

**Call for proposals – SET Workshop**  
**Understanding and Managing Social-ecological Risks**  
**19 and 20 June 2025 – Sciences Po Paris**

Ecological crises, starting with climate change, are expected to generate a new wave of social risks that will challenge welfare states across the globe. These so-called “social-ecological risks” are poised to alter both the incidence and distribution of existing social risks. They originate both directly from biophysical transformations, such as extreme weather events and other environmental hazards, and indirectly from the distributive effects of environmental policies, which disproportionately affect certain social groups.

These social-ecological risks are also bound to transform the traditional landscape of social policy. The current ecological crisis is already placing pressure on welfare institutions for a profound recalibration, similar to the changes prompted by the so-called “new risks” in the post-industrial transition (Bonoli, 2005). While the entrenched silos separating the governance of social and environmental policies may hinder such recalibration, existing policies could, in many cases, provide protection against social-ecological risks.

A growing body of scholarship has begun to explore the social-ecological nexus, establishing a vibrant research community. However, significant gaps remain in our understanding of social-ecological risks and the public policy responses to address them. What are the ecological and social risks of our time? Who is at risk? How are ecological issues and policies reshaping the nature and distribution of social risks? How are welfare states protecting against social-ecological risks and contributing to social-ecological transitions? Are there new policies to be developed to cope with social-ecological risks?

This workshop seeks to promote an interdisciplinary discussion on social-ecological risks and policies. We invite contributions offering theoretical, conceptual, and empirical insights, based on qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches. We particularly welcome cross-national comparative studies, single-country case analyses, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

## **Key Themes**

- Direct risks connected to extreme weather events and other environmental hazards (droughts, floods, heatwaves, wildfires, etc.) and their social distribution
- Indirect risks connected to climate policies and the green transition (increasing prices of essential goods and services, labour market transformations, etc.) and their social distribution
- The institutionalization and management of social-ecological risks through public policies at local, national, and supranational levels.

## **Workshop details**

Scholars interested in social-ecological risks and policies are encouraged to submit their applications and, if selected, will have the opportunity to present their research work and engage in thought-provoking discussions with expert peers. We look forward to receiving contributions from scholars, especially early-career ones, across disciplines, including social policy, political economy, environmental studies, sociology, economics, philosophy, and related fields.

Submission guidelines: Abstracts of no more than 700 words (with information about the authors' contact, position, and affiliation) should clearly outline the research question, methodology, and (expected) findings or theoretical contributions.

**Applications should be sent by 24 February 2025 to [matteo.mandelli@sciencespo](mailto:matteo.mandelli@sciencespo).**

Deadline for paper circulation: **19 May 2025**

Dates of the seminar: **19 and 20 June 2025**

Location: **Sciences Po, Paris. Hybrid option possible**

Please note that, if needed, the organizers can cover the expenses for a 1-night stay in Paris for selected participants who wish to join in person

## **Organizers: Sciences Po's Social-Ecological Transitions Initiative (SET)**

The *Social-Ecological Transitions Initiative* brings together and promotes cooperation between researchers from various disciplines and Sciences Po laboratories. SET also intends to engage with external academics, professionals and experts. The ultimate goal of SET is to encourage dialogue and to advance our knowledge and understanding of social-ecological transitions. SET is a collaboration different Sciences Po research laboratories: the *Centre de Sociologie des Organisations* (CSO), the *Centre d'Études Européennes* (CEE), the *Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques* (OFCE) and the *Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire d'Évaluation des Politiques Publiques* (LIEPP). SET also operates in partnership with Sciences Po's *Atelier interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l'environnement* (AIRE) and with the support of the *Institut pour les transformations environnementales*. It is coordinated by Anne-Laure Beaussier, Tom Chevalier, Éloi Laurent, Matteo Mandelli and Bruno Palier.