Early-career Excellence: The World Social Science Fellows Programme
The World Social Science Fellows programme is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the German Research Foundation (DFG / Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and WZB Berlin Social Science Center (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung).

More information about the programme can be found at: [www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/world-social-science-fellows-programme](http://www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/world-social-science-fellows-programme)
Introduction

From 2012 to 2015, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), led an international scientific programme designed to nurture a new generation of social scientists to help solve pressing global problems – and particularly those that affect low- and middle-income countries most urgently.

During this period, the World Social Science (WSS) Fellows programme selected 217 early-career scientists from around the world to participate in a series of seminars, conferences and networking events that tackled the burning societal issues facing the world: sustainability, urbanization, global social governance and the green economy, among others. The events aimed to examine these issues and set an agenda for research and action. They identified research trends, gaps and priorities at the global level, with the aim of fostering new international research collaborations to respond to these priorities and fill in the gaps.

Through these activities and Fellowships, the programme's overall aim was to foster innovative research by excellent early-career scientists from all parts of the world. This booklet highlights some of the many collaborations that were forged during the first phase of the WSS Fellows programme, and explores what some of the participating Fellows did next.

The World Social Science Fellows programme was born from the conviction that, in order to support the social sciences to contribute to the world’s most pressing challenges, it’s essential to support a new generation of social scientists to make a difference through their research. We’ve seen this conviction proved with each seminar, and built lasting connections with this remarkable network of future social science leaders.

Alberto Martinelli, President, ISSC

I was amazed by the quality of the work done by the Fellows, some of whom were working in institutions struggling for survival, or were combining research skills with public service or NGO [non-governmental organization] experience, or who already had impressive publication and teaching records. They all came together and, within a few days, had shaped a space in which they were discussing with an openness that I have seldom experienced elsewhere.

Mathieu Denis, Executive Director, ISSC
The WSS Fellows programme comprised a series of different seminars and activities for early-career scientists. These included:

- six WSS seminars, in partnership with various host institutions in China, Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa, Taiwan and the UK
- three Networking Conferences on Integrated Science, in partnership with the International Council for Science (ICSU) and Future Earth, supported by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft/DFG)
- four WZB/ISSC Global Fellowships, in partnership with the WZB Berlin Social Science Center (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung)
- one ISSC/IDS World Social Science Report Fellowship, in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
- follow-up activities including writing workshops, panels and webinars
- the creation of an active and self-sustaining international network of Fellows.

Each seminar and conference was convened by a small group of renowned scientists, representing different perspectives and regions of the world. The research Fellowships were developed in partnership with two of the world’s leading social science research institutions, WZB and IDS.

I facilitated two of the seminars on sustainable urbanization, convened by ISSC. The Fellows were an incredible group of researchers from all regions, mainly from the global South. [It was] very inspiring stuff: empirically rich, theoretically sophisticated, radical and action-oriented.

Mark Swilling, convenor, Sustainable Urbanization seminars
Selecting the World Social Science Fellows

Over 1,600 eligible applications were received and evaluated for the WSS Fellows programme’s various activities. To be eligible, Fellows had to be working at a postdoctoral level, preferably within five years of completing their PhD, but without yet holding a ‘tenure track’ or permanent position. They also needed to have a strong record of research publications. Of the eligible candidates, 217 (13.5 per cent) were selected to take part.

Global challenges require global responses, and the WSS Fellows programme aimed for strong representation from all parts of the world. Considerable efforts were made to secure the participation of early-career scientists from low- to middle-income countries, and of the 217 Fellows who took part in the programme, 48 per cent were working in such countries. Gender equality was imperative for ensuring that the programme was fully representative, and 53 per cent of the Fellows selected were women (see page 16 for further details).
Six early-career social scientists were selected to participate in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and surrounding events. The selected Fellows participated in the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development and also observed the official negotiations that took place during the conference.

In an article for the *World Social Science Report 2013* that reflected on the conference’s outcomes, Fellows Diana Sanchez and Dominik Reusser underscored what they regarded as the “missed opportunity” of Rio+20, namely the chance to “move away from technology as the alleged pre-eminent solution and seriously interrogate the limitations of the predominant development paths”. In a personal account of the conference, Fellow Herbert Docena noted the strong appeals to business to provide ‘green’ solutions that emanated from scientists, and questioned science’s alleged neutrality in the Rio+20 discussions.
At the first seminar in the Sustainable Urbanization series, the participants highlighted four thematic areas that formed the basis for new perspectives on urbanization – climate change and the city; vulnerability, poverty and inequality; governance and planning; and alternatives – as well as the cross-cutting theme of research methodology.

These areas are further explored in the resulting book *Untamed Urbanisms*, which was born from discussions at the seminar. Published by Routledge in 2015, the book was edited by the seminar convenors and features contributions from many of the Fellows present. It repoliticizes the relationships between urban development, sustainability and justice, and explores the tensions emerging in specific settings, as well as their potential for transformative change. The authors draw on a wide range of case studies to develop an integrated social–ecological perspective on the challenges of sustainable urban development. During the first month of its online release in September 2015, the book reached number 2 on Amazon’s list of most-downloaded free books on urban planning and development.

It is freely available under Open Access at [www.tandfebooks.com](http://www.tandfebooks.com).

The seminar was convened by Adriana Allen (University College London, UK), Andrea Lampis (Universidad Nacional de Colombia [National University of Colombia], Bogota, Colombia) and Mark Swilling (Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch, South Africa). It was hosted by the Área de Estudios Sociales y Globales, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar [Social and Global Studies Department, Andina Simón Bolívar University], Quito, Ecuador.

The seminar report can be downloaded [here](#).
The second seminar in the series focused on ‘Transformations to sustainability in urban contexts’ and aimed to create a better understanding of the drivers of social transformation to sustainability and the social–environmental interactions at play in urban areas. From this seminar emerged an electronic ‘book of blogs’ entitled *Dialogues of Sustainable Urbanisation: Social Science Research and Transitions to Urban Contexts*.

The book, coordinated by WSS Fellows Jenna Condie and Anna Mary Cooper, takes forward the discussions started at the seminar and, through contributions from over 70 researchers, considers the urbanization processes taking place across the world, and the impacts of human activity on urban environments, health and the climate. It was published under Open Access by the University of Western Sydney, Australia, and can be downloaded here.

The seminar was convened by Peter Marcotullio (City University of New York, USA), Darryn McEvoy (RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia) and Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez (Colegio de la Frontera Norte [The College of the Northern Border], Tijuana, Mexico). It was hosted by the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme’s International Center of Excellence (IRDR-ICoE), the Academia Sinica and the National Taipei University (all located in Taipei, Taiwan).

The seminar report can be downloaded here.
The last seminar in the series focused on how urban governance can tackle poverty and environmental sustainability. It addressed one core question: which modes of urban governance are emerging across developed and developing countries to demonstrate that it is possible to tackle the underlying challenges of urban growth, urban poverty and environmental unsustainability? Fellows reported on the meeting for the blog ‘The Nature of Cities’ in an article entitled ‘The quest for governance modes on sustainable urbanization’, published in October 2015. Fellow Alisa Zomer also discussed the seminar in a photo essay here, while Fellow Martín Maldonado reported on the seminar here (in Spanish).

The scientific conveners for the seminar were Etienne Nel (University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand) and Mark Swilling (Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch, South Africa). It was organized in partnership with the Cities Alliance and hosted by the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) of etThekwini Municipality and the University of KwaZulu Natal, both in Durban, South Africa.

Output from a follow-on grant

The Trans-Urban Knowledge Network (TUKN), developed at the Sustainability Institute of Stellenbosch University, South Africa, in partnership with ISSC, is a knowledge partnership initiative for all WSS Fellows. The TUKN is meant to ensure an orderly transition from subject-specific seminars to a transdisciplinary community of academic leaders who co-produce knowledge by sharing experiences and insights on emerging urban and related development issues. The TUKN will be initiated by the design of a website for a variety of content and conversations on urban development, including blogs, podcasts, case studies, book chapters, journal articles and book reviews. ‘Virtual Roundtables’, in which writers outside the WSS Fellows programme respond to and discuss a specific question, will take place every quarter.
At this seminar, 25 WSS Fellows reviewed a framework for risk interpretation and action developed by the IRDR programme's Risk Interpretation and Action project (IRDR-RIA). Under the theme ‘Decision-making under conditions of uncertainty’, the Fellows developed novel theoretical approaches to improve this framework. Four follow-on grants, funded by the IRDR-ICoE in Taiwan and made available through the START secretariat, supported the working groups that came out of this seminar.

One working group looked at ‘Indigenous peoples, disaster risk reduction and RIA’, which developed into the Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction International Network. This network has produced a short video, ‘Dialogues between indigenous peoples and disaster risk reduction’, and a series of webinars, available through the resource section of their website. The video was co-produced by Fellow Simone Athayde and Maskoke and Seminole representatives in Florida, USA. Fellow Victor Okorie also contributed to the video, as did Simon Lambert and collaborating researcher Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli. Another working group looked at ‘Multi-scale policy implementation for natural hazard risk reduction’; their final report is available here.

In June 2014, nine Fellows who attended the seminar acted as rapporteurs for an IRDR conference held in Beijing, China, which explored the theme ‘Integrated disaster risk science: a tool for sustainability’. Fellows also published the article ‘Reporting on the seminar – Risk Interpretation and Action (RIA): decision-making under conditions of uncertainty’ in the Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies (2014), which can be downloaded here.

The scientific conveners for this seminar were David Johnston (Chair, IRDR programme’s Scientific Committee) and Richard Eiser (University of Sheffield, UK). It was organized in cooperation with IRDR-RIA, IRDR-ICoE, the International START secretariat, Washington D.C., USA, and the Royal Society of New Zealand, and hosted by Massey University in Wellington and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (the tribal council) and the University of Canterbury in Christchurch.
Under the title ‘Global social governance: developing international social science research and impacting the policy process’, this seminar brought together leading academics, policy advisers, practitioners and publishers with 19 selected Fellows to explore different approaches to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on global social governance.

The seminar report can be downloaded here.

The scientific convener for the seminar was Linda Hantrais (Loughborough University, UK). The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Academy of Social Sciences and the Centre for International Studies at the London School of Economics, UK.
Big Data developments are sometimes erroneously considered a topic of interest to computer scientists alone, but they offer huge opportunities for the social sciences. Much of the excitement about Big Data relates to the power to gather and analyze data about various human interactions, such as how people interact with their environments. Far from posing a challenge to the social sciences, Big Data offers the prospect of a much-improved understanding of human interactions and behaviours through the gathering of rich, real-time data. This has huge potential for understanding pressing questions such as how people make decisions about environmental sustainability.

Exploring these data and applying the techniques of ‘data science’ are essential if we are to address the major and fundamentally interdisciplinary scientific and social grand challenges emerging from the changing environment. Nevertheless, there are considerable cultural, methodological, ethical and technical challenges for the social sciences. These issues, and the challenges that they pose, were the focus of this seminar.

The scientific conveners for the seminar were Susana B. Adamo (Columbia University, New York, USA), Franz Gatzweiler (Urban Health and Wellbeing programme, Xiamen, China) and Christine Richter (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands). It was organized in partnership with the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), an interdisciplinary scientific committee of ICSU. The seminar was hosted by the International Programme Office on Urban Health and Wellbeing at the Institute of Urban Environment in Xiamen, China.
Thirty-six Fellows participated in the ISSC’s World Social Science Forum in Durban, South Africa, on the topic of ‘Transforming global relations for a just world’. Two full sessions were organized by the Fellows and many presented abstracts during the sessions.

One session brought together participants from each of the three seminars on sustainable urbanization (see pages 5–7) for a full and intellectually challenging session entitled ‘Transitions in urban environments’. After the session, one Fellow commented: “After the maturation of the different projects stemming out of the three seminars, and the convergence in approaches and priorities that we have seen during the joint session, I think we should now contemplate the setting up of an international programme on sustainable urbanization”.

Another session asked ‘Will good governance bring sustainable and equitable development?’ and Fellows provided three case studies from low- and middle-income countries:

- Negotiating risk: indigenous peoples, social-environmental justice and hydroelectric dam development in the Amazon, by Simone Athayde and Marie-Ange Baudoin
- Inclusive water governance: case studies from India, by Pooja Ravi
- Discrimination in good governance and equitable development: the Rohingya of Burma, by Lindsey Kingston.

Other sessions involving the Fellows included one looking at ‘Inequalities and social movements’ and one on ‘Gender politics and health’. A report on the session ‘Transitions in urban environments’, and on the ‘Good governance’ session, as well as personal accounts by WZB-ISSC Global Fellows Herbert Docena and Arathi Presenna Madhavan, are available online.
Selected Fellows and a range of senior experts came together to discuss ‘Food futures’, an invitation to think creatively about the potential for transforming our food systems and how research can help define and achieve these visions. Articles based on the outcomes of the first conference include ‘A vision for transdisciplinarity in Future Earth: perspectives from young researchers’, published in the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development, and ‘Meeting the growing demand for food and bioenergy in the 21st century: synergies through efficient waste management’, published in the journal Biofuels.

The conference report and video can be accessed here.

The scientific convener for the conference was Mary Scholes (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa).
The second networking conference focused on ecosystems and human wellbeing in the green economy. The selected Fellows questioned the key assumptions, theories and models underlying current research on ecosystems, human wellbeing and the transformation towards green economies; the dynamics of governance, justice and authority at global and local levels; and the development of research methodologies to assess change in the transformations towards sustainability.

An article by a number of Fellows on the co-production of knowledge for ecosystems and human wellbeing was published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

The conference report and video can be accessed [here](#).

The scientific convener for the conference was Myanna Lahsen (Center for Earth System Science, Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE), São José dos Campos, Brazil). The conference was organized in collaboration with the International Network of Next Generation Ecologists (INNGE) and the Institute for New Economic Thinking’s Young Scholars Initiative.
The third and final networking conference considered the role of science in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Animated discussions focused on the knowledge needed to achieve the SDGs, the role of science in the process of achieving these goals and, more specifically, how knowledge can inform, support and guide this process. One discussion highlighted the role of providing scientific advice to governments, especially through chief scientific advisors and other experts.

After the conference, some participants published an article in The Guardian newspaper in the UK. The conference report and video can be accessed here.

The scientific convener of the conference was James Wilsdon (then at the University of Sussex, UK).
WZB–ISSC Global Fellowships
2014–present

As part of the WSS Fellows programme, ISSC partnered with WZB to offer research Fellowships to outstanding early-career social scientists from low- and middle-income countries. Through their Global Fellowship Programme, ISSC and WZB aim to contribute towards building a new generation of outstanding social scientists in the global South working on addressing global challenges. The selected Fellows spent four to six months at WZB. So far, four outstanding young scholars have been awarded Fellowships.


2015: Herbert Docena, University of California, Berkeley, USA: ‘Transnational politics of climate change, particularly on the North-South dynamics of the climate negotiations and the construction of the global carbon market’.

2016: Nicole de Wet, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa: ‘Family formation and economic insecurity among youth in South Africa’.

ISSC–IDS World Social Science Report Fellowship

In preparation for the publication of the 2016 World Social Science Report – Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World, ISSC and IDS selected an outstanding postdoctoral researcher to undertake research on inequality and social justice, and help with the editorial coordination of the report. The selected Fellow is Bruno Martorano, a research associate at the Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale [Consortium for Economic and Social Research] (CRES), Dakar, Senegal.
The World Social Science Fellows Programme by numbers...

Total Fellows participating in all events 2013–2015

260 participants

52% Male participants
46% Female participants
10% Low-income country participants
53% Middle-income country participants
4% Number of participants

Total Fellows (without double counting the Fellows participating in more than one event)

217 participants

53% Male participants
44% Female participants
4% Low-income country participants
53% Middle-income country participants
4% Number of participants
The enthusiasm and energy of the selected Fellows turned the seminars into incubators for new ideas, collaborations and research projects. According to many Fellows, the programme’s activities “significantly influenced” their careers. The WZB–ISSC Global Fellowships and the ISSC–IDS World Social Science Report Fellowship are continuing in 2016, as are many of the new projects and collaborations initiated by Fellows within the framework of the programme.

The events led to research outputs, too. These include the publication of two books that directly resulted from a particular event in the programme, with a further three books that draw on contributions from an event published or in press. Furthermore, to date there have been around 25 academic articles published based on work undertaken at programme events, as well as papers formally submitted to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) and the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2016*, and over 13 original project proposals.

Several Fellows, mainly from low- to middle-income countries, reported being invited to serve as experts on different committees and panels after their participation in a WSS event. The ISSC also successfully nominated Fellows for assessments of biodiversity and ecosystems services led by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

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The Fellowship programme was important for my election to the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, the oldest academy in postcolonial Africa. It is both a privilege to be the Academy’s current youngest Fellow and an honour to be a Fellow of the International Social Science Council.

*Franklin Obeng-Odoom*

The Fellowship programme has significantly expanded my professional network and enriched my academic experience as an early-career scholar. It has, above all, enabled me to establish intellectually stimulating dialogue and collaboration, which I anticipate will lead to concrete, world-class research outputs.

*Jojo Nem Singh*

After the seminar on Sustainable Urbanization, my university offered me a job specifically to work with the Deanship of Scientific Research to carry out research projects in the field.

*Alok Tiwari*

Since the seminar, I have been in continuous touch with other Fellows. We are inviting each other to participate in seminars, conferences and publications.

*Natalie Rosales*

The programme has widely enlarged and strengthened my professional network.

*Jenia Mukherjee*
Looking Back

The convenors of the WSS Fellows programme’s activities were struck by its many different attributes. These included the programme’s truly global nature, the excellence and enthusiasm of the Fellows, and the diversity of experiences and professional profiles that were brought together and contributed to shaping the work of the groups.

In evaluations received after the events, the Fellows emphasized how these had been rare occasions when they could meet their peers from all over the world. They regarded the events as a fertile breeding ground for new ideas and perspectives. The interdisciplinary nature of the events was also seen as a key ingredient. Fellows consistently remarked on the unique opportunity to meet and collaborate with peers from another social science discipline – or indeed someone from the fields of engineering or natural sciences – and to spend five days working intensively on the same subject. The positive responses to these international, interdisciplinary events, and the excellent research collaborations that emerged from them, fully met the expectations set at the beginning of the WSS Fellows programme.

The participants – Fellows and convenors – also highlighted how decisive the capacity to shape and adapt each event’s agenda was to the programme’s success. The events were designed in part through an open process, in which an initial agenda was provided to participants but evolved to include discussions as determined by the Fellows themselves, with participants asked to provide briefings and short presentations on specific points. This freedom to move beyond a fixed itinerary and delve deeper into specific conversations was widely welcomed. As one participant noted, “it is rare to have a number of entire days to think and be creative about research”.

Of course, such open methodologies require strong facilitation. Encouraging participants to define the scope of discussions was, at times, a daunting prospect for the session facilitators and event convenors, but the success of this approach is borne out by the significant number of post-seminar collaborations, joint research proposals, publications, books, articles and blogs resulting from the programme.

We used a specially designed interactive training format, which we felt worked very well.

Linda Hantrais, WSS Fellows seminar convener
Outcomes and Achievements Resulting from the Fellows Programme

Many Fellows reported that their participation in the WSS Fellows programme had a significant influence on their careers, resulting in access to new networks, invitations to participate in relevant events and committees, and opportunities for career advancement – in particular, contributing to new publications. Here, we highlight a few of the publications and other outcomes that resulted from the Fellows programme. Early research careers are dynamic, and the outcomes presented here represent just a snapshot of the Fellows’ publications and the positive experiences that have been reported to the programme managers.

Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

- Diana Sanchez Betancourt and Dominik Reusser contributed the article ‘Transition to sustainable societies – was Rio+20 a missed opportunity?’ to the 2013 World Social Science Report.

Sustainable Urbanization 1

- Fellow Mauricio Domínguez received funding for a new research project, ‘Modifications to urban livelihoods in Yucatan State in the context of contemporary urbanization, global climate change and sustainability’, from the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACyT).
- The urban design and photography exhibition ‘My city, Lagos’ was held by students from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Lagos, Nigeria, from 13–15 October 2014 under the auspices of the Lagos Urban Research Network. This came out of courses taught at the University of Lagos by WSS Fellow Taibat Lawanson.
- Following the seminar, Taibat Lawanson got involved in cross-disciplinary research on urban violence and gender reconstruction in African cities through a research grant from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)–Comparative Research Networks competition.
- Chipo Mubaya incorporated theories and ideas from the seminar into a report for an International Development Research Centre-funded project.
- Jenia Mukherjee organized the conference ‘Sustainable urbanization in India: challenges and opportunities’, which ran from 15–16 January 2015 at the Institute of Development Studies in Kolkata, India.
- Franklin Obeng-Odoom was elected into the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015, becoming one of the youngest people to be elected since the Academy was established in 1959.

Being a WSS Fellow was a big achievement, [one] recognized by my supervisors who have seen the spin-offs, together with other achievements. I have [since] been recommended for a promotion.  

Diana Sanchez Betancourt
Luke Parry was selected as PVE – Special Visiting Researcher – by Brazil’s Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) under its ‘Science Without Borders’ scheme.

Natalie Rosales was appointed as a Young Research Fellow of CONACyT.

Diana Sanchez Betancourt is now involved in the steering committee and research team of the multi-year ‘Cities Support’ programme, which aims to respond to the governance needs and challenges faced by the eight metropolitan areas in South Africa.

Landy Sánchez joined the steering committee of the Population Environment Research Network.

**Publications**

- *Untamed Urbanisms*, published by Routledge in 2015, is an edited volume resulting from the seminar, containing chapters written by Fellows and edited by the conveners of the seminar.


Partly inspired by the seminar, I have applied for and received several grants from the US Government to help Indigenous Nations in the US prepare for climate change impacts in their communities. I have established new working collaborations with physical and social scientists.

John Harris

In July 2013, I travelled to South Africa and, because of the connections developed in Quito, I was able to spend time at the Sustainability Institute in Cape Town. I spent a few days there exchanging knowledge with various researchers. These included grassroots researchers from a slum called Enkanini, where I slept for a night.

Moises Lino e Siva
Sustainable Urbanization 2

- Fellow Peter Elias was selected as a participant in the IPBES activities. He is also currently leading an ongoing research programme, funded through a grant awarded by the University of Lagos Central Research Committee, on 'Analysis of slum conditions and needs assessment in selected settlements in Lagos, Nigeria'.

- Briony Rogers and Andy Simarmata established a new research collaboration between Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia, and Monash University, Australia, in the area of sustainable urban water management, as part of a AU$2.1 million grant awarded by the Australia–Indonesia Centre.

Publications


- Fellows Débora Swistun and Peter Elias published in the CROP newsletter during the second semester of 2014.

Sustainable Urbanization 3

- Tracey-Ann Hyman is organizing a city-to-city exchange in which local government professionals from MILE, the seminar hosts in South Africa, will share their knowledge and experiences with the local governmental council in Westmoreland, Jamaica.

- Martín Maldonado has been working as a consultant for the Secretary of Social Development in his home province of Cordoba, Argentina, using ideas and procedures learned at the seminar. His participation in the seminar was reported online in English and Spanish.

Risk Interpretation and Action

- Fellow Wendy Saunders was awarded funding for a new research project looking at the role of science in land-use planning in New Zealand after attending the IRDR conference in Beijing in June 2014.

Publications


Global Social Governance

- A panel session on 'Contested resources, contested rights: rethinking states, nature, and power in extractive industry governance' was co-organized by Fellows Jojo Nem Singh and Kate Neville at Exploring Peace, the ISA's 57th Annual Convention, held from 16–19 March, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

- Roderick Galam succeeded in getting a grant from DFG for a three-year research project on ‘Working for work: temporality, unemployment and young Filipino men’s navigation of uncertain futures’.

Publications

- Nuria Giniger was a co-compiler of the Global Social Policy Observatory Digest 15.2, which was edited by Alexandra Kaasch.


‘Future Earth Young Scientist’ International Networking Conferences

- Laura Pereira and Timos Karpouzoglou co-organized the session ‘Emerging platforms for innovation in agro-ecosystems: the case of EMBRAPA in Africa’ at the 9th International Symposium AgroEnviron, from 27 April–1 May 2014 in Goiania, Brazil. They also co-organized the session ‘Harnessing the potential of innovations for food system resilience in the Global South: research insights from South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa’ at the Resilience and Development: Mobilizing for Transformation conference, held from 4–8 May 2014 in Montpellier, France. The abstract is available online.

- Folaranmi Babalola, Kim Nicholas and Wilma Waterlander all took part, as early-career scientists, in the 31st General Assembly of the ICSU, held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 27 August–4 September 2014.

- Leah Samberg reported that she holds her current job partly as a result of contacts made during the conference.

Publications


- Fellows and convenors from the event co-authored ‘How can science policy help to deliver the global goals?’, an article published in The Guardian on 9 October 2015.

- Florian Koch and Sohail Ahmad wrote the housing and infrastructure papers in: C. Griffith and M. Watkins (eds.) Comments on Habitat III Issue Papers. Tempe, AZ, Arizona State University/The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project, pp. 38–42.

- James Patterson, Florian Koch and Kathryn Bowen wrote ‘How can we prevent the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals from failing?’, published in The Conversation on 30 July 2015.
List of all Fellows’ Names and Institutions

ISSC selected 207 early-career scientists as Fellows. Research careers are dynamic, especially for early-career scientists. This information was correct at the time of each Fellow’s application to the WSS Fellows Programme, but may have changed since.

Seminar: Sustainable Urbanization 1
Manase Kudzai Chiweshe (Zimbabwe), Chinhoyi University of Technology; Mauricio Aguilar (Argentina), Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (the National Council of Science and Technology), Mexico; Ferne Edwards (Australia), RMIT University (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology), Australia; John Harris (USA), University of Oklahoma, USA; Taibat Lawanson (Nigeria), University of Lagos, Nigeria; Philip Lawton (Ireland), National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland; Moises Lino da Costa (Brazil), Federal University of Bahia, Brazil; China, Plaxedes Mubaya (Zimbabwe), Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe; Jenia Mukherjee (India), Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, India; Franklin Obeng-Odoom (Ghana), University of Technology Sydney, Australia; Luke Parry (UK), Lancaster University, UK; Dominik Reusser (Germany), Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany; Natalie Rosales (Spain), Universidad Complutense de Madrid [Complutense University of Madrid], Spain; Landy Sánchez (Mexico), El Colegio de Mexico (The College of Mexico), Mexico; Diana Sánchez Betancourt (South Africa), Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; Jorge Sequera (Spain), Universidad Complutense de Madrid [Complutense University of Madrid], Spain; Irene Sotiropoulopou (Greece), University of Coventry, UK (from August 2016); Alok Tiwari (India), The University of King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia; Mintesnot Woldeamanuel (Ethiopia), California State University, USA; Zheng Yan (China), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China.

Seminar: Sustainable Urbanization 2
Sohail Ahmad (India), Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, Germany; Nihan Akyelken (Turkey), University of Oxford, UK; Lorraine Ambole (Kenya), University of Nairobi, Kenya; Aliyu Barau (Nigeria), Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria; China, Catherine Chang (Taiwan), Macalester College, USA; Jenna Condie (UK), University of Western Sydney, Australia; Peter Omu Elias (Nigeria), University of Lagos, Nigeria; Florian Koch (Germany), Universidad del Norte (Northern University), Colombia; Natasha Kuruppu (Australia), University of Technology Sydney, Australia; Yangfan Li (China), Xiamen University, China; Domingos Maccule (Mozambique), Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique; Thaddeus Miller (USA), Portland State University, USA; Rodrigo Mora (Chile), Universidad Diego Portales [Diego Portales University], Chile; Leon Morenas (India), School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, India; Liz Rodriguez-Gamez (Mexico), El Colegio de Sonora [Sonora School], Mexico; Briony Rogers (Australia), Monash University, Australia; Monash Water for Liveability Centre, Australia; Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, Australia; Sonia Roitman (Argentina), University of Queenslands, Australia; Andy Simarmata (Indonesia), Universitas Indonesia (University of Indonesia), Indonesia; Débora Świstun (Argentina), Universidad Nacional de Avellaneda (National University of Avellaneda), Argentina; Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani (Gino Germani Research Institute), Universidad de Buenos Aires [Buenos Aires University], Argentina; Qian Zhang (China), Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.

Seminar: Sustainable Urbanization 3
Olumuyiwa Adegun (Nigeria), University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; Collins Adjei Mensah (Ghana), University of Cape Coast, Ghana; Saleh Ahmed (Bangladesh), University of Arizona, USA; Isabelle Angelouilis (France/USA), Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain; Aditya Bahadur (India), Overseas Development Institute, UK; Khalid Bahauddin (Bangladesh), University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh; University of Leuven, Belgium; Buyan Kareem (Uganda), Uganda Management Institute, Uganda; Ruishan Chen (Chen Hudson-Doyle (UK), ETH Zurich, Switzerland; Tracy-Ann Hyman (Jamaica), University of the West Indies, Jamaica; George Kinyashi (Tanzania), Institute of Rural Development Planning, Tanzania; Lukasiewicz (Poland), New York University, USA; Jagiellonian University, Poland; Martin Maldonado (Argentina), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas (National Scientific and Technical Research Council), Argentina; André Ortega (Philippines), University of the Philippines, the Philippines; Lorenza Pasquini (USA), University of Cape Town, South Africa; Alisa Zomer (USA), Yale University, USA.

Seminar: Risk Interpretation and Action
Floriana Adler (Australia), ETH Zürich, Switzerland; Olajinkia Akande (Nigeria), University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Ryan Alani (USA), California Polytechnic State University, USA; Simone Schwarz (Brazil), Center for Latin American Studies (CIESLAV), Brazil; Cuba, Mariana Munguía Aguilar, University of Miami, USA; Abdou Mbaye (Senegal), University of Oxford, UK; Mandie Bah (Senegal), University of New South Wales, Australia; Lindsey Kingston (Ireland), National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland; France, Ryan Lawanson (Canada), University of Oxford, UK; Andrew Reusser (South Africa), Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; John Horgan (Canada), University of California, USA; Kien Le (Vietnam), University of Technology, Australia; Goda Perlavičiūtė (Lithuania), University of Groningen, Netherlands; Naxheli Ruiz-Rivera (Mexico), National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico; Wendy Saunders (New Zealand), GNS Science, New Zealand; Todd Schenk (Canada), Virginia Tech, USA; Fabiola Sosa-Rodriguez (Mexico), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Autonomous Metropolitan University), Mexico; Victoria Sword-Daniels (UK), Natural Environment Research Council, UK; Suzanne Vanclay (New Zealand), Lincoln University, New Zealand; Xiniu Xie (China), Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, China; Yin Lun (China) Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, China.

Seminar: Global Social Governance
Karen Anderton (UK), University of Oxford, UK; Roderick Begg (Philippines), International Institute for Climate Change and Development (ICCDP), Philippines; Tanzania, Collins Enahoro (Nigeria), University of Lagos, Nigeria; Pauline Fisher (UK), University of Bath, UK; Declan Kuch (Australia), University of New South Wales, Australia; Tahu Kukutai (New Zealand), University of Waikato, New Zealand; Angela Last (Germany), University of Hamburg, Germany; N P Dجوحسين  (Ghana) University of Waterloo, Canada; Kerry Bobbins (South Africa), Gauteng City-Region Observatory, South Africa; Hossein Estiri (Iran), University of Washington, USA; Carole Lynn (Ireland), University of South Wales, UK; Natasha Howard (Australia), University of South Australia, Australia; Olle Järv (Ireland), National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland; Ryan Lawanson (South Africa), Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; John Horgan (Canada), University of California, USA; Kien Le (Vietnam), University of Technology, Australia; Goda Perlavičiūtė (Lithuania), University of Groningen, Netherlands; Naxheli Ruiz-Rivera (Mexico), National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico; Wendy Saunders (New Zealand), GNS Science, New Zealand; Todd Schenk (Canada), Virginia Tech, USA; Fabiola Sosa-Rodriguez (Mexico), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Autonomous Metropolitan University), Mexico; Victoria Sword-Daniels (UK), Natural Environment Research Council, UK; Suzanne Vanclay (New Zealand), Lincoln University, New Zealand; Xiniu Xie (China), Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, China; Yin Lun (China) Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, China.

Seminar: Big Data in an Urban Context
Elijah Bung (Bangladesh), University of Waterloo, Canada; Kerry Bobbins (South Africa), Gauteng City-Region Observatory, South Africa; Hossein Estiri (Iran), University of Washington, USA; Carole Lynn (Ireland), University of South Wales, UK; Natasha Howard (Australia), University of South Australia, Australia; Olle Järv (Ireland), National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland; Ryan Lawanson (South Africa), Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; John Horgan (Canada), University of California, USA; Kien Le (Vietnam), University of Technology, Australia; Goda Perlavičiūtė (Lithuania), University of Groningen, Netherlands; Naxheli Ruiz-Rivera (Mexico), National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico; Wendy Saunders (New Zealand), GNS Science, New Zealand; Todd Schenk (Canada), Virginia Tech, USA; Fabiola Sosa-Rodriguez (Mexico), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Autonomous Metropolitan University), Mexico; Victoria Sword-Daniels (UK), Natural Environment Research Council, UK; Suzanne Vanclay (New Zealand), Lincoln University, New Zealand; Xiniu Xie (China), Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, China; Yin Lun (China) Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, China.
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