

ANNUAL REPORT

KASSEL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

2024
/ 25

CONTENT

Foreword	2
Milestones	4
People and Structure	6
Research at KIS	12
Teaching and Program Development	24
Exchange and Transfer	28
Outlook	48
Appendix	50

1 FOREWORD

Nearly three years have passed since numerous scholars came together at the “Challenges of Sustainability” conference in September 2022 to jointly discuss ideas around which the Kassel Institute for Sustainability (KIS) could be founded and organized. At the time of the conference, the first of up to 17 SDG professorships had only recently taken up their positions at the University of Kassel, while the first core professorships were already in the process of appointment. The idea of establishing a new institute based on internationally recognized sustainability goals, with the aim of better connecting and integrating the diverse and pluralistic sustainability competences of the University of Kassel, quickly gained visibility.

At that time, the institute consisted materially of four almost empty offices without even a printer. The period since then can best be described as dynamic. Much has happened: first and foremost, on a very tangible level, the institute has been provided with premises and an infrastructure that has since been continuously expanded. Researchers at all career stages have begun working at the institute. Doctoral and postdoctoral projects are being pursued, research projects and teaching collaborations established. The institute is growing, and one of the most rewarding aspects is being able to observe this growth. Almost every week, a new face appears at the institute, actively contributing to its development through the various faculties. A healthy social atmosphere and a distinct sense of momentum prevail. The people working in and around the institute share the ambition of turning the University of Kassel’s vision of positioning itself strongly in the field of sustainability into reality — regardless of whether they joined the university in the context of the institute’s establishment or had already been part of it beforehand.

Much has already been achieved. 14 SDG professorships have been established, nine of which have already been filled. The bachelor’s programs “Integrated Sustainability Studies (INaS)” and “Nachhaltigkeitswissenschaften – Sustainability Studies” have come into force, and the first students have commenced their studies. The first research proposals and projects are under review or already underway.

With the project “Transformative Teaching & Learning for Sustainability (TORCH)”, a large-scale project funded with several million euros has been successfully acquired through the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education Teaching. This project will enable a much stronger integration of sustainability teaching, while at the same time making the work of lecturers and program coordinators somewhat easier. Networking within the University of Kassel has also intensified considerably. Through the Kassel Institute Retreat in spring 2024, as well as the workshops accompanying the collegial inaugural lectures, a more in-depth exchange has emerged around our shared understanding of sustainability and our modes of collaboration. In this context, seven focal areas have been defined, encompassing four material fields of need. Human–environment interactions, socio-technical systems, resilient spaces, and global welfare practices are themes that, in our shared assessment, can be addressed with particularly high impact at the University of Kassel. With democracy, law and justice, as well as reflexivity, we also see ourselves as normatively well positioned to work with a robust concept of sustainability.

A special feature of the KIS is its comparatively strong human resources, albeit closely intertwined with the specialist departments, which distinguish it from many other centers of sustainability research. Bringing together up to 17 professorships in a single networked topic is an ambitious goal, even for universities of excellence. The networked structure of the SDG professorships — half of which are based in the department and half at KIS — is both a practical challenge and a living example of interdisciplinarity. From our perspective, all parties involved — within the university leadership, the faculties and the institute itself — are working towards achieving this goal in the best, fairest and most impactful way possible. Another defining characteristic is that, since its founding, the institute has consistently been understood as a joint endeavor of the university as a whole. This means that all faculties collaborating with the institute cooperate closely with one another on all relevant matters.

We hope that the following pages will provide readers with a clear impression of what has already been achieved and that the reading characterizes the institute for what it is: a forward-looking, vibrant and innovative collective process. Given the diversity of our activities in research and teaching, this report does not claim to be exhaustive, but rather offers a representative insight into our work.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

Andreas Braun, Andreas Fischer-Lescano, Andra Horcea-Milcu,
Stefan Lechtenböhmer, Susanne Ritzmann und Sarah Wedde

2 MILESTONES

2020

- Decision to establish a scientific center for sustainability research and teaching
- Founding Board of Directors begins work (a list of members can be found in the appendix)

2021

- Call for applications for the four core professorships prepared by the founding board
- Appointment of management:
Dr. Sabine Säck-da Silva

2024

- Inaugural lectures by the four core professors
- Conduction of the first transformation workshop
- Kassel Institute Retreat: Conference to network the sustainability community at the University of Kassel and beyond
- New appointment to the management board:
Dr. Sarah Wedde
- Start of the minor in sustainability studies in the 2024/25 winter semester
- Establishment of a permanent visiting professorship
- Since 10/2024: Visiting Professor **Dr. Franziska Hof-fart** [Sustainable Economics & Transformation]

2022

- Appointment of the first professors:
Prof. Dr. Andreas Braun | FB 11 — Human-Environment Interactions
Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano | FB 01 — Just Transitions
Prof. Dr. Christoph Gornott | FB 11 — Agricultural Ecosystem Analysis and Modeling
Prof. Dr. Lisa Carstensen | FB 05 — Global Political Economy of Labor with a Focus on Gender Relations
- Center for Environmental Systems Research [CESR] to be transferred to KIS

2023

- Appointment of additional professorships:
Prof. Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhrer | FB 15 — Sustainable Technology Design
Prof. Dr. Alexander Popp | FB 11 — Sustainable Land Use and Climate Protection
Prof. Dr. Andra Horcea-Milcu | FB 02 — Cultures of Sustainability
Prof. Dr. Susanne Ritzmann | KHK — Sustainable Product Design and Development
- International Center for Development and Decent Work [ICDD] to be transferred to KIS

WE ARE HERE

2025

- Board election:
Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano — Research
Prof. Dr. Andreas Braun — Teaching
Prof. Dr. Susanne Ritzmann — Transdisciplinarity
Prof. Dr. Andra Horcea-Milcu — Deputy Research
Prof. Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhrer — Deputy Teaching
- Establishment of Research Focal Areas: Socio-Environment Interactions, Global Welfare Practices, Socio-technical Systems, Resilient Spaces, Democracy, Justice, Reflexivity
- Start of the bachelor's program in Sustainability Studies in the 2025/26 winter semester and other new sustainability programs
- Since 04/2025: Visiting Professor **Prof. Dr. Klaus Dörre** [Social-Ecological Sustainability Conflicts]
- Since 10/2025: Visiting Professor **Dr. Ana Bonet** [Sustainability Transformations]
- Start of the project "Transformative Teaching & Learning on Sustainability [TORCH]"

- Appointment of additional SDG professorships
- Development of additional sustainability degree programs

3 PEOPLE AND STRUCTURE

CORE PROFESSORSHIPS:



PROF. DR. ANDREAS FISCHER-LESCANO
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
Just Transitions | FB 01



PROF. DR. ANDREAS BRAUN
DIRECTOR OF TEACHING
Human-Environment Interactions | FB 11



PROF. DR. ANDRA HORCEA-MILCU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
Cultures of Sustainability | FB 02



PROF. DR. STEFAN LECHTENBÖHRER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TEACHING
Sustainable Technology Design | FB 15

SDG PROFESSORSHIPS:



PROF. DR. LISA CARSTENSEN
Global Political Economy of Labor | FB 05



PROF. DR. SUSANNE RITZMANN
DIRECTOR OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY
Sustainable Product Design | KHK



PROF. DR. ALEXANDER POPP
Sustainable Land Use and Climate Protection
| Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research + FB 11



PROF. DR. CHRISTOPH GORNOTT
Agricultural Ecosystem Analysis and Modeling | FB 11

VISITING PROFESSORS:

In 2024, the decision was made to establish a visiting professorship. The professorship is initially designed to last six years, will be reappointed each year, and is dedicated to interdisciplinary research and teaching in the field of sustainability transformation processes. The position was first filled in October 2024 by **Dr. Franziska Hoffart**. In October 2025, the KIS was able to recruit **Dr. Ana Bonet** for the visiting professorship.

As part of the strategic development of the research focus area “Socio-Ecological Sustainability Conflicts” an additional visiting professorship was established in cooperation with Department 01 (Human Sciences). The position is a 50% appointment with a two-year term and has been held by **Prof. Dr. Klaus Dörre** since April 2025.



DR. ANA BONET
Sustainability Transformations



PROF. DR. KLAUS DÖRRE
Social-Ecological
Sustainability Conflicts



DR. FRANZISKA HOFFART
Sustainable Economics and Transformation

ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Prof. Dr. Andreas Braun | **Teaching**
Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano | **Research**
Prof. Dr. Susanne Ritzmann | **Transdisciplinarity**

DEPUTIES

Prof. Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhrer
Prof. Dr. Andra Horcea-Milcu

The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years (KIS Statutes § 6 [3]). The Executive Board convenes the Board of Directors and chairs its meetings, reports regularly to the Board of Directors on all important matters concerning the Institute, chairs the General Assembly, represents the Institute externally, prepares regular evaluations, implements the decisions of the Board of Directors, and makes operational decisions in the management of KIS (KIS Statutes § 7 [4]).

EXECUTIVE BOARD

According to the statutes, the Executive Board is the decision-making body of the KIS and is composed of various status groups. The eight professorial members and the three representatives of the mid-level academic staff are elected by the General Assembly in separate elections for each status group, with the aim of achieving gender parity. The three student members are elected by the Student General Assembly. The Women's* and Equal Opportunities Officer, the institute's management, and two representatives of the technical and administrative staff are advisory members. The tasks of the Executive Board include, for example, electing the Board of Directors, deciding on the budget, and shaping the research strategy of the KIS.

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Dr. Nele Austermann | **Decentralized Women's* and Equal Opportunities Officer**
Antje Bracht | **technical-administrative employee**
Benjamin Matoff | **technical-administrative employee**
Dr. Sarah Wedde | **Management**

PROFESSORS

Prof. Dr. Miriam Athmann | **FB 11**
Prof. Dr. Andreas Braun | **FB 11**
Prof. Dr. Kristina Dietz | **FB 05**
Prof. Dr. Andreas Ernst | **CESR**
Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano | **FB 01**
Prof. Dr. Andra Horcea-Milcu | **FB 02**
Prof. Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhrer | **FB 15**
Prof. Dr. Susanne Ritzmann | **KHK**

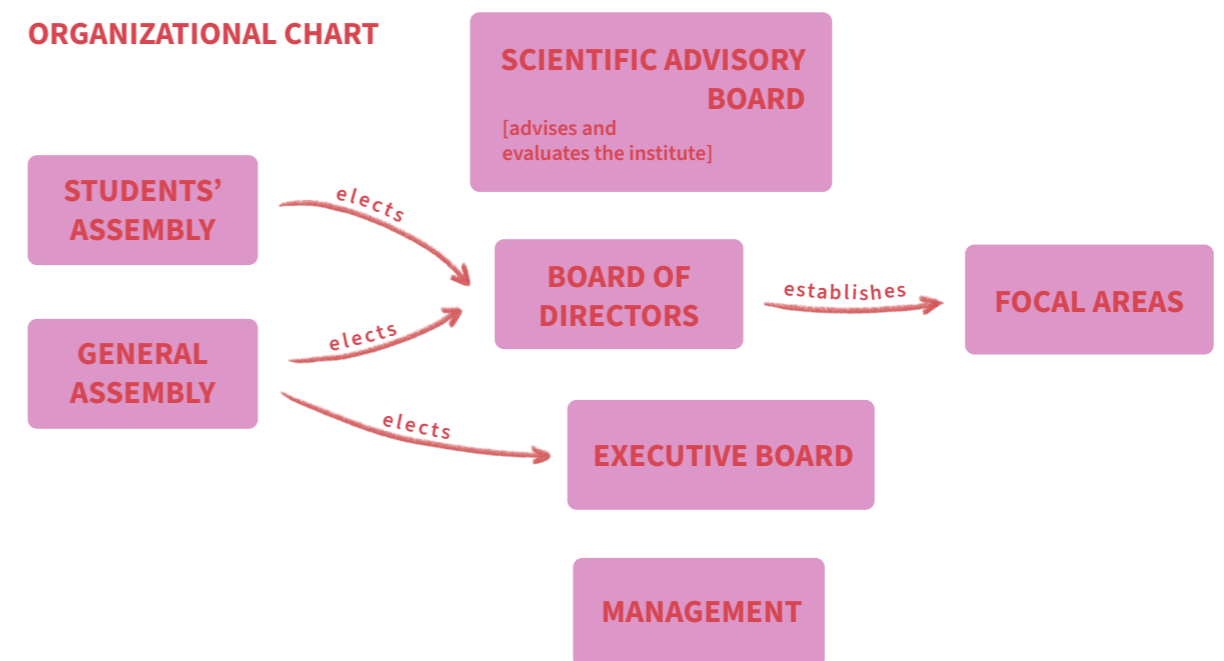
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Katharina Mluddek | **KHK**
Christin Reiß | **FB 01**
Dr. Anna Schomberg | **FB 15**

STUDENT MEMBERS

Maximilian Freundl
Tobias Leiß
Mara Sauskat

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



INFORMATION ON MEMBERSHIP

Scientists at the University of Kassel and cooperation partners working in the field of sustainability sciences can become members of KIS. The prerequisite is the submission of a written application in which relevant projects, publications, and the assignment to a KIS research focus are presented ([KIS Website](#)). The signed application must be sent by email to the managing director, Dr. Sarah Wedde. The KIS board of directors decides on admission; for professors, membership must be formally confirmed by the executive committee of the University of Kassel.

FINANCES

To support the KIS in achieving its goals, the administrative office receives an annual allocation of 54,000 euros from state funds.

Furthermore, in 2023, the University of Kassel secured a five-year grant of 1.6 million euros under the LOEWE-Spitzenprofessur funding line of the Hessian research funding program LOEWE to establish the Just Transitions research area led by Prof. Andreas Fischer-Lescano in the Department of Human Sciences and at the KIS.

To develop an innovative teaching framework for the systematic integration of sustainability into studies and teaching, the University of Kassel and the KIS have been receiving an additional grant of 5 million euros from the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education since 2025, for a fixed term of four years, for the TORCH project – Transformative Teaching and Learning on Sustainability.

A large number of other externally funded projects are being carried out in the respective fields of the core and SDG professors as well as the members of the Institute. Further information on this can be found in the Research section on page 19.



4 RESEARCH AT KIS

Research at KIS is interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary in nature and is guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as broader socio-ecological challenges. The aim is to analyze key topics scientifically, reflect on them critically, and develop solutions. KIS advocates a normative understanding of sustainability that is scientifically reflected in a social context and actively incorporated into social transformation processes. With more than 100 members

from various faculties at the University of Kassel, KIS brings together a wide range of expertise and serves as a central hub for sustainability-related research.

A key development step for the newly founded KIS was the appointment of new core professors. The inaugural lectures by Prof. Andreas Fischer-Lescano and Prof. Andreas Braun in January 2024, as well as by Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer and Prof. Andra Horcea-Milcu in October 2024, marked points of reference in the emerging research agenda. The accompanying workshops underscored KIS's commitment to further developing transformative sustainability research in dialogue between science and society.

Research at KIS is structured around key areas of focus, whose tasks include networking among members and developing innovative research projects and teaching formats. These key areas of research are currently in a targeted development phase. In an open and dynamic process, seven overarching priority areas were identified, consisting of four fields of action (socio-environmental interactions, global welfare practices, resilient spaces, and socio-technical systems) and three related normative dimensions (democracy, justice, and reflexivity). The thematic and methodological diversity of the priority areas forms the basis for long-term, profile-building sustainability research.

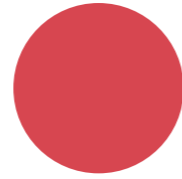
The following section presents a selection of research projects already underway by KIS members. Further research projects are listed here: [KIS Website](#)



The EU Horizon 2020 project EU-CHINA BRIDGE was launched in April 2024 with a European and a Chinese consortium and is being worked on at KIS by Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer's working group. The aim is to support the transition to a climate-neutral, resilient society in Europe and China. Together, the teams are generating knowledge on technological innovations and roadmaps for the climate-neutral production of energy-intensive raw materials such as steel and plastics. Two departments of the Faculty 15 of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kassel are involved, including SusTec, which is developing scenarios and roadmaps for the defossilization of the petrochemical industry together with partners such as the Wuppertal Institute and Tsinghua University. The roadmaps are to be developed in 2025 and 2026 as part of co-creation processes with stakeholders. The initial conceptual and organizational foundations for this were laid in 2024.



In February 2024, the research project “Our sustainable future, the Values that drive it, and how to get there (LEVER)” was launched under the leadership of Prof. Andra Horcea-Milcu. Funded by the European Union, the project is based on the assumption that the prevailing research methods for studying change, transformation, and values are insufficient to address the necessary sustainability transformations. There is a lack of new and transformative methods that can be used to analyze transformation processes and design interventions at the same time. To bridge the gaps between prevailing and transformative methods, LEVER combines Mode 1 and Mode 2 science. Transdisciplinary research and transformative approaches are combined with empirical methods. Through the critical development and application of transformative theory and practice, the co-production of context-specific transformation knowledge is advanced. LEVER works in subprojects together with locally active civil society sustainability initiatives in Germany, Romania, and Moldova to generate transformative knowledge that serves as a path to a context-specific desirable future. A particular research focus is on the joint development of transformative knowledge that shows how values can act as leverage points for sustainability-related engagement.



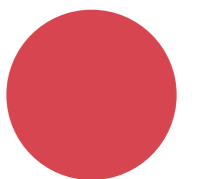
NetVor PERU

Prof. Andreas Braun's working group is exploring new opportunities for cooperation in Peru for the University of Kassel on the topics of pandemic resilience and global health challenges. In addition to universities in Arequipa, Cusco, and Puerto Maldonado — which represent Peru's three characteristic ecozones (coastal desert, high mountains, and rainforest) — contact is also being sought with civil society organizations. A key factor in the selection of potential cooperation partners is a research concept on pandemic resilience, which assumes that public health involves much more than the number of hospitals and laboratory capacities. The research focuses on the emergence of social vulnerability and the One Health approach, i.e., the direct links between the health of ecosystems, animals, and humans. This also brings non-human actors into focus, as well as issues such as food sovereignty and land use conflicts.



IMPLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN REGULATION ON DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS IN ARGENTINA

As part of a collaboration between KIS and an interinstitutional Argentine research network led by the Instituto de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales del Litoral (IHUCSO), the implementation of EU Regulation 2023/1115 on deforestation-free supply chains in Argentina is being investigated. The aim of the project is to analyze the extraterritorial effects of European sustainability policy and the regulatory and socio-ecological challenges of implementation in a key raw material supplier country. KIS is focusing in particular on examining the May 2023 regulation and its regulatory scope, while the Argentine team is evaluating national legal frameworks and existing certification mechanisms. Together, the researchers are analyzing the potential, challenges, and institutional prerequisites for sustainable implementation. The regulation aims to reduce the environmental impact of EU consumption through stricter due diligence requirements along the supply chain and affects raw materials such as beef, soy, cocoa, palm oil, and wood. It particularly addresses deforestation in supplier countries such as Argentina. While the regulation is considered a milestone in environmental protection, there are also challenges in its practical implementation, especially in federal states such as Argentina, where different levels of administration are involved.



EXPERIMENTALE 3: THEME YEAR “TRANSFORMATIONS IN WORK AND ECONOMY”

The experiments conducted in the SDG+ Lab’s theme year “Transformations in Work and Economy” aim to highlight, demonstrate, and make accessible a range of decentralized, socially inclusive, and alternative approaches to a sustainable and circular economy for large sections of the population in northern Hesse. The currently prevailing linear value creation is associated with considerable ecological and social problems and consequences in many areas. The aim of the experiments is to identify alternative ways of doing business, working, producing, and participating in society. Practices and principles that promote a circular society can be decisive in this regard. Approaches such as reuse, sharing, industrial symbiosis, recycling, upcycling, and cooperative management are already firmly established in many areas of society and form an important basis for sustainable change. At the same time, the University of Kassel is developing forward-looking technologies and creating qualifications and projects to harness this potential for the North Hesse region. The combination of social experience and scientific expertise makes it possible to jointly shape the challenges of the necessary transformation. In this way, inclusive development can be initiated that creates acceptance, secures support, and promotes structural change while taking local and regional conditions into account.

SYMOBIO BIO

Technological developments and political support measures have led to a sharp increase in the use of bio-based resources worldwide in recent years, revealing growing conflicts of interest. This use has both local and global impacts on natural factors such as soil, climate, biodiversity, and water availability, as well as on socioeconomic aspects such as income and food security. At the same time, the value chains of the bioeconomy are becoming increasingly globalized, meaning that national support strategies can have indirect effects on land use, the environment, and income in other regions of the world. The growing use of biotic resources therefore requires a deeper understanding of global material flows, as well as a robust database and systemic knowledge of the interactions between resource use and availability. Against this backdrop, the SYMOBIO (Systemic Monitoring and Modeling of the Bioeconomy) joint project series, funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) since 2019, aims to develop and operationalize a monitoring system for the bioeconomy in Germany. The overall coordination of the more than ten participating partner institutions was handled by Prof. Stefan Bringezu in the first two project phases (2019–2025) and by Prof. Rüdiger Schaldach in the third project phase (2025–2027). Prof. Michael Wachendorf’s working group was centrally involved in the project. While the first project phases focused on the methodological development of the monitoring system, the third phase focuses on the operationalization of a set of indicators for national monitoring. The work at the University of Kassel concentrated on the further development of methods for calculating environmental footprints for the analysis of global effects, as well as on remote sensing methods to support regional monitoring of land use effects in Germany.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

In 2025, two major collaborative projects were launched in which KIS members are playing a leading role. First, five KIS members are participating in the LOEWE focus area DyNaMo (Dynamic Mobility), whose spokesperson is Prof. Klaus David. The aim of DyNaMo (running until 2028) is to use a holistic socio-technical approach and artificial intelligence to research methods and measures for significantly increasing traffic safety, thereby promoting sustainable mobility for the city of tomorrow. The research focus is on bicycle traffic as an example.

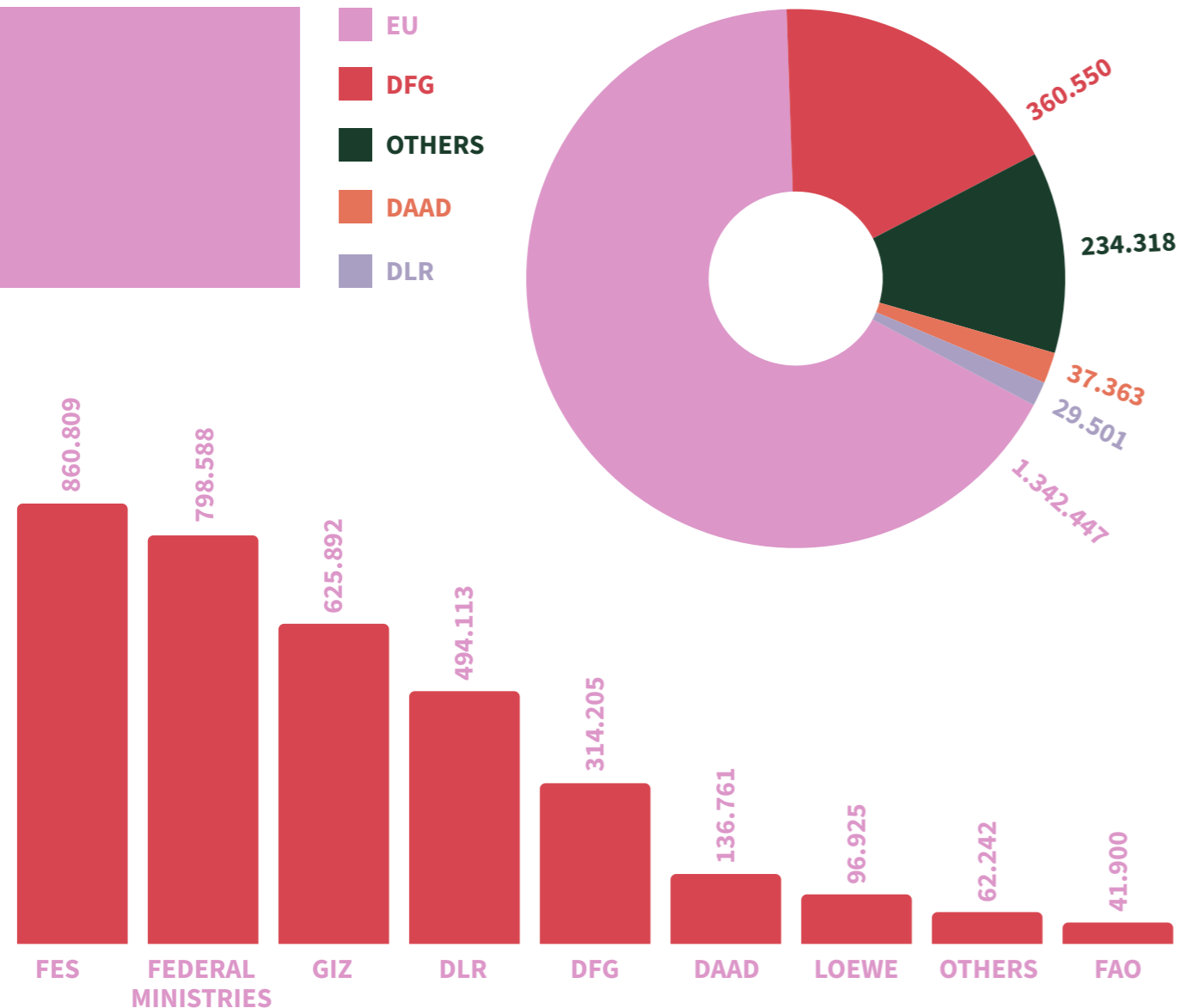
On the other hand, a new international and interdisciplinary joint project is dedicated to the challenges of global urbanization processes, which, together with climate change and the overuse of planetary resources, are among the central challenges of our time. The focus is on the diverse phenomena that arise from the interpenetration of urban and rural spaces and generate independent dynamics of social, ecological, and regulatory change. The research group FOR5903 “Sustainable Rurbanity – Resources, Society, and Regulatory Systems,” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for an initial phase of four years, is coordinated by Prof. Andreas Bürkert (University of Kassel) and Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Schareika (University of Göttingen).



RESEARCH FUNDING

EXTERNAL FUNDING SECURED SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE KIS

The following two charts show the total amount of external funding secured, broken down by funding source. **The top chart shows the funding secured by the four core research areas of the KIS. The bottom chart shows the funding secured by the four SDG professors.** This includes all external funding secured through December 31, 2025, in euros.

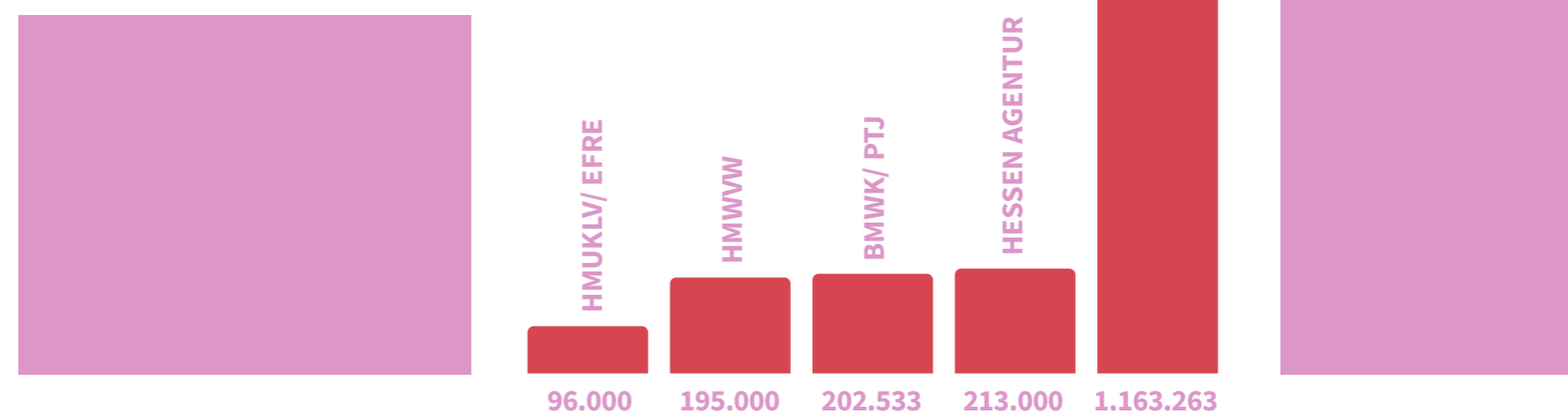


During the founding phase of the KIS, two research centers from the University of Kassel were transferred to the institute (CESR, ICDD). Their research activities are being successfully continued under the umbrella of the KIS. In addition, there is close cooperation with the Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos (CELA).

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH [CESR]

The Center for Environmental Systems Research (CESR) was an interdisciplinary research center that addressed key issues in environmental and sustainability research. Since its founding in 1994, the CESR pursued a systems-oriented approach to analyzing complex interactions between humans and the environment. The goal was to develop a better understanding of global and regional environmental changes and to devise scientifically sound solution strategies for sustainable development.

Research at the CESR combined perspectives from the natural, social, and economic sciences as well as environmental psychology. Key research areas included topics such as climate change, sustainable resource use, water and land management, and the behavior of individuals and societies in addressing environmental problems. Important approaches to addressing scientific questions included methods of systems analysis, computer models, and scenarios used to assess future developments. The CESR consisted of three working groups that cooperated closely with one another. The Sustainable Resource Futures (SURF) group was led by Prof. Stefan Bringezu, the Socio-Environmental Systems Analysis and Modelling (SESAM) group by Prof. Andreas Ernst, and the Global and Regional Integrated Dynamics (GRID) group by apl. Prof. Rüdiger Schaldach. The GRID working group will continue under the umbrella of the KIS. **The following chart shows all external funding secured by the research groups since the center was transferred to the KIS,** broken down by funding source in euros.



INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DECENT WORK [ICDD]

From 2009 to 2019, the ICDD was one of five Centers of Excellence for Exchange and Development funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as part of the “exceed” program of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It was an interdisciplinary, international network of eight partner universities on four continents, headquartered at the University of Kassel in Germany, which cooperated closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and numerous non-governmental organizations. The ICDD’s research focus was on Goal No. 8 of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: decent work and economic growth. On this basis, five main research areas were formulated: 1. Decent work in agricultural production networks; 2. Organization of workers in the informal economy; 3. Extractivism and rural welfare; 4. Urban-rural relations – transformation processes, livelihoods, social security; and 5. Rethinking development cooperation.

From 2020 to 2023, the ICDD served as an “exceed Transfer Center,” supporting new “exceed Centers” through the exchange of expertise and organizational know-how. In this capacity, it worked closely with the Global Partnership Network (GPN) at the University of Kassel. Over a period of 13 years, a total of up to 9.1 million euros in funding was secured from the BMZ via the DAAD.

Although the center closed in 2023, various projects from the ICDD’s research areas are being continued by an SDG professorship and by members of the KIS. On the one hand, this includes Prof. Lisa Carstensen (SDG Professorship in Global Political Economy of Labor with a Focus on Gender Relations), whose acquired third-party funding is listed under the “SDG Professorship” category. On the other hand, these are the KIS members Prof. Andreas Bürkert (Department of Ecological Agricultural Sciences), Prof. Hans-Jürgen Burchardt (Chair of International and Inter-Societal Relations), and Prof. Aram Ziai (Chair of Development Policy and Postcolonial Studies).

A central task is to network Kassel’s Latin American research nationally and internationally. Of particular importance to CELA’s work is the international research network CALAS (Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies), funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology, and Space (BMFTR), with locations in Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Ecuador, in whose coordination the University of Kassel plays a leading role. A central research theme for Kassel-based scholars in the CALAS network is the exploration of perspectives on wealth, inequality, and sustainability in Latin America and Europe, which are investigated jointly by the social sciences and the humanities. This includes questions regarding institutions and actors, politics, democracy, and the economy, as well as research on linguistics, discourse, literature, and art. The first main phase of the network ran from 2019 to 2025 with a total funding volume of 12 million euros. Another key research project at CELA is the “Extractivism” research network, also funded by the BMFTR, which is led by the University of Kassel and carried out in cooperation with Philipps University of Marburg. The network runs from 2021 to 2027 with a total funding volume in Kassel of 2.278 million euros. The directors of CELA are Prof. Kristina Dietz (Department of International Relations with a focus on Latin America) and Prof. Liliana Gómez (Department of Art and Society), both of whom are also members of KIS. Prof. Dietz is also a member of the founding board of KIS.

JUST DOCTORAL PROGRAM

In the 2020s, the world is undergoing radical change. The climate crisis demands rapid ecological restructuring of a society that is already socially polarized. The tension between necessary ecological transformation, strengthening social standards, and reducing growing inequality is politically challenging, and its analysis is a scientific desideratum. The research training group, funded by the Hans Böckler Foundation, is dedicated to researching these processes in four problem areas:

- Transformative education in the education, social, and health sectors
- Accessibility and participation in open space, urban, and landscape planning
- Diversity and inclusion for sustainable companies and supply chains
- Social and democratic institutions, especially in regions undergoing structural change

The JUST doctoral program started in November 2023 and is scheduled to run until November 2026. In 2024/25, a series of events were held as part of JUST. Information on these can be found in the Science Society Interface chapter (page 35).

CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS LATINOAMERICANOS [CELA]

Founded in the summer of 2017, CELA is a center for research with and on Latin America in Kassel. The research center represents and anchors the CALAS research network institutionally at the University of Kassel, consolidates Latin American research conducted there, and promotes this research as a center of excellence at the regional, national, and international levels. CELA sees itself as an interdisciplinary research center with diverse forms of collaboration.





DOCTORAL DEGREES COMPLETED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIS

We are pleased to report that, during the reporting period, numerous sustainability-related doctoral dissertations were completed within the KIS research community. This includes dissertations in which either the primary examiner or the doctoral candidate is affiliated with the institute as a member. A detailed list can be found in the appendix on page 52. We extend our warmest congratulations!

RESEARCH AT KIS - WHAT'S NEXT?

A key task in the coming years will be to further establish the KIS as a center for transformative sustainability research at the University of Kassel. Building on its interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary orientation, the aim is to further strengthen the integration of scientific analysis, critical reflection, and practice-oriented solution development. The goal is to link research even more closely with societal transformation processes.

The planned structure of the research priorities forms an important foundation for more closely networking the work of KIS members and developing new, innovative research approaches and projects.

Another focus is on expanding transdisciplinary and international collaborations. Through increased cooperation with societal actors and international partners, context-specific transformation knowledge is to be generated and effectively implemented.

Through the institutional consolidation and networking of its members, the KIS aims to establish itself in the future as a key driver of a scientifically grounded and socially embedded sustainability transformation.



5 TEACHING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

In the area of teaching and program development, many processes ran in parallel in 2024. With a view to the launch of the first new sustainability-related study program, the minor in Sustainability Studies, in October 2024, a number of milestones were reached: In February, the minor was presented to the target group of prospective students for the first time during the study information days, together with the expected study programs with integrated sustainability studies and the bachelor's program in Sustainability Studies. Also in February, the study component of the "integrated sustainability studies" was certified (comparable to the accreditation of degree programs), which is part of a series of new degree programs at the University of Kassel.

During the KIS retreat in February/March 2024, which involved more than 120 participants from all faculties of the University of Kassel, the new study programs were presented and workshops on teaching and study program topics were offered (including transformation-oriented teaching through competence orientation, possible study program development Sustainable Technology Transition, strategic internationalization of study programs).

Parallel to the overall development and coordination of the new interdisciplinary sustainability-related degree programs, which were accompanied by coordinators from all faculties in a sustainability studies forum beyond KIS, a lot has been done to increase their visibility. The framework for these efforts was provided by the #unikassel360grad marketing campaign (see page 42/43). As part of this, the website was also relaunched in coordination with the Communications and Marketing Department. Other high-profile measures included participation in the campus festival, the BNE Hessen round table, and visits by study advisors from the North Hesse and South Lower Saxony employment agencies, the "Careers with a Future" symposium organized by the Kassel State Education Authority, and two interviews with the HNA newspaper about the new study programs. Within the university, there was also regular exchange with various stakeholders, such as the General Student Advisory Service and the Round Table of Academic Advisors. In addition, a newsletter for prospective students was established and video clips for social media were filmed.



From May 2024 until the end of the year, the process surrounding the KIS application for the teaching architecture of sustainability study programs at the University of Kassel was intensively pursued under the project name TORCH. This was fully approved by the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education Teaching in May 2025.

In the context of the decentralized development of sustainability degree programs at faculties (e.g., Bachelor's in Sustainable Materials and Processes), members of the KIS were consulted for advice or are part of the development group.

The sustainability studies coordinated by KIS began in the 2024/25 winter semester. This minor is an interdisciplinary program consisting of basic modules, a project, and a specialization module. Over six semesters, students complete 40 credits and gain insight into fundamental concepts and methods of sustainability research. Students can choose from 31 specializations that address different aspects of sustainability from specific subject perspectives. Members of the KIS are also involved in teaching the program. The minor can currently be combined with seven majors.

As a result of the KIS retreat, the development of the degree program was extended to the master's level. A working group from Faculties 10, 14, 15, and 16, with the involvement of Faculties 07 and 11, led by Prof. Dr. Stefan Lechtenböhmer, focused on the concrete development of the master's program in Sustainable Technology Transition, which explicitly combines sustainability and transformation skills with technical and project management skills. This program will be anchored in Faculty 15, but is designed to be interdisciplinary in cooperation with Faculties 07, 11, 14, and 16. The program concept was presented in April 2025, and since the following winter semester, initial drafts of the module handbook and examination regulations have been available. The Executive Board's decision on the program concept and accreditation are still pending, so the program is expected to start in the winter semester of 2027/28.

Furthermore, under the leadership of Prof. Andra Horcea-Milcu, initial conceptual considerations were made for the development of a master's program in Sustainability Science with a thematic focus on sustainability transformations. This program will also be developed in cooperation with various faculties and is scheduled to begin in the winter semester of 2027/28.



In the 2025/26 winter semester, the bachelor's program in Nachhaltigkeitswissenschaften – Sustainability Studies, coordinated by KIS, and five other bachelor's programs in sustainability that use the integrated sustainability studies welcomed their first students. The bachelor's program in Sustainability Studies started with a cohort of 60 students, far exceeding the expected enrollment figures. A total of 141 students enrolled in the new programs. Together with the new enrollment figures for the minor in Sustainability Studies, there are 172 students in their first semester (see the chart at the bottom right).



As part of the launch of the new degree programs and as a kick-off to the TORCH project funded by the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education, the two-day KIS workshop “Shaping Transformative Teaching Together” took place at the end of October. Over 80 participants – students, teachers, researchers, and university staff – worked together on the question: How can teaching be made transformative, and what does it need to be effective in times of uncertainty? The workshop was designed as an experimental learning space that combines reflection, exchange, and design. The first day focused on positioning and reaching a common understanding of teaching at the university, while the second day was devoted to the concrete development and testing of new approaches. The goal was not only to discuss the idea of transformative teaching, but also to make it tangible – as an interplay of attitude, relationships, institutional framework, and creative design. The KIS workshop showed that transformative teaching can only emerge through the interplay of different perspectives, across disciplines, status groups, and institutional boundaries. Some ideas from the prototyping sessions on the second day, such as a check-in format, were already applied by the teachers in the following weeks. Other approaches are to be systematically developed further in the TORCH project. TORCH provides the structural framework for deepening and testing the approaches that have been started and integrating them into institutional development.

Bachelor Nachhaltigkeitsstudien Nebenfach Studienverlaufsplan (beispielhaft)

U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T

1. Semester (WiSe)	Grundlagen und Theorien der Nachhaltigkeit 6 Credits	Hauptfach Insgesamt 140 Credits (siehe Studienverlaufsplan für das Hauptfach) mögliche Hauptfächer: English and American Studies German studies History Art history Philosophy Political science Sociology
6 Credits		
2. Semester (SoSe)	Erkenntnistheorie und Methoden der Nachhaltigkeit 6 Credits	
6 Credits		
3. Semester (WiSe)	Projekt 10 Credits	
7 Credits		
4. Semester (SoSe)	Schwerpunkt Fachwissenschaft 18 Credits	
7 Credits		
5. Semester (WiSe)		
7 Credits		
6. Semester (SoSe)		
7 Credits		

Legende

■ Basismodul	■ Projektmodul
■ Wahlmodul	■ Hauptfach

WiSe 2025/26 - PRELIMINARY STUDENT NUMBERS IN THE 1ST SEMESTER

Nachhaltigkeitskommunikation FB 02	27
Philosophie – Nachhaltigkeit – Kritik FB 02	31
Nebenfach Nachhaltigkeitsstudien FB 05	31
Nachhaltigkeitswissenschaften – Sustainability Studies FB 05	60
Wirtschaftsrecht mit integrierten Nachhaltigkeitsstudien FB 07	11
Chemie und Mathematik für Nachhaltigkeit FB 10	8
Nachhaltige elektrotechnische Systeme FB 16	4
Gesamt	172



6 EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER

THE KIS AT THE DKN-SUMMIT

The KIS participated in the Sustainability Science Summit 2025 organized by the German Committee for Sustainability Research in Future Earth (Deutsches Komitee für Nachhaltigkeitsforschung – DKN), which took place in Berlin from February 19 to 21, 2025, and is an important event for researchers and practitioners working at the interface of sustainability and science.

During the summit, KIS researchers organized several contributions, each addressing critical aspects of sustainability science. These Panel discussions, panel sessions, and presentations underscored the institute's commitment to promoting interdisciplinary approaches and advancing sustainability in various contexts. Key discussions included:

- **“Where does sustainability science meet the humanities to bring about change?”** moderated by Prof. Agnieszka Komorowska, Prof. Andra Horcea-Milcu, and Arcadie Botnaru, which explored the role of the humanities in shaping the sustainability discourse.
- **“Discussion on the necessity and possible options for organizing a DACH association for sustainability”** led by Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer and colleagues, focusing on the potential for cross-border cooperation in the German-speaking regions of Europe.
- **“Transdisciplinary interface management in sustainability science projects: best practices, institutionalization, and training”** including Prof. Andra Horcea-Milcu and others, discussing the challenges and opportunities of managing transdisciplinary sustainability projects.
- **“Sustainability at its source: Mining as a global field of transformation”** with Dr. Anna Schomberg, Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer, Dr. Andreas Gutmann, and others, highlighting the role of the mining industry in global sustainability transformations.

- **“Co-Creation: More Than a Trend? Building an Interdisciplinary Approach for a Common Understanding Across Sustainability Research Strands”** presented by Dr. Mahsa Motlagh and Dr. Ina M. Sieber, which focused on how interdisciplinary collaboration can strengthen sustainability research.
- **“Promoting Sustainability in Teaching and Universities: Best Practices and Challenges”** by Dr. Sarah Wedde, Dr. Franziska M. Hoffart, and Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer, focusing on the integration of sustainability into academic curricula and university structures.

These discussions not only showcased the diverse expertise at KIS, but also reflected the institute's role as a catalyst for dialogue in the sustainability science community. Following the summit, KIS reflected on the experiences and insights gained during the event during its regular internal research colloquium, “Sustainability Café.” Feedback from participants confirmed that KIS is perceived as an important institution in sustainability research. The institute's interdisciplinary approach, which brings together scientists from different disciplines under one roof, was highlighted as one of its most important strengths for promoting effective sustainability science. Feedback from summit participants confirmed the high quality of KIS study programs, with particular emphasis on the importance of interdisciplinary learning.

Young KIS researchers in particular appreciated the opportunity to engage with scientists from other disciplines, thereby broadening their understanding of sustainability challenges from different perspectives. There were also calls to create more structured opportunities for early-career researchers to participate in these interdisciplinary discussions. Many participants expressed a desire for specific formats that could support young scientists in building networks and gaining experience in transdisciplinary research environments.

An important topic of discussion at the summit was the ongoing challenge of securing funding for sustainability research. KIS members expressed concern about the tendency of large funding organizations to prioritize disciplinary (basic) research. However, sustainability science is not a discipline in the traditional sense. Rather, it functions as an “arena” of knowledge.



KIS researchers emphasized the need for funding mechanisms that recognize and support the inherently interdisciplinary nature of Sustainability Science so that research in this field can flourish without the constraints of traditional disciplinary boundaries. As one KIS member put it, the essence of Sustainability Science lies in its ability to thrive in discomfort – “to be comfortable with discomfort” – and funding structures must align with this principle to enable meaningful progress.

Discussions at the DKN Summit 2025 reaffirmed the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, innovative funding approaches, and critical self-reflection in shaping the future of action and research in sustainability science. As KIS continues its development as a young institution, the institute remains committed to creating a space for knowledge exchange, promoting the growth of early-career researchers, and advocating for more flexible and inclusive research funding policies.



Moving forward, the institute will continue to build bridges between disciplines, push the boundaries of existing practices and ways of thinking, and hopefully inspire the next generation of sustainability researchers.

VISIT FROM THE RIFS RESEARCH GROUP “TRANSFORMATIVE SPACES AND MINDSETS”

The research group “Transformative Spaces and Mindsets” ([RIFS Website](#)) from the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) at Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) visited the KIS for two days at the beginning of November. During their visit, the group offered an introduction to the inner dimensions of sustainability in a session entitled “From the Inside Out: Understanding Inner Transformation in Times of Change” as part of the KIS Sustainability Café. The workshop created a safe and interactive space to explore the challenges of engaging with inner transformation in sustainability research and practice. On November 6, 2025, colleagues from both institutes met to discuss pathways for future collaboration, with a view to strengthen inter- and transdisciplinary research and teaching.

COOPERATION with SDG+ LAB AND GREEN OFFICE

On July 10, 2024, Dr. Michael Zander from Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences gave a lecture on “Extending lessons from the disabled peoples movement to strengthen the climate justice movement,” with commentary by Dr. Rebecca Yeo. On January 12, 2024, Prof. Kristina Dietz moderated a panel discussion at Uni:Lokal on the topic of “Ways out of the socio-ecological catastrophe” with various climate activists.

Board member Prof. Susanne Ritzmann, together with KIS member Prof. Anna Growe, chaired the experimental part of the SDG+ Lab’s theme year 3, “Transformations in Work and the Economy” (2025-2027). The opening exhibition “Value Creation and Appreciation” opened on October 29, 2025, and shifted the focus from producing, using, and throwing away to cycles, reuse, sharing, and the upgrading of materials. Using wool, mushrooms, coal, green waste, and trash, the exhibition showed how materials can be reimagined and how this can lead to new value chains, forms of work, and changed structures. Together with their colleagues Prof. Laner, Prof. Wagner, Dr. Scholze, and Prof. Zander, as well as a fabulous team consisting of Nadja Nolte and Malene Saalman, the two chairs designed a whole series of practical, discursive, and participatory events that spanned two semesters.



INTERNATIONALIZATION

From September 15 to December 12, 2024, Prof. Wálber Araujo Carneiro from Brazil was a guest at KIS in the Just Transitions department. He is a professor and researcher at the Departamento de Estudos Jurídicos Fundamentais at the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) and focuses on legal theory, philosophy, and sociology of law. As part of the postgraduate program in law (master’s and doctorate) at UFBA, he is developing research on hermeneutic phenomenology and systems theory, which deals with issues of ecological analysis of law, constitutionalism, fundamental rights, sustainability, regulation, and other aspects of the complex world of society.

At the end of August 2024, a delegation from the University of Kassel traveled to Argentina as part of the DAAD Fact Finding Mission “DEGAS” to expand cooperation with the Universidad Nacional de Río Negro (UNRN) and the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM). The focus was on sustainable material cycles, social design, and upcycling. Prof. Susanne Ritzmann from the Kunsthochschule Kassel represented the KIS and deepened cooperation in the areas of material innovations and design research. The exchange on joint teaching and research formats proved particularly promising. Concrete plans include the development of a double degree program in agroecology that combines the expertise of the UNRN in agroecology with the competencies of the University of Kassel in organic farming and food system governance. This project is funded by the German-Argentine University Center (DAHZ-CUAA) and forms the basis for a long-term academic partnership.

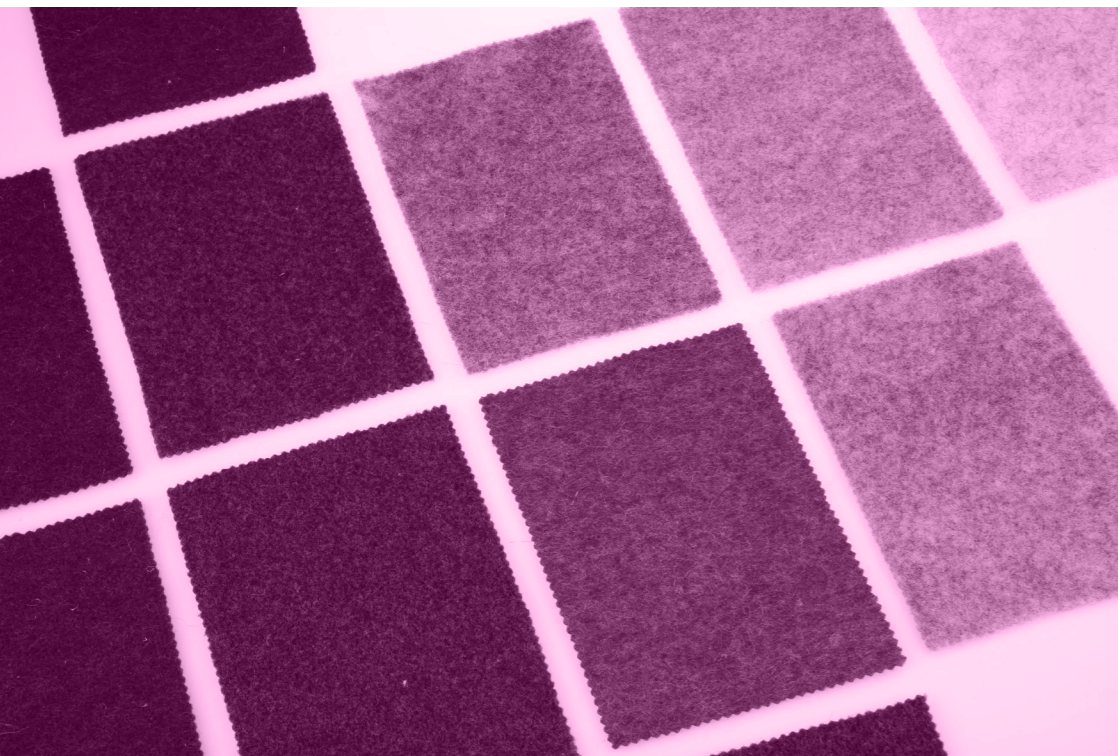
Researchers from KIS attended the Global Land Programme (GLP) conference in Oaxaca, Mexico, from November 4 to 8, 2024. Felix Krawczyk, Benjamin Stuch, Roman Hinz, Kira Fastner, and visiting PhD student Famoussa Dembele presented their current work on sustainable land use and socio-ecological transformations. Felix Krawczyk and Benjamin Stuch organized a session on participatory land use models and their role in social change. Felix Krawczyk discussed the normative limits of land use models in times of crisis, while Benjamin Stuch presented sustainable future scenarios for the Amazon. Roman Hinz examined climate protection strategies for Ghana’s agriculture and forestry sectors, Kira Fastner analyzed the effects of urbanization on food systems in West Africa, and Famoussa Dembele highlighted the threat to Ghana’s Bobiri Forest Reserve posed by deforestation.



ATTENDANCE AT THE “SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY 2025” CONFERENCE

Dr. Sarah Wedde, Prof. Andreas Braun, and Lixue Lin-Siedler attended the Science for Sustainability 2025 conference in Helsinki in the fall of 2025. The event was jointly organized by the University of Helsinki and Aalto University. The aim was to represent KIS and contribute KIS perspectives to international discussions. The conference brought together science, practice, business, and civil society to develop new perspectives for sustainability transformations and critically reflect on existing “sustainability bubbles.” The thematic focus was on post-growth and sufficiency, global justice, resilience and health, and innovative technical and social solutions. The visit was particularly valuable for KIS.

The contributions showed how crucial interdisciplinary cooperation and exchange between research, politics, and society are for genuine sustainability processes. The insights gained provide important inspiration for our future work and potential collaborations.



SCIENCE SOCIETY INTERFACE

LESS IS MORE? TRANSFORMATIONS IN TIMES OF INCREASING SCARCITY [JUST DOCTORAL PROGRAM]

From February 28 to March 1, 2024, scholarship holders from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, and the Hans Böckler Foundation, who work on issues of socio-ecological transformation, held a joint conference entitled “Less is more? Transformations in times of increasing scarcity.” Ecological limits are increasingly being exceeded, while political financial scarcity is slowing down the transition and exacerbating distribution struggles. Solidarity and human rights are portrayed as scarce commodities, while right-wing populist forces stir up fears and ignore distribution issues in order to mobilize against the transition. Experts such as Nilda Inkermann (University of Kassel), Prof. Markus Wissen (Berlin School of Economics and Law – HWR Berlin), and others provided input on the topics of work, democracy, the legal system, and reactionary backlash. Interactive formats were also used to discuss these obstacles to transformation and to explore the question of what contribution sufficiency strategies can make, alongside efficiency approaches, to driving transformation forward.

PANEL DISCUSSION: WAYS OUT OF THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE

The panel discussion “Ways out of the socio-ecological catastrophe” took place on January 12, 2024, as part of the inaugural lectures by Prof. Kristina Dietz, Prof. Andreas Fischer-Lescano, and Prof. Andreas Braun and the associated workshop days. Various climate activists from Germany and around the world were invited.

LECTURE [JUST DOCTORAL PROGRAM]

On January 31, 2024, Prof. Carolina Vestena and Prof. Lisa Carstensen gave a lecture entitled “Intersectional Discrimination and Legal Battles in Global Production Networks.”

WORKSHOP [JUST DOCTORAL PROGRAM]

On February 28, 2024, the members of the research group organized a workshop at the KIS retreat entitled “Just transition/Just transformation – Dimensions of meaning of the terms and interdisciplinary understanding of how they are used.”

SCHOOL, LAW & SCIENCE- THREE PERSPECTIVES ON STRUCTURAL RACISM IN THE POLICE FORCE [UNIVERSITY TOUR “GESELLSCHAFT FÜR FREIHEITSRECHTE”]

On June 13, 2024, an event organized by the Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF, Society for Civil Rights) in cooperation with the KIS took place at UNI:Lokal. The panel included GFF lawyer Franziska Görlitz, Bahar Aslan, teacher and GFF plaintiff, and Laila Abdul-Rahman, lawyer and criminologist in the project “Assault in office by police officers” at the University of Frankfurt. The discussion focused on structural racism in the police force and the possibilities and limits of criticism and (legal) reforms.

IMPORTED SUFFERING AND CLIMATE CHAOS

On July 11, 2024, the SDG+Lab hosted a panel discussion on the topic of “Imported Suffering and Climate Chaos: The Dark Side of Fracking LNG.” The discussion focused on the German government’s current LNG strategy and the effects of gas extraction through fracking in Texas. The speakers were Sabine von Mehring, Director of the Center for German and European Studies (CGES), and Andy Gheorghiu, campaigner and co-founder of the German Climate Alliance against LNG. Also participating were John Beard, Executive Director of the Port Arthur Community Action Network, and Elida Castillo, Program Director of Chispa Texas, a Latin American grassroots organizing program. Prof. Andreas Braun moderated the discussion.



THE FAR RIGHT IN HESSE: ANALYSES AND COUNTERSTRATEGIES

The KIS, the Institute for Social Research, the PRIF – Leibniz Institute for Peace and Conflict Research, the General Student Committee of Goethe University, and the Open House of Cultures organized the conference “Extreme Right in Hesse: Analyses and Counterstrategies” from October 11 to 13, 2024, at the Student House on the Bockenheimer Campus in Frankfurt. In addition to this academic perspective, actors from civil society also presented their projects and provided insight into current debates.

WORKSHOP OF THE INAUGURAL LECTURES BY PROF. STEFAN LECHTENBÖHMER AND PROF. ANDRA HORCEA-MILCU

On October 25, 2024, a workshop on the role of science in the energy transition took place at the Neue Denkerei in Kassel. The workshop began with two sessions in which scientists from various disciplines presented their research findings on the energy transition. The first session consisted of several scientific presentations with an additional contribution from the field. The second session focused on poster presentations, which were supplemented by short elevator pitches. Afterwards, the networking break offered an opportunity for professional exchange and discussion of the poster contributions. In the afternoon, an interactive fishbowl discussion took place, addressing the question of how technologies and the humanities influence each other in the context of sustainability transformation. There was an intense discussion about the role different scientific disciplines and their inherent assumptions play in the energy transitions and how their approaches can be better linked.



INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT: BETWEEN APOLOGY AND UTOPIA

The event on January 16, 2025, moderated by Prof. Kristina Dietz, examined the role of international law in the current Middle East conflict and the question of whether it can effectively limit state power interests. Following an introduction by Prof. Andreas Fischer-Lescano, Armaghan Naghipour presented court proceedings against German arms exports to Israel based on the War Weapons Control Act and obligations under international law, according to which arms deliveries are prohibited if there is a risk of war crimes.

PANEL DISCUSSION “RIGHT-WING TENDENCIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KASSEL. WHO CAN DO WHAT?” AS PART OF THE LECTURE SERIES “RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM! LAND GRABBING, RESISTANCE, BATTLES OF INTERPRETATION”

The panel discussion “Right-wing tendencies at the University of Kassel. Who can do what?” on February 3, 2025, as part of the lecture series “Right-wing extremism! Land grabbing, resistance, battles of interpretation,” addressed the question of how right-wing tendencies can be dealt with in the everyday working context at the University of Kassel. The participants discussed, from the perspective of teachers and students, what it means in teaching contexts to have to deal with misanthropic statements and what institutional framework conditions are needed to counter right-wing tendencies in everyday life from various roles. With members of the university and civil society actors, the discussion looked beyond the university as an institution and explored perspectives on how alliances across actors and institutions can be formed in practice in the fight against right-wing tendencies.

CLIMATE, SOCIETY AND ECONOMY – PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE FEDERAL ELECTION WITH THE DIRECT CANDIDATES FROM KASSEL

In the run-up to the 2025 federal election, Prof. Andreas Ernst moderated a panel discussion on February 4, 2025, with the direct candidates from Kassel representing the various parties. The event was organized by Scientists for Future Kassel with the support of the Young Entrepreneurs, the German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BUND), and Fridays for Future Kassel.

LECTURE SERIES ART.PROTEST.LAW

As part of the interdisciplinary seminar led by Prof. Andreas Fischer-Lescano and Prof. Susanne Ritzmann, seven public lectures were held in the lecture hall of the art college during the 2025 summer semester, providing insights into the relationships between protest practices, artistic and creative forms of protest expression, and legal frameworks and interpretations of protest. The students of the seminar organized and moderated the discussion between speakers and audience that followed each lecture.

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AT UNI:Lokal

In the discussion about how to overcome the current severe ecological crisis facing humanity, technological solutions for sustainable development in the sense of “green Keynesianism” or “ecological modernization” are often presented. However, none of these approaches is capable of offering a real solution, as they do not fundamentally question the existing conditions of production and reproduction. Many different actors, from civil society to institutions, can be considered protagonists of change. However, one crucial actor is often overlooked: the organized labor movement. At the event on September 10, 2025, Prof. Patrick Bond from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Jenny Huschke from the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) North-Hesse discussed its role.

“CONFLICTS OVER LABOUR & SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION IN GLOBAL LOGISTICS WORKERS BETWEEN MIGRATION, PRECARIETY, RATIONALISATION & FRAGMENTATION” AT UNI:Lokal

The event on September 15, 2025, highlighted logistics as a central field of socio-ecological transformation and geopolitical conflicts, with a particular focus on labor disputes in truck logistics, aviation, and the port industry. Together with international guests, the effects of precariousness, migration, automation, and decarbonization on employees were discussed, as well as the potential for cross-border and cross-sector solidarity. The discussion showed that logistics is not only economic infrastructure, but also a central political lever for global justice and sustainable transformations.

LOCAL TRANSPORT DAYS 2025: “USE BUSES AND TRAINS – FOR YOUR HEALTH AND OUR FUTURE”

On September 18 and 19, 2025, two central issues for our society were highlighted during the Local Transport Days: sustainability and health. The event focused on the positive effects of public transport on health, but also on the question of how these positive effects can be used in planning and marketing. The benefits for individuals and society as a whole were considered, including avoided deaths, savings in healthcare costs, and similar factors. As there are many interactions between health and social participation, these connections were also addressed in the program.

CONFERENCE: “BETWEEN ASPIRATION AND REALITY – AREAS OF TENSION IN SUBURBAN AREAS”

At the specialist conference on October 23 and 24, 2025, the research group presented its findings from the German Research Foundation (DFG) research project “New Suburbanity – Urban Expansion in Times of Reurbanization”. In three different sessions dealing with the spatial, temporal, and social/political tensions of suburbanity, participants explored the extent to which the aspirations and reality of urban expansion diverge and what strategies for action can be derived from this.

SYMPOSIUM “SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION IN TIMES OF REGRESSION”

From December 4 to 5, 2025, the department of International Relations with a Focus on Latin America, headed by Prof. Kristina Dietz, hosted the international symposium “Socio-Ecological Transformation in Times of Regression”. More than 100 international participants discussed the challenges of an emancipatory socio-ecological transformation in the face of growing authoritarian and anti-ecological tendencies; the focus was on the keynote address “Emancipation in Times of Regression” with Eva von Redecker and Micaela Cuesta, which took place in cooperation with the KIS. Building on the diverse discussions on environmental justice, labor, the state, and global tensions, the department is currently preparing a publication on the topic.

SESSION AT THE CONFERENCE “TOUGH CONVERSATIONS IN TOUGH TIMES”

KIS was represented at the conference “Tough Conversations in Tough Times,” organized by the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), held from December 3 to 5, 2025. The discussions highlighted the importance of transdisciplinary research in times of polycrisis, shrinking democratic spaces for action, and increasing pressure on academia to demonstrate societal “impact.” The session was linked to the forthcoming Handbook on Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research: Co-Creating New Narratives (Edward Elgar Publishing). The volume aims to map current practices and emerging directions in transdisciplinary sustainability research while advancing new narratives for the field. Nearly 140 abstracts were submitted in response to the call. The handbook is co-edited by transformation researchers from KIS, RIFS, Leuphana University, and the Center for Transformation Research and Sustainability (TransZent).

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

In March 2024, Prof. Andreas Braun commented on the planned salt extraction project by the Kassel-based company K+S in northwestern Australia. He warned that industrial facilities in this ecologically sensitive area would have fatal consequences and emphasized the global biodiversity crisis, which would be further exacerbated by such interventions in untouched habitats.

In September 2024, the Steel Summit took place in Duisburg. In a report on the Tagesschau news program, Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer emphasized the dual challenge facing the industry between more climate-friendly production and international competitive pressure. He said the decisive factor was the transformation to hydrogen-based steel production, which required clear political framework conditions and financial support.

On September 13, 2024, Prof. Andra Horcea-Milcu gave a presentation at the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Leibniz-Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung) entitled “Transformative Sustainability Science as a Lever for Sustainability Transformation(s)”. In her presentation, she emphasized the importance of transformative sustainability science as a lever for sustainable change.

Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer has been appointed by the Management Board of the European Environment Agency as a member of the Scientific Council for the field of “Industrial Systems.” His four-year term begins on January 1, 2025. Together with eight other newly appointed members, he will advise the EEA on scientific issues and contribute to the further development of environmental policy strategies.

In December 2024, Prof. Andreas Fischer-Lescano, together with other constitutional law experts, published an expert opinion on a possible party ban procedure against the AfD (Alternative für Deutschland). This received widespread media coverage and led to intense debates in the Bundestag.

Three of our board members were guests on the podcast “Die Uni Kassel im O-Ton” in December 2025. In January 2025, Prof. Stefan Lechtenböhmer spoke with Sebastian Mense about the transformation of the steel industry to produce green steel. In doing so, he also responded to attempts in the election campaign at that time to question the transformation plans for the steel industry and made it clear that there is no alternative to the transformation to green steel. In May 2025, Prof. Susanne Ritzmann spoke about what can be done with the very fatty raw wool from sheep, which is usually considered a waste product in this country. She also discussed the design of omission and how product design can be transformative. In December, Prof. Andreas Braun was a guest and talked to Sebastian Mense about the factors that strengthen the resilience of ecosystems. They also discussed scholar activism and the extent to which science must be normative in order to truly contribute to transformation.

At the end of November 2025 our visiting professor Klaus Dörre appeared on the program “Jung & Naiv” and spoke with Tilo Jung about topics such as capitalism and fascism, the weakness of trade unions, class and climate issues, and the resistance of German capital to transformation.



**MARKETING CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY DEGREE PROGRAMS
#UNIKASSEL360GRAD**

In 2024, KIS was involved in developing a marketing campaign for the University of Kassel. This campaign was developed under the leadership of the Communications and Marketing Department and in cooperation with the agency Bureau Bald, and emphasizes the focus on sustainability in research and teaching.

The narrative of the campaign, “We want a sustainable future. And we know that there are solutions. We are the University of Kassel.” highlights the university’s future orientation with regard to sustainability issues. With the hashtag **#unikassel360grad** and three poster motifs, the university is promoting itself on social media and in the North Hesse region, with a particular focus on the sustainability degree programs that KIS helped to develop.



Wir sind die Gamechanger von morgen. Und fangen heute an.



EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF KASSEL

RETREAT

From February 28 to March 1, 2024, KIS held a university-wide closed-door meeting to promote networking between scientists and staff of the university with KIS. The content of the workshop was deliberately broad in scope in order to bring together different disciplines and perspectives on the concept of sustainability, and some of the workshops offered were designed and developed by the participants themselves. In addition to application-oriented research, the focus was also on the implications of the sustainability discourse for politics, law, economics, and society, as well as a critical reflection on the concepts of sustainability and transformation. Participants were able to choose between different workshops in six thematic sessions. “Transformation conflicts and perspectives from below” focused on socio-ecological reproduction processes in open-cast mining regions. In the session “Technologies and control of transformation,” the use of AI in sustainability reporting and the environmental balance of modular smartphones were discussed. “Sustainability in Education” addressed the professionalization of teachers, gender-equitable learning, artistic-educational approaches, and service learning. The session “Interpretations, Measures, and Materialities of Transformation” analyzed the implementation of Agenda 2030 in German cities, the role of vulnerability, and green capitalism in transformation conflicts. The section “Law, Institutions, and Regulations” dealt with legal battles in transnational supply chains and supply chain laws, while the block “Transformation of Land Use and Food Systems” focused on sustainable meat consumption, challenges of food production in the Global South, and the agricultural and food transition. In addition to deepening the content, the exchange also served to promote networking and mutual acquaintance of possible research synergies. The retreat also sparked a wide range of activities, such as the development of the master’s program in Sustainable Technology Transitions.

SUSTAINABILITY CAFÉ

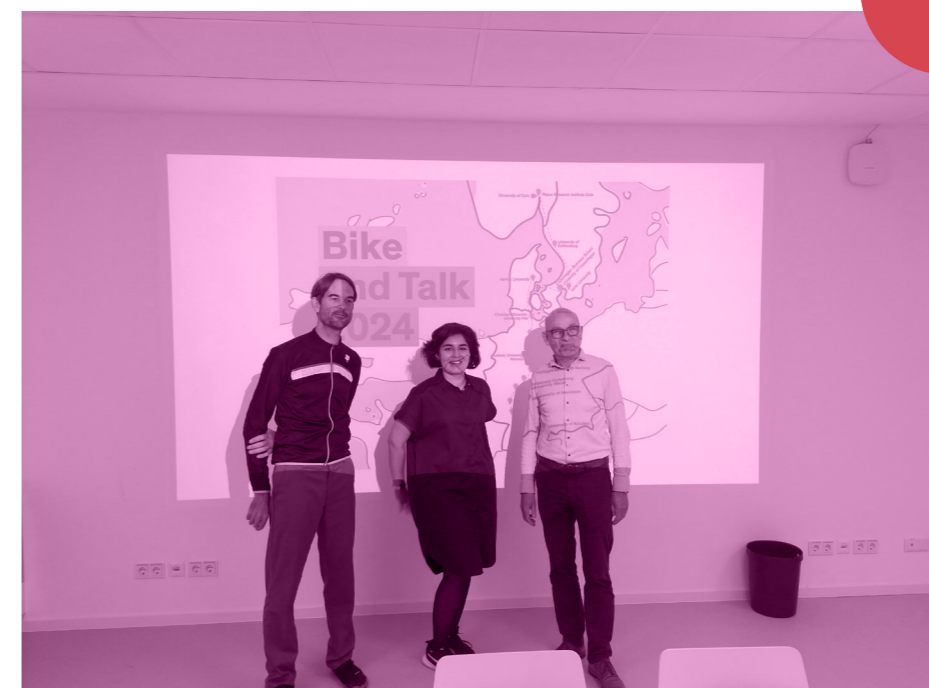
The Sustainability Café offers the opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange once a month. There is a short ten-minute presentation from each subject area, which gives the other faculties an introduction to the respective research topic and stimulates subsequent discussion. The aim is to integrate the interdisciplinary approach of the KIS more strongly into everyday life and to promote closer exchange among each other.

GUEST LECTURES AT THE KASSEL INSTITUTE

On June 3, 2024, Nils Weidmann stopped at KIS on his BikNTalk Tour. He cycled from Konstanz to Oslo in just under three weeks, giving lectures at various universities and research institutions along the way. The topic of his lecture at KIS was “Determinants of Scientific Trust across Regimes,” featuring statistical analyses of political attitudes and trust in science.

On June 19, 2024, Swee-Hoon Chuah and Robert Hoffmann gave a lecture at KIS entitled “Qualitative vs. quantitative impact messaging in a naturalistic charity appeal experiment.” The two speakers joined online and were supervised and introduced by Prof. Björn Franke from Faculty 07.

On October 9, 2024, Ian Scoones presented his new book “Navigating Uncertainty” at KIS.



WORKSHOP SERIES

The Transformation and Sustainability Research Workshop took place on January 11 and 12, 2024. In addition to application-oriented sustainability research and work dealing with the implications of the sustainability discourse for politics, law, economics, and society, the workshop also focused in particular on a critical examination of the concepts of sustainability and transformation themselves.

RIGHTS OF NATURE AGAINST WHOM?

As part of the research project “Nature as a Legal Subject,” the workshop “Rights of Nature against whom? Obstacles and Problems in Implementing the Rights of Nature” took place from July 17 to 19, 2024. The two-day workshop began with a public panel discussion at the Gießhaus, followed by a reception. Starting with the philosophical foundations and broader perspectives on conflicts over natural resources, and moving on to specific contexts, applications, and problems, the workshop aimed to promote exchange and discussion among the participants.

WORKSHOPS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF “AGRARTRANS”

As part of the “Agrartrans” project, the “International Agricultural Policy and Environmental Governance” department headed by Prof. Andreas Thiel at Faculty 11 organized a series of workshops entitled “Teaching and Learning Transformation” between June 2025 and February 2026. The aim was to make the interdisciplinary master’s program “Agriculture, Ecology and Societies (AGES)” more transformative and better tailored to the needs of students in a co-creative process involving teachers, students, and administrative staff. The workshop was very well received by all target groups. Employees of KIS also participated as network partners. In plenary sessions and sub-working groups, specific topics were addressed and initial measures implemented, including strengthening transdisciplinarity in the student project module, an introductory module for all AGES students, and the specific integration of student cohort diversity into the program. In addition, an outlook with ideas for the further development of the program was developed. The “Agrartrans” project is funded by the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education.



OUTLOOK

7

We hope that this first annual report, along with the institute's other publications, events, and public engagements, conveys the positive momentum at the University of Kassel. Building on this momentum and its extensive and long standing sustainability expertise, the university offers a fertile environment for establishing a new kind of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary sustainability institute.

With many opportunities come many challenges. Since the second half of 2023, when the work of setting up the institute and collaborating with the university as a whole intensified, we have all — in the executive committee, in the institute, and in the departments — become increasingly aware of the Herculean task ahead of us.

Many open questions and controversies are arising. There is much to discuss and clarify, and compromises must be found. Different visions of the future and, above all, different ideas about how to get there are competing in various program developments. The question remains open as to what will actually help us move forward. Are pragmatic, linear concepts that aim to offer technical solutions within the framework of an existing society more effective, or are transformative concepts that also attempt to change society itself more effective? And what role does criticism play in this?

None of this is easy, and some meetings end with heated discussions. However, all of this reflects a global context of the polycrisis. If we take the IPCC reports as a guide, for example, there is not much time left to find good solutions. Answers to the question of what Brundtland's "common future" looks like must be put on the table as quickly as possible. Controversies here stem from the reality that conversations about a more sustainable society always draw on a broad spectrum of theoretical foundations, approaches, and concepts. This diversity can be difficult to navigate, yet it is precisely what makes such discussions so valuable. If there is one characteristic that brings us together, it is that we are passionate about ideas, approaches, and concepts, and that we are happy to spend our energy defending — and hopefully developing — them with arguments. So, in this respect, we are all doing what we are here to do.

Against this background, we look forward to co-creating in the coming years a generative dynamic — one that brings together our newly appointed professors and their teams, strengthens collaboration across departments, and supports the university as a whole.

What, then, can yet another sustainability institute bring to the diverse and much-needed landscape of sustainability research and teaching? Within the global community of sustainability-committed institutes, we aim to offer a distinct KIS contribution: one grounded in a strong tradition of sustainability research and energized by an emerging core of transformative sustainability science, especially vital in times marked by uncertainty and backlash. Our aspiration is to meaningfully weave together the analytical, the critical, and the transformative perspectives on sustainability, all of which already thrive at the University of Kassel, and to help them unfold their full potential, together.

With this in mind: Eyes on the horizon! Let's do this!

Andreas Braun, Andreas Fischer-Lescano, Andra Horcea-Milcu,
Stefan Lechtenböhmer, Susanne Ritzmann und Sarah Wedde

APPENDIX

FACULTIES OF THE UNIVERSITY KASSEL

FB 01	Faculty of Human Sciences
FB 02	Faculty of Humanities
FB 05	Faculty of Social Sciences
FB 06	Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Planning
FB 07	Faculty of Economics and Management
FB 10	Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
FB 11	Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences
FB 14	Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering
FB 15	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
FB 16	Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
KHK	School of Art and Design

FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The founding board of directors of the KIS served in an advisory capacity until 2023. The founding board of directors included:

PROFESSORS Prof. Dr. Ute Clement, University President/Chair | Prof. Dr. Astrid Dannenberg, FB 07 | apl. Prof. Dr. Thomas Fuhrmann-Lieker, FB 10 | Prof. Dr. Clemens Hoffmann, FB 16 | Prof. Dr. Daniel Hornuff, KHK | Prof. Dr. René Matzdorf, Vice President for Studies and Teaching | Prof. Dr. Eva Schlecht, FB 11 | Prof. Dr. Carsten Sommer, FB 14 **RESEARCH STAFF** Dr. Philipp Krooß, FB 15 | Dr. Paul Reszke, FB 02 | Franziska Anna Seidel, FB 01 **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** Nadja Ahmad | Nora Horn | Laurin Leonhardi | Christiane Weiler **ADVISORY MEMBERS** Prof. Dr. Stefan Bringezu, FB 14/ CESR | Prof. Dr. Sonja Buckel, Vice President for Graduate Studies, Equality, Diversity, and Communication | Prof. Dr. Hubertus Büschel, FB 05 | Prof. Dr. Claude Draude, FB 16 | Prof. Dr. Claudia Schlaak, FB 02 | Prof. Dr. Angela Schrott, FB 02/ CELA | Prof. Dr. Michael Wachendorf, Vice President Research | Prof. Dr. Felix Welti, FB 01/ FoSS | Dr. Sylke Ernst, Representative for Women and Equality | Dr. Sabine Säck-da Silva, Management

DOCTORAL DEGREES COMPLETED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIS FACULTY 01:

Anke Freuwört | Dr. phil. | Politische Artikulationen von Zugewanderten – eine empirische Analyse von Beiräten, Migrant:innenselbstorganisationen und Biografien

Elena Ewering | Dr. jur. | Ökozid. Ein allgemeines Verbot im internationalen Recht?

Rana Göksü | Dr. jur. | Geo-Materialising Legal Imaginary through Antarctic Space-Production: An Analysis of Critical Legal Geography

David Schlindwein | Dr. jur. | Praxis, Wahrheit und Kritik

FACULTY 05:

Anne Engelhardt | Dr. rer. pol. | Social Reproduction Metabolism at Checkpoints. Labour conflicts on occupational health and safety at ports and airports in Brazil and Portugal

Anil Shah | Dr. rer. pol. | FRACTURED LIVES Regimes of Re/Productive Finance in Modern India

Emre Gömec | Dr. rer. pol. | Financialization of Enterprise and Its Impact on Innovation: The Case of Nokia and Ericsson

Ludwig Hehl | Dr. rer. pol. | Development Strategies in Mexico and Turkey. A Comparative Analysis of Cross-Class Coalitions and their Implications for Developmental Policies in Middle Income Countries

Anna B. Weber | Dr. rer. pol. | Menschenrechte, Konzerne und Kapitalismus: Der Zugang zu Arzneimitteln als Herausforderung für die transnationale Pharma- und Biotechbranche

Ihtesham ul Haq | Dr. rer. pol. | Pakistan's Repeated Balance of Payments Crises and Drawdowns on IMF Loans

Anne Reiff | Dr. rer. pol. | Die Weltbank lässt ‚die Armen‘ sprechen – Eine kontextualisierte Diskursanalyse der Studie ‚Voices of the Poor‘ aus Perspektive einer postkolonialen Politikwissenschaft

Meike Strehl | Dr. rer. pol. | Sägen am eigenen Ast. Wenn entwicklungspolitische Fachkräfte nach Alternativen zur Entwicklung suchen

Prof. Dr. Manuela Westphal

Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano

Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano

Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

Prof. Dr. Aram Ziai

Prof. Dr. Aram Ziai

FACULTY 06:

Joana AlSamarraie | Dr.-Ing. | Suffiziente Stadtentwicklung - Umsetzung der Klimaschutzziele auf kommunaler Ebene im Spannungsfeld steigender Wohnraumnachfrage und gleichzeitiger Flächenknappheit am Beispiel der hessischen Großstadt Kassel

Prof. Dr. Uwe Altrock

Arvid Krüger | Habil | Denken in Stadtbausteinen. Eine Neuinterpretation des Verhältnisses von Infrastrukturplanung in der Stadtentwicklung

Prof. Dr. Uwe Altrock

FACULTY 07:

Steffen Sundermann | Dr. jur. | Personal Data Breaches. Eine Untersuchung der praxisrelevanten Rechtsfragen im Zusammenhang mit Verletzungen des Schutzes personenbezogener Daten unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Schnittstellen von europäischem und nationalem Recht

Prof. Dr. Gerrit Hornung

Victor Beyer | Dr. rer. pol. | On the Market Efficiency in Pricing Environmental Risks

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

Thomas Cauthorn | Dr. rer. pol. | On the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

Juris Dobrick | Dr. rer. pol. | Interactions between sustainability, associated risks and capital markets

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

Samuel Dremptic | Dr. rer. pol. | Measurement of Sustainability and Responsible Business Practice for Sustainable and Responsible Investors

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

Maurice Dumrose | Dr. rer. pol. | Perspectives on Sustainability in Capital Markets

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

Sven Hubner | Dr. rer. pol. | The European Sustainable Finance Regulation Framework as a Driver of Transformation Towards a Sustainable Economy

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

Alexander Landau | Dr. rer. pol. | Value Relevance of ESG Reporting

Prof. Dr. Christian Klein

FACULTY 11:

Siriki Fané | PhD | Contribution of agroforestry systems to sustainable cereal production in Sudano-Sahelian West Africa

Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert

Kira Fastner | Dr. agr. | Rural-urban linkages in Westafrika

Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert

Katharina Hemmler | PhD | Social-egological dimensions of sand mining in West Africa

Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert

Abed Al Kareem Yehya | PhD | Effects of rural-urban transformation on land use and land cover change in Lebanon

Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert

Suman Kumar Sourav | PhD | Plant growth, water quality, carbon and nutrient flows in rural-urban cropping systems of Bengaluru, India

Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert

Danny Tröger | PhD | Assessing Landscape Resilience - Biogeomorphic Interactions, Risk Perception, and Planning Evaluation of Forest Plantations in Patagonia, Chile

Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert

FACULTY 14:

Jonas Harz | Dr.-Ing. | Modellierung der touristischen Verkehrsnachfrage von Tages- und Übernachtungsgästen in Großstädten

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Carsten Sommer

Franziska Henkel | Dr.-Ing. | Entwicklung und exemplarische Anwendung eines Verfahrens zur Quantifizierung von Mobilitätsoptionen

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Carsten Sommer

Tejas Kulkarni | Dr.-Ing. | Investigating Hydrological Changes and Groundwater Complexities in Bengaluru City, India: Exploring the Interactions of Urbanization and Data-Scarcity

Prof. Dr. Matthias Gaßmann

Caroline Spill | Dr.-Ing. | Urban point sources in rural headwater catchments: new insights into nutrient sources and fluxes

Prof. Dr. Matthias Gaßmann

Eva Weidemann | Dr.-Ing. | Leaching experiments and simulation studies with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in soils considering precursor transformation

Prof. Dr. Matthias Gaßmann

Anna Schomberg | Dr. rer. nat. | Advancement of the water footprint of Products and Regions in Concept, Operationalisation and Consideration of Spatially Explicit Water Availability

Prof. Dr. Stefan Bringezu

FACULTY 15:

Mateo Jesper | Dr.-Ing. | Methods and guidelines for preliminary design and feasibility assessment of solar thermal systems and heat pumps in industry

Prof. Dr. Klaus Vajen

Jana Möllenkamp | Dr.-Ing. | Enhanced Methods for Performance Evaluation and Fault Detection of Concentrating Solar Process Heat Plants Based on Experimental Analysis of Two Parabolic Trough Plants in Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Klaus Vajen

Friedrich Englisch | Dr. phil. | Biases im Planungsprozess - Entwicklung eines Fragebogens zur Diagnostik kognitiver, motivationaler und gruppendynamischer Biases im Kontext der Organisationskultur

Prof. Dr. Oliver Straeter

Korinna Grimmelbein | Dr. rer. pol. | Die Veränderungsbereitschaft des Mittleren Managements als erfolgskritischer Parameter in Veränderungsprozessen

Prof. Dr. Oliver Straeter

Lisa Seidel | Dr. rer. pol. | Resilienz in Managementsystemen als Voraussetzung für die Systemintegrität in Großprojekten am Beispiel der Standortauswahl für ein Endlager für hochradioaktive Abfälle

Prof. Dr. Oliver Straeter

Jonas Wehrmann | Dr. phil. | Stressoren und Ressourcen in der Interaktionsarbeit – Berücksichtigung spezifischer Belastungsfaktoren in der Gefährdungsbeurteilung

Prof. Dr. Oliver Straeter



CESR:

Marlene Batzke | Dr. phil. | Dynamics of Norms in Decision-Making. A Psychological Analysis Combining Theory, Experiment, and Social Simulation

Prof. Dr. Andreas Ernst



POINTS OF CONTACT

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PROF. DR. ANDREAS FISCHER-LESCANO | Executive Board Member for Research | fischer-lescano@uni-kassel.de

PROF. DR. ANDREAS BRAUN | Executive Board Member for Teaching | andreas.braun@uni-kassel.de

PROF. DR. SUSANNE RITZMANN | Executive Board Member for Transdisciplinarity | susanne.ritzmann@uni-kassel.de

PROF. DR. STEFAN LECHTENBÖHMER | Deputy Director of Teaching | lechtenboehmer@uni-kassel.de

PROF. DR. ANDRA HORCEA-MILCU | Deputy Director of Research | andra.milcu@uni-kassel.de

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR. SARAH WEDDE | sarah.wedde@uni-kassel.de

RESEARCH COORDINATION

APL. PROF. DR. RÜDIGER SCHALDACH | schaldac@uni-kassel.de

OUR ADDRESS

Kassel Institute for Sustainability [KIS] at the University of Kassel

Mosenthalstr. 8

34117 Kassel

EMAIL

kassel-institute@uni-kassel.de

WEBSITE

[Kassel Institute for Sustainability](https://www.kassel-institute.de)

BLUESKY 

[@kassel-institute.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/kassel-institute.de)

LINKEDIN 

[@Kassel Institute for Sustainability](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kassel-institute-for-sustainability)

IMPRINT

PUBLISHER

KASSEL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY [KIS]

CONCEPT AND EDITING

DR. SARAH WEDDE | MARA SAUSKAT

CONTRIBUTORS

ANTJE BRACHT | MAXIMILIAN FREUNDL | APL. PROF. DR. RÜDIGER SCHALDACH

DESIGN, TYPESETTING AND LAYOUT

ANNIKA STEIGER

PRINTING

GESTOCHEN SCHARF OHG - KASSEL | PRINTED ON ECO-FRIENDLY PAPER

PRINT RUN

200 COPIES | AS OF APRIL 2026

PHOTO CREDITS

P. 11 | ANNIKA STEIGER

P. 13 | UNI KASSEL

P. 17 | UNI KASSEL

P. 20 | ANNIKA STEIGER

P. 22 - 23 | FIONA KÖRNER [left] + ANNIKA STEIGER [right]

P. 24 - 25 | UNI KASSEL [left] + PAAVO BLAFIELD [middle] + SASCHA MANNEL [right]

P. 26 - 27 | HARRY SOREMSKI

P. 29 | TOBIAS LEIß

P. 31 | SONJA RODE

P. 32 - 36 | KHK

P. 41 | ANNIKA STEIGER [top] + UNI KASSEL [bottom]

P. 42 - 43 | UNI KASSEL

P. 47 | ANNIKA STEIGER

P. 54 - 55 | SONJA RODE [bottom] + SASCHA MANNEL [top]

Reprinting, including excerpts, as well as any form of duplication, is permitted only with the publisher's authorization.