



Global Challenges

A priority area at the University of Bergen

Activities 2023



Global Challenges at UiB

Global Challenges is one of three priority areas at the University of Bergen, together with **Climate and energy transition** and **Ocean** — mechanisms to generate multidisciplinary collaboration and activities across the whole institution.

We build on the University's long history of engaging partners around the world. We connect people and create meeting places for academic staff, students, policymakers and the public. We initiate and organise events and research schools, support new research ideas and promote innovative projects.

UiB aims to highlight the relevance of academic research and education for solutions to the complex societal challenges facing the world.

For the period 2022–2026 we prioritise activities under the thematic areas of **diversity, resources, global health, migration, democracy and human rights**.

The scientific steering group

Marit Bakke (Leader)
Faculty of Medicine

Simon Øverland (Director)
Global Challenges / CIH

Nils Anfinset
University Museum

Knut Hanevik
Faculty of Medicine

Gro Mjeldheim Sandal
Faculty of Psychology

Siri Gloppen
Faculty of Social Sciences

Martin Paulsen
Faculty of Humanities

Henriette Sinding Aasen
Faculty of Law

Katrine Hjelde
Faculty of Fine Art, Music
and Design

Inger Elisabeth Måren
Faculty of Mathematics and
Natural Sciences

Devyn Remme (PhD rep.)
Faculty of Social Sciences

The secretariat

Simon Øverland
Director

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Assistant Director/Academic Coordinator

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Head of Office

Howaida Faisal Abdelrahman
Adviser, BSRS

Susanne Hoggen Kippersund
Adviser, Bergen Global

Tord K. Rø
Adviser

Inge Tesdal
Higher Executive Officer

EVENTS

Bergen Global

Bergen Global works to create events that provide commentary on current affairs, highlight research of relevance to global challenges, and inspire collaboration across disciplines.

Activities are led by an editorial team that plans and coordinates all activities with “making sense of global challenges” as the guiding theme.

We engage researchers where they are through digital participation. All activities are in-person, but our venue is rigged for digital/hybrid events — free and open to all.

Bergen Global is a collaboration between UiB and Chr. Michelsen Institute.



EVENTS

Making sense of global challenges

In 2023 Bergen Global initiated 52 events — and helped organise even more! We involved people from all over the world and covered a range of topics, including:

- Forced displacement in Sudan
- Eritrean diaspora protests in Bergen
- Peace diplomacy in Colombia
- Queer theory and sexuality in the Global South
- Russian mercenaries in Africa
- Global famine trends

To reach the public outside of academia, we also use venues such as Bergen Public Library and the House of Literature.



RESEARCH EDUCATION

Bergen Summer Research School

Since the first summer school in 2008, more than **1400 PhD students** from **58 countries** worldwide have spent two weeks with some of the best research groups in Bergen

This research school emphasises activities around **health, inequality and governance, discourses on societal challenges, and climate, energy and the environment.**

Bergen Summer Research School is a joint venture between NHH Norwegian School of Economics, NORCE, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and Chr. Michelsen Institute, under the leadership of the University of Bergen



Photo: Eivind Senneset



NHH



NORCE

CMI
CHR. MICHELSEN
INSTITUTE



RESEARCH EDUCATION

Bergen Summer Research School 2023

Involving many of the best research groups in Bergen, BSRS tackles some of the most pressing global challenges facing the world.

Conceptually, BSRS addresses complexities through 5-6 **parallel courses** and bring the participants together in a **joint course** on systems thinking and creative problem-solving.

In 2023, **Childhood** was the common theme of the five parallel PhD courses on **health, nutrition, education, caregiving, and migration**.

BSRS 2023 was led by Professor **Ingunn Marie Stadskleiv Engebretsen** (Centre for International Health).



Photo: Eivind Sennestad

BERGEN SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOOL

The 2023 courses

Health – Counting every child

Frederik Frøen (NIPH/UiB)

Food and nutrition security in childhood

Inger Aakre (IMR/UiB), Ulrike Spielau (UiB)

Contested childhood in the context of migration

Marry-Anne Karlsen (UiB), Jessica Schultz (CMI)

Responsive caregiving in complex emergencies

Ragnhild Dybdahl (UiB/NIPH), Unni Heltne (UiB), Henriette Risvoll (UiB)

Learning on democratic practices and attitudes to sustainability

Kjellrun Hiis Hauge (HVL)

Systems thinking and creative problem-solving (joint course)

Birgit Kopainsky (UiB) and Ingunn Johanne Ness (UiB)



BSRS 2023 with perspectives from 33 different countries.



BSRS 2023



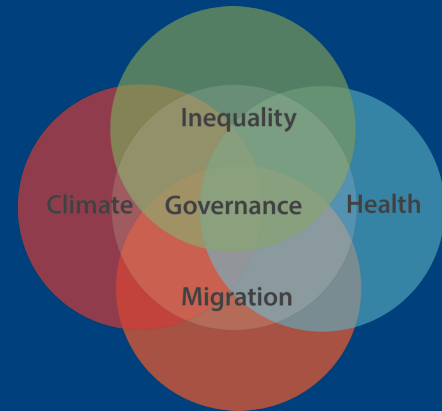
EDUCATION

Bergen School of Global Studies

BSGS responds to a need for multi-disciplinary, research-based and practice-embedded teaching at master and PhD levels.

The network is organised in five pillars led by UiB's research milieux working on issues related to **climate**, **governance**, **global health**, **inequality** and **migration**.

BSGS provides an overview of courses and subjects of relevance to students interested in the causes of these global challenges and in mitigating their effects — taught in English.



RESEARCH EDUCATION

Global Challenges PhD network

Eight **cross-disciplinary PhD** projects were funded as a Global Challenges initiative between 2018 and 2021.

The cross-disciplinarity of the projects and administrative issues cause enthusiasm, possibilities and challenges for the PhD candidates.

Although they are part of excellent research groups at their respective departments, some feel *betwixt and between* departments, disciplines and colleagues.

To address these issues, we organise gatherings to discuss concerns, find solutions, and create a supportive network of professors working across disciplines.



PhD seminar Four of our PhD candidates with some of their advisers (above).

Tobias Bashevkin studies the impact of music therapy on prognosis in Alzheimers disease (left).

Fridah Siyanga-Tembo studies how small fish may reduce child malnutrition.



RESEARCH EDUCATION

The PhD network

Theogene Habumugisha (2018)	Nutrition policy and food systems recommendations anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals and Responsible Research and Innovation frameworks: Is that a possibility?	Ingunn M. S. Engebretsen , Faculty of Medicine Jutta Dierkes , Faculty of Medicine Inger Elisabeth Måren , Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Matthias Kaiser , Faculty of Humanities
Anders Rubing (2018)	Securing the future: Resilient cities in the context of migration	Randi Gressgård , Faculty of Humanities Bjørn Enge Bertelsen , Faculty of Social Sciences
Ludvik Olai Espeland (2019)	Addressing the Global Challenges on antimicrobial resistance with inhibitors of bacterial fatty acid synthesis	Bengt Erik Haug , Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Ruth Brenk , Faculty of Medicine
Mulu Beyene Kidanemariam (2019)	Accounting for maternal deaths in the era of SDGs: Juridification, social practices and implications on maternal death audits in Ethiopia	Henriette Sinding Aasen , Faculty of Law Astrid Blystad , Faculty of Medicine
Ole Kristian Einarsen (2020)	Music, Health and Policy. Child-focused and music therapy-based health research to meet European challenges for migrant minors – a qualitative field study	Viggo Krüger , Faculty of Fine Art, Music, and Design Marit Skivenes , Faculty of Social Sciences Ingunn M. S. Engebretsen , Faculty of Medicine
Fridah Siyanga- Tembo (2020)	Small fish for small children: Dietary intake of small fish to reduce child malnutrition in Uganda	Ragnhild Overå , Faculty of Social Sciences Jeppe Kolding , Faculty of Mathematics, and Natural Sciences Peter Andersen , Faculty of Social Sciences Godfrey K. Kubiriza , Makerere University
Devyn Helen Avhild Remme (2021)	The global implications of Norway's electric car revolution	Håvard Haarstad , Faculty of Social Sciences Kjetil Rommetveit , Faculty of Humanities Siddharth Sareen , Faculty of Social Sciences
Tobias Bashevkin (2021)	Effects of singing on brain plasticity, mood, and quality of life in individuals with, or at risk for, Alzheimer's disease (ALMUTH)	Stefan Kölsch , Faculty of Psychology Geir Olve Skeie , Faculty of Music, Fine Art and Design Christian Gold , Faculty of Music, Fine Art and Design

PHD PROJECT

What happens if we eat less meat when we get older?

Theogene Habumugisha is one of the eight PhD candidates funded through the Global Challenges initiative.

He investigated how a diet with little meat and dairy affects older adults. He also wanted to find out whether such diets are even appropriate in low-and-middle incomes countries.

Habumugisha's project was inspired by the so-called **EAT-Lancet Diet**, a diet similar to the **Nordic Nutrition Recommendations**. Both promote a plant-based diet rich in fish and nuts with moderate consumption of low-fat dairy products and a limited intake of red meat.

The project is funded through **Global Challenges** and is based at the Faculty of **Medicine**, with co-supervisors from **Humanities**, and **Mathematics and Natural Sciences**.



Photo: Eivind Semset

Habumugisha defends his thesis in spring 2024.



Read more about his project:

SDG CONFERENCE BERGEN

SDG Conference Bergen 2023

The sixth SDG Conference Bergen took place in February with **A just transformation to a sustainable future** as the overall theme.

Like in the two previous conferences, it was all digital with some hybrid events. It attracted more than 1,500 participants from 117 countries.

Prime Minister **Jonas Gahr Støre** opened the conference, followed by a keynote by former Prime Minister of New Zealand and UNDP Administrator **Helen Clark**.

Other keynotes included former U.S. Environmental Envoy **Dan Kammen** (Berkeley), **Katja Hujo** of the UN Research Institute for Social Development, and Holberg Prize Laureate **Sheila Jasanoff** (Harvard).



Photo: Silje Katrine Robinson



SDG CONFERENCE BERGEN

Day Zero

Day Zero is the day of events on the day before the annual **SDG Conference Bergen**.

Organised as an **academic festival**, Day Zero is an open space to communicate across disciplines, topics, and goals, and to learn from one another in critical applications of the SDGs.

As the two previous years, all events during Day Zero were digital, although some were organised as hybrid meetings with local in-person participation.

Day Zero 2023

- 32 parallel sessions / 3 waves
- Average 45 participants / session



Photo: Silje Katrine Robinson



UN WATER CONFERENCE

Taking water insecurity to the policy makers

Water access and governance was the topic of a side event organised by the University of Bergen at the **UN 2023 Water Conference** in New York in March.

UiB was one of only a few universities accepted to host official side events at the conference inside the UN Secretariat building. The event presented research, engaged in dialogue with policy makers at all levels, and explored the future of the science-policy nexus.

The delegation included **Dr Tore Sætersdal**, **Professor Edvard Hviding**, **Professor Harsha Ratnaweera** (NMBU), and global adviser/science communicator **Sverre Ole Drønen**.



Photo: Sverre Ole Drønen

Collaborative activities

We support innovative inter-faculty approaches to complex challenges related to **diversity, resources, global health, migration, democracy and human rights**.

Two calls for seed funding is announced every year.

- The funds may be used for meetings, seminars or trips that aim to develop new inter-faculty research projects.
- Participation of staff at least two Faculties is required.
- The activity must be completed within a year of allocation.
- Scientific staff early in their careers are encouraged to apply.

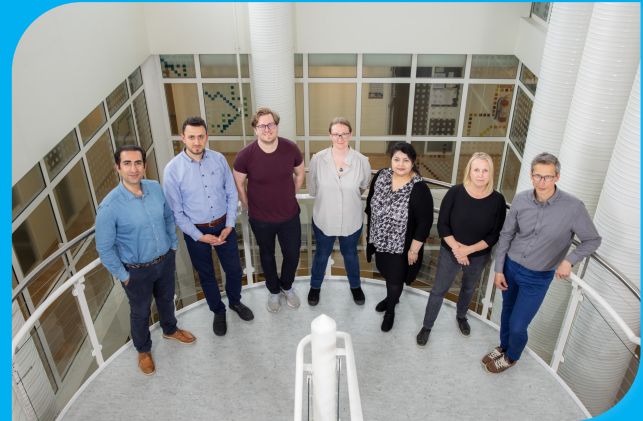


Photo: Eivind Semneset

Collaborative projects 2023

Ingrid Halland

Faculty of Humanities

Upcycling TiO₂ toxics by design: Transforming mining waste in India

Randi Gressgård

Faculty of Humanities

Develop externally funded research projects in the field of gender, migration and diversity

Esperanza Diaz

Faculty of Medicine

Bridging data divides for pandemic preparedness: A workshop on fair AI modelling and legal consideration

Kjersti S. Bakken and Tor A. Strand

Faculty of Medicine

Workshop in Nepal to develop a joint project with the Faculty of Social Science in the field of global health

Kerry Ryan Chance

Faculty of Social Sciences

Habitable Air: Bridging the environmental humanities and policymakers on air pollution

Change of leadership



Professor **Bente E. Moen** handed over the leadership of Global Challenges to **Professor Simon Øverland** in September 2023. Professor Moen held the position since 2017.

Professor Øverland, a psychologist (PhD) by training, comes from a position at Helse Bergen.



Nothing of this would have been possible without
the positive engagement from our partners.



uib.no/globalchallenges