

# Beyond deep-sea mining

Shaping narratives for a socially and ecologically safe future



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## Background and motivation

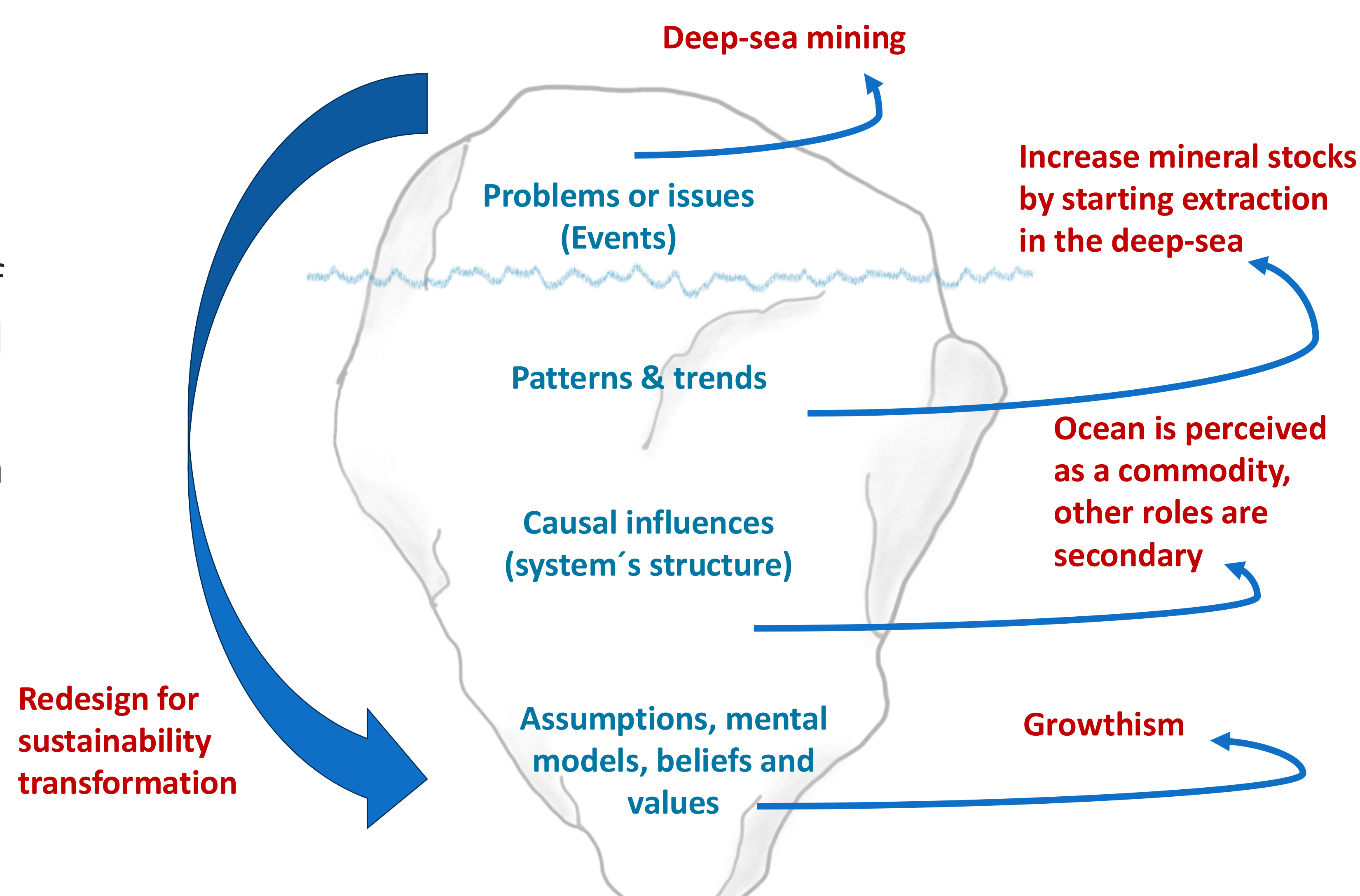
I am a systems thinker working on sustainability transformations. My project in the SEAS programme enables me to take a critical look at deep-sea mining and make visible the problematic socio-economic assumptions underpinning it. In doing so, I detect to non-visible, which shows potential pathways for transformation.

## Project description

I use an interdisciplinary framework rooted in systems thinking, degrowth, environmental justice, and sustainability sciences to critique the dominant growthist narrative. The project shows how deep-sea mining is a product of growthism and aims to put forward new models of narrative building, that are more just, equitable, fair, safe, and inclusive.

## Aims

- Degrowth critique of deep-sea mining and seabed governance;
- Role of academia in challenging growthism;
- New narrative models.



*The iceberg model is a visual tool used in systems thinking to illustrate the different levels of a system: in my project, the push for deep-sea mining is visible but the system enabling it is hidden below the water.*

## Highlighted results and activities:

- Conference presentations: Beyond Oil 2023, Arctic Circle Assembly 2023, Islands as diverse spaces 2024.
- Co-editing a special issue on post-growth in the Journal of Political Ecology.
- Facilitated workshops on energy and resource-efficient pathways, postgrowth in food systems, and sustainability and leadership in SEAS.
- Seminar at the University of Granada, and guest lecturer for stipendiats of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.
- Op-ed in BA and the Ocean Challenge journal.
- Presented at the Pint of Science 2024, co-organized a documentary screening during One Ocean Week.
- Teaching courses in Bergen and Iceland on systems thinking and system dynamics, coastal development, and academic writing.

## Marine sustainability

In this project, I am challenging the growthist paradigm within which we approach ocean sustainability. Concepts like "green" or "blue" growth enable the continuation of extraction. They make other roles of the ocean secondary to supplying resources for infinite economic growth.

## Supervisory team

Roger Strand, UiB

Birgit Kopainsky, UiB



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SEAS

