



February 2026 Edition

Table of Contents

- [Message from GRONEN's president](#)
- [GRONEN Upcoming Events](#)
- [Information about GRONEN Activities](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [New publications from our members](#)



Message from GRONEN's president

I am pleased to share an update on the momentum building within GRONEN.

First and foremost, I hope you are as excited as I am about the next GRONEN conference, taking place 8–10 June 2026 in Barcelona at ESADE School of Business. We received a record number of submissions, and our wonderful conference hosts, Valentina De Marchi and Tobias Hahn, are thinking creatively about how to make this GRONEN experience truly outstanding.

Over the past year, we introduced several important changes that position our community for a stronger and more resilient future. We refined our governance structure to reflect our evolution into a member-based organization committed to delivering high-quality programming. Many thanks to the GRONEN Bylaws Task Force for its critical support during this transition. Later this spring, you will be able to formally join GRONEN as a member!

We also have integrated our Teams—Workshop, Reading Group, Teaching, Communications, and Early Career—into our leadership framework. This shift strengthens how we collaborate and helps us better support the full range of activities that define GRONEN. In addition, we are nearly finished with transitioning our headquarters from Switzerland to the Netherlands, a move that strengthens our long-term resilience.

GRONEN's inaugural strategic planning process is well underway and builds on five strategic pillars we developed collectively over recent months. I look forward to sharing more about this work soon. In the meantime, GRONEN's programming continues to thrive.



If you wish to get involved, there are many ways to contribute. Whether you run for election (nominations will open shortly!), volunteer to shape our next conference, contribute to our reading groups, support early-career scholars, or amplify our communications, we welcome your ideas and your enthusiasm. Reach out to me or anyone on the Leadership Team. We are eager to bring more voices into the fold.

It's a privilege to serve in this role. Each conversation, workshop, and initiative reminds me how deeply committed our community is to advancing research at the intersection of organizations and sustainability. I am inspired by what we've achieved together, and even more excited about what we will build next. Importantly, none of this would be possible without the commitment GRONEN's Executive Board, Leadership Team, and Strategic Advisory Council, and you.

See you in Barcelona!

Best,
Nicole Darnall
GRONEN President

GRONEN Upcoming Events

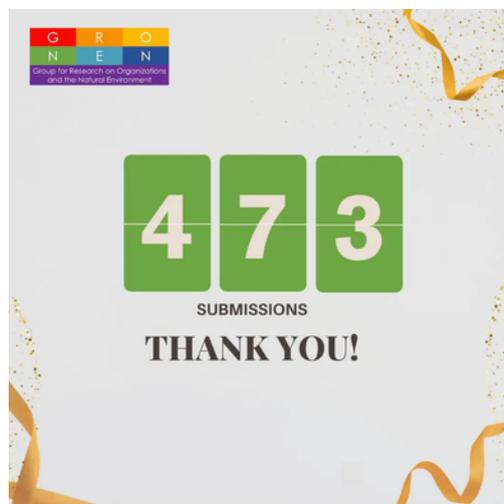
GRONEN Conference 2026

We're pleased to share that we received 473 submissions for the GRONEN 2026 Conference!

This response speaks to the breadth and vitality of research on organizations and the natural environment.

Thank you to every scholar who took the time to submit their work. The range and quality of contributions reflect the depth of commitment across our community to advancing knowledge in this area.

Our review process is now underway. We look forward to building a program that represents the diversity of perspectives and research approaches our community has to offer, and will share updates as the process moves forward.



- 📅 March 15, 2026: Notification of acceptance
- 📍 Esade, Barcelona, Spain | June 7-10, 2026
- 📖 GRONEN 2026: Rethinking Sustainability for a Disrupted World
- 👉 More info [HERE](#)

GROW!EarlyCareer webinar

February 24th 2026 | 15:00 - 16:00 GMT | Online (*link coming soon*)

From Theory Shopping to Theoretical Rigour: Sustainability Research Essentials



Speakers:

Irene Henriques is a Professor of Sustainability and Economics and serves as the Area Coordinator for Business Economics & Policy at the Schulich School of Business, York University in Toronto, Canada.

Jintong Tang is the Mary Louise Murray Endowed Professor of Management in the Department of Management at the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business, Saint Louis University, where she also serves as director of the Emerson Leadership Institute and the interim director of the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship.

Moderator:

Tarlan Ahmadov, PhD, is a researcher at NECE, Research Unit in Business Sciences, University of Beira Interior (UBI), Covilhã, Portugal, specializing in sustainability transitions, circular economy, and SME strategies in changing environments.

Information about GRONEN activities

LATEST PHD STORIES

“Getting involved in side projects and communities was probably the best thing about being a PhD student. There are so many opportunities.”

Kavitha Ravikumar has just completed her doctoral dissertation at Loughborough University, London. Her transdisciplinary research explores how the spatiality of organising can enable spaces that allow sustainability-aligned individuals to imagine desirable futures.

In this PhD Story, Kavitha shares about her transition from industry to academia, top highlights, and a “eureka” moment along her journey, and about the many communities she is involved with. Read Kavitha’s full story [here!](#)



“A PhD can feel like a long journey, particularly when the end goal feels far away, which is why knowing your “why” and breaking the process into manageable parts is so important.”

Margarita Oja da Silva is a PhD researcher at Pablo de Olavide University, Spain. Her research examines how entrepreneurial organizing and strategic decision-making shift when AI agents become part of the entrepreneurial process. In this PhD Story, Margarita shares the top three highlights from her PhD journey so far, a “eureka moment”, and how she recharges outside of work.

Read Margarita’s full story [here!](#)

Information about GRONEN activities

GRONEN READING GROUP

On the 20th of February, the GRONEN reading group held its 35th meeting.

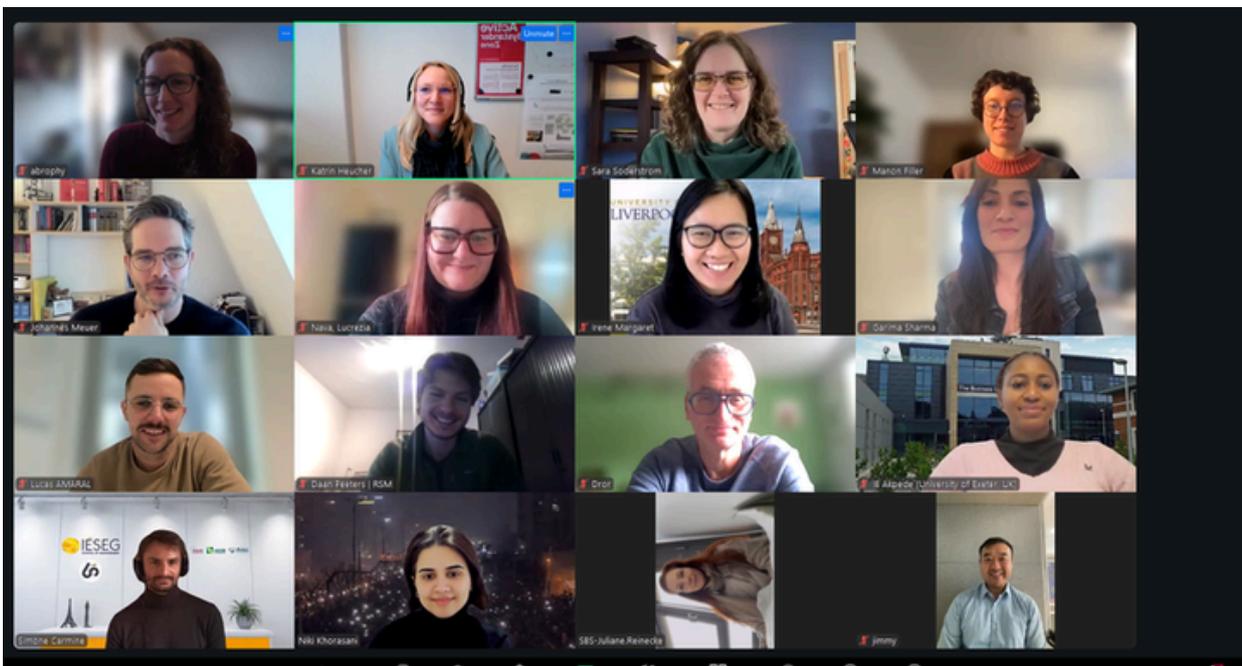
GRONEN Reading Group is continuing its regular series of sessions focused on discussing ongoing research in the field. During this meeting, four papers that are currently under “revise and resubmit” (R&R) in leading academic journals were presented and discussed.

The session provided participants with the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue, exchange feedback, and reflect on how the authors are addressing reviewers’ comments and strengthening their contributions.



In total, 18 participants attended the meeting, connecting to take part in the discussion and contribute their perspectives, making it a well-attended and interactive session.

We would like to thank everyone who attended for their valuable contributions and engagement.



Announcements

GRONEN nominations

GRONEN is pleased to announce our call for nominations for leadership roles within the association. These positions offer meaningful opportunities to shape our community's direction, strengthen member engagement, and advance our shared mission.

We invite nominations (including self-nominations) for the following roles:*

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Conference Coordinator
- Director or Co-director of the Following Teams:
 - Reading Group
 - Early Career
 - Workshop
 - Teaching
 - Communication

Each of these roles plays a vital part in sustaining and growing our professional community. The Vice President supports the strategic direction of the association and works closely with the executive leadership team. Team Directors and Co-directors lead programming, coordinate member involvement, and help ensure that our initiatives remain vibrant, inclusive, and impactful.

All Team Directors and Co-directors are elected by GRONEN Members. Team Directors and Co-directors' terms are 2 years in length and typically can succeed themselves only twice. To maintain continuity across the team, new Directors/Co-directors typically would have had significant involvement with the team in prior years.



Candidates for Team leadership positions may run individually or as a team of Co-directors. All nominations must include the individual's name, position of interest, and a brief statement of interest (no more than 300 words per nominee) indicating why the individual(s) are suited for the role. For nominations that involve a team of Co-directors, please submit the nomination jointly and clearly indicate that you are advancing as a team. Like individual nominations, joint nominations should include statements from all candidates that reflect a shared vision for the role.

We welcome nominations from members across career stages and institutional contexts. Serving in a leadership role provides an opportunity to contribute to the field, expand professional networks, and help cultivate an engaged and supportive scholarly community.

Submit your nominations by March 15, 2026, at the following [weblink](#).

If you have questions about any of the roles, please review the GRONEN website or reach out to [Nicole Darnall](#) or [Arno Kourula](#). GRONEN encourages you to consider how you—or a colleague—might contribute to the continued strength and success of our association.

Thank you!

**The GRONEN President typically will have served as Vice President to be eligible for election to the role of President. The Treasurer must be a resident of the Netherlands. The Conference Coordinator shall have organized one GRONEN research conference (typically the most recent one) to be eligible for the role of Conference Coordinator.*

Announcements

Call for papers!

Special Issue in Environmental Innovation and Sustainability Transitions 'From within: Unpacking internal complexities, trade-offs, and tensions of firms in sustainability transitions'

Dear colleagues,

We hereby invite interested scholars to submit contributions to a special issue in Environmental Innovation and Sustainability Transitions (EIST) titled "From within: Unpacking internal complexities, trade-offs, and tensions of firms in sustainability transitions".

This special issue explores how the internal complexities of business organizations shape their engagement with sustainability transitions. Cross-fertilizing insights from organization theory and transition studies, we invite scholars to explore how internal complexities, trade-offs, and tensions shape firms' perceptions, responses, and enactments of sustainability transitions, thereby enabling or constraining their transformative engagement.

In doing so, the special issue seeks to generate new insights into how business organizations engage with sustainability transitions and to elicit an organizational perspective on the complexities, trade-offs, and tensions that underpin and shape transition dynamics. EIST is a leading interdisciplinary journal at the forefront of sustainability transitions research, connecting insights from innovation studies, policy, and, increasingly, organizational scholarship.



We offer interested authors the opportunity to submit a short abstract (150 words) to receive initial feedback on their idea and its fit with the Special Issue.

The abstract submission deadline is April 1st, 2026, and the full paper submission deadline is September 15th, 2026, with expected publication of the Special Issue in 2027.

Please consult the call for papers for details [here](#).

Any questions or informal inquiries can be directed to the team of Guest Editors:

Birthe Soppe, Innsbruck University
(birthe.soppe@uibk.ac.at);

Taran Thune, University of Oslo
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Christina Bidmon, Utrecht University
(c.m.bidmon@uu.nl)

Announcements

New book

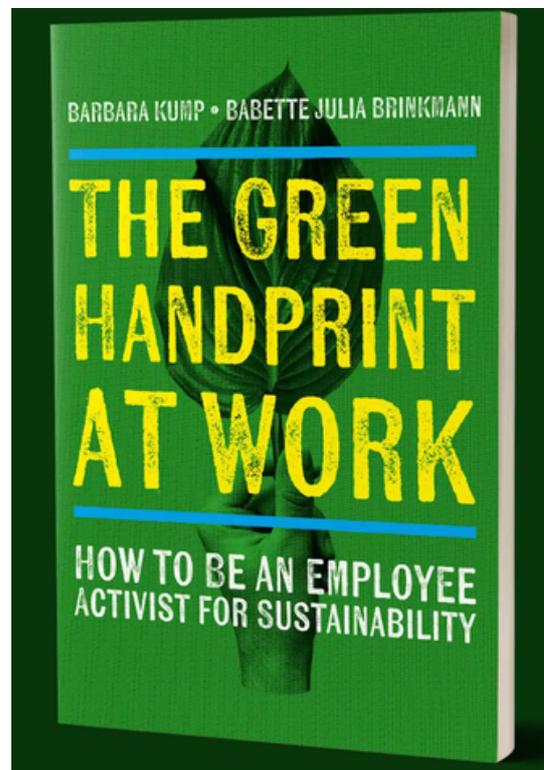
The green handprint at work How to be an employee activist for sustainability

Barbara Kump, Babette Julia Brinkmann

Our future is being dismantled in real time. Ecological collapse, climate breakdown, rising inequalities – and at the heart of it all: business as usual. More and more employees are beginning to realise that the organisations they work for, and often even the tasks they perform each day, are part of the problem rather than the solution.

The Green Handprint at Work is a guide for those who want to leave a positive environmental impact at their workplace by becoming an employee activist: someone who cares deeply about the environment and wants to create change from within their organisation.

It offers tools, not just inspiration, providing employee activists with insights into how power works and how change spreads. It covers theoretical foundations, hard-won lessons, and encouraging stories from people who sparked environmental action from within.



Scan to preorder



New publications from our members

Ahmadov, T., Nguyen, Q. M., Leitão, J. C. C., Chen, Q., Nhan, D. T. T., Burman, V. L., & Zhu, B. (2026). What Drives Open Innovation in Vietnamese Manufacturing Firms? Adaptive Capacity at the Nexus of Strategy and Orientation. *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oiitmc.2026.100733>.

Heucher, K., Kanitz, R., & Leroy, H. (2025). From Dark Alleys into the University Light: Dilemmas of Academic Consulting. *Journal of Management Studies*.

Meath, C., Smith, A., Karlovsek, J., Bubb, L., Bohnsack, R., Glencross, M., Viller, S., Weigel, J., Schlosser, P., Wilson, S., & Bidmon, C. (2026). Designing and evaluating technology-enabled sustainable tourism offerings: A case study of virtual reality conferences. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2026.2626343>

Zhu, B., Ahmadov, T., Kuba, O., Gerstlberger, W., & Prokop, V. (2025). Bridging Inter-Organizational Collaboration, Circular Economy Practices, and Firm Performance: The Role of Dynamic Capabilities Within Baltic States. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.1002/csr.70314>.

Zhu, B., Brozkova, D., Ahmadov, T., Durst, S., & Prokop, V. (2026). One Size Still Does Not Fit All: Configuration Pathways of Environmental, Social, and Governance and Board Diversities for Higher Firm Performances Across One- and Two-Tier Systems. *Business Strategy and the Environment* 35, (2): 1789–1804. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.70250>.



And that's all, folks!
Until next time,
GRONEN

