

**WCSG Incubator Project “Science Talks without Jargon”
Report from a visit to the COP26**

November 2021, Glasgow

Participants and authors of the reports:

Helena Solman (PhD Candidate at ENP, WUR) and **Robin Smale** (recently graduated PhD of ENP, currently employed at municipality of Wageningen)

List of participants (involved in organization of the visit to the COP26)

- Sayel Cortes (PhD ENP)
- Yannick Buitenhuis (PhD PAP)
- Helena Solman (PhD ENP)
- Tabitha Muriuki (PhD FNP/ENP)
- Pamela Bachmann (PhD ENP)
- Nila Kamil (PhD ENP)

List of project endorsers

- Jillian Student (Postdoc ENP)
- Mattijs Smits (ENP)
- Jelle Behagel (FNP)
- Tamara Metze-Burghouts (PAP)

Introduction to the Report: visit at the COP26 as a key event of the incubator project **“Science without jargon at the COP26”**

Academics and practitioners complement each other on tackling sustainability challenges; however, despite working in the same field, they often use different technical terms (jargon) and perspectives that make communication between them difficult. To tackle this challenge a group of researchers from WCSG cluster has started an incubator project called Sustainable governance talks without jargon. The goal of this incubator is to promote two-way communication between academics and practitioners is essential to promote innovation. The “Sustainable Governance Talks Without Jargon” project wants to help PhD candidates bridge this gap by fostering *jargon-free* communication with practitioners. At the same time, by using a common language, PhDs can share their research with a wider audience.

The Sustainable Governance Talks Without Jargon supports WCSG PhDs to develop skills to communicate beyond academia, connect with practitioners related to their research, and develop non-academic publications to reach a wider audience. By doing so, the scientific impact of the research of PhDs can be enhanced through more connection with practitioners and society in general and the contacts between scientists and practitioners can be the starting point for further collaborations. With this mission of incubator project, a team of PhD from SSG applied to participate in the COP26 in Glasgow, and two delegates of ENP- Helena Solman and Robin Smale went to the COP26 and represented the incubator team. They went for the second week of COP26 between 7-Nov-2021 till 11-Nov-2021. The COP26 was chosen as a main event for the incubator activity talks without jargon because it is where world leaders as well as range of practitioners from the private sector, activists and academics come together to discuss and act upon the urgency of climate change. This is an important event where science can be linked to practice, for societal impact and environmental sustainability. Therefore, the COP26 offers a unique possibility to engage with policy makers and practitioners working in governance of sustainability challenges across the world but the whole event is geared towards mutual learning and networking. Taking this opportunity, a range of **activities and events were organised in the light of the key theme “Science Talks without Jargon.”** These included:

1. Panel discussion "Science without Jargon" – bridging the gap between research on energy transition, climate finance and local energy governance with practice - a discussion between the participants of incubator project – Helena Solman and Robin Smale, associated ENP PhD Robert Bergsvik and Dr Mark Bynoe speaking on behalf of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

2. Press Conference Climate Talks Without Jargon: livestreamed and online available discussion by a team of researcher (including the two representatives of the incubator project (Helena Solman and Robin Smale at COP26) about their reflections related to the COP26. Other participants included: Max van Deursen, Robert Bergsvik and Lia Zakiyyah

3. Networking activities- attending side events, organizing follow up meetings, disseminating research. These activities are described in the next chapter.

Description of activities and events organised at the COP under the umbrella theme **“Talks without Jargon.”**

1. Panel discussion "Science without Jargon" – bridging the gap between research on energy transition, climate finance and local energy governance with practice - a discussion between the participants of incubator project – Helena Solman and Robin Smale, associated ENP PhD Robert Bergsvik and Dr Mark Bynoe speaking on behalf of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

Title of the panel discussion: Non-state actors (NSAs) engagement in climate action: lessons learned from the Netherlands, Mexico, and Indonesia

Format: Panel discussion

Location: CARICOM Pavilion, COP26 Glasgow, United Kingdom

Date: Thursday 11th November 2021

Time: 10:30- 12:00

Summary of the session:

This panel discussed the topic of NSAs (non-state actors) engagement in climate change. The panel was conducted in a “jargon-free” format, one that encouraged discussion and exchange about translating the findings from academic research into the everyday work of experts and practitioners in the field of sustainability governance and climate change mitigation and adaptation specifically. By sharing lessons and experiences from several cases across the globe on these range of topics, the panel also provides a means to inform our academic research with the on-ground practices and challenges. The topics discussed are the proposed topics:

1. Citizen participation in the energy transition and climate policy in Wageningen, the Netherlands- Robin Smale (speaking about his PhD research on smart grids as well as experiences as policy maker at the municipality of Wageningen)
2. Public concern and resistance as a key challenge in energy transition - by Helena Solman, presenting insights from her research about opposition to wind power
3. The role and politics of climate finance agreements on climate adaptation and mitigation – by Robert Bergsvik, presenting his research about politics of climate finance at the COP
4. Examples of good practices in the implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation projects in the Caribbean region. Dr. Mark Bynoe speaking on behalf of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

A diversity of perspectives brought by panellists from various background of academia, non-profit and government sector will provide an insightful and integrative view on the topics.

Program:

- Welcoming remarks and introduction to the session (5 mins)
- Panels (30 mins – 5 speakers)
- Q & A (15 mins)
- Wrap up and closing (5 mins)





2. Press conference Climate Talks Without Jargon: Researchers from Wageningen University at COP26 share insights

Livestreamed and online available discussion by a team of researcher (including the two representatives of the incubator project, Helena Solman and Robin Smale, at COP26) about their reflections related to the COP26. Other participants included:

Max van Deursen- ENP PHD Candidate in Transgov Project

Robert Bergsvik-ENP PHD Candidate in Transgov Project

Lia Zakiyyah- Graduate Research Assistant at George Mason Center for Climate Change Communication (4C); previously employed by the Indonesian Ministry, at the office for Climate Change

To disseminate the results of the visit at the COP26 to audience at home as well as and broader public, the incubator team at the COP26 took an initiative to organize a press conference that was livestreamed at the venue (in a special press conference room) and made available to broader audience via YouTube. In this video four PhD researchers from the Environmental Policy Group of Wageningen University talk about their research and perspectives on COP26 in an accessible manner. The video also features as a special guest a former policy maker from Indonesia.



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Climate Talks Without Jargon: Researchers from Wageningen University at COP26 share insights

- The press conference can be watched online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-jWiweHH64>
3. Networking activities- attending side events, organizing follow up meetings, disseminating research without Cop networks

At the COP26, there was an extensive possibility to engage with policymakers, networks, stakeholders, organisations, or activists working in the fields of sustainability governance. The members of the incubator project took this opportunity and attended a range of events, discussions as well as participated as an audience during climate negotiations. This resulted in broadening of networks between SSG and other organisations in the field of sustainability governance. Below, we list some of the new contacts established and explain in which way they are already leading to new collaborations or exchange.

Contacts	Connection or Collaboration Developed
Digital Europe	In the pavilion of European Union, there was an event on digital twin transition for European energy systems. This event was attended by Helena Solman as a relevant to her recent work on digital twins for wind energy sector. She connected with Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, director general of digital Europe.
Swiss wind energy R&D Network	In wind energy Pavilion, Helena Solman connected with Sarah Barber, Programme Leader Wind Energy at OST – Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences. This connection resulted in an invitation to join “We do Wind Platform” that connects researchers with practitioners of wind energy in developing joint projects: https://www.wedowind.ch/wedowind-ecosystem
SPRU - Science Policy Research Unit. http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/	Connection with Asili Ates- PhD Researcher at SPRU - Science Policy Research Unit. Incubator participants, Helena and Robin were invited to present their research on seminars organized by SPRU.
Sustainable AI Lab	At the UN Climate Change Pavilion Robin connected with prof. Aimee van Wynsberghe of Bonn University. Mutual research interests were shared and the potential for future collaborations and exchanges were discussed.
Climate Change AI	At the Germany pavilion Robin connected with dr. Lynn Kaack of the Hertie School. They discussed the ongoing research on sustainable AI at the Climate AI institute and the research interests with respect to sustainable AI at the WCSG.
ICATALIST	Robin connected with dr. Elena Lopez Gunn, founder, and director of ICATALIST and lead author of IPCCS WGII Chapter 4. Robin was invited to contribute to a short piece for the Spanish foundation for science and technology on digital technologies and sustainability.