



Newsletter | December 2025

# Research and Dialogue for Sustainable Societies



Dear readers,

KunstHaus Potsdam will host the exhibition [Planetary Transitions: Potsdam Artist Residency](#) through to 14 December. The exhibition features works by RIFS Fellows Samir Dams, Eduardo Kairuz and Sam Spurr as well as Angela Ka Ki Lee. These RIFS Fellows were awarded scholarships under an international residency programme administered by the City of Potsdam in cooperation with RIFS and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Their works explore the theme of “planetary transitions” — the global changes we face — through an artistic lens that is fractured, reflective, and critically engaged. A must-see in December.

For the coming year, the Research Institute for Sustainability, in cooperation with the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program and the City of Potsdam, is once again announcing the ‘**Planetary Transitions: Potsdam Artist Residency**’. The call for applications can be found [here](#). The application deadline is 8 February 2026.

Citing concerns that **citizens’ assemblies** diminish parliament’s power, the President of the German parliament has confirmed that the Coordination Unit for Citizens’ Assemblies is to be disbanded. In contrast, our research shows that citizens’ assemblies complement the work of parliaments by providing important guidance, strengthening the legitimacy of decision-making, and expanding the scope of action for political actors. [Find out more in our blog](#)

You can find out more about our work and activities at RIFS in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: [media@rifs-potsdam.de](mailto:media@rifs-potsdam.de).

Best regards from Potsdam,

**Matthias Tang, Head of Press & Communication**

PS: To learn more about our work between the newsletters, you can follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Mastodon](#), [bluesky](#) or visit our [website](#).

**NEWS**



### Analysis

## A Roller Coaster: 25 Years of U.S. Climate Policy

Is it only under President Trump that trans Atlantic climate relations have become so fraught? In their new analysis, Charlotte Unger (Research Institute for Sustainability, RIFS) and Sonja Thielges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP) examine 25 years of US climate policy and find that the USA cannot be considered a reliable and stable climate policy ally for the EU; particularly in areas such as international climate finance, bilateral partnerships, and global leadership.

[Learn more](#)

---

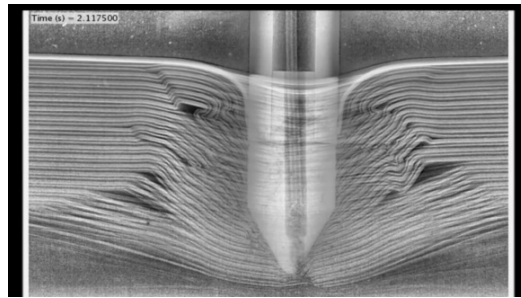


### Interview

#### A Hybrid Path Through the World of Research

RIFS Fellow Saskia de Wildt works at the intersection of environmental sustainability research and artistic practice. With a professional background in filmmaking and experience in community-based research in the Arctic, she has spent her fellowship studying cross-cultural collaboration, using performances and queer theory as a background. Here she talks about her creative method and shares her recommendations.

[Learn more](#)

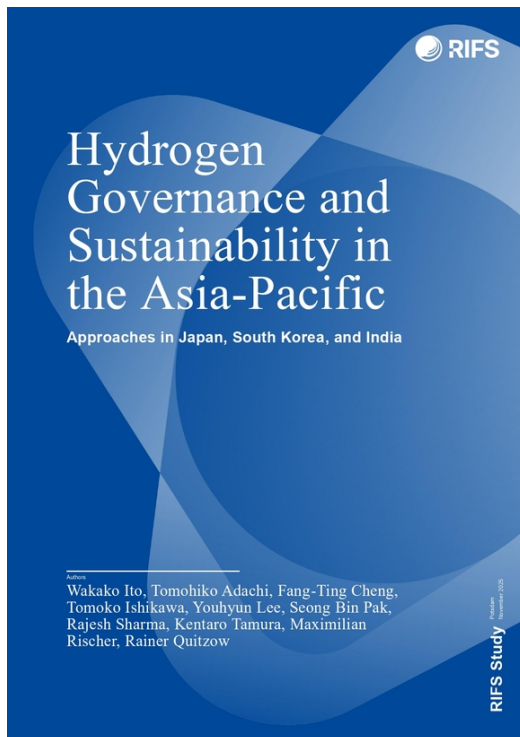


### Fellowship

#### KunstHaus Potsdam Shows "Planetary Transitions: Potsdam Artist Residency"

We need food and clothing, warm homes, and probably electric cars and cell phones too. But global trade, energy production, and lithium mining take a heavy toll on the environment. How can we transition to a more sustainable way of life? This question lies at the heart of the exhibition Planetary Transitions: Potsdam Artist Residency at KunstHaus Potsdam, featuring works by Samir Dams, the Global Extraction Observatory (Eduardo Kairuz and Sam Spurr), and Studio HAAU (Angela Ka Ki Lee).

[Learn more](#)



## Hydrogen Governance and Sustainability in the Asia-Pacific: Approaches in Japan, South Korea, and India

This study provides a comparative analysis of hydrogen governance in India, Japan, and South Korea, highlighting how each country integrates sustainability into national strategies, certification schemes, and funding mechanisms. Key findings reveal divergent approaches: India emphasizes domestic green hydrogen with strict renewable energy requirements, Japan relies on both domestic and imported low-carbon hydrogen, and South Korea focuses on a tiered certification system with substantial import dependence. While carbon intensity drives policy across all three nations, gaps remain in addressing lifecycle emissions and broader sustainability requirements, particularly for imported hydrogen. The study identifies strengths, challenges, and opportunities to enhance sustainable hydrogen development in the region. [Learn more](#)

### A Selection of our Latest Scientific Publications

DOWNLOAD

### NEW ON THE RIFS BLOG



Three Decades of COP Negotiations: What's Next?  
Adenike Oladosu



Indigenous Arctic Research Ethics Guidelines and Protocols: Reflections from a Master's Thesis  
Isabel Lingner



Walking With a Hidden Giang  
Sabine Letz

---



Citizens' Assemblies Strengthen Parliaments  
David Löw-Beer

---



Whales, Stars, and the Self: Doing Science With  
Tenderness  
Shyam Wuppuluri

---



COP30 in Belém: RIFS Researchers Take Stock  
Bianca Schröder

---



Anti-extractivist Art: Responding to the Unequal  
Geographies of Climate Breakdown  
Bernardo Jurema

---



Transformative Arctic Research: Lessons from Co-  
Creative and Community-Led Collaborations  
Isabel Lingner, Evie Morin, Ilaria Sartini

---



Changing The City: One Conversation and Cup of Tea  
at a Time  
Luis Nacken, Nicolina Kirby, Dirk von Schneidemesser

---



Climate Justice Begins on the Riverbank  
Bernardo Jurema, Maria Cecilia Oliveira

---



Sailing Against the End of the World  
Bernardo Jurema, Maria Cecilia Oliveira

---



Icy Waters – Diving Into Transdisciplinary Arctic  
Research  
Torben Windirsch

## EVENTS

16.11.2025 -  
14.12.2025

Ausstellung  
Planetary Transitions: Potsdam Artist Residency

03.12.2025 -  
05.12.2025

RIFS Conference 2025  
Tough Conversations in Tough Times

11.12.2026

Dialogue  
Beirätedialog 2025 II - Nachhaltigkeitswissenschaft und Wandel:  
Zwischen Erkenntnis, Verantwortung und gesellschaftlicher  
Wirksamkeit

16.02.2026

Online conference  
Beyond Profit: Redefining Business for a Regenerative Future



Want to learn more about  
us and our research?

[TO OUR WEBSITE](#)



[Legal Notice](#) [Privacy](#)

[Click here to unsubscribe from the mailing list.](#)