



Save the dates:

23-25 October

The Third MORSE Conference 2023, SBE TS53 Maastricht

26 October

Elverding Conference 2023, Law Faculty, Maastricht

30 November

Call for papers: Building Resilience for a World in Distress

January 2024

MORSE 2023 Thesis Award

Calls:

**Special Issue: Building Resilience for a World in Distress
in Sustainable Analytics & Modelling**

Published in collaboration with the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS)

In a world grappling with grand challenges from climate change to food security, from pandemics to poverty, addressing complex problems demands innovative approaches. Traditional top-down decision-making proves inadequate in the face of decentralized,

multi-stakeholder environments. To meet the urgent needs of emissions reduction, population growth, and aging infrastructure, a paradigm shift is essential. This special issue aims to unite diverse perspectives in the pursuit of resilience, delving into topics such as resilience in interconnected infrastructure systems, AI and sensing resilience, climate adaptation, global sustainability, urban resilience, disaster response and recovery and social resilience. The call for paper is meant to seek papers that present empirical case studies and/or present methodological advances of the field.

More information: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/sustainability-analytics-and-modeling/about/call-for-papers#building-resilience-for-a-world-in-distress>

MORSE Blogs

Blogs & Video's

Blog



Impact investors connecting near and distant future - Presenting work at the AOM 2023 in Boston.

1 September 2023

At the beginning of August 2023, I participated in the Academy of



My experience at the Academy of Management in Boston

28 August 2023

I just got back from the 2023 Academy of Management (AOM) Conference in Boston, USA. It was my first time attending this conference, and I was



Destructive Criticism...is certainly the most helpful criticism

21 August 2023

"Destructive Criticism...is certainly the most helpful criticism", words of 20th century figurative painter Francis Bacon that symbolize the creative process in

MORSE continues with its blog series in the fall! Every Monday at alternate weeks, MORSE will publish short blog entries. We will begin on October 2nd with a blog authored by Siavash Mohades (ALGEC). Read the last blogs, published during the summer break, about MORSE members' experiences abroad funded by the MORSE Travel Grant.

Follow MORSE on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) to not miss out on any new blog posts!

Are you interested in publishing a blog on MORSE webpage? Write us an email at morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl

MORSE travel grants

To support MORSE researchers in reaching out to colleagues and stakeholders, it is important that especially our early career researchers have sufficient resources to travel. Of course, we encourage you to consider the environment and travel by train whenever possible. You can request financial support from MORSE of up to 50% of your travel budget with a maximum of 500 euros for travel within Europe and 1000 euro beyond. Send a half-page motivated request detailing your topic, the event you

want to attend and a simple budget, at least 2 weeks before your departure, to morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Find more information by clicking on [this link](#).

News and Events

Past Events:

DIAMOND workshop in Maastricht

On September 21-22, Maastricht University School of Business and Economics hosted a workshop for the Horizon project DIAMOND (<https://climate-diamond.eu/>). In this workshop the UM PhD-students in the project: Eoghan O'Connell, Sasha Serebriakova and Prescott Morley, presented their proposed improvements on Integrated Assessment Models to the modelling teams managing such models all around Europe. The UM team will develop modules to include more detail on the important interactions of the energy transition with the labour market, financial markets, income inequality and final demand dynamics. If you want to know more about (the UM involvement in) the DIAMOND project, you can contact [Eoghan \(Labour\)](#), [Sasha \(Finance\)](#) or [Prescott \(Income Inequality and Final Demand\)](#) directly.

International Sustainability Transitions Conference 2023 14th IST Conference 2023

Responsibility and reflexivity in transitions



Earlier this month, MORSE members Maria Tomai (UNU-MERIT), Job Zomerplaag (Studio Europa & UNU-MERIT), and Professor René Kemp (MSI & UNU-MERIT) participated in the three-day [International Sustainability Transitions \(IST\)](#) conference hosted by Utrecht University.

The theme, "Responsibility and Reflexivity in Transitions" urged more than 500 participants to reflect on their role as agents of change and the evolving landscape of

transition studies. Central topics of discussion revolved around the role of reflection in transition processes and what responsibilities we, as a research community, hold for ourselves. How do we reflect on deeply held societal norms and practices within and outside of academia that either stimulate or impede transitions?

Many of the sessions and speakers discussed topics of (in)justice, both regarding how innovation and transitions can contribute to more justice, as well as how injustice may be exacerbated by them. There also appears to be a growing focus on power, politics, and (de)coloniality, related to increasing reflexivity and awareness of our own positionality, as well as acknowledging both the 'bright' and 'dark' sides of innovation. These themes were also key elements in the impressive keynote address by Professor Mark Swilling (Stellenbosch University, South Africa). His talk, titled "Reflections of an enraged incrementalist," included a history lesson on 500 years of colonial reconfiguration of the global economy, as well as a proposal of '7 passions for change'. You can find Swilling's latest book [here](#).

Other significant discussions centered on the need to navigate a volatile world, acknowledging political instability, economic volatility, environmental crises, and geopolitical tensions as defining features of the coming decades. This necessitates a shift in transitions research towards embracing real-world experimentation in complex and unpredictable conditions. The role of finance in transition studies also gained attention, with a focus on transformative investment as a new approach to financing transitions.

MORSE members Maria, Job, and René presented their work at IST as well. Maria presented some insights from her research on sustainability transitions in the context of developing countries. In her presentation, she reviewed the dynamics that influence socio-technical transformations in developing countries, and showed how macro-level institutional capabilities, the fragmented nature of the regimes and the lack of guidance and coordination among actors in the corresponding innovation systems impact the speed and direction of transition pathways in these contexts. She then illustrated these findings with evidence from the ambiguous waste-to-energy transition in Ghana.

Job and René presented their conceptual work on the dynamics of responsibility, demonstrating how the governance of sustainability transitions involves reciprocal assumptions and expectations among actors regarding the attribution and distribution of responsibility. This occurs both horizontally through multi-actor dynamics and vertically via multi-level dynamics. Their talk proposed how governance arrangements, such as Green Deals, combine requirements (rules) and incentives (rewards) in such a way that they may achieve (voluntary) actor compliance with new responsibilities.

In summary, the IST conference highlighted the need to adapt transition research to a rapidly changing world, diversify the field, and address pressing issues such as justice, power dynamics, and coloniality within the context of governing and financing sustainability transitions. We are pleased to share these insights during the upcoming MORSE conference in October.

Dialogue session on integrated problem solving in transdisciplinary transition research



At the IST2023 Conference about sustainability transitions in Utrecht, René Kemp, Florian Goldschmeding and Veronique Vasseur organised and hosted a dialogue session on integrated problem solving. Participants were asked to share their experiences and insights regarding transdisciplinary research involving the creation of collective action frames for integrated problem solving, by widening the scope of inquiry and range of actors involved. Most problem-solving is rather narrow. For example, water safety is approached in a narrow way (as an issue of water retention), neglecting issues of circularity, democracy and nature development. Central questions were: *how to stimulate actors to engage in integrated problem solving, what are the conditions for achieving positive results and how to embed lessons learned in organisations?*

Regarding those issues the following insights were put forward:

- learning involves a critical reflection on categories and assumptions (including those of yourself);
- normative disagreements are normal in projects in which incumbents are supposed to change;
- researchers may become a target of criticism and have to develop strategies for dealing with this;
- “meaningful wins” are needed for keeping participants motivated and committed to the process;
- a lot is happening between meetings;
- you cannot put stakeholders in a rigid research format (formats such as reflexive interactive design have to be applied loosely);
- integrated problem solving requires problem-structuring and new frames & criteria for success;

lessons learned are difficult to disseminate and embed organisationally because the internalisation of a collective action frame based on integrated problem-solving cannot be taught, but stems from encounters with others and reflections on your own assumptions.

Inauguration of the [Chair Crisis Management](#) at the University of Antwerp

On 20 September, the University of Antwerp, the University Fund Antwerp, the Faculty of Business and Economics, Fire Zone Antwerp and PM • Risk Crisis Change have inaugurated the 'Chair of Crisis Governance', at the Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

The aim of the new 'Chair of Crisis Governance' is to expand our understanding of effective crisis governance. It does so based on a succinctly embedded, holistic, process-based understanding of crises. The Chair will create and disseminate knowledge on the wide topic of crisis governance supporting both researchers and practitioners on how effective crisis governance can help research and practice at both strategic and operational levels to appropriately develop, govern and adapt to changing circumstances.

The Chair not only wants to study how insights in different domains challenge existing paradigms and theories but also wants to valorise that knowledge for organisations and their members. The Chair's ambition is, on the one hand, to function as a center for research and regulation, and on the other hand, to become a reference center for research and practitioners interested in this multidisciplinary field of crisis governance.

The PhD MORSE Workshop

As part of its commitment to bring researchers with different topical and methodological backgrounds together, MORSE organized the [3rd MORSE PhD Workshop](#) on June 20 and 21. The workshop presented an opportunity for PhD students at the School of Business and Economics to share and discuss work at every stage of the research process. In turn, the PhDs received valuable feedback from senior MORSE members besides their own supervisors, as well as from other PhD students. We look back at constructive discussions, thought-provoking questions and comments, and plenty of opportunities to broaden our horizons and gain new perspectives on our research.

Stay tuned to know when next workshop will be held. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

Future Events:

MORSE Conference 2023

The full programme of the Third MORSE Conference is online

The Third MORSE Conference is approaching, click [here](#) to download the full programme and register via the green button **by the 6th of October**.

The conference will see outstanding key notes, an interesting panel with SBE alumni and the presentation of more than 60 papers.

Please disseminate this to your networks! In case of questions or problems with the registrations, please contact morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Scholars from UM, the Netherlands, Europe and beyond will convene in Maastricht around the theme Science for a Sustainable, Resilient and Responsible Future and will discuss state of the art academic work as well as engage in trans- and interdisciplinary discussions on how these latest insights can help in addressing today's most urgent societal challenges.

Elverding Conference 2023

Enhancing sustainable business and corporate regulation in the EU



The poster for the Elverding Conference 2023 features a light green background with a pattern of small dots in the top left and right corners. The date '26 October' is written in a large, bold, orange font at the top. Below it, the title 'Elverding Conference 2023' is in a bold black font, followed by the subtitle 'Enhancing sustainable business and corporate regulation in the EU' in a bold orange font. The poster is divided into two columns of text. The left column lists the location and time, and the sessions. The right column lists the confirmed speakers.

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|--|--|
| Maastricht University Law Faculty 12:00-18:00 | Confirmed speakers |
| Session 1: Active ownership and planetary boundaries | Paul Davies (University of Oxford) |
| Session 2: Director's duties and the role of corporations | Jaap Winter (VU Amsterdam, Phyleon leadership & governance) |
| | Rients Abma (Executive director Eumedion) |

On October 26th, following the MORSE conference, the Elverding Chair hosts its annual event. Not coincidentally, the theme of this year for the Elverding Conference overlaps nicely with the plenary theme of the MORSE Conference: **what is the responsibility of private business in shaping the transition to a more resilient and sustainable future?**

The Elverding Chair combines and emphasises especially the legal and corporate governance aspects of that question and has, once more, succeeded in bringing together high level scholars and practitioners on that theme in its annual conference. As the MORSE conference will take place at SBE, the Elverding Conference is only a short walk away at the Law Faculty and is open for those MORSE members available and interested in these topics. You can register and find more information [here](#).

The decade of sustainable finance

Half-time evaluation



This hybrid conference, Co-Organised by MEP Paul Tang and QED, will be held on 14 November 2023, 13.00-16.40 CET, live event in Brussels.

The EU's sustainable finance agenda took off in 2018 with the publication of the High-Level Expert Group Report on Sustainable Finance. Five years later, it is time to evaluate. What are the lessons learned of the previous five years? And what should the next Commission do to achieve a sustainable financial market by the end of its mandate?

Click [here](#) for the full programme and speakers in the conference. You can register at this [link](#).

Research:

Projects

Updates about MILL project, The Maastricht Immersive Learning Lab

After positive discussions with enthusiastic colleagues at EDLAB, Brightlands Campus Heerlen and across the departments DAD, ERD, MILE, MSI and FIN, the MORSE EB decided to install a working group to explore the viability of the Maastricht Immersive Learning Lab (MILL). The MILL will be a lab where SBE and possible other UM colleagues can develop and execute realistic scenario based serious games for educational and training purposes. The MILL project team per the first of September consists of Pomme Theunissen (DAD/FIN), Therese Grohnert (ERD), Nicole Rijkens (MSI), Tania Treibich (MILE). Together with EDLAB the team hopes to submit a project proposal for a multidisciplinary PREMIUM MSc. project to be executed in January-May 2024. That multidisciplinary feasibility study will research and assess the economic, organisational, didactic, and technical feasibility of such a lab and develop a project plan for its realisation. As part of the extensive feasibility study, the project team will design, implement and (help the students) analyse the data of three pilots in a small MSc. course in P4, a massive BSc. course in P5 and a (group of) external stakeholders from the region. The project team also aims to engage MSc. students "Learning and

Development in Organisations” to get feedback on the didactic aspects of these pilots. If you are interested in the MILL, want more information or join our project, please contact us at morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Highlighted Publications

Vinzenz Peters (MILE), Jingtian Wang, and Mark Sanders (MILE), published the article "Resilience to extreme weather events and local financial structure of prefecture-level cities in China." *Climatic Change* 176, no. 9 (2023): 125. Click on [the link](#) to read the article!

Melanie Feeney, Therese Grohnert (ERD), Pim Martens (UCV) and Wim Gijssels (ERD), published the article “Organizations, Learning, and Sustainability: A Cross-Disciplinary Review and Research Agenda” Click on [the link](#) to read the article!

Rob Bauer, Nora Pakrartz, and Jeroen Derwall published their paper “Climate Change, Firm Performance, and Investor Surprises”. Click [this link](#) to read the full article!

Ruud Gerards and with Riccardo Welters (James Cook University) published, “Unemployment benefit eligibility requirements and perceived time pressure. Click [this link](#) to read the full article.

Grants and PhD-proposals

No new Grants and Proposals have been submitted

New Vacancies and Hires

As of November 1 2023 Sasha Serebriakova will start working on the DIAMOND PhD-project: “Improving the Representation of Financial Markets in Integrated Assessment Models” under the supervision of Mark Sanders and Friedemann Polzin (Utrecht University).

As of October 1, Stephany Burbano will start working on a PhD-project on the financial impacts of physical climate risks in the Netherlands under the supervision of Nils Kok and Mark Sanders together with the Dutch Central Bank (DNB).

This is (inevitably) only a short list of the events, publications and projects MORSE-members are involved in. If you can use our support in developing your proposals or would like your project to be announced and shared in the next New Endeavours, please send a description like the ones above to morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

