

Hope in Action

4th Biennial International Transdisciplinary
Conference on Environmental Justice

Lassalle-Institut, Switzerland

August 19 – 23, 2026

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Welcome to the “Hope in Action” Conference

Dear participants,

Welcome to the 4th Biennial International Transdisciplinary Conference on Environmental Justice. It is a privilege to welcome you to Zurich and to the Lassalle-Institut, where researchers, practitioners, community leaders and students from around the world gather in a shared search for wisdom, justice, and hope.

Our theme, “Hope in Action: Community-Engaged Scholarship and Practice for Integral Ecology, Environmental Justice and Sustainability,” is more than the title of a conference. It is an invitation to discern together how hope can become a transformative force in a world marked by ecological degradation, social fragmentation, and profound uncertainty. The crises of our time—the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor—challenge us not only to analyze reality but also to respond with courage, imagination, and compassion.

As a work of the Society of Jesus, the Lassalle-Institut understands this conference as a space of encounter and discernment. Inspired by the spiritual vision of St Ignatius of Loyola and by Pope Francis' call to Integral Ecology in *Laudato Si'*, we seek to bring into conversation scientific inquiry, practical experience, ethical reflection, and spiritual wisdom. We believe that the most pressing questions of our age cannot be addressed within disciplinary boundaries alone. They call for attentive listening, intellectual humility, and the willingness to learn from one another across cultures, traditions, and fields of expertise.

Ignatian spirituality reminds us that hope is neither passive optimism nor wishful thinking. It grows where people discern carefully, choose generously, and act faithfully for the greater good. Hope becomes credible when it takes shape in communities that accompany one another, cultivate trust, and work patiently for reconciliation between people, societies, and the whole community of life. In this sense, hope is not simply something we possess; it is something we practice together.

We express our sincere gratitude to all speakers, participants, partner institutions and our task force whose dedication has made this conference possible. Together we form a global community of practice united by the conviction that another future is possible—not because the challenges are small, but because collaboration, discernment, and faithful commitment remain stronger than resignation.

May our time together deepen our understanding, strengthen our resolve, and renew our shared vocation to become women and men who, in the Ignatian spirit, seek to find God in all things and to contribute, with intelligence and compassion, to the healing of our common home.



Tobias Karcher SJ
Director, Lassalle Institut



lassalle institut



Venue: A few words about the Lassalle-Institut and about Zurich

Lassalle-Institut

The Lassalle-Institut is part of a global community supported by Jesuit universities. This community invites people in leadership responsibility to grow with the personal challenges of performance society. In this way, they can act with inspiration, decide well and accompany changes in a meaningful way.

Leaders, who see themselves as part of the community, strive for both individual well-being and the common good. The care and sustainability of business activities are carried out in the spirit of a shared concern for the environment and our fellow sisters and brothers.



Aki: Catholic Student Chaplaincy

The aki is the official Catholic Student Chaplaincy in Zurich and a vibrant meeting place for students from around the world. The term "Catholic" is understood in its broadest sense, reflecting a commitment to openness, inclusivity, and dialogue. Students of all faiths, beliefs, and cultural backgrounds are welcomed into a community that values meaningful encounters and mutual respect.

With its warm and inviting atmosphere, centrally located facilities, and longstanding tradition of bringing people together, the aki also serves as an inspiring venue for conferences, workshops, and academic events.



Zurich

Zurich, Switzerland's largest city, is a place where history, innovation, and natural beauty come together. Founded as the Roman settlement of *Turicum* over 2,000 years ago, it has grown into a global centre for finance, technology, research, and higher education, with institutions such as ETH Zurich attracting talent from around the world.

Zurich is one of the world's leading financial centres, home to the headquarters of major international banks, insurance companies, and asset managers. The city manages a significant share of global cross-border private wealth, making it a key player in international finance.

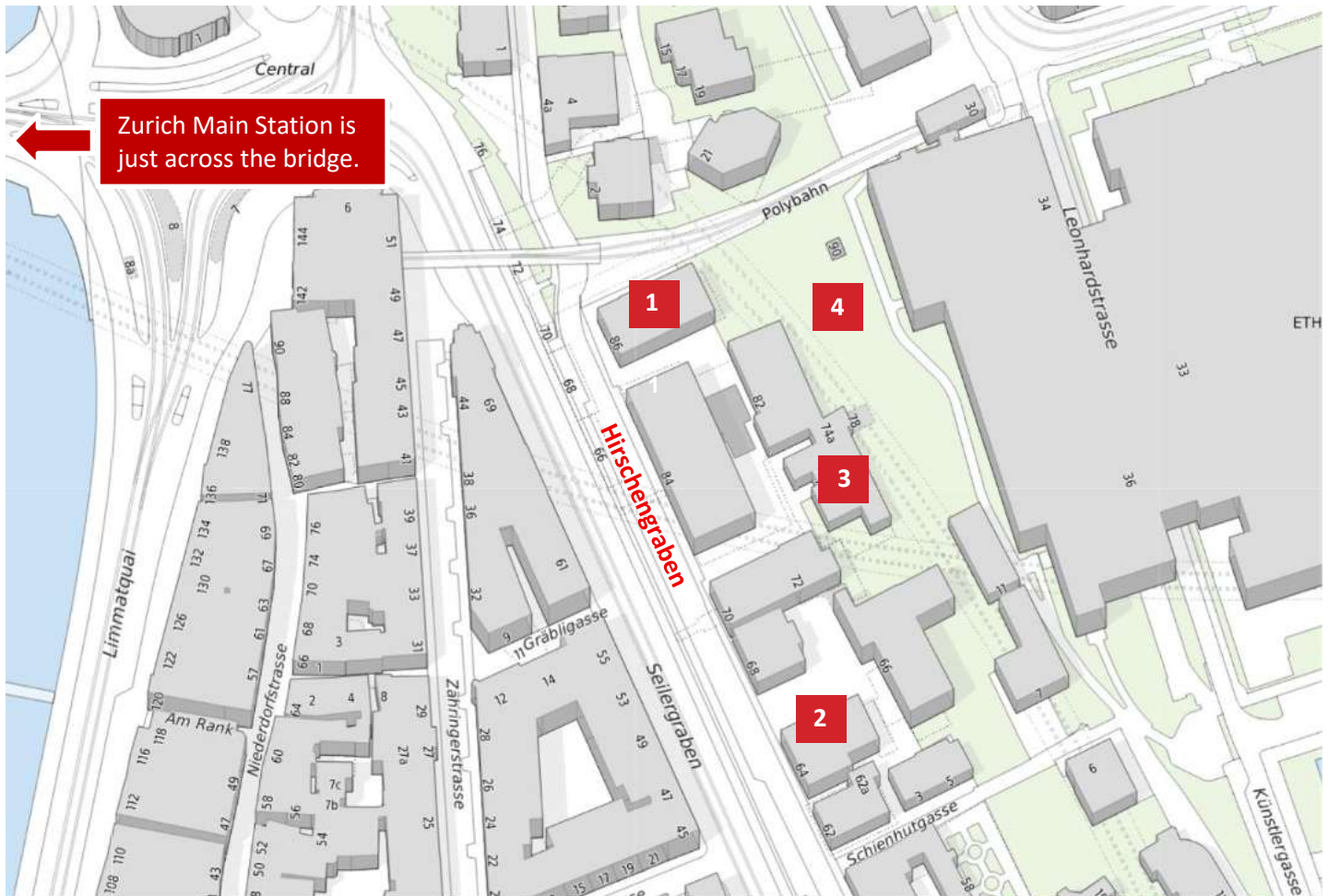
Nestled between Lake Zurich and the Alps, the city offers a unique blend of medieval architecture, vibrant cultural life, and exceptional quality of life. More than half of Zurich's city area consists of green spaces, forests, parks, and recreational areas, contributing to its reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Known for its museums, galleries, music, and culinary scene, Zurich is also home to the iconic Luxemburgerli: the delicate macarons created by Confiserie Sprüngli that have become a local specialty.



Picture © Zuerich.com

Map of the conference venue



Main venue of the conference

1

Aki Catholic Student Chaplaincy – Main Conference Venue

Main venue of the conference
(Hirschengraben 86)

2

Restaurant “Time Out” & Hotel St. Josef

Lunch & Dinner Venue
(Hirschengraben 64)

Jesuit Community & relaxing garden

3

Jesuit Community in Zurich & Jesuiten weltweit Schweiz

(Hirschengraben 74)

4

Aki Garden

Your oasis for a break. Not Eden, but beautiful in its own right. With panoramic views over the city, in the heart of Zurich.

In case of emergency:

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Program

	Thursday, August 20	Friday, August 21	Saturday, August 22	Sunday, August 23
	7:30 – 8:00 Meditation	7:30 – 8:00 Meditation	7:30 – 8:00 Meditation	7:30 – 8:00 Meditation
	8:00 – 8:45 Breakfast	8:00 – 8:45 Breakfast	8:00 – 8:45 Breakfast	8:00 – 8:45 Breakfast
	Introduction by Tobias Karcher SJ 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome 9:30 – 11:00 Hope in Action: Igniting Communities, Inspiring Change Introduction and Icebreakers Plenary 11:00 – 11:45 Keynote 1 Integral Ecology as Hope in Action Emanuel Katongole, Bethany Land Institute, Uganda 11:45 – 12:30 Discussion	Introduction by Iris Stewart-Frey Plenary 9:00 – 10:00 Keynote 2 Seeds of Hope. Learning with Indigenous Communities in Times of Ecological Crisis Link to Abstract Gabriela Franco & Mario Patron, Ibero Merida (30min pres., 30min disc.) 10:30 – 12:30 Communities of Practice Chaired by Iris Stewart, Santa Clara University and Mélodie Honen-Delmar, Jesuit Worldwide Learning. Strengthening Hope through Community-Engaged Research: Leveraging Networks and Partnerships to Advance Solidarity and Environmental Justice Link to Abstract Iris Stewart and Allan Baez-Morales (SCU) (30min) Community Voices Maitha Mathias (Uganda) and Anita Anitta Yogarajah (Sri Lanka) (JWL graduates and community leaders) (30 min) Discussion and Breakout Sessions (60 min)	Introduction by Peter Rožič SJ Parallel Sessions II 9:00 – 10:30 Plenary Hope in the Digital Age: Integral Ecology, AI Ethics, and the Commons 11:00 – 12:30 Session A Rooted in Hope: Faith, Farming, and Climate Displacement 11:00 – 12:30 Session B Hope in Action: Just Transition, Higher Education, and Environmental Justice	8:30 - 9:30 Departure & Good byes
	12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break	12:30 – 14.00 Lunch break	12.00 – 14.00 Lunch break	
Arrival	Parallel Sessions I 14:00 – 15:30 Plenary Integral Ecology in Practice: Community Engagement, Solidarity Economies, and Indigenous Environmental Justice 16:00 – 17:30 Session A Active Hope and Integral Ecology: Faith, Restoration and Environmental Justice 16:00 – 17:30 Session B Shaping Hope for a Just Future: Narratives, Natural Resources, and Human Rights	14:00 - 18:00 Excursion to the Uetliberg. Hike to a local mountain top and panoramic view of the sunset. Easy, even for Non-Swiss 😊 We will take a cable car up and a mountain gondola down the hills.	Plenary 14:00 – 15:30 Keynote 3 Social Justice, Education and Sustainability Myriam Radhouane, University of Geneva (online) (45 min presentation, 45min discussion) 16:00 – 18:00 Workshop: Reflection and Strategies 18:00 – 19:00 Eucharist (optional)	
18:30 Dinner	18:30 - 19: 30 Dinner	18:30 - 19: 30 Dinner	19:00 - 20:30 Farewell Barbecue	
19:45 – 20:30 Welcome Tour of the venue	19:30 – 20:30 Where clear water meets alpine views. Promenade walk through Zurich	19:30 – 21:00 Cultural evening Music, dancing and folklores		

Keynotes & Community of Practice

Keynote Speakers

Emanuel Katongole,
University of Notre Dame, USA & Bethany Land Institute, Uganda

Thursday, August 20
11.00 – 12.30 **Plenary**

Integral Ecology as Hope in Action

Emmanuel Katongole will share insights into the work of the Bethany Land Institute (BLI) in Uganda. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, BLI applies the principles of integral ecology to address the interconnected challenges of food insecurity, environmental degradation, and poverty in rural communities. Its mission is to foster the regeneration of agricultural, ecological, and economic livelihoods, contributing to the long-term transformation of rural Uganda. He will reflect on the key insights and convictions that have emerged through BLI's work, exploring the nature, meaning, and transformative power of hope within the practice of integral ecology.



Emanuel Katongole

Emmanuel Katongole is a Catholic priest, ordained (1987) for the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda. He serves as Professor of Theology and Peace Studies in the Keough School, University of Notre Dame, and as the Director of [the Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion](#). Before joining the University of Notre Dame (Jan 2013), he served as Associate Professor of Theology and World Christianity at Duke University, and as founding co-director of the Duke Center for Reconciliation. He is the author of several books, including *Reconciling All Things* (with Chris Rice, Intervarsity 2008); *The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa* (Eerdmans, 2010), *Born from Lament: The Theology and Politics of Hope in Africa* (Eerdmans, 2017), *The Journey of Reconciliation: Groaning for New Creation in Africa* (Orbis 2017), and *Who Are My People? Love, Violence and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2022). He is co-founder, and President of [Bethany Land Institute](#) in Uganda.

Community of Practice: Keynote Speakers

Mario Ernesto Patrón Sánchez, IBERO Mérida &
Gabriela Franco Cejudo, IBERO Mérida

Friday, August 21
9.00 – 10.00 **Plenary**

Seeds of Hope: Learning with Indigenous Communities in Times of Ecological Crisis and the new Laudato Si' University in Mérida, Yucatán

As ecological and social crises deepen across the world, hope must become more than a feeling, it must become a practice. Drawing on experiences with Indigenous communities in Mexico, this keynote explores how ancestral knowledge systems offer living lessons in reciprocity, belonging, resilience, and care for the Earth. These communities remind us that humans are not separate from nature, but participants in a web of relationships that sustains life.

The keynote will connect these lessons to the emergence of IBERO Mérida, a new Jesuit university currently being designed in the Yucatán Peninsula as an expression of Laudato Si' and Integral Ecology. Situated within Mayan territory, the university seeks to become not only a place of learning, but a catalyst for ecological regeneration, intercultural dialogue, and regional flourishing.

Because IBERO Mérida is still being imagined, this session is also an invitation. Together, participants will explore a series of questions:

- What can universities learn from Indigenous communities about living well within ecological limits?
- How can Indigenous wisdom shape not only what we teach, but how we learn, govern, build, and relate?
- What should a Laudato Si' University acknowledge, protect, and celebrate in the territory it inhabits?
- How might a university become a living expression of reciprocity between people, community, and nature?
- What responsibilities do educational institutions have in regions facing rapid ecological and social change?
- What must we avoid repeating from conventional models of higher education?
- What would make a university a genuine source of hope for future generations?



Mario Ernesto Patrón Sánchez

Mario Ernesto Patrón Sánchez is Project Lead of IBERO Mérida and former President of IBERO Puebla. A lawyer by training, he holds a master's degree in Human Rights and Democracy from FLACSO Mexico and completed studies in Public International Law at American University's Washington College of Law. Throughout his career, he has combined leadership in Jesuit education, human rights advocacy, academia, and public service. He became the first layperson to lead the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center and has taught at UNAM, FLACSO, and Universidad Iberoamericana.



Gabriela Franco Cejudo

Gabriela Franco Cejudo is a strategist, regenerative development practitioner, and organizational designer with over twenty years of international experience in sustainability, leadership, and systems transformation. Trained as an economist at IBERO Mexico City, she holds an MSc in Regenerative Development from Schumacher College and the University of Plymouth (UK). Her work spans the corporate, nonprofit, and development sectors, including collaborations with HSBC, the Gross National Happiness Centre in Bhutan, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Indigenous communities. She currently coordinates the development of IBERO Mérida, advancing regenerative, intercultural, and transdisciplinary approaches to higher education.

Community of Practice: Keynote Speakers

**Iris Stewart-Frey, Santa Clara University &
Allan Báez-Morales, Santa Clara University**

Friday, August 21
10.30 – 11.00 **Plenary**

Strengthening Hope through Community-Engaged Research: Leveraging Networks and Partnerships to Advance Solidarity and Environmental Justice

Across the globe, communities face converging crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and systemic poverty—dynamics that often make despair convincing. Addressing these challenges requires more than technical solutions; it calls for transdisciplinary action-oriented collaborations that integrate applied academic research with practical experience that cultivate active hope and foster communities of practice capable of social-ecological transformation. Inspired by Laudato Si' and the call to hear the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," we examine how community-engaged research partnerships may function as hubs for networks that advance solidarity and environmental justice from the local to the international scale. Grounded in Integral Ecology, we argue that the mission-driven and common good approach of Jesuit institutions can work as a catalyst for transformative community-centered research approaches leveraging partnerships and networks.



Iris Stewart-Frey

Iris Stewart-Frey is a Professor for Water Resources at Santa Clara University. She leads the Water and Climate Justice Lab, is the co-coordinator of the Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative on campus, and the founder of the Northern California Network for Community-Academic Partnerships in Environmental Justice Teaching and Research. Her research examines the impact of climate variability and changes on water resources and human and ecological communities using models, and spatial & statistical analysis. She uses a community-based participatory approach to connect science findings to issues of justice in the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, and provide thought leadership towards sustainable water and climate systems. Professor Stewart-Frey has been a NOAA postdoctoral fellow, a Clare Boothe Luce faculty fellow, a FRIAS (Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies) fellow, and Santa Clara University's recipient of the 2025 Award of Sustained Excellence in Research. Her work has been funded by the U.S. EPA, NOAA, NSF, as well as several foundations.



Allan Báez Morales

Allan Báez Morales, M.Sc., is a sociologist with a master's degree in geology. He has over 14 years of experience working with social ventures, governmental research institutions, and academia to develop technologies that support socially vulnerable communities and environmental conservation. His work spans social ventures and nonprofit organizations in Silicon Valley (California), Africa, and Latin America, in collaboration with Silicon Valley companies such as HP, Google, Cisco, and the former Twitter. His collaborative projects have been featured in media outlets including The New York Times, Telemundo, BBC, and KTVU Fox in the United States. Currently, Mr. Báez serves as Director of Programs and Partnerships at the Frugal Innovation Hub (FIH) in the School of Engineering at Santa Clara University. In this role, he co-leads engineering projects with undergraduate and graduate students to develop social and environmental technologies for FIH's partner organizations worldwide, working with transdisciplinary teams of students, faculty and community-based organizations. Mr. Báez is also the co-founder of the Latin America Frugal Innovation Network and co-leads the Humanitarian and Frugal Innovation Task Force of the International Association of Jesuit Engineering Schools.

Community of Practice: Community Voices

**Anitta Yogarajah, Loyola Campus Sri Lanka &
Maitha Mathias, Jesuit Refugee Service, Uganda**

Friday, August 21
11.00 – 11.30 **Plenary**

Community Voices from JWL: Sri Lanka and Uganda



Mélodie Honen-Delmar

Mélodie is the Global Director of Research and Learning at Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). She will provide a brief introduction to JWL's mission and work, with a particular emphasis on its initiatives in Sri Lanka and Uganda.

Mélodie Honen-Delmar is Global Director of Research and Learning at Jesuit Worldwide Learning, where she oversees academic programs delivered to marginalized and emergency settings. As a PhD Student in Education at the University of Geneva, she researches the transformative role of higher education in emergencies and the learning journeys of students in crisis contexts. She also coordinates various initiatives that amplify the voices of learners affected by crises such as the JWL PhD Collegium and Student-Led Research Hub and is the creator and host of the podcast Higher Ed Voices at the Margins. Her research interests lie at the intersection of higher education and international development, with a focus on student experience, education in crisis settings, and the role of technology and AI in learning.



Anita Yogarajah

Anitta will share how sustainability education, grounded in Integral Ecology, can become a form of hope in action through community-engaged learning. Drawing on her experiences with Jesuit Worldwide Learning and local initiatives in Sri Lanka, she will reflect on how education empowers individuals and communities to respond to socio-ecological challenges while fostering environmental justice, resilience, and collective responsibility.

Anitta Yogarajah is a Global English Language Facilitator at Loyola Campus, Mannar, Sri Lanka. Her educational journey began as a learner in the Global English Language programme and later expanded through Jesuit Worldwide Learning, where she progressed from student to facilitator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Development and has extensive experience in education, facilitation, and community engagement. Her academic and professional interests include sustainability education, Integral Ecology, community resilience, and the cultivation of active hope through transformative and participatory learning practices.



Maitha Mathias

Maitha's contribution reflects on what it means to be a community practitioner from the perspective of a refugee educator. He briefly introduces Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) and reflects on how access to higher education shaped his own journey, ultimately leading to the establishment of a refugee-led community organization that is now expanding access to higher education within refugee communities.

Maitha Mathias is a researcher and educator from the Democratic Republic of Congo, based in Uganda. His work focuses on governance, displacement, education, and sustainable development, with emphasis on how institutional frameworks are operationalized and tested under conditions of forced displacement. He works closely with refugee communities in Uganda and is engaged in refugee education initiatives, facilitation processes, and community-based learning and sustainability practices. His research examines the distribution of participation, authority, and accountability within educational, humanitarian, and environmental governance systems. Across his work, he analyzes refugee and displaced communities not only as participants within institutional processes but as actors through which the operational credibility of policies and frameworks can be assessed. His work asks how governance systems respond when those most affected by their decisions function as evaluators of their effectiveness.

Keynote Speakers

**Myriam Radhouane,
University of Geneva**

Saturday, August 22
14.00 – 15.30 **Plenary**
(Online)

Social Justice, Education and Sustainability



Myriam Radhouane

Myriam Radhouane is Assistant Professor at the University of Geneva in the field of Education, Sustainability, and Global Citizenship. Her current research focuses primarily on the schooling of refugee students in resettlement countries and on teacher education in this area. She has conducted research on teacher training in intercultural approaches and on teachers' practices in addressing cultural diversity. Her research interests include social justice, international mobility, and the teaching profession. She also coordinates training programs and conducts research in the field of Education in Emergencies (EiE).

Overview of the Parallel Sessions

Thursday, August 20, 2026	PLENARY	Integral Ecology in Practice: Community Engagement, Solidarity Economies, and Indigenous Environmental Justice	
	14.00 – 14.30	Anitta Yogarajah – Integral Ecology as Hope in Action: Sustainability Education as a Community-Engaged Practice	
	14.30 – 15.00	Sonia Carolina López Cerón – The stratified emergentist Polanyian perspective at the service of integral ecology: A relational approach for the institutionalization of territorial solidarity-based economic circuits	
	15.00 – 15.30	Atikah Nuraini – National Inquiries on Indigenous Rights and Territories: Reframing Human Rights, Forest Governance, and Environmental Justice	
	PARALLEL SESSIONS I	Session A Active Hope and Integral Ecology: Faith, Restoration and Environmental Justice	Session B Shaping Hope for a Just Future: Narratives, Natural Resources, and Human Rights
	16.00 – 16.30	Malon Muronzi – Active Hope in Practice: Ecological Restoration and Planetary Resilience in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe)	Stefan Einsiedel & René Leibold – Shaping realistic hope: the role of narratives in the quest for sustainability
	16.30 – 17.00	Josafat Morales– Extractivism in Latin America: an integral vision for hope	Raúl Sandro Díaz Flores – Active Hope and Integral Ecology: Transdisciplinary Practices for Environmental Justice from Rural Territories in Northern Nicaragua
	17.00 – 17.30	Pedro Walpole SJ – What is Integral Ecology for a Community of Faith?	Kjia Rivers – The Human Right to Safe Drinking Water (online)
Saturday, August 22, 2026	PLENARY	Hope in the Digital Age: Integral Ecology, AI Ethics, and the Commons	
	9.00 – 9.30	Charles Henry & Kevin FitzGerald – Integral Ecology and The Humanistic Tradition: The IERN and CLIR Partnership to Design and Develop an Integral Ecology Digital Commons	
	9.30 – 10.00	Peter Rožič SJ – Hope as Institutional Capacity: Governing Digital Commons under Ecological Finitude	
	10.00 – 10.30	Evaristus Ekwueme SJ – Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Technological Wastes: A Reason for Hope	
	PARALLEL SESSIONS II	Session A Rooted in Hope: Faith, Farming, and Climate Displacement	Session B Hope in Action: Just Transition, Higher Education, and Environmental Justice
	11.00 – 11.30	Srdjan Maksimovic – The Eucharistic Vision of Creation: Orthodox Christianity, Active Hope, and the Formation of Ecological Responsibility	Elena Šiaudvytienė – Evaluating Just Transition Through Integral Ecology: Insights from Lithuania
	11.30 – 12.00	Hezbon Awiti – Hope Rooted in the Soil: Practicing Laudato Si’ Through Community-Led Climate-Smart Farming in Times of Ecological Crisis	Diana Patricia Giraldo G. & María-del-Mar Magallón – Uncovering what is hidden, an essential step towards strengthening hope
	12.00 – 12.30	Maitha Mathias – When Hope Is Designed Elsewhere - Refugee-Led Reality Checks on Climate and Environmental Governance Frameworks	Mélodie Honen-Delmar – Hope in Action at the Margins: Higher Education as a Catalyst for Environmental and Social Justice in Contexts of Displacement

**Anitta Yogarajah, Global English Language Facilitator,
Loyola Campus Sri Lanka**

Thursday, August 20
14.00 – 14.30 [Plenary](#)

Integral Ecology as Hope in Action: Sustainability Education as a Community-Engaged Practice



[Link to Anitta's abstract](#)

This presentation examines how sustainability education, informed by the framework of Integral Ecology, can function as a community-engaged practice that fosters active hope and resilience in response to contemporary socio-ecological challenges. Drawing upon the principles of Integral Ecology, the paper emphasizes the interconnectedness of environmental sustainability, social justice, human dignity, and community well-being. It argues that educational approaches grounded in relationality, ethical responsibility, and critical reflection can empower individuals and communities to respond constructively to ecological and social crises. By connecting global environmental concerns with local knowledge and lived experience, sustainability education becomes a transformative space for collective action, shared responsibility, and pathways toward sustainable and inclusive socio-ecological flourishing.

Anitta Yogarajah is a Global English Language Facilitator at Loyola Campus, Mannar, Sri Lanka. Her educational journey began as a learner in the Global English Language programme and later expanded through Jesuit Worldwide Learning, where she progressed from student to facilitator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Development and has extensive experience in education, facilitation, and community engagement. Her academic and professional interests include sustainability education, Integral Ecology, community resilience, and the cultivation of active hope through transformative and participatory learning practices.

**Sonia Carolina López Cerón, Assistant Professor,
Department of Business, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana**

Thursday, August 20
14.30 – 15.00 [Plenary](#)

The stratified emergentist Polanyian perspective at the service of integral ecology: A relational approach for the institutionalization of territorial solidarity-based economic circuits



[Link to Sonia's abstract](#)

This paper presents solidarity-based economic circuits as practices with the potential for the emergence of active, community-led hope. This presentation forms part of a project focused on the co-design of institutionalization processes for solidarity-based economic circuits of prosumption and their interaction within the local and regional economy, in such a way that, through mutual feedback, they generate their own material and cultural sustainability. This objective is framed within agroecology processes and agri-food circuits supported by the Suyusama Foundation in the departments of Nariño and Putumayo in Southern Colombia. In order to promote and strengthen community-based processes, this paper presents the design of the transdisciplinary approach which is being used for the project.

Sonia López Cerón is Professor of the economics of the family and finance for sustainability at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia. Sonia's work is grounded in relational ontology and critical realism as metatheory. In her research and classes, she works from integral ecology as a basis for fostering critical thinking with an orientation towards the design of creative alternatives to contextualized problems. She advances interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on socio-economic transformations and the achievement of flourishing societies with a special interest in exploring structural, cultural and agential causal mechanisms and how their interactions condition societal change.

**Atikah Nuraini, Senior Associate,
Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), Indonesia**

Thursday, August 20
15.00 – 15.30 [Plenary](#)

Reframing Human Rights and Environmental Justice: A Comparative Analysis of National Inquiries into Indigenous Rights and Territories in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines



[Link to Atikah's abstract](#)

Human rights mechanisms, particularly national inquiries by NHRIs, are crucial for advancing environmental justice in Southeast Asia. Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines have used these to address indigenous land rights in forest areas, with the Philippines also examining climate change's human rights impact. These inquiries address systemic issues such as loss of customary lands due to state-led development, corporate exploitation, and weak legal protection, aiming to redress historical injustices, restore ancestral territories, and resolve conflicts. However, deforestation and environmental damage remain underexplored. Effective socio-ecological conflict transformation requires addressing structural issues—legal frameworks, tenurial insecurity, and socio-economic impacts—through transparent, participatory engagement. While NHRIs' accountability efforts are commendable, their impact depends on robust policy reforms, substantial remedies, and enforcement to avoid being merely symbolic.

Atikah Nuraini is an Indonesian human rights activist, educator, and Senior Associate at Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR). With over decade at Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission, she led Indonesia's National Inquiry on indigenous customary forest rights. She developed tools and conducted Participatory Action Research (PAR) for conflict and human rights survivors in Indonesia, Timor Leste, South Thailand, Solomon Islands, and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. Holding a PhD in Applied Conflict Transformation Studies from Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and Pannasastra University, Cambodia, she supports transitional justice, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation across Asia.

**Malon Muronzi, Climate Change Advocate,
Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Zimbabwe**

Thursday, August 20
16.00 – 16.30 [Parallel Session I](#)

Active Hope in Practice: Ecological Restoration and Planetary Resilience in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe)



[Link to Malon's abstract](#)

Malon Muronzi explores how active hope, embedded in community-led ecological restoration, can strengthen planetary resilience and advance socio-ecological justice in Zimbabwe. Drawing on two restoration initiatives, he demonstrates how transdisciplinary collaboration and practical environmental action foster both ecosystem recovery and community resilience. By integrating Hope Theory with Resilience Theory, the study argues that hope is not merely an aspiration but a measurable driver of environmental and social transformation. The findings present active hope as a scalable approach for addressing ecological degradation and promoting sustainable development across Southern Africa.

Malon Muronzi is an environmentalist and climate change advocate from Zimbabwe. He serves as a volunteer with Guest and Tanner and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace Zimbabwe. He also volunteers with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), where he focuses on environmental migration and climate mobility. As a Laudato Si' Certified Animator, he promotes ecological and climate justice through education and advocacy. His work centers on supporting communities in environmental advocacy, climate governance, and sustainable development initiatives.

**Stefan Einsiedel, lecturer and managing director,
Center for Social and Development Studies, Munich
School of Philosophy, Germany**

**René Leibold, Entrepreneur, research fellow at the
Lassalle-Institute and Lecturer at the Nordakademie**

Shaping realistic hope: the role of narratives in the quest for sustainability

In their presentation, the two researchers explore the role of narratives in the quest for sustainability. They argue that people use narratives to make sense of the vast amount of sometimes contradictory information from the worlds of science and everyday life. The researchers then go on to explore which narratives shape our understanding of sustainability, how they motivate us to take action or to remain inactive, and how we can support sustainable narratives that translate hope into action.

[Link to Stefan & René's abstract](#)



Stefan Einsiedel is Lecturer and Managing Director of the Centre for Social and Development Studies (Zentrum für Globale Fragen) at the Munich School of Philosophy, Germany. Trained as a biologist and economist, his research focuses on the ethics of sustainability, socio-ecological transformation, climate justice, and global participation. Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives from environmental ethics, development studies, and the Capability Approach of Amartya Sen, his work explores pathways towards sustainable and equitable futures.



René Leibold is an entrepreneur and scholar with a PhD in Philosophy. His research focuses on entrepreneurship and narratives. He is a research fellow at the Lassalle-Institute and lecturer at the Nordakademie. His business activities are primarily in the pet care & food industry and the human resources sector.

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

Raúl Díaz, Director of the Innovation Information Center at the Association for Social Development of Nicaragua (ASDENIC)

Thursday, August 20
16.30 – 17.00 [Parallel Session I](#)

Shaping realistic hope: the role of narratives in the quest for sustainability



[Link to Raúl's abstract](#)

In the context of the climate crisis and profound inequalities, this contribution proposes understanding active hope not as an expectation, but as a collective practice of transformation. Based on the experience of the Nicaraguan Social Development Association (ASDENIC) in rural communities in northern Nicaragua, it shows how Integral Ecology comes to life when science, local knowledge, and community action converge to strengthen resilience, food security, and water stewardship. Inspired by Laudato Si' and Engaged research, this contribution argues that communities not only confront the socio-environmental crisis but also generate knowledge, innovation, and alternatives for environmental justice. It is an experience where the territory becomes a teacher, a laboratory, and a horizon of hope.

Raúl Díaz the director of the Nicaraguan Social Development Association (ASDENIC), where he promotes initiatives in Food Security, Productivity, Safe Water, Social Entrepreneurship and other actions that focus on improving the quality of life of people and the sustainable strengthening of environments to eradicate impoverishment and favor a society where all people have the same opportunities. From ASDENIC and supported by national and international centers, he promotes social entrepreneurship, involving young people from the rural sector and university students, developing solutions to problems in a creative and innovative way.

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

Josafat Morales Rubio, Associate Professor, Political Sciences and Government Faculty, Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla

Thursday, August 20
16.30 – 17.00 [Parallel Session I](#)

Extractivism in Latin America: An integral vision for hope



[Link to Josafat's abstract](#)

Since the Colonial era, Latin America has exported raw materials to industrialized countries. However, due to ecological concerns and the social inequality that characterizes the subcontinent, Latin America's extractivism has been questioned from various perspectives. Considering the economic and geopolitical vision of the dependency theories, the ecological and social vision of the political ecology approach, and the religious consideration of the Catholic Church, mainly presented by Pope Francis and the CELAM, this presentation seeks to answer the question: How can the development theories, the political ecology approach, and the Catholic Church's recent social teaching contribute to an integral vision for hope in the case of extractivism in Latin America?

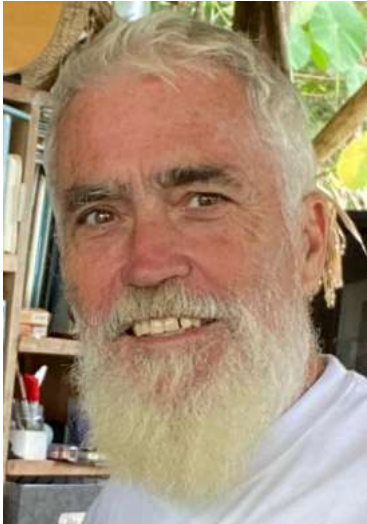
Josafat Morales Rubio, MEd in History, and a PhD in Social and Political Science by *Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México*. He is currently Associate Professor at the Political Sciences and Government Faculty of the *Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP)*. In the same institution, he is fellow of the *Instituto Promotor del Bien Común*, in which he coordinates the Integral Ecology for Common Good Research Line. Member of Mexico's National Research System (SECIHTI) and the *Red Iberoamericana de Investigación en Imaginarios y Representaciones (RIIR)*, where he coordinates the working group "Environmental Conflicts, Extractivisms and Imaginaries".

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

**Pedro Walpole SJ, Director,
Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center,
the Philippines**

Thursday, August 20
17.00 – 17.30 [Parallel Session I](#)

What is Integral Ecology for a Community of Faith?



The voice of the faith sharing in the journey with these people comes from listening to the cry of the poor and cry of the Earth. Basic Ecclesial Communities and Basic Human Communities are an enriching part of this journey and the care for creation has much to learn from Indigenous Peoples. Beyond the stories and reflections, the desire is that this discussion gives further substance to the process by sharing the lived-in-creation experience of the indigenous and how local communities share the sense of mission found in their daily lives.

Pedro Walpole SJ is Director for Research at Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) in the Philippines. He holds a doctorate in Land Use Change and coordinates the River Above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Network (RAOEN). He is a practitioner in sustainable environmental and community land management. His work focuses on promoting social justice through environmental management, reducing poverty in forest communities, fostering partnerships for local development, and advancing social concerns in forest law enforcement and governance, climate justice, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. He lives with the upland Indigenous Pulangiyeñ community, and responsible for APC Cultural Educational Center.

[Link to Pedro's abstract](#)

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

**Kjia Rivers, Senior Policy Advocate,
Community Water Center (CWC), California**

Thursday, August 20
17.00 – 17.30 [Parallel Session I](#)
(Online Session)

The Human Right to Safe Drinking Water



In 2012, Community Water Center (CWC) worked to pass the Human Right to Water which recognizes that “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.” 14 years later and Californians are still working to realize the Human Right to Water for their communities. Frontline communities across the Central Valley and Central Coast grapple with nitrate contamination. Despite these challenges, impacted communities continue to elevate the need for stronger regulations to prevent further nitrate contamination and to protect their access to drinking water. Community Water Center supports communities with the tools to hold local and state governments accountable to ensure safe drinking water and finally realize the Human Right to Water.

At CWC, Kjia Rivers works alongside nitrate impacted communities to elevate the need for safe drinking water in California's Central Valley and Central Coast. Originally from San Diego, Kjia attended the University of California, Santa Barbara to obtain her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Political Science. During her time at UCSB, she learned about environmental justice issues and how vulnerable communities are often left out of the policy making process.

[Link to Kjia's abstract](#)

**Charles Henry, President,
Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), USA**

**Kevin FitzGerald, Trustee,
Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), USA**

Integral Ecology and the Humanistic Tradition: The IERN and CLIR Partnership to Design and Develop an Integral Ecology Digital Commons

In 2025, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the Integral Ecology Research Network (IERN) entered into a strategic relationship to develop an integral ecology digital commons. Based upon a core belief that nature is not separate from human society, its design is grounded in the environmental humanities and Catholic social teaching. It approaches the causes and consequences of environmental degradation as complex and interconnected crises that must engage multiple perspectives to be understood and addressed. The integral ecology digital commons will become a resource that democratizes and makes accessible a broad array of knowledge, especially for communities most affected by environmental crises. The commons will become a collaborative platform for researchers, policy makers, and community actors across multiple disciplines. It will support multi-generational and cross-disciplinary activities globally.

[Link to Charles and Kevin's abstract](#)



Charles Henry is President of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), USA. An elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has published widely on digital humanities, leadership, and innovation in higher education administration. His current work explores the perceptual transformations and cognitive strategies required to address climate change, with particular attention to the cultural and intellectual dimensions of sustainability beyond purely technical and engineering solutions.



Kevin FitzGerald is Trustee of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) (USA) and liaison with the Integral Ecology Research Network (IERN). Kevin holds a Doctor of Design (DDes) from North Carolina State University College of Design (USA). His design practice and research address complex, networked, adaptive, and common pool problems.

**Peter Rožič SJ, Director,
Integral Ecology Research Network at the Laudato Si'
Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford**

Saturday, August 22
9.30 – 10.00 [Plenary](#)

Political Theology as Institutional Judgement: Hope and the Governance of Digital Commons



[Link to Peter's abstract](#)

Contemporary institutions increasingly exercise authority through standards, metadata, procedures and algorithmic systems rather than through singular sovereign decisions. This paper argues that political theology must therefore become capable of institutional judgement: translating theological claims into governance arrangements that can be contested, revised and enforced. In conversation with Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas*, it develops a grammar of gift, limit and communion for governing shared goods under ecological finitude. The argument is explored through the emerging Digital Integral Ecology Library / Commons (DIEL/DIEC), where questions of metadata, access, AI-assisted discovery and community authority make the institutional stakes concrete. Hope in action is understood neither as optimism nor institutional success, but as the durable capacity of communities to share authority, impose limits, preserve memory, challenge decisions and repair harm.

Peter Rožič SJ is Director of the Integral Ecology Research Network at the Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford. His work sits at the interface of political theology, ecological ethics, and institutional governance, with a focus on how normative claims can be translated into operational forms that shape decision-making in public and organisational settings. He works with global partners across higher education and civil society to support communities of practice engaged in integral ecology and environmental justice. Current projects include the Digital Integral Ecology Library / Commons (DIEL/DIEC), developed in collaboration with the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), which explores ethical metadata stewardship, provenance practices, and responsible AI-enabled discovery for community-governed knowledge commons.

**Evaristus Ekwueme SJ, Academic Director for
Africa/Madagascar and Global IT Officer,
Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), Switzerland
(Professor of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Georgetown University)**

Saturday, August 22
10.00 – 10.30 [Plenary](#)

Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Technological Wastes: A Reason for Hope



[Link to Evaristus' abstract](#)

The entire production processes and cycles of our modern civilization are destructive to the environment. The technologies for drilling, mining, production wastes management, the byproducts and the products all contribute in no small measure to the environmental crisis. There was a great hope that new technologies like Artificial Intelligence and supercomputing would help in cutting down the carbon footprint through the discovery and innovation of alternative environmental friendly production processes. This paper will explore ethical solutions that are worth considering for the repositioning of artificial intelligence as a viable solution to the environmental crisis. There is still reason for hope.

Evaristus Ekwueme SJ is a Nigerian Jesuit priest. He has a Master of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from Boston University; Master of Arts in Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy from Boston College, USA. He was Lonergan Fellow at Boston College. He was a Visiting Professor of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Jesuit Chair at Georgetown University, USA. He has worked as Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Information Technology Manager, professor of ethics at Arrupe Jesuit University, Zimbabwe. He has published academic articles, book chapters, including in the Oxford Encyclopedia of African Thought.

Srdjan Maksimovic, PhD.,
theologian, educator, and entrepreneur, USA

Saturday, August 22
11.00 – 11.30 [Parallel Session II](#)

The Eucharistic Vision of Creation: Orthodox Christianity, Active Hope, and the Formation of Ecological Responsibility



[Link to Srdjan's abstract](#)

This paper examines how Orthodox Christianity can contribute to ecological responsibility as a form of active hope. It argues that the Orthodox Eucharistic vision of creation understands the world not as inert matter, private possession, or exploitable resource, but as gift, communion, and offering. Within this framework, ecological responsibility emerges from the internal grammar of Orthodox worship, doctrine, and spiritual practice. The paper brings Orthodox theology of creation into conversation with integral ecology, environmental ethics, pedagogical practice, and applied sustainability. It also reflects on the teaching of Environmental Ethics and renewable-energy work in Bosnia and Herzegovina as examples of how faith-based communities can form practical habits of ecological responsibility.

Srdjan Maksimovic recently completed his Ph.D. in Theology at Fordham University, where his research engaged biblical theology, migration, ecology, and public responsibility. He earned a Th.M. in New Testament from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, with coursework at Harvard Divinity School through the BTI Consortium. He has taught theology, religion, and ethics at Fordham University and St. Sava Serbian Orthodox School of Theology, and is scheduled to teach graduate courses in Eco-Theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Theology and Migration at Holy Cross through the BTI Consortium. He is also co-founder and owner of MP Green Renewable Energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Elena Šiaudvytienė, Assistant Professor,
Department of International Relations and Development,
Director, Center for Research on Faith and Human Flourishing,
LCC International University, Lithuania

Saturday, August 22
11.00 – 11.30 [Parallel Session II](#)

Evaluating Just Transition Through Integral Ecology: Insights from Lithuania



[Link to Elena's abstract](#)

This paper explores how integral ecology can cultivate active hope by reshaping the way just transition policies are evaluated and informing future policy design. Grounded in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and transdisciplinary evaluation research, it brings together ecological, social, ethical, and spiritual perspectives to orient just transition policies toward the common good. A normative evaluation framework places integral ecology in dialogue with Blue Marble Evaluation across three interrelated dimensions: economic ecology, justice, and sociality. Applied to 23 Lithuanian strategic policy documents, the findings show strong environmental commitment, yet justice-related elements remain insufficiently articulated and participation is often formal rather than meaningful. The paper concludes that this lens clarifies conceptual blind spots and opens pathways for collaborative transformation and active hope.

Elena Šiaudvytienė is Assistant Professor and Director of the Centre for Research on Faith and Human Flourishing at LCC International University, Klaipėda, Lithuania. She earned a doctorate on just transition at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, developing an integral ecology framework for evaluating transition policies, and later completed a CREATE Programme postdoctoral project there. She holds a Master's degree in European Studies from Vilnius University, is studying Catholic theology at Vytautas Magnus University, served as a Research Fellow with the Economy of Francesco Academy, and is a JTPeers expert in the European Commission's Just Transition Platform database.

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

**Hezbon Awiti, Program Officer,
Centre for Research, Training and Publications,
Hekima University College, Kenya**

Saturday, August 22
11.30 – 12.00 [Parallel Session II](#)

Hope Rooted in the Soil: Practicing Laudato Si' Through Community-Led Climate-Smart Farming in Times of Ecological Crisis



[Link to Hezbon's abstract](#)

Hezbon's research explores the intersection of environmental justice, climate change adaptation, food security, and climate-smart agriculture in drought-prone regions of Kenya. Drawing on the ethical framework of Laudato Si', this study examines how vulnerable rural communities sustain collective hope and resilience through community-led climate-smart farming practices. Using a participatory action research approach, the paper highlights the role of local knowledge, solidarity, and ecological responsibility in addressing climate-induced food insecurity and environmental degradation. The findings demonstrate that climate-smart agriculture serves not only as an adaptation strategy but also as a pathway to restoring dignity, strengthening social cohesion, and advancing environmental justice and sustainable development.

Hezbon Awiti is a researcher and project management professional with a strong interest in environmental justice, climate change adaptation, food security, and climate-smart agriculture, conflict management and Peacebuilding. He serves as a Program Officer at the Centre for Research, Training and Publications, Hekima University College, where he coordinates research and development projects. He has published research on climate change adaptation and climate smart agriculture, and has extensive experience managing projects that promote environmental sustainability, community resilience, environmental justice and Peacebuilding.

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

**María-del-Mar Magallón, PhD Candidate in Business
and territorial competitiveness, innovation and
sustainability, Deusto Business School, Spain**

**Diana Patricia Giraldo G., PhD candidate in
Development Studies, University of Lisbon, Portugal**

Both are part of the Comparte Network

Saturday, August 22
11.30 – 12.00 [Parallel Session II](#)

Making the Invisible Visible: Revealing Collective Capacities for Hope and Transformation

A key factor affecting the development of Social and Solidarity Economy initiatives in contexts of exclusion is the lack of information and monitoring systems. This limitation not only constrains the capacity of these initiatives to evolve but also hinders the design of more effective support strategies.

In such contexts, support networks can play a crucial role. This research presents a sustainability evaluation system developed through a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach within the Comparte community of practice. The system fosters shared learning and supports the design of more sustainable and effective support strategies. It also contributes to advancing context-sensitive utopias, grounded in the realities of each setting and in the capacities of the actors involved.

[Link to María and Diana's abstract](#)



Maria-Del-Mar Magallón is an Industrial Engineer with a master's degree in Humanitarian Action (NOHA) from the University of Deusto and a master's degree in the Evaluation of Public Policies and Programmes from the Complutense University of Madrid. She has more than 20 years of experience in international cooperation through the Jesuit NGO Alboan, where she held leadership roles in organizational development, people management, and strategic planning, serving as Director from 2014 to 2020.

A member of the Comparte Network since its inception, she is currently completing her PhD research on the sustainability assessment system co-designed and implemented within the network, the experience presented at this conference.



Diana Giraldo is an economist with a master's degree in Globalization and Development from the University of the Basque Country (Spain). She has over 20 years of professional experience in Colombia, including work in the retail sector and in international cooperation projects with rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities through Instituto Mayor Campesino and Comparte Network. Her doctoral research focuses on the transformative potential of Solidarity Economic Circuits (CES), mechanisms of change for socio-economic transformation, and the construction of territorial alternatives oriented towards Buen Vivir.

Parallel Sessions and Discussions

**Maitha Mathias, Researcher & Educator,
Unity Learning Foundation &
Jesuit Refugee Service, Uganda**

Saturday, August 22
12.00 – 12.30 **Parallel Session II**

When Hope Is Designed Elsewhere - Refugee-Led Reality Checks on Climate and Environmental Governance Frameworks



This paper examines how refugee-led sustainability initiatives provide a critical perspective on climate and environmental governance frameworks that emphasize participation, inclusion, and hope. Drawing on refugee-coordinated work in environmental education, community sustainability, and institutional partnerships in East Africa, it explores the gap between policy commitments and the conditions under which communities are expected to act. The paper argues that hope cannot be sustained through procedural inclusion alone when decision-making authority, resources, and accountability remain unevenly distributed. Rather than treating refugees as beneficiaries of governance outcomes, it positions refugee communities as important evaluators of whether governance commitments are operationally credible. The analysis contributes to debates on environmental justice, participation, and socio-ecological transformation.

Maitha Mathias is a researcher and educator from the Democratic Republic of Congo, based in Uganda. His work focuses on governance, displacement, education, and sustainable development, with emphasis on how institutional frameworks are operationalized and tested under conditions of forced displacement. He works closely with refugee communities in Uganda and is engaged in refugee education initiatives, facilitation processes, and community-based learning and sustainability practices.

[Link to Maitha's abstract](#)

Mélotie Honen-Delmar,
Global Director of Research and Learning,
Jesuit Worldwide Learning, Switzerland

Saturday, August 22
12.00 – 12.30 **Parallel Session II**

Hope in Action at the Margins: Higher Education as a Catalyst for Environmental and Social Justice in Contexts of Displacement



[Link to Mélotie's abstract](#)

This contribution explores the transformative role of higher education in refugee contexts through doctoral research with students enrolled in Jesuit Worldwide Learning's Bachelor in Sustainable Development. It argues that higher education is not merely a pathway to employment but a catalyst for hope, agency, and community transformation. Drawing on students' lived experiences and engaging with the work of Paulo Freire and Ronald Barnett, the paper proposes a cyclical model of Higher Education in Emergencies, in which critical learning empowers students to become community leaders, problem-solvers, and knowledge creators. The study demonstrates that higher education strengthens resilience, dignity, and collective capacity, positioning it as a vital yet often overlooked dimension of environmental justice and sustainable development in crisis-affected communities.

Mélotie Honen-Delmar is Global Director of Research and Learning at Jesuit Worldwide Learning, where she oversees academic programs delivered to marginalized and emergency settings. As a PhD Student in Education at the University of Geneva, she researches the transformative role of higher education in emergencies and the learning journeys of students in crisis contexts. She also coordinates various initiatives that amplify the voices of learners affected by crises such as the JWL PhD Collegium and Student-Led Research Hub and is the creator and host of the podcast Higher Ed Voices at the Margins. Her research interests lie at the intersection of higher education and international development, with a focus on student experience, education in crisis settings, and the role of technology and AI in learning.

Members of the task force



Tobias Karcher SJ

Fr. Tobias Karcher SJ serves as the director of the Lassalle-Institut in Zurich, Switzerland since 2016. He studied philosophy, theology, and social sciences in Freiburg, Paris, Frankfurt, and Munich before joining the Jesuit Order in 1989. Following his formation, he pursued postgraduate studies in Boston and Detroit. From 2002 to 2009, Fr. Karcher served as Director of the Heinrich Pesch Haus in Ludwigshafen, a centre for Catholic social ethics and adult education. He was Director of the Lassalle-Haus in Zug, Switzerland, from 2009 to 2023. His work focuses on leadership development through mindfulness and discernment, supporting executives in making thoughtful and responsible decisions. He has expertise in virtue ethics and ethics of action and is engaged in exploring the relevance of Christian social ethics and business ethics in today's economic and corporate environment.



Alberto Irezabal

Alberto Irezabal is the director of the International Investigation Center of Social and Solidarity Economics (CIESS) of the Universidad Iberoamericana (Ibero) at Mexico City, specializing in financing, capacity building and multi stake holder strategies for social enterprises. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, a master's in business administration of social economy from Mondragon Unibertsitatea in Spain and a PhD in advanced organizations of social economy from the same university. Since 2007 he has worked alongside tseltal indigenous communities in the northern jungle of Chiapas, México in the promotion of inclusive development alternatives for the organic coffee, honey, personal care and finance value chains. He serves in both national and international academic, editorial and business boards and committees.



Peter Rožič SJ

Peter Rožič SJ is Director of the Integral Ecology Research Network at the Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford. His work sits at the interface of political theology, ecological ethics, and institutional governance, with a focus on how normative claims can be translated into operational forms that shape decision-making in public and organisational settings. He works with global partners across higher education and civil society to support communities of practice engaged in integral ecology and environmental justice. Current projects include the Digital Integral Ecology Library / Commons (DIEL/DIEC), developed in collaboration with the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), which explores ethical metadata stewardship, provenance practices, and responsible AI-enabled discovery for community-governed knowledge commons.



Iris Stewart-Frey

Iris Stewart-Frey is a Professor for Water Resources at Santa Clara University. She leads the Water and Climate Justice Lab, is the co-coordinator of the Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative on campus, and the founder of the Northern California Network for Community-Academic Partnerships in Environmental Justice Teaching and Research. Her research examines the impact of climate variability and changes on water resources and human and ecological communities using models, and spatial & statistical analysis. She uses a community-based participatory approach to connect science findings to issues of justice in the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, and provide thought leadership towards sustainable water and climate systems. Professor Stewart-Frey has been a NOAA postdoctoral fellow, a Clare Boothe Luce faculty fellow, a FRIAS (Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies) fellow, and Santa Clara University's recipient of the 2025 Award of Sustained Excellence in Research. Her work has been funded by the U.S. EPA, NOAA, NSF, as well as several foundations.

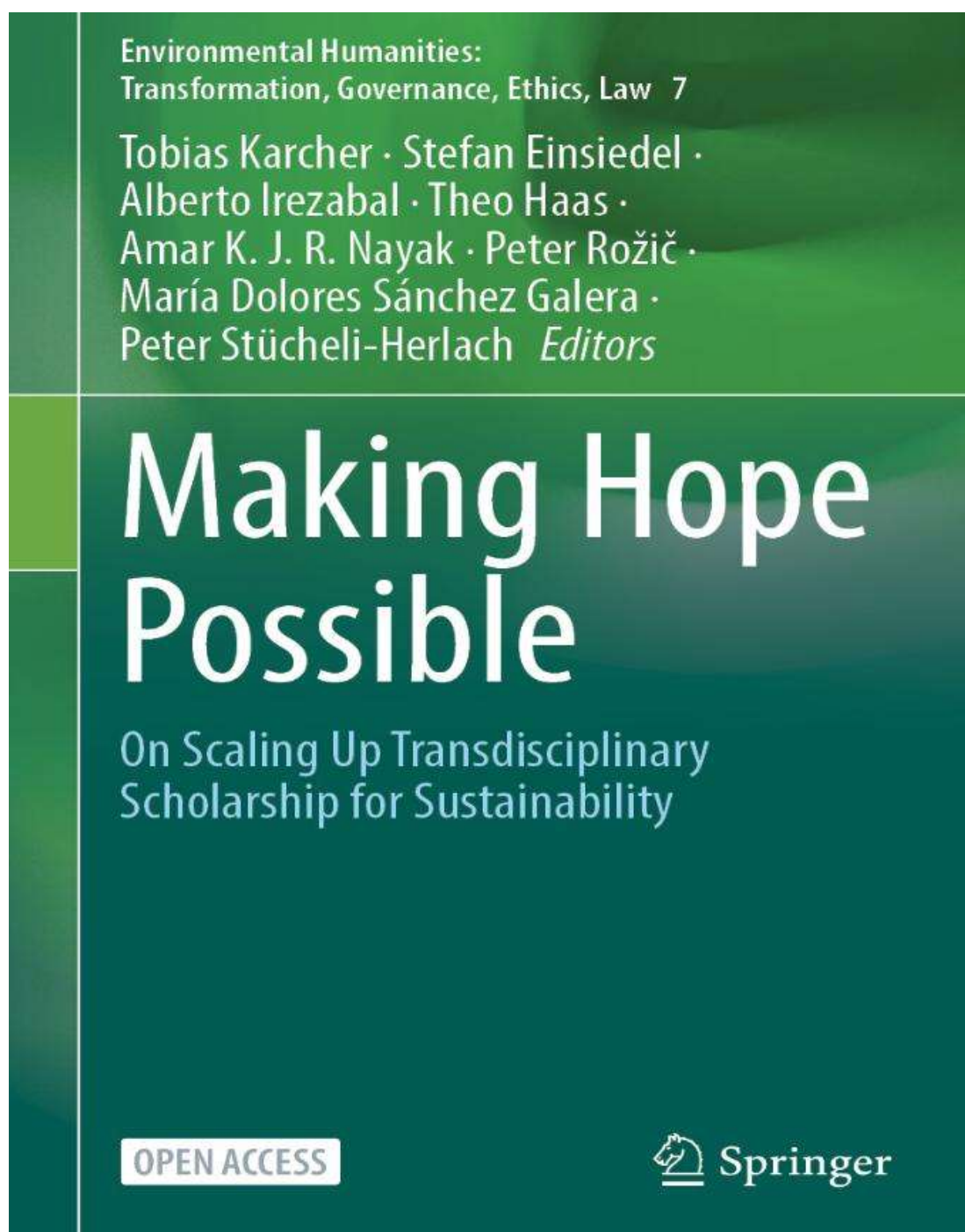


Mélodie Honen-Delmar

Mélodie Honen-Delmar is Global Director of Research and Learning at Jesuit Worldwide Learning, where she oversees academic programs delivered to marginalized and emergency settings. As a PhD Student in Education at the University of Geneva, she researches the transformative role of higher education in emergencies and the learning journeys of students in crisis contexts. She also coordinates various initiatives that amplify the voices of learners affected by crises such as the JWL PhD Collegium and Student-Led Research Hub and is the creator and host of the podcast Higher Ed Voices at the Margins. Her research interests lie at the intersection of higher education and international development, with a focus on student experience, education in crisis settings, and the role of technology and AI in learning.

From Conference to Publication: The Book Project Emerging from the 3rd International Transdisciplinary Biennial on Environmental Justice in 2024

The volume *Making Hope Possible: On Scaling Up Transdisciplinary Scholarship for Sustainability* emerged directly from the 2024 international transdisciplinary conference "Environmental Justice: Making Hope Possible", organized by the Lassalle-Institut and its partners. It is an outcome of a collaborative effort to explore how hope can serve as both a conceptual and practical foundation for addressing today's interconnected ecological and social crises. Rather than understanding hope as mere optimism, the editors frame it as a shared practice that enables individuals and communities to respond constructively to uncertainty, injustice, and environmental degradation. In this sense, hope becomes an essential dimension of transdisciplinary scholarship aimed at fostering societal transformation.



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List of Participants

Name	First Name	Institution
Awiti	Hezbon	Hekima University College, Kenya
Baez-Morales	Allan	Santa Clara University, USA
Ballett	Manuela	Jesuitenweltweit, Switzerland
Díaz Flores	Raúl Sandro	ASDENIC, Nicaragua
Einsiedel	Stefan	Munich School of Philosophy, Germany
Ekwueme SJ	Evaristus	Jesuit Worldwide Learning, Switzerland
FitzGerald	Kevin	Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), USA
FitzGerald	Cindy	Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), USA
Franco	Gabriela	IBERO Mérida, Mexico
Giraldo	Diana Patricia	University of Lisbon, Portugal; COMPARTE network
Henry	Charles	Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), USA
Honen-Delmar	Mélodie	Jesuit Worldwide Learning, Switzerland
Katongole	Emanuel	University of Notre Dame, USA
Karcher SJ	Tobias	Lassalle-Institut, Switzerland
Kremser	Louis	Lassalle-Institut, Switzerland
Kurmann	Toni	Jesuit Worldwide Learning, Switzerland
Leibold	René	NORDAKADEMIE, Germany
López Cerón	Sonia Carolina	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia
Mathias	Maitha	Jesuit Refugee Service, Uganda
Maksimovic	Srdjan	Fordham University, USA
Miller	Christopher Jain	Arihanta Institute, USA
Morales	Josafat	Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla, Mexico
Muronzi	Marlon	Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, Zimbabwe
Nuraini	Atikah	Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), Indonesia
Patron Sánchez	Mario Ernesto	IBERO Mérida, Mexico
Radhouane	Myriam	University of Geneva, Switzerland
Rivers	Kjia	Community Water Center, USA
Rožič SJ	Peter	University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Šiaudvytienė	Elena	LLC International University, Lithuania
Stewart-Frey	Iris	Santa Clara University, USA
Trier	Susanne	Lassalle-Community
Walpole SJ	Pedro	Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center, Philippines
Yogarajah	Anitta	Loyola Campus, Sri Lanka

