

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### ABIS Colloquium 2024

#### Connecting biodiversity, business and leadership

In addition to climate crisis and pollution, the viability of our planetary systems is threatened by biodiversity loss, i.e. the loss of species. Put simply, biodiversity refers to the diversity of life, in all its forms.

The intertwined combination of biodiversity decline and climate change do not only represent an ecological disaster but, at heart, an existential crisis, and a crisis of humanity. Unless addressed, biodiversity loss threatens the health and viability of all kinds of ecosystems and civilizations, including ours, in their present form. As one symptom of the biodiversity crisis, it has been estimated that up to a million species risk extinction within the next decades.

The pervasive human-driven decline of biodiversity is caused by direct drivers, such as changes in land and sea use, unsustainable direct exploitation of species, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species, as well as indirect drivers, such as the rising global population, overconsumption, and asymmetric distribution of wealth. Put bluntly, our current way of life is destroying the natural ecosystems on which the wellbeing and mutual survival of all species depend on. The COVID-19 pandemic offered a taste of the future if immediate action to remediate the situation is not taken.

Several important international reports on the reduction of biodiversity and its critical implications for the future of humanity have been published over the last few years. In 2019, a thorough global assessment of biodiversity was published by IPBES (The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) which reviewed 15,000+ scientific publications on the state, causes and implications of biodiversity decline and actions needed to change course. In 2021, the links between pandemic risk and reduced biodiversity since the COVID-19 pandemic began according to the evaluation by IPBES pandemics report. In 2021, also mutually supportive goals halting biodiversity decline and climate change were emphasized by the joint report of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and IPBES. Dasgupta (2021), in turn, outlined the role of the current economic system toward biodiversity decline. Finally, the many values of nature and their determination were stated by the 2022 IPBES value report.

Combined, these reports call for transformative change to halt biodiversity loss in the short-to-medium term, while shifting toward a nature-positive approach in the long term. This is a tall order and calls for imminent action.

Despite tentative initial steps, such action remains largely amiss, be it at governance, business or individual consumers level. In terms of research, the lack of appreciation of the connections between biodiversity and business has been lamented in business, supply chain management, accounting, and organization and management literatures.

The aim of the 2024 ABIS Colloquium is to spark the scholarly interest of the business and academic communities toward means of addressing the biodiversity crisis. As previous research on biodiversity has largely been led by natural scientists and ecological economists, it is time that also business researchers attend to the matter. Connecting business and academia, ABIS offers a platform to not only share ideas, but also to develop collaboration opportunities going forward. As businesses and consumers accelerate biodiversity loss via overconsumption and profit-oriented paradigms, these actors are uniquely positioned to work towards developing solutions for the crisis.

The Colloquium calls for conceptual, empirical and methodological papers, across sciences, addressing the connection between biodiversity and business. Papers are welcome to the following sub-themes:

- Consumers, consumption culture and biodiversity
- Business, management and biodiversity, e.g. biodiversity respectful strategies and business models
- Biodiversity-respectful futures
- Biodiversity in specific sectors, such as food
- Measuring biodiversity footprints
- Biodiversity reporting and compensation schemes
- Actors and change-makers in pursuit of sustainable futures

The list is not exhaustive. While the Colloquium is focused on biodiversity, papers studying parallel, and related ecological and economic challenges, such as climate change, pollution and overconsumption or supportive solutions e.g. circular economy, climate-neutral business, degrowth and/or regenerative business, are welcome.

### Publication process

The collected papers will be published in an ABIS Special Issue. We are currently determining the most suited publisher and journal.

### Submissions

- **Extended paper abstracts of 500-1000 words must be submitted by 15 September 2024** by sending them to [contributions@abis-global.org](mailto:contributions@abis-global.org)
- All authors will be informed by 30 September on the decision to accept the abstract for the conference presentation
- Authors of selected abstracts will have the opportunity to present their research at the ABIS 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Colloquium on 23 and 24 October at University of Turku in Turku, Finland.
- The submission deadline for full papers for the Special Issue is 31 January 2025.

### Selection process

The selection process will consider both the academic quality of the paper as well as the contribution to the general theme of the Colloquium.

### Deadlines

- September 15, 2024: Submission of **paper abstracts**
- September 30, 2024: Response of **acceptance of the abstracts** to the authors
- October 23 - 24, 2024: Paper presentation at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ABIS Annual Colloquium 2024
- January 31, 2025: **Submission of full paper**
- February 28, 2025: Response to authors about **acceptance of papers for peer review**

### Further information

- Please send your proposals and questions to: [contributions@abis-global.org](mailto:contributions@abis-global.org)

### Scientific committee:

Satu Teerikangas, Milla Unkila, Ilari Sääksjärvi, Juulia Räikkönen, Anu Hopia, Sari Puustinen from University of Turku and Juha Hiedanpää from National Resources Research Centre, Finland

### References

Dasgupta, P. (2021), *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review*. (London: HM Treasury)

IPBES (2019): *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 1148 pages. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3831673>

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IPBES (2022). *Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. Balvanera, P., Pascual, U., Christie, M., Baptiste, B., and González-Jiménez, D. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6522522>