

# Lecturer Bios

For the “Strategies for Change and Transformation” module

## Module coordinator



### Prof. Dr. Martin Welp

[Martin Welp](#) is since 2006 Chair of Socioeconomics and Communication at the HNEE. He is Academic Director of the Biosphere Reserves Institute (UNESCO Category 2 Institute) and a researcher at the Centre for Economics and Ecosystem Management. Prof. Welp heads the international Master's degree programme in Global Change Management. His transdisciplinary research focuses on conflict and cooperation in natural resource management with a focus on water and climate change. Prof. Welp is project leader and partner in several transdisciplinary research projects in Europe, Central and South Asia. He is also a guest professor at LUT University in Finland (Department of Social Science).

## Main lecturers:



### Prof. Dr. Daniel Johnson

[Daniel Johnson](#) is a Professor of Value-Based Forest Economics at HNEE since 2024. From 2022 to 2024, he worked as a research associate at the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW). There he worked on and led various projects on the topics of water and land management, economic analysis of forest and peatland ecosystems, urban greenery and sponge cities as well as cross-cutting issues such as digitalization and energy. He focuses on socio-ecological approaches and applies ecological-economic methods such as the valuation of ecosystem services. He focuses on making

the values of nature visible and preparing them for policy and decision-making. Daniel holds a PhD in economics with a background in natural sciences and economics and a degree in environmental, water and resource management.

## Luzmila Rosales Richard



[Luzmila Rosales Richard](#) is a biologist specialized in Ecology and holds a Master's degree on Global Change Management. With over 15 years of experience in project management, she has engaged with diverse stakeholders and contexts on topics such as education for sustainable development, environmental governance, climate change adaptation, mountain sustainable development, resilient food systems, and Biosphere Reserves. Luzmila has also research experience in Peru working with [ICRAF](#) on agroforestry practices, small farmers, and climate change adaptation, and with [Instituto de Montaña](#) analyzing ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures related to hydrological systems.

Within a joint project by GIZ and [ICIMOD](#), she conducted the research for her master's thesis to investigate the [socio-ecological system of a protected area in Nepal](#) by applying the ecosystem approach. Since 2022, she has been teaching and coordinating various modules for the Global Change Management Master's program and the International Forest Ecosystem Management Bachelor's program at HNEE.



## Dr. Michael Spies

[Michael Spies](#) is a human geographer with broad experience in transdisciplinary human-environmental research. As an initiator and group leader of TRANSECT, his main research interests are reflected in the project design and include social-ecological dynamics of farming systems, participatory approaches to natural resource management and transboundary perspectives of agrarian change in Central Asia and Pakistan.

## Other guest lecturers:



### Caroline Meier

[Caroline Meier](#) is currently a PhD candidate in modern history at Augsburg University and HNEE. Her current research is situated in political ecology, looking into society-nature relations in global environmental programmes. Her interests are in the emergence and reproduction of unequal power relations in postcolonial settings. Currently, she is exploring the global environmental discourse and the role of Latin American countries during the post-war period at the example of UNESCO.



### Sonja Langela

[Sonja Langela](#) is a Community Manager for Diversity and Gender Equity at the University of Potsdam, driving inclusive community building and organizational change. With a Bachelor's in Ecology and Environmental Planning, a Master's in Global Change Management, and experience in diversity consulting, she bridges sustainability, diversity, and transformation to create lasting impact.

## Case studies and practical insights:



### Christian Barthelt

Christian Barthelt, based in Munich, is currently a Senior Project Manager at [Munich Re Foundation](#). In 2008, he graduated in Geography from the University of Munich.



## Renate Bleich

[Renate Bleich](#) is the Managing Director of the [Munich Re Foundation](#). The foundation addresses the major global challenges of environmental and climate change and disaster prevention. Previously, Renate Bleich was responsible for further developing Munich Re's sustainability strategy and placing the Group's activities in a broader context, e.g. that of the SDGs. A particular focus of her work is climate change. Renate Bleich holds a degree in economic geography from LMU Munich.



## Nadja Dorschner

[Nadja Dorschner](#) studied International Development at the University of Vienna. She has worked in the [Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung](#)'s Asia Department since 2018 and headed the South Asia regional office based in New Delhi for two years.



## Jelena Radeljić

Jelena Radeljić has been sustainability officer at [Ludwig Weinrich](#) GmbH & Co.KG since 2017. She holds a BA in International Development from the University of Vienna and an M.Sc. in Global Change Management from the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde. In her master's thesis, she focused on sustainability in the cocoa trading system and carried out research in Ecuador, the USA, Canada and Germany. In addition, she has professional experience in the areas of environmental

NGOs and development NGOs. Her research interests focus on how consumer confidence in the sustainability performance of chocolate manufacturers can be strengthened.



## Prof. Dr. Armando Valdés-Velásquez

[Armando Valdés-Velásquez](#) is Senior Advisor at the [Wyss Academy's Hub South America](#), supporting them in addressing landscape challenges through scientific and intervention processes. With a PhD in Zoology and Geography from the University of Bonn, Germany, his expertise lies in exploring the intricate connections between humans and nature. As an advocate for the harmonious coexistence of humanity and the natural world, he believes in shaping a sustainable future by understanding the

interrelationships between these components and using transformative science and action to enhance them. He is a full professor at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, leads the Laboratory in Ecohealth and Urban Ecology, and serves on the Advisory Board for the Latin-American Centre for Climate Change and Health (CLIMA).



## Katja Voigt

[Katja Voigt](#) is a geographer and has been working at the [Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung](#) since 2016. As a consultant for international climate policy, she critically examines the international UN climate summits and the global movement for climate justice, among other things.



## Florencia Zapata

[Florencia Zapata](#) is an anthropologist and naturalist, specializing in sustainable management of mountain ecosystems, participatory action-research methodologies and social memory. She has worked at the [Instituto de Montaña](#) in Peru for over 20 years, collaborating on environmental conservation, climate change adaptation and cultural affirmation projects in the Andes. Her recent work topics include:

nature-based solutions with an emphasis on ecosystem-based adaptation, sustainable and participative management of mountain ecosystems and ancestral technologies for water management in the Andes.



## Mehwish Zuberi

[Mehwish Zuberi](#) is a doctoral candidate at the HNEE. She is investigating agricultural intensification processes and their consequences in South Punjab of Pakistan with the aim to develop alternative sustainable pathways in a climate change scenario. She graduated in Environmental Governance from Albert Ludwigs Universität Freiburg (MSc); and in Sociology and Anthropology from Lahore University of Management Sciences (BSc).