



Waseda University Brussels Office
早稲田大学ブリュッセルオフィス

WORKSHOP
SERIES

Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian & European Perspectives and Beyond

Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 September 2024

ULB, European Studies Institute, Av. FD Roosevelt 39 – 1050 Bruxelles, Room Geremek
(For daily online participation, please send a request to: jean-louis.moortgat@ulb.be)



image: Freepik.com

Registration: <https://forms.gle/YpmKJdesJBYcLEGb8>





Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

This Workshop aims to explore and share methods, practices, challenges, and opportunities of SDG localisation across regions, particularly but not limited to Asia and Europe, as well as at cities and subnational levels. The presentations and discussions look at emergent approaches and innovative initiatives to SDG localisation to assess their transformative potential and consider city and subnational governments' operational challenges in taking on the SDGs. The findings will be discussed to identify areas of concern and opportunities and suggest ways forward regarding policies, partnerships, and coordinated actions.

The Workshop also aims to foster partnerships among international organisations and research institutions and to provide insights on developing SDG localisation-related policies and coordinated actions. It allows researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from various institutions to enhance their roles and contributions towards achieving SDG localisation and local sustainability transitions. It also examines methods to promote collaboration in providing practical eye-level policies for local and subnational governments to implement. During and after the Workshop, participating institutions committed to continuing the collaboration in joint research activities and publications to promote local governance and SDG localisation.





SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18th

08:45 - 09:00 Registration & welcome coffee

Welcome remarks & Group photos

09:00 - 09:20

- Jean-Louis MOORTGAT (Waseda University Brussels Office and International
- Philippe De LOMBAERDE (United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies)
- Akio TAKEMOTO (United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability) - *Online*

Session 1 Asian perspective Chair: Osamu SODA (Waseda University)

09:20 - 09:40 Carsten HERBES (Nuertingen-Geislingen University) - *Online*
"Sustainable Consumption of Young Consumers in Japan and the Company View"

09:40 - 10:00 Mahesti OKITASARI (UNU-IAS)
"Unpacking Governance Transformation for Localising Sustainable Development Goal 11 in India"

10:00 - 10:20 Osamu SODA (Waseda University)
"The Systemic Design of Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres (Local SDGs): Cases from Japan"

10:20 - 10:40 Upalat KORWATANASAKUL (Waseda University & UNU-IAS)
"COVID-19 and Progress on Subnational Localisation of the SDGs - Case of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines"

10:40 - 10:50 Q&A

10:50 - 11:10 Coffee Break

Session 2 Asian to European Perspectives and Beyond Chair: Koen BORGHYS (VUB) & Glenn RAYP (Ghent University & UNU-CRIS)

11:10 - 11:30 Koen BORGHYS (VUB) & Glenn RAYP (Ghent University & UNU-CRIS)
"An Assessment of Local SDG Monitoring: a global perspective on local initiatives"

11:30 - 11:50 Louis-Caleb REMANDA (ISG International Business School & University of Paris-Saclay)
"Sustainable Innovations to tackle Grand Challenge: Lessons learned from Toyota Motor Europe in the case of mobility Sector"

11:50 - 12:10 Fernando ORTIZ-MOYA (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) - *Online*
"Local Follow-up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons from the Voluntary Local Review Experiences of European and Japanese Cities"

12:10 - 12:30 Q&A



SCHEDULE

12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
Session 3 Methodology Chair: Justine MILLER (UNU-CRIS & Ghent University)	
13:30 - 13:45	Justine MILLER (UNU-CRIS & Ghent University) "Constructing a Local SDG Index for Policymakers"
13:45 - 14:00	Taís SONETTI GONZÁLEZ (ULB) "Methodological Pathways to Achieve the SDGs: Participatory Action Research in Multi-Stakeholder Processes"
14:00 - 14:15	Tarek KATRAMIZ (Shibaura Institute of Technology) - <i>Online</i> "Examining the Alignment Between the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Smart City Agenda in Japan"
14:15 - 14:30	Q&A and discussion
Session 4 Roundtable Discussion on Barriers and Opportunities of SDG Implementation at the Local Level Moderator: Upalat KORWATANASAKUL (Waseda University & UNU-IAS)	
14:30 - 15:30	Roundtable
Session 5 Networking and Information Exchange	
15:30 - 16:30	Coffee Break
End of day 1	
19:00	Speakers Dinner (by invitation)



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19th

09:30 - 10:00	Welcome coffee and Announcement
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Session 6 European Perspective Chair: Shinji HASEGAWA (Waseda University)

10:00 - 10:20	Shinji HASEGAWA (Waseda University) "Are Local SDGs Truly 'Sustainable'? - A Comparison of Regional Circular Economies in Japan and Europe"
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10:20 - 10:40	Bérangère SZOSTAK (University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines/Paris-Saclay) "Creative cities: drivers or barriers to the SDGs?"
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10:40 - 11:00	Stela RAYTCHEVA (University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines/Paris-Saclay) "Universities' social responsibility as local translations of Sustainable development goals in the Higher education sector: A Comparison of French and Bulgarian universities"
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11:00 - 11:30	Q&A
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Session 7 Roundtable Discussion on National-Local and Multi-Stakeholder Policy Support for Accelerating SDG Localisation & Next Steps Moderator: Mahesti OKITASARI (UNU-IAS)

11:30 - 12:50	Roundtable
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12:50 - 13:00	Closing Remarks - Philippe De LOMBAERDE (UNU-CRIS)
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13:00 - 14:30	Lunch (Networking and information exchange)
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Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Seminar
Organizer



Upalat KORWATANASAKUL (Waseda University & UNU-IAS)

Bio Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Waseda University, and Consultant at UNU-IAS, Upalat Korwatanasakul is an international development economist interested in economic, environmental, and social development topics in Asia and the Pacific, such as climate change, digital economy, global value chains, informal economy, labour market, and sustainable development. He has worked and had research collaborations with major international organisations and research institutes, such as the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations. He holds a PhD in International Studies, majoring in Development Economic Analysis from the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan).

Title “COVID-19 and Progress on Subnational Localisation of the SDGs - Case of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines”

Abstract A survey by UNU-IAS and UCLG ASPAC reveals significant adverse socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on subnational governments in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, affecting their progress on SDG localisation. The impacts vary across governance, finance, and SDG-related actions.

Key issues identified include:

- Amplified challenges range from social and economic to institutional.
- The critical role of vertical and horizontal coordination across government levels and sectors.
- Varied financial impact severity across different city types (small, medium, metropolitan) affecting short and medium-term finances.
- Financial strain on subnational transactions, leading to fiscal instability.
- Shifting priorities to address the health crisis complicates SDG localisation.
- High-priority areas for SDG implementation during the crisis are SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

The survey recommends ten actions for national and local policymakers to address COVID-19 impacts and promote SDGs under three themes. These steps aim to build back better, ensure fiscal stability, and support inclusive, sustainable recovery.

- Ensure coherent policy and governance, strengthening multi-level and cross-sector coordination.
- Pursue resilient, inclusive, and green subnational finance by improving fiscal management and transparency.
- Accelerate SDGs localisation, aligning emergency responses with long-term objectives, and enhance digitalisation of services.



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Welcome
words



Philippe De LOMBAERDE (UNU-CRIS)

Bio Philippe De Lombaerde is currently Director at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) (Bruges, Belgium), and Associate Professor of International Economics at Neoma Business School (Rouen, France) (on leave). Previously he worked as an Associate Professor of International Economics at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogota), lecturer and researcher at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), and as a researcher at the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) (Bangkok, Thailand), among other appointments. He is co-editor of *Indicator-Based Monitoring of Regional Economic Integration* (Springer, 2017) and *The Political Economy of New Regionalisms in the Pacific Rim* (Routledge, 2019), and editor of the open access *Handbook of Regional Cooperation and Integration* (Edward Elgar, 2024).
For a complete list of publications and paper downloads, please see his author page on ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Philippe_De_Lombaerde



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Welcome
Words



Akio TAKEMOTO (UNU-IAS)

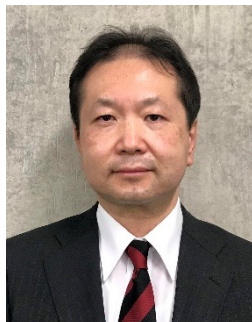
- Bio** Akio Takemoto is Head of Programme and Administration at United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) based in Tokyo Japan. He leads and coordinates academic programs of the Institute focusing on climate change and sustainable development focal areas as well as manages the administration unit of the UNU-IAS. Since 2024, He is a Co-Chair of Santiago Network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since 2024, he convenes the International Standard Organization working group for standardizing monitoring and evaluation on climate change adaptation actions.
- From 1992 to 2023, Dr. Takemoto served for the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan as an expert on environment policy. From January 2018 to January 2020, Dr. Takemoto served as Senior Environmental Specialist at Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in Washington, DC, USA. He served for several senior positions mainly in charge of climate change policy at MOE, including Director for International Strategy on Climate Change (from 2017 to 2018), Directors of Research and Information Office and Climate Change Adaptation Office (from 2014 to 2017), and Director of Groundwater Office (2010).
- From 2011 to 2014, Dr. Takemoto served as Director for the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-GCR) to provide financial support for regional research activities. From 2000 to 2003, he served as First and Second Secretary to Permanent Delegation to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) based in Paris France. Dr. Takemoto obtained a Doctor of Engineering (Environmental and Functional Sciences) at Ibaraki University in March 2010 and Master of Science (Geophysics) at Hokkaido University in March 1992.



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Chair &
Speaker



Osamu SODA (Waseda University)

Bio Prof. Osamu Soda is a planning expert with a strong interest in topics such as climate change, social innovation, sustainable development from economic, environmental, and social perspectives. He is also interested in the application of systemic design to knowledge-intensive societies and digital transformation (DX). He has collaborated on research with international organizations and research institutions, including specialized agencies of United Nations partners such as Habitat for Humanity, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Japan's Ministry of the Environment (MOE). He earned his PhD in Engineering with a specialization in Urban Planning from the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at Waseda University. From September 2021 to September 2024, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Tokyo, Japan).

Title “The Systemic Design of Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres (Local SDGs): Cases from Japan”

Abstract This presentation explores the concept of Nexus Communication within the framework of Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres (RCES) in Japan. Led by Japan's Ministry of the Environment, the RCES initiative aims to foster sustainable communities by integrating environmental, economic, and social functions across regions. This study examines how Nexus Communication and Strategic Foresight Mapping (SFM) can enhance the RCES framework to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Two case studies are highlighted: Kashima City, where a vision for RCES is developed through systemic design, and Kisarazu City, where the interactions between SDG goals are analysed to understand their ripple effects. These cases illustrate how new communication strategies can improve coordination among stakeholders, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

This presentation provides insights into the challenges and opportunities of SDG localization and emphasizes the need for a collaborative approach to sustainable development.



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Chair &
Speaker



Carsten HERBES (Nuertingen-Geislingen University)

Bio Carsten Herbes is a full professor of business administration at Nuertingen-Geislingen University (NGU), Germany and Director of the 'Institute for International Research on Sustainable Management and Renewable Energy'. He obtained a diploma (M.Sc. equivalent) in business administration and Japanese studies from Mannheim University and a doctoral degree in business administration from Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder). During his diploma studies, he spent one year at Hitotsubashi University as a research student. Before joining NGU, he worked for a large management consultancy and later was Head of R&D and CFO of a leading biomethane producer. His research topics include marketing, acceptance, business models and cost of renewable energy as well as bioeconomy and circular economy products. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the Journal of Consumer Behaviour and frequently reviews for leading journals like Journal of Cleaner Production, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Energy Policy and Energy Research and Social Science. He acts as an advisor on sustainability issues to various companies and associations.
GoogleScholar: <https://scholar.google.de/citations?user=IDTAFKMAAAAJ&hl=de&oi=ao>

Title "Sustainable Consumption of Young Consumers in Japan and the Company View"

Abstract SDG 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns" highlights the importance of consumption. To deliver SDG 12 locally, it is necessary to get a better understanding of these factors which vary across countries. Also, Fridays For Future (FFF) as a major youth climate movement is a global phenomenon but with different local variations. Therefore, our study looks into the variables that drive sustainable consumption among young people in different countries and how it is connected with FFF. This presentation will focus on Japan. Our quantitative online survey indicated that environmental concern, perceived consumer effectiveness and knowledge, factors associated with sustainable consumption in individualistic Western cultures, were less impactful than expected in Japan. In contrast, perceived behavioral control, social norms and anticapitalistic attitudes showed a strong effect on sustainable consumption actions. Identification with the FFF movement was also a predictor of sustainable consumption. Also, we found that in Japan, the FFF movement is small, but with a relatively high percentage of activists among participants which stands out in comparison to e.g. Germany, where FFF is more a 'follower movement'. Qualitative consumer and expert interviews further revealed culture-specific factors such as "mottai-nai" thinking. We also conducted company interviews to examine how they see young consumers in Japan: they perceive sustainable consumption as a rare phenomenon among young consumers and the high quality demands of consumers in general as an obstacle to more sustainability. The study underscores the need for targeted strategies that respect and integrate local cultural values into global sustainability efforts.



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Moderator &
Speaker



Mahesti OKITASARI (UNU-IAS)

Bio As Consultant, Mahesti Okitasari works with UNU-IAS on the interactions between SDGs and efforts on decarbonization. She is interested in understanding governance transformation and how development policies are harnessed to bridge the social, economic and environmental sustainability gap. Her work includes assessing multilevel governance arrangements, policy processes, and politics to deliver the global agenda and Paris Agreement, as well as gaps and opportunities in sustainable consumption and production, and building knowledge on the SDG and climate partnerships and finance.

Title “Unpacking Governance Transformation for Localising Sustainable Development Goal 11 in India”

Abstract Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 requires a coordinated and integrated multi-level approach, making interdependence between national and sub-national governments essential in transforming existing governance to deliver the SDGs. The combination and coordination of mandates, resources and capacities of institutions constitute crucial enabling factors for successful governance transformation. The Indian government is reforming its existing institutional mechanisms, and a research gap exists in assessing these reforms and sub-national responses. Drawing from a transition management approach, this study focuses on Indian efforts to localize SDG 11 and its governance through a systematic evaluation of the national-level changes, which are then used as a reference to examine sub-national responses. Our findings indicate that the Indian governance transformation is optimistic but has yet to generate deep transformational reforms, given its developing stages. First, the governance system attempts to make cooperative and competitive federalism complementary to SDG localization. Second, the political impact of the SDGs on sub-national governance has remained primarily discursive. Third, there is an advantage to exerting the overlaps between SDG 11 and existing government schemes to discern governance adaptiveness and reflexiveness in monitoring and evaluation systems. Fourth, there are limitations to using the SDG India Index and risks of over-reliance on scheme-based monitoring and evaluation frameworks. In analyzing different governance changes around India's SDG localization across its cyclical process (strategic, tactical, operational, reflexive), this study provides a nuanced understanding of the governance transformation for achieving the SDGs.



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Chair &
Speaker



Shinji HASEGAWA (Waseda University)

Bio Shinji Hasegawa is a Professor of International Business at Waseda University in the Faculty of Social Sciences. He received his doctorate in Management from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. His recent publications include Sustainable Development Disciplines for Society, (co-author, Springer 2022), Economic and Social Perspectives on the World under COVID-19 (in Japanese, Tokyo: Dobunkan 2021), International Management - Cases and Theories (in Japanese, Tokyo: Yuhikaku 2013), La Régionalisation en Asie: Dimension Economique Territoriale, (Paris: Harmattan 2011), and Theory of International Business (ed., in Japanese, Tokyo: Chuokeizai 2008).

Shinji's current research focuses on the location of multinational companies (MNCs), MNC subsidiary roles, foreign-owned firms in Japan, diversity management, sustainable management, MNC strategy and organization, international strategic alliances, and the theory of foreign direct investment. He is currently involved as a principal member of the research project 'Building a model for transitioning to a community-based sustainable society', funded by the Ministry of the Environment.

He has extensive experiences as a researcher and advisor for the METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), the Cabinet Office, the Export-Import Bank of Japan (Japan Bank for International Cooperation), the ITI (Institute for International Trade and Investment) and JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization). Since 2003, he has served as a selection committee member for the French Government Scholarship Examination.

Title "Are Local SDGs Truly 'Sustainable'? - A Comparison of Regional Circular Economies in Japan and Europe"

Abstract This presentation explores the economic sustainability of regional circular economies, focusing on terroir, drawing on field studies in Japan. Many of these regional economies struggle to achieve economic sustainability. Efforts to decouple local economies from the global economy and pursue the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove) have not reliably ensured sustainable outcomes. The evolving and increasingly complex challenges surrounding local SDGs need to be addressed. While platforms for stakeholder collaboration in local SDG formation are being established in various regions, their effectiveness is frequently undermined by siloed administrative structures. Additionally, trade-offs between different sustainability challenges are inadequately managed.

In our globalized society, it is crucial to emphasize the role of companies, particularly multinational corporations (MNCs), and create frameworks that incentivize their contribution to societal benefits. The concept of «altruisme intéressé»—a form of self-interested altruism—is useful in achieving Pareto efficiency in addressing sustainability challenges akin to the prisoner's dilemma game. By leveraging this concept, companies can be motivated to align their operations with societal goals while also benefiting themselves.

Proposing a reproducible model of a local circular economy is essential for building truly sustainable local SDGs in Japan. Furthermore, suggestions for new models to replace the current paradigm of excessive globalization must be offered, seeking solutions that reconcile local sustainability with global economic integration. Through a comparative analysis of regional circular economies in Japan and Europe, this presentation will attempt to provide a viable strategy to address the multifaceted and evolving sustainability challenges and achieve truly sustainable local SDGs.



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Speaker



Louis-Caleb REMANDA (ISG International Business School & University of Paris-Saclay)

Bio Louis-Caleb Remanda is a specialist in Management Sciences. Currently holding a professorship at ISG International Business School in France, he delves into an array of research domains including Strategic Management, Innovation Management, International Business, Business Ethics, and Project Management.

As a Full Researcher at ISG Lab (ISG) and an Associate Researcher at LAREQUOI Research Center on Management (University of Paris Saclay), Louis-Caleb's scholarly pursuits are deeply rooted in his doctoral thesis exploring the intricacies of multinational companies' interactions within international and regional frameworks, particularly focusing on European and Japanese dynamics. His extensive publications spanning International Strategy and International Relations underscore his profound insights into the strategic development of Japanese subsidiaries within the European Economic Area, with a keen eye on the ensuing ethical and sustainability implications.

Educationally, Louis-Caleb holds a Master of Grande Ecole (MGE) in International Project Management from ISG Business School, earned in 2014, and a Master of Research (MRes) in Technological, Strategic, and Organizational Evolutions from ISM School of Management, Versailles Saint-Quentin, completed in 2015. Beyond his academic endeavors, his multifaceted expertise extends to serving as the Vice President of Digital Media Management at the Communication Institute of Greece since 2016.

Title “Sustainable Innovations to tackle Grand Challenge: Lessons learned from Toyota Motor Europe in the case of mobility Sector” (Imane Bouterfas, Louis-Caleb Remanda, Sara Bentebbaa)

Abstract Emerging from the concept of Grand Challenges, Grand Societal Challenges (GSCs) created significant disruptions within the business and societal landscape, prompting critical examination of their implications for Management Studies research. Characterized by their geographic scope, complexity, and diverse stakeholders, GSCs are global issues that affect large populations across multiple regions. This paper addresses the urgent need for strategic renewal in response to Grand Societal Challenges (GSCs) with a focus on mobility as a prime example. The mobility challenge transcends national boundaries and is central to current debates on sustainable consumption and production. In many multinational companies, sustainable innovations have emerged in subsidiaries to meet local or regional needs, triggering a strategic shift in the group's overall strategy. This observation prompts us to examine both the specific resources allocated by subsidiaries to facilitate the implementation of sustainable innovations and the process of transferring this know-how to the headquarters, which ultimately leads to strategic implications. In order to address this research question, the article is based on a two-stage qualitative case study of Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) European operations. The first round of data collection focused on dynamic sustainable capabilities at the subsidiary level, while the second one focused on the strategic dimension at the headquarters level.

Key words : Grand Societal challenges, sustainable innovation, dynamic capabilities



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Speaker



Fernando ORTIZ-MOYA (IGES)

Bio Fernando Ortiz-Moya is an urbanist exploring how cities adapt and respond to socioeconomic and environmental problems. He focuses on urban policies to accelerate sustainable development transitions, sharing insights in policy reports and peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as speaking at international forums on sustainable development. His research revolves around two key developmental challenges faced by today's cities: (1) urban shrinkage and decay, and (2) cities' localisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including their development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Fernando is currently a policy researcher at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan. Before joining IGES, he was an assistant professor at the University of Nottingham Ningbo, China. He has a Ph.D. in Architecture from the University of Tokyo, an M.Sc. in Urban Studies from the University of Edinburgh, and an M.Arch in Architecture and Urban Planning from the Technical University of Madrid.

Title “Local Follow-up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons from the Voluntary Local Review Experiences of European and Japanese Cities”

Abstract Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends on well-designed and implemented follow-up and review (FUR) processes to monitor progress, review policies, and adjust strategies. However, despite the critical role cities play in implementing the SDGs, they lack official recognition in the FUR architecture of the 2030 Agenda. To engage with the 2030 Agenda, cities have initiated FUR exercises through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to establish benchmarks, report on their progress, and share best practices. This paper examines local-level FUR processes by comparing examples of VLRs in Europe and Japan. Findings indicate that the VLR process contributes to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in three significant ways: (1) by facilitating the localisation of the SDGs; (2) by fostering the integration of sustainable development principles into municipal higher-level plans and governance structures; and (3) by allowing cities to explore innovative approaches to sustainable development. This analysis calls for strengthened support for cities to conduct VLRs.



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Chair &
Speaker



Justine MILLER (UNU-CRIS and Ghent University)

Bio Justine Miller is a PhD Fellow at UNU-CRIS and Ghent University, where she is working on international trade, and specifically on the «Spaghetti bowl» phenomenon of regional integration, under the supervision of Samuel Standaert. Her work involves using network analysis tools and econometric techniques to quantify the impact of this phenomenon on countries. She is also actively involved in a project measuring the progress of Flemish municipalities towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Title “Constructing a Local SDG Index for Policymakers”

Abstract The successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) heavily relies on local adoption, with an estimated 65% of the successes depending on the active involvement of municipalities. However, this process is complicated by the limited resources and autonomy of local governments. Additional factors, such as population size, demographics, and wealth levels, which are beyond local control, further hinder the ability to design effective SDG policies. To assist Flemish municipalities in optimising strategies and managing trade-offs among SDGs, the SDG monitor was developed. This tool aims to facilitate policy design by tracking the performance of 300 Flemish municipalities from 2014 to 2023 across 15 SDGs, 60 targets and over 200 indicators



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Speaker



Taís SONETTI-GONZÁLEZ (ULB)

Bio Taís Sonetti-González is a Sustainability scientist exploring collaborative processes and their impact on advancing sustainability in the São Francisco River Basin in Brazil, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Drawing inspiration from Orlando Fals Borda's Participatory Action Research and Paulo Freire's theories of emancipatory pedagogy, her study embraces 'sentipensar'—a dynamic integration of feeling and thinking—and includes emotional and experiential elements, referred to as 'vivências.' These methods promote a horizontally transdisciplinary and inclusive framework in relational sustainability research. Integrating process-relational philosophical perspectives, the research aims to cultivate a pluriversality to decision-making that is inclusive and just. This approach not only involves but prioritizes the cosmovisions of indigenous and other traditional communities, central to devising strategies and actions that address the diverse and multi-scaled sustainability challenges in the region.

Title “Methodological Pathways to Achieve the SDGs: Participatory Action Research in Multi-Stakeholder Processes”

Abstract This article examines the use of participatory action research (PAR) methodologies within multi-stakeholder groups to promote communal sustainability and advance specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We categorize stakeholders into two groups: 1) large-scale producers, mega-enterprises, and their governmental and non-governmental allies; and 2) small-scale producers, indigenous, and traditional communities along with their supporters. This categorization aids in understanding each group's unique onto-epistemological perspectives and their approaches to sustainability challenges.

Our methodological processes unfold in three phases, centered around the 3H-CLD approach to our workshops, jointing the original Three Horizons framework with the systems thinking tool, Causal Loop Diagrams (CLD), with pre-dialogue, dialogue, and post-dialogue. The pre-dialogue phase focuses on building trust, understanding local dynamics, and fostering inclusive engagement. During the dialogue phase, stakeholders participate in a systems thinking approach and collaborative thematic analysis to conceptualize sustainable futures, identify challenges, and outline actionable changes (3H-CLD). The concluding phase involves validating and disseminating findings, co-producing an action plan, and initiating its implementation to maintain and strengthen stakeholder collaboration.

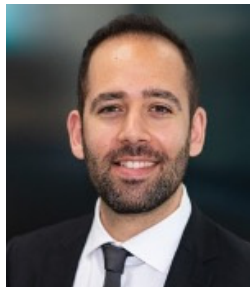
Reflecting on the ethical and practical considerations of embracing onto-epistemological pluralism, this study identifies contextual best practices for managing effective multi-stakeholder and multi-scale processes. These methodologies are crucial for translating the complex realities of diverse groups into actionable sustainability strategies in a fair and just effort. Our research emphasizes the importance of transparency, empathy, and local engagement in aligning different worldviews, pivotal for paving the path toward sustainable futures.



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Speaker



Tarek KATRAMIZ (Shibaura Institute of Technology)

Bio Tarek Katramiz is a professor in the Department of Architecture and Environment Systems at the College of Systems Engineering and Science, Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT). He previously held positions as a Project Assistant Professor at Keio University's Graduate School of Media and Governance and as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) postdoctoral fellow at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). His research focuses on the politics of sustainability, local development, energy policy, and environmental governance. He explores how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) influence national and local development planning, examining their impact on governance structures and multilevel collaborations. His work also analyzes the political and institutional frameworks that shape SDG implementation, climate action, and energy transitions.).

Title “Examining the Alignment Between the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Smart City Agenda in Japan”

Abstract This paper investigates the intersection between the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Japan's smart city agenda, focusing on how the SDGs can facilitate the broadening of smart cities to address social issues within smart urban development. Using a qualitative content analysis of national and local smart city strategies, government reports, and relevant frameworks, the research identifies key areas of convergence between smart city initiatives and specific SDG targets. Notably, significant alignment is observed with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), particularly in relation to urban resilience, environmental sustainability, and access to essential services. Areas such as sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, and digital infrastructure also show substantial overlap. Preliminary findings further highlight progress towards social goals, such as those addressing health and well-being (SDG 3). However, there are gaps in the integration of social equity measures, particularly in relation to reducing inequalities (SDG 10), which are critical to expanding the scope of smart cities to tackle deeper social challenges. This study underscores the potential of the SDGs to serve as a strategic framework for more inclusive and socially impactful smart city initiatives, advocating for a stronger emphasis on social dimensions within Japan's smart city strategies.



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Chair
& Speaker



Koen BORGHYS (VUB)

Bio Koen Borghys is a PhD researcher at Studies in Media Innovation and Technology (SMIT), research group at the Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School, Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His doctoral research, titled 'SDG in ACTION - Data Driven Coaching of Local Communities in Achieving SDG Goals', is conducted in collaboration with IDEA Consult. Within his PhD research, Koen focusses on the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the local urban context of the Brussels Capital Region. Koen's academic pursuits lie at the intersection of smart and sustainable cities, data-driven policy-making, and sustainable development.).

Title "An Assessment of Local SDG Monitoring: a global perspective on local initiatives"

Abstract This presentation explores the landscape of local Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring initiatives worldwide, showcasing cities and organizations actively engaged in SDG monitoring and pinpointing the pioneers and leaders in this field. Through examples, we examine the diverse stakeholders involved and the various monitoring approaches used. We analyze the variation in referencing the official SDG framework, the development of local indicator frameworks, and the reliance on traditional versus non-traditional data sources. Furthermore, we investigate index-building methodologies, emphasizing the differences between prominent studies by SDSN and OECD, the resulting scoring disparities, and the consequences for local SDG monitoring and benchmarking. We will discuss key findings that reveal both heterogeneity in methodologies and common challenges related to data quality and availability. The presentation concludes with recommendations for standardizing indicators, integrating innovative data sources to enhance local SDG monitoring practices. By valorizing our working paper, we aim to illuminate the direction these initiatives are heading, emphasizing the roles of key actors and the methods they employ.
Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, SDG Monitoring, Localization, Best Practices, traditional and non-traditional data sources



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 September 2024

Chair
& Speaker



Glenn RAYP (Ghent University & UNU-CRIS)

Bio Glenn Rayp serves as a Professor of International Economics at Ghent University and holds the position of Professorial Research Fellow at UNU-CRIS, where he oversees the Economic Interactions cluster. His areas of expertise and primary research interests encompass (i) international trade and its effects on firm productivity and labor conditions in industrialized countries, (ii) the impact and effectiveness of regional integration, and (iii) international trade and migration policy.

Currently, his research focuses on the effectiveness of regional organizations, the consequences of regional integration, and issues related to international governance, particularly the role of regional governance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Previously, he was a member of both the Belgian High Council of Finance and the High Council on Employment. His publications include contributions to journals such as the Journal of Applied Econometrics, World Development, Oxford Economic Papers, Labour Economics, the Journal of Consumer Analysis, the Journal of Productivity Analysis, and the Journal of Business History.

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Speaker



Bérangère SZOSTAK (University of Paris-Saclay)

Bio Bérangère Szostak is a full professor of strategic management. She is Head of the LAREQUOI management research laboratory at the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin | the University of Paris-Saclay. She has been an expert in creativity since 2002. Her research focuses on technological and non-technological innovation (social innovation, managerial innovation). She defends an embedded approach to management and views the territory as an essential dimension to be taken into account when studying organisations.

She is the author of over 45 peer-reviewed articles and academic chapters, as well as books on the subject of design and innovation management. She was vice-president of the “Innovation, work” committee for the French National Research Agency (ANR). She is co-editor-in-chief of the journal “Finance Contrôle Stratégie” and sits on the scientific committees of other academic journals (“Management international”, “Innovation”).

Title “Creative cities: drivers or barriers to the SDGs?”

Abstract The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) exists since 2004. It is made up of 350 cities around the world, for which creativity is a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The aim of the network is to place creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level. This includes sectors such as music, gastronomy, literature, media, design, film, crafts, etc. Many cities are seeking to respond to social and environmental challenges by capitalizing on these sectors. However, how can creative cities help (or not) with the SDGs? The keynote speaker will suggest answers based on case studies of creative cities in Asia and Europe



Localising the Sustainable Development Goals – Asian and European Perspectives and Beyond

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Speaker



Stela RAYTCHEVA (University of Paris-Saclay)

Bio Stela Raytcheva is a professor in management sciences at the ISM-IAE of the University of Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines – University Paris Saclay and a member of the Larequoi Research Center in Management. She works on intercultural and change management, ethics, and communication in public and private sectors. She is also interested in philosophical insight in organization studies..

Title “Universities’ social responsibility as local translations of Sustainable development goals in the Higher education sector: A Comparison of French and Bulgarian universities”

Abstract Private organizations use corporate social responsibility to align their strategies and development with the SDG. Universities, and in particular public ones, consider that as public organizations they already focus on public interest and thus implicitly work for the achievement of the SDG. In the last decade, some universities have begun to engage in an explicit pursuit of SDG through management and communication about their USR strategies and practices. I argue that the last is both higher education and local cultural translations of the SDG. In this aim, I compare the USR strategies and practices of one Bulgarian and one French public university. This analysis is based on public statements of these two organizations through websites and strategic documents. This analysis is completed by a questionnaire addressed to the students of these two institutions. This research shows both the local sensemaking and performance of global SDG.



Waseda University Brussels Office

Avenue Antoine Depage, 1 - 1050 Brussels Belgium
<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/brussels-office/news-en/>

Contact:
Jean-Louis Moortgat
+32 476 538 320
jean-louis.moortgat@ulb.be