



December 2025 Edition

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Message from GRONEN's president

I am pleased to share an update on the momentum building within GRONEN. 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. Beginning with our 2026 conference in Barcelona, held June 8th to 10th, you will have the opportunity to formally join GRONEN as a member.

We also 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 range of activities that define GRONEN. In addition, we began transitioning our headquarters from Switzerland to the Netherlands to improve our overall resilience.

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

Our in-person workshop at Utrecht University this October drew more participants than GRONEN's inaugural conference, a clear sign of the growing energy around our community.

Our online visibility also continues to expand, reflecting increasing recognition of the value GRONEN brings to the broader research landscape.



If you want to get involved, there are many ways to jump in. Whether you'd like to help 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, Eva Niesten (VP), Christina Bidmon (Conference Coordinator), or any of our Team Leaders, we are always eager to bring more voices into the fold.

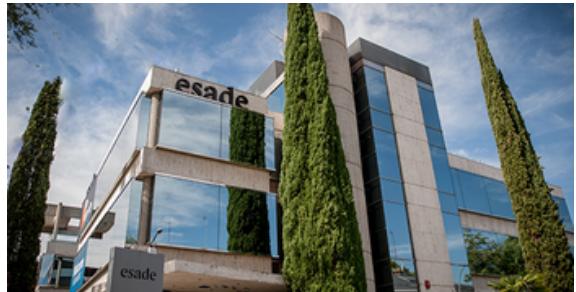
It's a privilege to serve this community. Each conversation, workshop, and initiative reminds me how committed our members are to advancing research at the intersection of organizations and sustainability. I am inspired by what we've achieved together, and even more excited by what lies ahead.

Best wishes,
Nicole Darnall
GRONEN President

GRONEN Upcoming Events

GRONEN Conference 2026 - Submissions open!

As part of GRONEN's ongoing mission to foster high-quality research on organizations and the natural environment, the **GRONEN Research Conference** - held every two years - serves as a vital platform for advancing rigorous and impactful scholarship. **GRONEN 2026** calls for research that critically examines how firms adapt, retrench, or lead in response to systemic disruptions—and how these responses shape the future of sustainability in business and society.



The submission system is now open and the deadline for paper submissions, PDW proposals, and PhD consortium applications is **January 31st, 2026!**



For submission details, check the call [here](#). And for inquiries, please email: gronen2026@esade.edu

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona!

The GRONEN 2026 Organizing Committee

GRONEN Reading Group meeting

February 20th 2026 | Online | More details soon

The next online meeting of the GRONEN Reading Group (GROReG) will take place on February 20th 2026. This is a platform dedicated to discussing sustainability-related papers at the 'revise & resubmit' stage. GROReG sessions are known for their non-competitive, constructive atmosphere, focusing on helping each other develop and publish high-quality sustainability-related papers.

Stay tuned! The call for papers and the submission information will be shared at the beginning of December.



Information about GRONEN activities

GRONEN WORKSHOP “INSIDER SOCIAL CHANGE AGENTS”, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

The GRONEN Workshop took place on October 10th, 2025 and was organized by Katrin Heucher and Sara Soderstrom with the support of the GRONEN Workshop Team, and hosted by Christina Bidmon (Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development) at Utrecht University.

The workshop was sponsored by the Copernicus Institute, The Pathways for Sustainability community on Sustainability Education and Engagement, and the University of Groningen's Strategic Theme on Sustainability and Future Prosperity.

With more than 30 participants, it covered a variety of topics surrounding insider social change agents. To get a better sense of what happened, [you can read here](#) the experience shared by one of our participants, Chiara Rathnow!



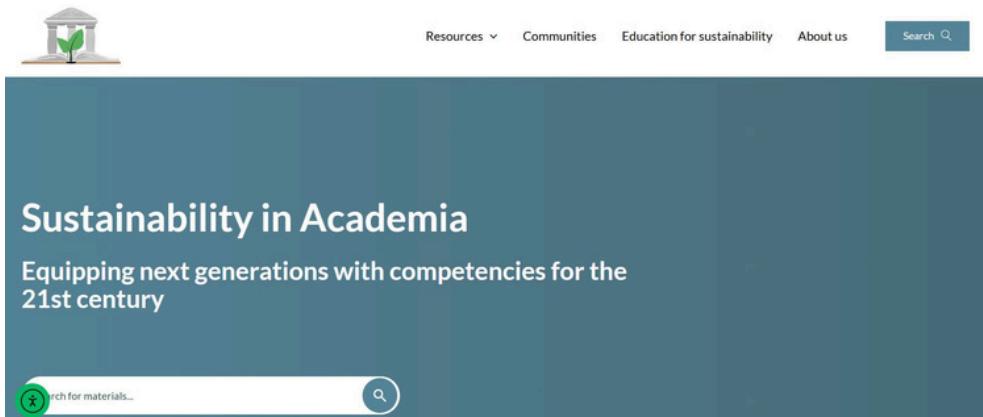
Information about GRONEN activities

NEW PLATFORM: SUSTAINABILITY IN ACADEMIA

A new platform, [Sustainability in Academia](#), has been launched by two of our members, Judith Walls and Anna Tena, in collaboration with WWF Switzerland and Network for Business Sustainability. It offers a curated collection of around 300 open teaching materials for business programmes in higher education.

Resources are organized by knowledge domains, cross-cutting SDG competences, and innovative learning approaches, and each goes through a review process involving faculty from around the world. Every resource includes practical recommendations for how it can be implemented in the classroom.

We invite you to [explore the collection](#) and exchange insights with peers by commenting on the resources. You are also encouraged to join as a curator and share your own teaching materials with the community. [Register your interest here!](#)



COURSEBOOKS ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY AVAILABLE!

Circular Economy represents a transformative shift toward regenerative systems that design out waste, optimize resource cycles, and enable sustainable value creation. To advance this understanding, **three comprehensive coursebooks have been developed** under the **Erasmus+ funded KODECET project**, offering learners conceptual depth and practical tools for implementation. These explore the foundations of circular thinking, innovative business models across sectors, and effective stakeholder management strategies for transition.

Check the three coursebooks [here!](#)

"Foundations and Catalysts for Circular Economy: A Coursebook on Circular Economy"

"Various Business Models to Implement CE in Different Contexts: A Coursebook on Circular Economy"

"Managing Stakeholders for Implementing a Circular Economy"

Information about GRONEN activities

LATEST PHD STORIES

"I think a PhD is one of the rare entry-level jobs where you can immediately benefit from the mentorship of world-level experts."

Nathan Sorin is a PhD candidate at SKEMA Business School. His doctoral research focuses on the implications of firms' AI-related strategies for business sustainability. In this PhD Story, Nathan shares what motivated him to pursue a PhD, highlights from and hobbies along his journey, and tips to fellow PhD researchers.

Read Nathan's full story [here!](#)



Giulia Valentini is a PhD candidate at Politecnico di Milano. Her doctoral research focuses on firm-level strategies and tools to reduce food waste and foster circularity in the food industry. In this PhD Story, Giulia shares what motivated her to pursue a PhD, highlights from her journey so far, and what drives her in and beyond research.

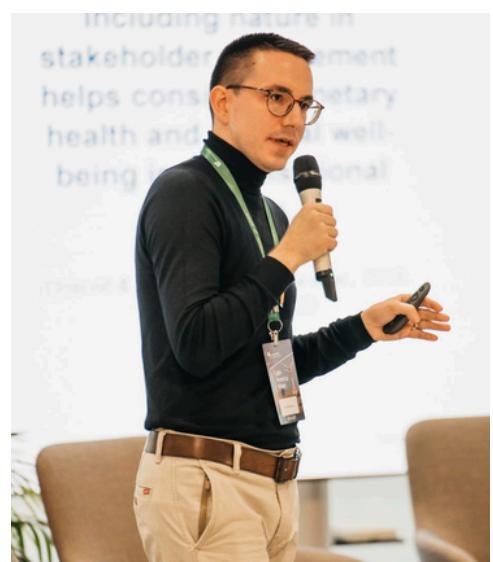
"Often, you just need to start somewhere. Clarity tends to emerge only by taking things step by step."

Learn more about this story [here!](#)

"Besides remaining flexible, consider being unconventional: question the status quo and be creative in your research. Unconventionality is the basis for creating impact."

Silvan Oberholzer is a PhD candidate University of St. Gallen. His research focuses on the integration of nature in stakeholder engagement for value creation that benefits social-ecological systems. In this PhD Story, he shares top highlights and formative experiences from his PhD journey, a key "eureka moment", and tips for fellow PhD researchers.

Get to know Silvan and the full story [here!](#)



Announcements

Call for book chapters!

Teaching Corporate Sustainability: A Practical Toolkit for Business Educators

We invite contributions that **advance our collective understanding of how to teach Corporate Sustainability effectively** in today's rapidly changing educational and business environments. The forthcoming volume seeks to compile innovative, classroom-tested tools, methods, and activities that translate sustainability concepts into meaningful learning experiences.

This edited volume aims to build a shared repository of actionable teaching resources that empower educators to deliver transformative sustainability learning experiences.

Editors:

Ambra Galeazzo, University of Padova, Italy

Javier Delgado-Ceballos, University of Granada, Spain

Valentina De Marchi, ESADE Business School, Spain

Key themes include (but are not limited to):

- Role-playing and simulations for teaching CS
- Gamification for CS education
- Reaching skeptical or resistant audiences in CS courses
- Teaching with sustainability reporting frameworks;
- Using ESG or CS impact data in the classroom;
- Digital platforms and online tools for teaching CS;
- Teaching with real corporate sustainability data or live reporting projects;
- Teaching CS through fieldwork, community engagement, or cross-sector partnerships.



Submission deadline of a 150-200 word abstract: December 31st, 2025. If you are interested, please fill in [this form!](#)

Notification of acceptance will be sent by January 15th, 2026, and full chapters are due by March 31st, 2026.

For additional information on the Call for Chapters, please contact Ambra Galeazzo (ambra.galeazzo@unipd.it).

More details can be found [here](#).

Announcements

Call for papers!

New Organization & Environment Special Issue

If you are investigating how organizations navigate the ecological limits of our planet, we invite you to submit to the special issue **“Organizing within the planetary boundaries”**, hosted by an amazing editorial team.

Guest Editors:

Steve Kennedy, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University

Brooke Lahneman, Montana State University

Lucrezia Nava, University of Exeter Business School

Amanda N Williams, EM Lyon Business School

Special Editor:

Gail Whiteman, University of Exeter Business School

Key themes include (but are not limited to):

1. How Organizations Integrate the Planetary Boundary Framework into Strategy and Action;

2. How Organizations Can Operate and Manage within Individual Planetary Boundaries;

3. How to Navigate Interconnections among Planetary Boundaries and with Social Foundations;

4. How to Develop Alternative Organizational Theories and Practices from Planetary Boundary Biophysical Foundations.



Submission deadline: Authors should submit their full manuscripts through ScholarOne Manuscripts by **March 1st, 2027**.

Important! Make sure to specify in the cover letter document that the manuscript is for the special issue on “Organizing within the Planetary Boundaries”.

All details can be found [here](#).

New publications from our members

Azizi L, Bärsch S, Braun V, Junge L, Lin Feuer Y, Sassen R, Adam N (2025;), "Bridging biodiversity accounting and stakeholder engagement: towards an integrated paradigm for enhancing corporate biodiversity management". *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*, Vol. ahead-of-print, No. ahead-of-print.

Ordonez-Borrallo, R., Ortiz-de-Mandojana, N., & Delgado-Ceballos, J. (2025). Environmental, social, and governance bonds and stock market reactions: An event study. *Business Strategy and the Environment*.

Opportunities

PHD CANDIDATE: THE GOVERNANCE OF ENERGY HUB PLATFORMS

The Organization Studies department at Tilburg University is recruiting a PhD candidate to study how digital energy hub platforms enable decentralized, sustainable energy systems in business parks. **The PhD project will focus on the governance models adopted for energy hub platforms.** The position is part of SYNERGY, a NWO-funded consortium of researchers from multiple Dutch universities and knowledge institutes (Tilburg University, Eindhoven University of Technology, Utrecht University, University of Twente, Delft University of Technology, Avans University of Applied Sciences, TNO) and several societal partners (e.g., Province of Noord-Brabant, Tilburg Municipality, RVO, Enexis).

The PhD will investigate:

- how social dynamics internal to the energy hub influence the governance of energy hub platforms;
- how local governments influence platform governance decisions;
- how platform governance choices affect the implementation of energy hubs.

Supervisors: Dr. Francesca Ciulli (Tilburg University), Prof. Anna Wieczorek (Eindhoven University of Technology), and Dr. Christina Bidmon (Utrecht University).

Start date: Preferably March 1st 2026.

And that's all, folks!
Happy holidays.

