PDW 04 - Rethinking Research Methods and Approaches for Desirable Futures

Facilitator short bios:

Alexa Böckel is a PhD candidate, researches at the Centre for Sustainability Management at Leuphana University Lüneburg, is a scholarship holder of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, and a researcher at Wuppertal Institute. Her research focus is on entrepreneurship in the circular economy as an approach to systems change, and she considers herself as an engaged scholar. She was part of the first cohort of the Impact Scholar mentoring program. She has published in the Journal of Cleaner Production, Creativity and Innovation Management, Management Review Quarterly, and Sustainable Production and Consumption.

Blagoy Blagoev is a Professor of Organization Studies at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). His research draws on a temporal lens to examine the interplay of people, organizations, and society in the context of current technological, ecological, and cultural transformations. His main research interests include (1) organizing and managing for sustainability, (2) emerging technologies and organizing, (3) new and decentralized forms of working and organizing, and (4) organizational change, innovation, and persistence. His work has appeared in Administrative Science Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management, Review, Journal of Management Studies, Organization Studies, among others.

Stephanie Daher is a Lecturer in Business Ethics and Sustainability at King's College, London, and a member of the King's Center for Sustainable Business. Her work lies at the intersection of organizational studies, sustainability, and business ethics, with a particular focus on non-Western and Indigenous perspectives and contexts. Her research has been published in journals such as Business & Society and Organization.

Domenico Dentoni is Full Professor in Business, Resilience and Transformation and Director of the Communication and Organizing for Sustainable Transformations (COAST) Chair at MBS School of Business since 2021. Domenico's research teams seek to understand why, when, and how organizations coordinate across scales to address complex social-ecological problems. As a practice informed by this research, Domenico's teams specialize in novel applications of systems thinking and systems mapping within and across organizations in multiple industries, including food and agriculture, energy, and water.

Jonathan Feddersen is an Assistant Professor at Copenhagen Business School. His research explores how organizations can create and pursue sustainable futures. He studies how companies translate long-term sustainability goals, such as becoming biodiversity net positive, into concrete action that restores ecosystems and transforms industries. Through longitudinal field studies and collaborations with organizations like Ørsted, he examines how firms experiment with new ways of working that align ecological, social, and technological systems. Methodologically, he develops event-based approaches to capture how change unfolds over time, helping organizations see sustainability not as a distant target but as an ongoing practice and transformation process.

Miriam Feuls is an Associate Professor at Copenhagen Business School and Director of the Centre for Organization and Time. Her research focuses on the practices and processes of organizational change, sustainable transformation, and creative leadership in multi-actor settings. She primarily draws on time and temporality research and practice theory to explain how change emerges, identify the conditions influencing these processes, and understand the impacts on transforming organizations and society toward sustainable futures. Her work has been published in the Academy of Management Journal, Organization Studies, Work, Employment & Society, Research in the Sociology of Organizations, among others.

Antonio Galván is a PhD candidate at Hult International Business School, Ashridge. His research examines how human collectivity emerges and operates, drawing on spontaneity, post-qualitative

inquiry, and action research to imagine more relational and desirable organizational futures. He is an international consultant and experiential trainer with extensive practice in leadership development, organizational strategy, and team dynamics. His professional work focuses on fostering dialogue, connection, and collaborative sense-making as drivers of transformational change. An entrepreneur and former finance and economics professional, Antonio integrates practical experience with scholarly inquiry to explore how organizations can evolve toward more inclusive, human-centered futures.

Christina Lüthy is a Postdoctoral Researcher and Browaldh fellow at the Department of Business Administration at Lund University School of Economics and Management, Sweden, where she explores cultures of speed in management and organization. Trained in organization and cultural theory, her research is interested in the affective, material and temporal dimensions of creative organizing, entrepreneurship and social change. She draws on qualitative and ethnographic methods and uses different process theoretical perspectives such as affect theory, practice approaches or processual theories of materiality to explore organizing and time. Her work has appeared in international book volumes and journals such as Entrepreneurship and Regional Development.

Anna Margolis explores how organisations and society can innovate toward more sustainable, circular, and desirable futures applying Design Science and Action Research. Drawing on systems thinking, innovation, cross-sectoral collaboration, and pragmatism literatures, she develops science-based tools that help practitioners create more meaningful outcomes. Anna is a PhD candidate at the University of Hamburg and a lecturer on creativity, design, and impact evaluation at IST University of Applied Science. Previously, she worked as a change leader at Henkel, facilitating digitalisation, strategy, and brand initiatives, and founded a social start-up promoting international diversity and careers.

Emilio Marti is an associate professor at the Rotterdam School of Management. He uses insights from organization theory and strategy research to analyze how different types of shareholders influence corporate sustainability, with a particular interest in sustainable investing. His research has been published in journals such as the Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Review, Journal of Management Studies, or Organization Science.

Freek Sanders is a practitioner-scholar striving to bridge academic research and the practical world. Throughout his career, he has translated insights from research into working solutions in a wide variety of fields: from developing an evidence-based job coaching business in the Netherlands to setting up educational projects in Nicaragua. His research interests are the generative power of silence and the transformative character of action research. He co-created a Presenter Symposium on action research during the Academy of Management 2024 and two PDW's during the Academy of Management 2025.

Amanda Williams is an Associate Professor of Sustainability at emlyon Business School, France. Her research lies at the intersection of sustainability management and social-ecological systems. She studies how organizations understand global sustainability issues and develop corporate sustainability strategies that align with global targets. Amanda has published her work in the 'Academy of Management Discoveries', 'Journal of Management', 'Journal of Management Studies', 'Strategic Organization', 'Business & Society', 'Journal of Business Ethics', and 'Journal of Cleaner Production'.

Tobias Fehr-Bosshard recently earned his PhD from the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). His dissertation focused on generating collaborative momentum towards sustainability transformation at his own university by co-creating scaffolding through robust action research (ROAR). With extensive practical experience as a sustainability consultant and working at the intersection of business and politics for a sustainability-focused business association, he continues to bridge research and practice. He currently leads the St.Gallen Transformation Lab, a university-supported platform to support the envisioning and working towards desirable futures in the region.