



*Mundus
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Can geosciences help inserting social justice notions into Blue Economy narratives?

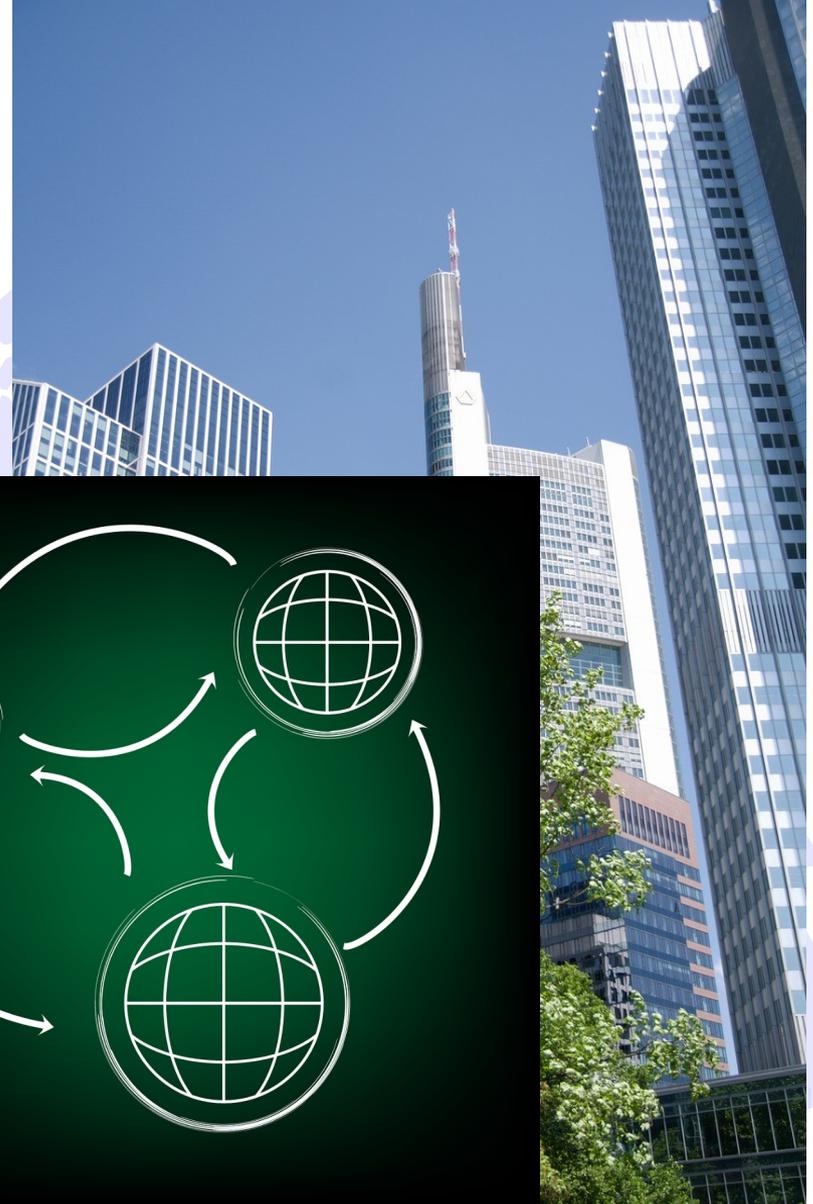
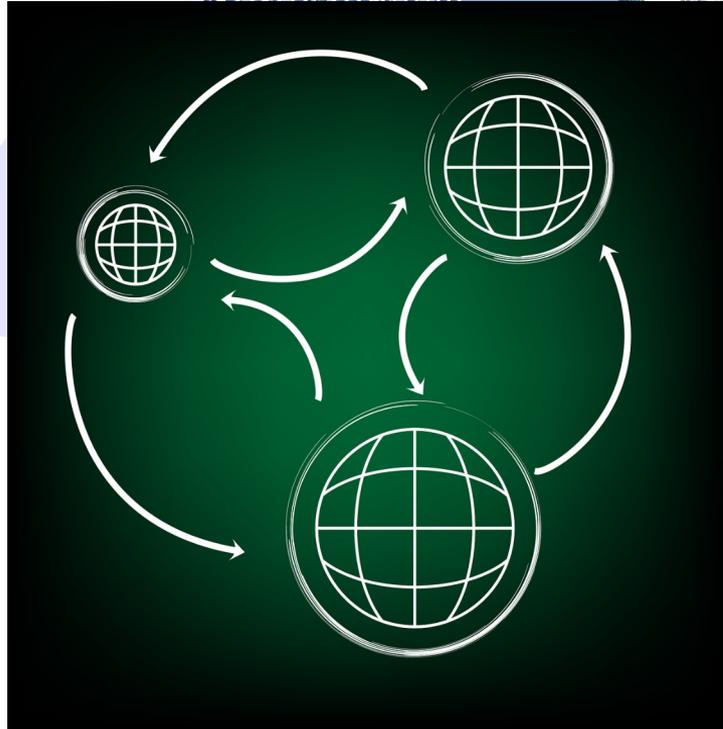
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Promises

Many countries have adopted the narrative of a dynamic Blue Economy which will bring prosperity through marine diversification, economic growth and thus combat poverty through investment into sustainable development: an interesting outlook, particularly given that 83 countries have more ocean space than land territory.

Looking at common images coming up when searching for 'Blue Economy' conjure up international finance and exponential growth of our finite planet. Really?





Defining ocean equity



Recognitional equity

The acknowledgement and consideration of local rights, values, visions, knowledge, needs and livelihoods in policy and practice.



Procedural equity

The level of inclusiveness and participation in decision-making and the embodiment of good governance principles.



Management equity

The extent of local capacity for, leadership in and authority over management activities.



Distributional equity

The degree of fairness in the allocation of benefits and the minimization of harms to local populations and among groups.



Environmental equity

The safeguarding and maintenance of local environmental quality, sustainability and nature's benefits to people.



Contextual equity

The extent to which broader contextual factors enable or undermine local social equity and the advancement of equity in policy and practice.

Bennett, N.J. (2022). Mainstreaming Equity and Justice in the Ocean. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, Vol. 9 DOI 10.3389/fmars.2022.873572



Promises not borne out

A systematic review of the literature found no trace of articulated ethics and justice notions either in 128 articles and policy papers or in >1000 publications for extracting word clouds of key terms.

Biggest contributors to injustices were distributional and contextual equity.

Das, J. (2023). Blue Economy, Blue Growth, Social Equity and Small-scale Fisheries: A Global and National Level Review. *Studies in Social Science Research*, 4(1):45 p. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22158/sssr.v4n1p38>

Pics: Gerd Altmann from Pixabay





Feedback helps learning

Financialisation ups the risks and concentrates power in fewer hands.

But we have most of the knowledge needed, if we were to exploit the feedback loops at our disposal to steer towards going back to operate within planetary boundaries.

Rushkoff, D. (2022). *Survival of the richest. Escape fantasies of the tech billionaires.* Scribepublications, UK, ISBN 978-1-915590-24-4, 212 p.

Pic: Quang Nguyen vinh from Pixabay





Overconfidence in technology

Some technologies scale well, but unintended negative effects are often insufficiently accounted for.

The hype and rush for new technologies often starts with a global claim with little or no analysis of alternative options. Do we hand control over without assessing complex interactions and future effects not to mention human rights?

Jasanoff, Sheila (2016). *The Ethics of Invention: Technology and the Human Future*. W.W.Norton, 320 p. ISBN: 978-0-393-07899-2.

Pic: used in different sources





Reconnecting to people and planet

Approaches to managing social affairs usually do not scale as cues even from ubiquitous brands give rise to different responses in different localities and countries.

Harnessing a combination of traditional and indigenous knowledges and providing intelligible access to the sciences holds potential.



Jasanoff, S. (2004). Ordering knowledge, ordering society. Chapter 2 pp. 13-45 in Jasanoff, S. (ed.), *States of Knowledge: The Co-Production of Science and the Social Order*. Routledge





Transdisciplinary practice

Practice of co-creation will require some rethinking of the self-image of many sciences and adaptations to typical project formulations and flows. Research funders, and many public and private organisations will also need to up their social capacities.



Steps geoscientists take in that direction together with others – Geo-Ethics - open new vistas for opportunities by connecting global analyses with local solutions, and reduce harm. Let the aspiration be followed by action on the ground to learn together and improve.



Thanks for your attention

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