

**Host:** Lassalle-Institut, Zug/Zürich (CH)  
**Co-Organizers:** Georgetown Environmental Justice Program, Washington DC (USA)  
Leuphana University of Lüneburg (D)  
ZHAW sustainability, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Zurich (CH)

**Associate Partners:** Munich School of Philosophy (D)  
Centre for Development and environment, UniBern (CH)  
Environmental Sciences & Humanities Institute, Uni Fri (CH)  
**In Collaboration with the following partners:**  
2-3 Universities in Latin America, Africa in Asia (to be confirmed )

are pleased to invite to this  
**Pre-Conference**

# Making hope possible

On scaling up engaged scholarship for socio-ecological transformation  
**August 27-31, 2023, Switzerland**

in order to prepare the

*3<sup>rd</sup> International Transdisciplinary Biennial on Environmental Justice*  
**Making hope possible**  
**August, 2024, Switzerland**



Yann Arthus-Bertrand, *La Terre vue du ciel* (Copyright YAB)

**The International Transdisciplinary Biennial on Environmental Justice** at Lassalle-Institute (Switzerland) offers an inter- and transdisciplinary platform for common activities (such as research exchange, communicative validation of results, networking, methodological innovations) between engaged scientists and reflective practitioners concerned by socio-ecological transformation.

**The Biennial is aimed at** scientific team leaders, senior and junior researchers, students, activists and decision-makers in industry, public administration and politics engaged in the topic and in transformation projects. As hosting organization operated by the worldwide Society of Jesus (religious order of the catholic church), Lassalle-Institute (Zug/Zürich) builds bridges between different spiritual traditions as well as between sciences, diverse fields of professional practice, industry and civil society since many years.

**At the BIENNIAL IN 2024, the common work on environmental justice will focus in particular on the question of how hope can be made possible by action oriented transdisciplinary collaboration in view of aggravating crisis of climate change and biodiversity and of the need for decrease of global injustice.**

**At the PRE-CONFERENCE IN 2023, co-organizers and Associate Partners invite institutions, decision-makers and scholars interested in further collaboration and partnership to prepare the Biennial as well as joint activities during the year such as open-access publications, transformation projects, mentorships or groups for intervention.**

### **To what we aspire**

**Nowadays**, coming from approaches such as “engaged scholarship” (van de Ven 2007, Barge & Shockley-Zarabac 2008) and transdisciplinarity (Mittelstrass 2003, Hirsch Hadorn et al. 2008), discussions focus on concepts such as “transformative science” (Schneidewind & Singer-Brodowski 2014) and “Active Hope” (Macy & Johnstone 2012/2022). The Biennial in 2024 will be dedicated to the **investigation of such concepts** as well as of similar ones presented by participants. Main questions are:

- How far can “hope” be a **legitimate, intercultural and valid concept for transdisciplinary research and cross-border collaboration** on ecological transformation and decrease of injustice? What could it mean regarding scientific ethics, scientific-industry and scientific-politics collaboration?
- How are diverse disciplines such as economy, ecology, ethics, political and communication sciences, public management, governance studies etc. identify, argue and explain the **evidence of optimistic perspectives**? How do they deal with the **evidence for pessimism**?
- How could “active hope” be modeled further as a “practice” (Macy & Johnstone 2012/2022, p. 4) and thus how can we “tackle the mess we’re in” (ibid.) in **diverse fields of transdisciplinary work** such as (natural, social, technical) scientific research, policy planning and implementation, as well as public and community communications?

**Our approach** is resolutely transdisciplinary and transformative and open to the questions arising from policy fields, international organizations, internationally networked companies and democratic movements. We welcome not only presentations that allow us to envisage a way out of a catastrophic acceleration of global warming but also the means to fight against the erosion of biodiversity, the rarefaction of water and critical minerals and the collapse of public spheres. Concrete initiatives taken on the field in terms of agro-forestry, permaculture, agricultural cooperatives, circular societies, network communication, civic participation etc. as well as the democratic revitalization of both environmental and urban commons are welcome.

## Reply form

- No thanks**, I'm not interested at the moment, but please stay in contact with me for future activities.
- Yes, I'm interested** in taking part of the Biennial in 2024. Therefore, I'm offering an engagement as follows:
- correspondent partner** (online-Meeting during the Pre-Conference in 2023; mediation of the call for the Biennial on Environmental Justice from autumn 2023, secondment of speakers for the Biennial in 2024; contributions to joint open-access publications)
  - associate partner** (Attendance at the Pre-Conference in 2023; mediation of the call for the Biennial on Environmental Justice from autumn 2023; secondment of speakers for the Biennial in 2024 or organizing an own panel; recruiting staff for transdisciplinary transformation projects; contributions to joint open-access publications)
  - co-organizer** (co-organization of the Pre-Conference in 2023; attendance at the Pre-Conference in 2023 at one's own expense; scouting and recruiting KeyNotes and speakers for the Biennial in 2024; chairing panels and/or topical sessions at the Biennial in 2024; attendance of a preparation meeting in spring 2024; recruiting staff for transformation projects)
  - project partner** (online-Meeting during the Pre-Conference in 2023; submission of a transdisciplinary issue to be presented at the Biennial in 2024 and to be processed in follow-up; initial funding; cooperation with transdisciplinary researchers and advisors to solve the problem; cooperation for contributions to open-access publications on the project and its results)
  - sponsoring partner** (individual initial meeting with representatives of the co-organizers; benefit in kind and/or monetary donation for the 3th Biennial in 2024 to facilitate traveling, accommodation, catering, fringe events, open-access publications and/or transformation projects)
  - media partner** (Attendance at a Media Conference in Zurich in Spring 2024; presentation of announcements, speakers, backstories and/or promotion of an open-access publication on own platforms in self determined formats during 2024)

first name:

name:

academic titles:

institution:

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professional functions:

e-Mail:

Phone:

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Please send back to

[tobias.karcher@lassalle-institut.org](mailto:tobias.karcher@lassalle-institut.org)

or

Lassalle-Institut, Tobias Karcher SJ, Bad Schönbrunn, 6313 Edlibach (Switzerland)

till April 1, 2023