp, Carolin Janssen	Captains CREATIVE ★
	Bridging Knowledge, Building Futures: Empowering Communities for Long-Term Transformation in Urban Landscapes Tania Du Plessis, Kathy Berger, Maya Pasgaard, Christina Breed, Ketla Madileng	Gala A DIALOGUE
	Transforming biodiversity governance through pluriversal action research Damien Krichewsky	Marathon A DIALOGUE
	Re-generating Environmental Governance in Southern Africa: Reconciling the Past and the Desired Futures of People Living in Conservation Areas Chloe Guerbois, Fraser Bitu, Nick Ncube, Loswitha Murugani, Benjamin Musekiwa, Nobesuthu Ngwenya	Strikers PANEL
	Climate Adaptation Gina Ziervogel, Blane Harvey, Darlington Sibanda, Hallie Eakin, Paulina Aldunce, Nadine Methner, Anna Taylor, Karen O'Brien	Marathon B SPARK TALK
	Novel frameworks for planetary and multi-planetary governance Rosalind Warner, Kira Johnson, Florian Rabitz, Xiao-Shan Yap, Philip Bernert	Boundary SPARK TALK
	Feeling and Doing Sustainability Transformations: Embodiment in Research and Practice Rika Preiser, Marisa Manheim, Roger Saner	Gala B T-LAB
	Three Voices for transformation Ian Kendrick	Centenary T-LAB
	Who Shapes Coral Futures: Imagination, Voice, and Power in a Time of Collapse Vicki Nichols Goldstein, Bruce Goldstein, Ignacio Gianelli, Laura Pereira, Erin Bohensky, Yda Gray, David Obura	Champions T-LAB
18:00 – 19:30	Climate Future readings with the ECOTarot Adriene Jenik	First Floor Foyer CREATIVE ★
18:30 – 20:00	Empatheatre Performance: Unruly Dylan McGarry, Neil Coppen, Mpume Mthombeni, Andrew Buckland, Chantal Willie-Petersen, Kinga Psiuk, Johan Enqvist, Natalie Fraser	Ballroom CREATIVE ★
	Healing and Finding Meaning: Climate Change Reflections through Art Estelle Gautier	Captains CREATIVE ★
	The shared experience of mindfulness priming: A practical approach and dialogue of experiences Silja Holma	Strikers CREATIVE ★



Time	Session	Room/Type
08:30 – 10:00	Empatheatre Performance: Unruly Dylan McGarry, Neil Coppen, Mpume Mthombeni, Andrew Buckland, Chantal Willie-Petersen, Kinga Psiuk, Johan Enqvist, Natalie Fraser	Ballroom CREATIVE ★
	New academic moms: breathing through the interface of inner and outer transformations Shashi Cullinan Cook, Vanessa Masterson, Jessica Cockburn	Captains CREATIVE ★
	Transformative potential of marine social science for equitable integration of knowledge systems and values Maraja Riechers, Ella-Kari Muhl, Miriam Niewöhner, Lena Rölfer	Gala B DIALOGUE
	Where to with transformative global change science in southern Africa: caveats, challenges and constructive ways forward Coleen Vogel, Memory Reid	Marathon A DIALOGUE
	Transforming the governance landscape of salt-affected lands – seeds of change Katarzyna Negacz, Nadia Bazihizina, Henrik Aronsson, Zenepe Dafku	Marathon A DIALOGUE
	"Just" conservation? Bridging values for equitable biodiversity governance Grace Wong, Ancois De Villiers, Eda Elif Tibet	Centenary PANEL
	Indigenous and Local Knowledge Wayne Twine, Natalia Radywyl, Anthonette Quayee, Maiko Nishi	Champions SPARK TALK
	Transdisciplinary Collaboration for Transformative Change Margot Hurlbert, Rika Preiser, Giedre Kligyte, Nina Maria Frölich, Willem Malherbe, J David Tàbara, Alex Baumber, Susanne Pratt, Carolina Dominguez Guzman, Daniel Lang	Boundary SPARK TALK
	arts-based approaches as a catalyst: empowering collaborative learning for green and blue urban futures Tania Du Plessis, Kathy Berger, Maya Pasgaard, Christina Breed	Strikers T-LAB
	Words for worlds and justice: seeds of knowing, being and co-creating. Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue, Veronica Korber Gonçalves, Erzsébet Strausz	Gala A T-LAB
	Climate Future readings with the ECOTarot Adriene Jenik	First Floor Foyer CREATIVE ★
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Members Lounge
10:30 – 12:00	Plenary – Beyond Goals—Pathways to Transformative Change Frank Biermann, Karen O'Brien	Ballroom PLENARY
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Members Lounge
13:00 – 14:30	Growing the Adaptive Mind: Restoring to Wholeness, Healing Trauma and Transforming Self & Systems Susanne Moser	Captains CREATIVE ★
	Between Breakdown and Presence: Transformations and Governance in a Time of Rupture Frank Biermann, Karen O'Brien, Christopher Lyon, Bruce Goldstein, Mikael Karlsson, Michele-Lee Moore, Paulina Aldunce, Memory Reid	Ballroom DIALOGUE



Time	Session	Room/Type
13:00 – 14:30	Bridging and Bonding for Transformative Community-Led Disaster Resilience Gretel Evans, Sarah Smith, Zoe D'Arcy	Centenary DIALOGUE
	Democratising Disaster Governance: Using Choice Dialogues to Navigate Wildfire Policy Under Pressure Sarah Clement, Pele Cannon	Marathon B DIALOGUE
	Navigating Power and Politics in Participatory Research Katharine Vincent, Rachel Mkandawire	Champions DIALOGUE
	The lost art of indigenous knowing in Europe: weaving transdisciplinary knowledge to counter the 'hive mind' and embrace plurality in local environments Tom Oliver, Marzia Briel, Yolanda Melero, Filipe Salbany	Strikers DIALOGUE
	History, science and data in forest land frontiers – breaking silence within infrastructures of inequality Maria Brockhaus, Grace Wong, Alizee Ville, Alain Fabrice Mfoulou, Odirilwe Selomane, Lain Christine, Esther Changwa	Marathon A PANEL
	Nurturing relate-abilities for inclusive and just transformations: perspectives from the Global South Silvana Juri, Lauren Lambert, Andrea Marais-Potgieter, Batlhalifi Nkgothoe	Gala B PANEL
	Teaching Environment, Sustainability and Transformation: Perspectives from Latin America and Africa Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue, Veronica Korber Gonçalves	Gala A PANEL
	The Three Horizons Evaluation Initiative: Connecting Evaluation, Transformation and Futures Thinking Adriene Jenik	Boundary PANEL
14:30 – 16:00	Growing the Adaptive Mind: Restoring to Wholeness, Healing Trauma and Transforming Self & Systems [Part 2] Susanne Moser	Ethel & James Grey Park CREATIVE ★
14:40 – 16:10	How can we pursue genuine co-production for just and sustainable transformations of agri-food systems? Sarah Freed, Kosal Mam, Hanna Ewell, Vimbayi Chimonyo	Strikers CREATIVE ★
	Narratives for Navigating Transformations to Safe and Just Earth System Boundaries Ignacio Gianelli, Lauren Lambert, Diana Liverman, Laura Pereira, David Obura	Ballroom DIALOGUE
	Rethinking human-nature relations through immersive play Aniek Hebinck, Mara de Pater, Odirilwe Selomane	Champions T-LAB
	Regeneration as Transformative Practice Ethan Gordon, Hannah Gosnell, Alex Baumber	Captains DIALOGUE
	Seeds of Good Anthropocenes: Reflections on theory and practice Rika Preiser, Julia van Velden, Karina Benessaiah, Nyasha Magadzire, Reinette Biggs	Gala A DIALOGUE
	Transdisciplinarity and glocal challenges: lessons learned from local communities Vitor Renck, Mia Strand, Rebeca Viana	Centenary DIALOGUE



Time	Session	Room/Type
14:40 – 16:10	Armed conflicts as transformative opportunities for environmental sustainability Britta Sjöstedt, Anne Dienelt, Yevheniia Zasiadko, Volodymyr Hryshko	Marathon B PANEL
	Co-Creating Just and Sustainable Futures Sierra Deutsch, Sharmini Nair, Jennifer Norins, Tanja Hichert, Paulina Aldunce, Karen O'Brien	Boundary SPARK TALK
	From discord to dialogue: the role of non-government actors in sustainability transformations Katharina Weber, James Patterson, Sean Low, Maria Brockhaus, Sarah Bebb	Gala B SPARK TALK
	Reconnection and Care – an arts-based intervention for trauma stabilisation and healing Lucy Draper-Clarke, Welma de Beer, Nobantu Shabangu	Marathon A T-LAB
16:10 – 16:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Members Lounge
16:30 – 18:00	Amplifying Transformative Change: Transferring, Replicating, and Scaling Transdisciplinary Practices Tania Du Plessis, Kathy Berger, Maya Pasgaard, Christina Breed	Strikers DIALOGUE
	Beyond binaries in just transitions: From division to dialogue via a human spectrogram Lucy Oates, Anteneh Dagnachew, Edo Abraham	Champions DIALOGUE
	Catalysts for Change: Educational Innovations for Sustainability Transformations Jerneja Penca, Fern Wickson, Hiroe Ishihara	Gala A DIALOGUE
	SES Methods Interactive Dialogue Session: 'Navigating Frontiers of Transformative Methods to Study Social-ecological Systems' Julia van Velden, Kinga Psiuk, Andrea Marais-Potgieter, Dylan McGarry, Fikile Nxumalo	Centenary DIALOGUE
	Sustainability in face of polarization? A 3-horizons dialogue on collaborative governance of transformation in times of crisis and conflict Julia Wittmayer, Niko Schöpke	Marathon B DIALOGUE
	The future of the Sustainability Development Goals towards 2030 and beyond Frank Biermann, David Obura, Laura Rahm, Mark Elder, Yixian Sun	Gala B DIALOGUE
	The Society for Social-Ecological Systems (SocSES): Advancing transformative SES Research for Just and Sustainable Futures Alta De Vos, Allyson Quinlan, Reinette Biggs	Ballroom (Plenary) DIALOGUE
	Arts-based Facilitation for Collective Learning in Transformational Sustainability Research Blane Harvey, Ying-Syuan (Elaine) Huang, Vanessa Masterson	Captains PANEL
	Creative Arts & Socio-Ecological Transformation Steve Vanderheiden, Chris Riedy, Liebrecht Fick, Christopher Lyon, Carol Preston	Boundary SPARK TALK
	Building a Bridge between Theory and Practice: A Procedural Framework for Analyzing Socio-Ecological Systems Sarah Foster	Marathon A T-LAB
19:30 – 22:00	Conference Dinner	Liberty Campus



Time	Session	Room/Type
08:30 – 10:00	An Interactive Dialogue Session: Sharing in how a wild foods community of practice strives for just transformation Loubie Rusch, Nyasha Magadzire, Sthembile Ndwandwe, Rirhandzu Marivate, Sanelisiwe Nyaba, Megan Lindow	Champions DIALOGUE
	Regenerative transformations. Conceptual and methodological reflections and a call for a collaborative network Rika Preiser, Gina Ziervogel, Coleen Vogel, J David Tàbara, Reinette Biggs	Ballroom DIALOGUE
	World Café – Translocal Social Movement learning in motion Jonathan Langdon, Anne Harley, Zodwa Nsibande, Thapelo Mohapi	Strikers DIALOGUE
	Adaptation to climate change in Southern Africa revisited: help or hindrance to just sustainability transformations? Steffen Bauer, Susan Ekoh	Centenary DIALOGUE
	Addressing regime resistance to accelerate just and resilient sustainability transformations Chris Riedy, Yiheyis Maru, Monica Contestabile	Marathon B PANEL
	Eco-Social Contracts for Sustainable and Just Futures: Mobilising Collective Power to Deal with the 21st Century Polycrisis Najma Mohamed, Patrick Huntjens	Marathon A PANEL
	Ocean governance between protection and use Vitor Renck, Miranda Boettcher, Rachel Bitoun, Elizabeth Nyman	Captains PANEL
	Restoration Reimagined: Social-ecological stewardship and restoration in Africa Julia van Velden, Clare Griffiths, Hope Mpata, Karen Esler, Keziah Mayer	Boundary PANEL
	Future Scenario Analysis and Planning of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Using the Nature Futures Framework at Multiple Scales Lauren Lambert, Fern Wickson	Gala B SPARK TALK
10:00 – 10:30	Transforming Food Systems Noel Didla, Edward Amankwah, Judith William, Rebecca Newman, Guta Regasa, Deborah Larbi-Sarpong, Sandra Boatemaa Kushitor	Gala A SPARK TALK
	Coffee/Tea Break	Members Lounge
10:30 – 12:00	Short Film Showcase Andrea Marais-Potgieter, Jessica Wu	Centenary CREATIVE ★
	Between ethics and impact: A multi-sited dialogue on navigating sustainability transition, transdisciplinarity, and transformation research (III) Julia Wittmayer, Thomas Haselböck, Blane Harvey, Ying-Syuan (Elaine) Huang, Bruce Goldstein	Boundary DIALOGUE
	Navigating cumulative crises for transformative change Michele-Lee Moore, Karina Benessaiah, Hallie Eakin, Scott Drimie	Gala B DIALOGUE
	Environmental Issues in the Amazon Rainforest that Scientists Want to Present: Who Deteriorates the Amazon Rainforest? Shuichiro Masukata, Kanae Ishimaru, Aparecida Mitsue Mituiassu	Strikers PANEL



Time	Session	Room/Type
10:30 – 12:00	Key findings from the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment Fern Wickson, Hannah Gosnell, Reinette Biggs, Karen O'Brien	Ballroom PANEL
	Love (and conflict) in the time of climate change: 'staying with the trouble' Erin Bohensky, Tommy Dick, Anne Leitch, Katie Bridge	Gala A PANEL
	Just Governance of Nature Elsenoer Wijlhuizen, Machteld Schoonenberg, Aniek Hebinck, Mara de Pater, Anne Ellersiek	Marathon A SPARK TALK
	Pathways to Just and Resilient Governance Clara Graucob, Orestes Kolokouris, Laura Rahm, Thiago Galvao, Thiago Negrini Pedro, Li Li	Marathon B SPARK TALK
	A theory of Change: Pathways to Equitably Leaving Fossil Fuels Underground Janina Herzog-Hawelka, Yang Chen	Boundary T-LAB
	Co-Imagining kind, empathic and inclusive Community of Practice(s) of Transdisciplinarity for Transformative Change Selorm Awiah Dzantor, Silvana Juri, Hannah Marlen Lübker, Vítor Renck, Mia Strand, Patrycja Romaniuk, Victor Campos Khuriyeh, Elson Ian Nyl Galang, Gabriel Zeballos Castellon, Rebeca Viana	Champions T-LAB
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Members Lounge
13:00 – 14:30	Blue Burning Africa (film) Janet Solomon	Centenary CREATIVE ★
	Weaving Connections: Co-creating Art in Community with Nature Erin Smith	Ethel & James Grey Park CREATIVE ★
	The university of the future? Exploring Key Dimensions and Good Practice Examples to Institutionalize Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research Julia Wittmayer, Niko Schäpke, Coleen Vogel	Gala A DIALOGUE
	Transforming governance to enable innovation and investment in climate resilient development pathways: emerging lessons from sub-national pathways planning applications in South Africa and Australia Shuichiro Masukata, Kanae Ishimaru, Aparecida Mitsue Mituiassu	Strikers DIALOGUE
	Conflict, Imagination, and Transformations to Sustainability and Justice Michele-Lee Moore, Vanessa Masterson, Johan Enqvist, Shiphrah Mutungi Akandiinda	Strikers DIALOGUE
	The Ecology Politic: A Political Theory for a Multispecies World Frank Biermann, Anthony Burke, Stefanie Fishel	Ballroom DIALOGUE
	Power in a Changing Global Order Sidan Wang, Yixian Sun, Susan Park, Işık Girgiç	Boundary SPARK TALK
	Cultivating Collective Imagination for Change Silvana Juri, Hannah Marlen Lübker, Rose Cairns, Lucas Rutting, Mia Strand	Captains SPARK TALK



Time	Session	Room/Type
13:00 – 14:30	Governance of Water and Coastal Ecosystems Selorm Awiah Dzantor, Malin Delfs, Noelle Lasseur, Judith Dominguez Serrano, Syamkrishnan Pottakkuzhi Aryan	Gala B SPARK TALK
	Decolonising the Mind Within Transformation Practice Gladys Kivati, Monroe Ouma, Maureen Kabasa, Joel Onyango	Marathon B T-LAB
	Transforming Conservation Landscapes: Global Pathways and Local Realities Nelsiwe Mpapane, Alta De Vos, Michael Klaver, Reinette Biggs	Champions T-LAB
14:40 – 16:10	Reducing polarization via participatory democracy to advance just sustainability transformations Satu Lähteenoja, Lauren Lambert, Seona Candy	Marathon A DIALOGUE
	Reframing conservation: Reflecting on Shifting Gender Identities Towards Transformation Vanessa Masterson, Frida Lamberth Wallensteen, Carlotta Schäfer, Tinyiko Golele	Marathon B DIALOGUE
	Sourcing Plural Hope for Transformation Dianty Ningrum	Strikers DIALOGUE
	African Transformations Isabel Wolf-Gillespie, Gladman Thondhlana, Reinhold Mangundu	Gala B SPARK TALK
	Creative and Cultural Pathways for Change Lulekwa Gqiba, Diana Liverman, Brian Grant, Sabaheta Ramcilovik-Suominen	Captains SPARK TALK
	Environmental Management and Assessment Approaches Fairul Edros, Laura Malinauskaite, Fern Wickson, Katharine Vincent, Joyce M. Mbingo, Rachel Mkandawire	Ballroom SPARK TALK
	Governance Frameworks and Policy Innovation Rosalind Warner, Lucy Oates, Anna Fünfgeld, Hallie Eakin, Marina Benitez Kanter, Simon Happersberger	Gala A SPARK TALK
	Urban Transformations and Local Governance Olivia David, Sarah Löpelt, Alain Tschudin, Elif Erdogan Öztekin	Boundary SPARK TALK
	A Translational Design Lab For Regenerative Collaboration Natalia Radywyl	Centenary T-LAB
	T-lab for Conflict Transformation: Navigating Complex Sustainability Dilemmas by Fostering Shared Identity Kinga Psiuk	Champions T-LAB
16:10 – 16:30	Coffee/Tea Break	Members Lounge
16:30 – 18:00	Closing Plenary Jonathan Pickering, Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue, Shamillah Wilson, Susanne Moser, Mikael Karlsson, Bruce Goldstein, Laura Pereira	Ballroom PLENARY



The Creative Arts & Wellbeing offerings provide space for reflection, expression, and connection throughout the conference. Through exhibitions, performances, and quiet zones, delegates can engage with the conference themes in intellectual, emotional, and creative ways. From ocean justice and environmental storytelling to visual art, theatre, and mindful movement, these experiences invite you to pause, see from new perspectives, and connect with others in fresh and meaningful ways.

Featured Exhibitions & Activations

Empatheatre – Research-based, community-rooted theatre addressing societal challenges through empathetic storytelling. At TC/ESG25, their work includes *Unruly*, a dialogue with Mpume Mthombeni, and a screening of *Indlela Yokuphila: The Soul's Journey*. (First Floor Foyer & Sessions)



Kate Boswell – Multispecies Shapeshifters

Sculptural biocomposites exploring human–nonhuman relationships in intertidal zones. (First Floor Foyer)



Vanessa Masterson – Picture This: Conservation Through a Gendered Lens

A photovoice project from South Africa and Australia on transformation in conservation. (First Floor Foyer)



Mia Strand – The Ocean Isn't Just Blue

A photographic call to ocean justice and equity, beyond the blue. (First Floor Foyer)



Simangaliso Sibiya & Gopolang Ledwaba – Umuntu Akalahlwa

Visual narratives of memory, kinship, and reclamation from Soweto. (First Floor Foyer & Film Room, Thurs 10:30)



Estelle Gautier – Art of the Anthropocene

A visual journey through grief and meaning in the age of climate collapse. (Hallway to Gala)





The Antidote – Live Studio

Slow fashion as resistance: transforming textile waste into ethical garments. (First Floor Foyer & GCI Dinner)



House of INVADE – The Archive of Unheard Solutions

A participatory postcard intervention surfacing ancestral and grassroots knowledge. (Lower Ground & Venue-wide)



Dylan McGarry – Our Ocean is Sacred, You Can't Mine Heaven

VR and multi-genre storytelling on intangible ocean heritage and justice. (Access via QR code poster)



Mongezi Buthelezi

Internationally renowned plastic artist turning waste into striking environmental artworks. (Ground Floor)



Cool Tabs

Creates accessories from recycled can tabs, including handbags, clutches, sling bags, belts, and messenger bags. Founded by Aretha Doyle to reduce her carbon footprint, the venture began with a self-made handbag and grew through word-of-mouth orders.



Rolling Stitches

Produces handcrafted crocheted goods from materials like recycled cotton yarn, wool, and jute, sometimes accented with leather. Their soft, durable, washable range includes baskets, wine totes, coasters, bed throws, and mats.




Scan the QR code to explore more about the exhibitions and activations





Arts & Well-Being Sessions in the Conference Program

In addition to featured exhibitions and installations, a number of interactive **Arts & Wellbeing sessions** are woven into the main conference schedule. These are marked with a  in the program. They offer space for creative exploration and reflective practice—ranging from storytelling and dialogue to movement-based workshops and collaborative art-making—all grounded in the conference's core themes.

Featured Session: *Panel Roundtable – Art, Land & Spatial Politics*

Thursday, 21 August, 11:00–12:30 South African and African artists and designers explore land, history, and spatial politics in sustainability transformations. (with: Simangaliso Sibiya, Bekezela Mabena, Jade Hutchinson, Queenzela Mokoena & Nyakallo Phamuli, Naadira Patel)

Well-being and Reflection Areas

Start Early @ Wanderers

Mindful Movement and Morning Meditation with Lucy Draper-Clarke

7:45–8:30 AM, Gala Room.

Begin your day with gentle somatic movement followed by guided meditation, adapted to the group and linked to the day's conference themes. Practices may include yoga, qi gong, and collective silence. Participants are welcome to join quietly if arriving late. Open to all.

Quiet Zone

If you need a break from the buzz of the conference, visit the designated Quiet Zone in the first-floor foyer, down the hallway toward the Captains and Champions Room. This small alcove will be set up with beanbags, cushions, yoga mats, plants, and calming materials such as loose paper, pens, coloring pencils, and tissues — a space to rest, reflect, or simply be still. *No phone calls or conversations in this space.*

Quiet/Privacy Room & Breastfeeding/Parent Room – Umpires Room

Located next to the Quiet Zone, this space is available for private use, including emotional decompression, brief personal calls, or quiet reflection.

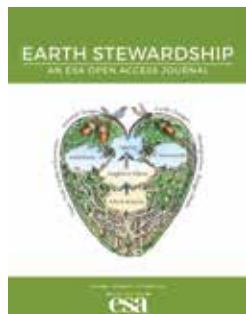
Please note: Infant feeding and pumping have priority use at all times. An "In Use / Available" sign will be posted on the door.

Accessibility Support

The venue is wheelchair accessible and has facilities to support a range of accessibility needs. If you require accessibility assistance at any point during the conference, please contact the Registration Desk or flag a team member wearing a TC/ESG25 badge with Organisers/Crew on it. We are here to help ensure everyone's experience is safe and supported.



Conference contributions can be developed into articles for several respected journals, offering pathways to share your insights with global academic and practitioner audiences.



Earth Stewardship

Special Issue: Transformative Partnerships for a Better World
Publishes applied and theoretical articles that promote intercultural, participatory approaches to sustainability transformations. Open to contributions based on TC/ESG 2025 presentations.

Abstracts due: 30 September 2025

Full papers due: 31 January 2026

Contact: Send one paragraph abstract to Bruce Goldstein – brugo@colorado.edu



Global Sustainability

Special Collection: Sustainability Transformations Towards Justice and Equity
Invites submissions exploring diverse contexts and practices of sustainability transformations, with a focus on justice and equity.

Submission deadline: 28 February 2026

Contact: Send one paragraph abstract to Laura Pereira – laura.pereira@wits.ac.za



Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

Publishes invited reviews offering innovative, interdisciplinary perspectives on environmental sustainability and systemic transformations.

Proposals accepted: Ongoing

How to submit: Send a one-paragraph abstract to Bruce Goldstein – brugo@colorado.edu



Earth System Governance

The flagship journal of the ESG Project, publishing innovative research on governance and global environmental change, including research articles, authoritative reviews, and perspectives.

Submissions: Ongoing

Scan this QR code for full submission guidelines and other publication opportunities through ESG and TC





Wits GCI Invites You to a Night Under the Stars!

We'll kick off the evening with welcome drinks and vibrant sounds from a live Marimba band, followed by a traditional South African braai (BBQ), with options for both meat lovers and vegetarians.

Delegates can book shuttle services during the registration process

Venue: INDWE PARK, 2 Jan Smuts Ave, Liberty Campus

Date: 20 August

Time: Arrival from 18:30 | Program begins at 19:30



Evening Highlights

As part of the dinner program, you'll experience a vibrant mix of artistic activations that reflect the spirit of transformation and place-based storytelling:

- ▶ The Antidote – Live Studio Activation: A collective of designers reimagining the fashion industry through slow, ethical, and beautiful garments made from fashion waste.
- ▶ Dylan McGarry – Our Ocean is Sacred Installation (VR experience): An immersive experience exploring ocean heritage, climate justice, and storytelling as resistance.
- ▶ Intercontinental Watershed Walk & Studio Visit: Join a watershed walk exploring the city's precarity of water or explore Hannelie Coetzee's drawing studio and art-science research lab on site at Indwe Park.
- ▶ Stephanie Klarmann: Held Captive – A photographic exhibition exposing South Africa's commercial captive predator industry, Held Captive reveals the exploitation, poor conditions, and ethical concerns of keeping apex predators for entertainment and profit.

Scan the QR code to register for the TC/ESG25 Conference Dinner

Secure your spot and join us for an evening of great food and connection





Venue Maps / Floor Plans





The Wanderers Club & Conference Centre

21 North Street, Illovo, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2196, South Africa.

Emergency Contacts

- ▶ Ambulance, Fire, Police: **112** (from mobile)
- ▶ Police Emergency Line: **10111**

Conference logistics support:

- ▶ Lynn Chamier – lynn@onepointfivedegrees.co.za; + 27 82 5585 427
- ▶ Conrad Kullmann – conrad@onepointfivedegrees.co.za; + 27 82 578 3755

Medical Emergencies

In case of a medical emergency, please contact an Event Manager first for assistance, and call Conrad at +27 82 578 3755. Alternatively, you can reach Medi-Response at 087 330 3911 or Doctors on Call at 011 788 2222.

Nearest hospital: Netcare Milpark Hospital (Private)
9 Guild Road, Parktown West, Johannesburg

Wi-Fi Information

- ▶ Network name: **Transformations Community**
- ▶ Password(s): **TCguest** or **TCspeaker**

Registration Desk & Information Point

- ▶ **Location:** Main entrance
- ▶ **Hours:**
Early Check-In (18 Aug): 8:00 AM
Main Check-In (19–21 Aug): From 7:30 AM daily
- ▶ **Services:** Badge collection, information, lost & found, donation drop-off
- ▶ **Codes for car park access:**
Access Code for the 17th August – *4*3022
Access Code for the 18th – 22nd August *4*5501

Meals Covered

Lunch, two snack breaks, and tea will be provided each day of the conference. Your name badge will serve as your entry for meals. Dietary restrictions and allergies noted during registration will be accommodated, subject to availability.

Photography and Recording Notice

Photography, audio, and video recording may take place throughout the conference for documentation, communications, and promotional purposes. By attending, you consent to your image and likeness being used in these materials. If you prefer not to be photographed or recorded, please inform the registration desk upon arrival so we can provide a visible indicator for your badge.



Johannesburg is a large, vibrant, and diverse city. The main conference venue is **The Wanderers Club & Conference Centre** with some sessions, workshops, and Arts & Wellbeing events hosted at nearby parks.

Public Transport & Getting Around

While public transport options exist in Johannesburg, most visitors find ride-hailing services like Uber the most convenient and reliable.

- ▶ **Gautrain & Gautrain Buses** – A rapid rail link from OR Tambo International Airport to Park Station (10 min drive from Wits) with bus connections to Rosebank, Sandton, and other areas. If using the Gautrain, be aware that Uber pickups/drop-offs at some stations may occur a few blocks away due to local regulations. Keep your phone out of sight when entering or exiting stations to avoid opportunistic theft.
- ▶ **Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** – Connects key Johannesburg areas, including the inner city, with affordable fares from R9.50. Less commonly used by visitors; ride-hailing may be a more straightforward option.
- ▶ **E-hailing & Taxis**: Ride-hailing services operate widely in Johannesburg, with Uber generally considered the safer option. At airports, beware of scams; do not accept rides from people approaching you claiming to be your driver. Always confirm your driver's details in the app before getting into a vehicle.

Experiencing Johannesburg

While you're here, explore Johannesburg's unique cultural, historical, and artistic offerings:

- ▶ **Constitution Hill** – home to South Africa's Constitutional Court.
- ▶ **Apartheid Museum** – A deep dive into the history of apartheid and the country's democratic transition.
- ▶ **Maboneng Precinct** – Contemporary art, street markets, and food spots.
- ▶ **Neighbourgoods Market** (Saturdays, Braamfontein) – Local food, music, and design.
- ▶ **Soweto Tours** – Visit Vilakazi Street, Hector Pieterse Museum, and Orlando Towers.
- ▶ **Wits Origins Centre** – Exhibitions on human origins and the history of early cultures in Southern Africa.
- ▶ **Wits Art Museum** – Home to an outstanding collection of African art, from historical artefacts to contemporary works.

Dining Nearby

We recommend a visit to **Melrose Arch**, just 4 minutes by car from the conference centre. This modern, walkable precinct offers high-street shopping, boutiques, and an array of top-rated restaurants and cafés. Please take an Uber to and from your hotel, especially after dark.

Top Restaurant Picks

Vegetarian / Vegan

- ▶ **Lexi's Healthy Eatery – Melrose Arch** – Wholesome, plant-forward dishes bursting with flavour and creativity.
- ▶ **Tashas Café – Melrose Arch** – Every dish is made to order, combining authenticity and quality with a unique twist, including excellent vegetarian options.
- ▶ **Fresh Earth Café & Restaurant** – Mostly vegetarian, with vegan and gluten-free options; known for wholesome meals and fresh bakes.

Non-Vegetarian

- ▶ **The Grillhouse – Melrose Arch** – Premium steaks and classic grill dishes in an elegant setting.
- ▶ **Mezepoli – Melrose Arch** – Mediterranean-inspired plates and mezze, perfect for sharing.
- ▶ **Fishmonger – Illovo** – Renowned for fresh fish and seafood, prepared to perfection.

Tourist Information

Johannesburg Tourism Information Centre

- ▶ Gandhi Square, Main Street, Johannesburg CBD
- ▶ Phone: +27 (0)11 877 6850 | Website: visit.joburg



We encourage you to take photos and share your reflections on social media. Your voice helps amplify the conversations happening at TC/ESG25 and keeps the momentum going beyond the event.

- ▶ Photos and short videos for personal or social media use are welcome. However, please note that live streaming of sessions is not permitted.
- ▶ Plenary sessions will be recorded and made available after the conference.

If you're presenting, the "Share" option in Sched makes it easy to promote your own session directly. It's a great way to invite others to join the conversation. When posting, feel free to use and follow our hashtags to connect with others and join the wider dialogue:

- ▶ #TCESG25 or #TCESG2025
- ▶ #TransformationsCommunity #EarthSystemGovernance #WitsUniversity

Scan the QR code to access the TC/ESG25 Communications Kit - logos, graphics, and guidelines to help you spread the word



Emergency Procedures and Evacuation Plan

You will find a copy of the room evacuation plan in your meeting room on the wall.

If an evacuation is ordered, the WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP tone will sound and everyone should WALK to the nearest safe external EXIT, do not RUN.

Evacuation will be by means of the nearest safe EXIT door to the outside of the building. Push the door/turn the door handle to enter the Fire Stairs. When evacuating the building in the case of a fire, people must close all doors behind them as they leave.

TC/ESG25 Supporting Partners

The Transformations Community and Earth System Governance Project warmly thank our supporting partners for their generous contributions to making TC/ESG 2025 possible.

