

# MEET A GEC RESEARCHER

# Marco Armiero

Marco Armiero got seed funding from SSEESS in 2014 to work on a project within ISSC's 'Transformations to Sustainability' programme.

## How is your research linked to Global Environmental Change (GEC)?

Both of my research areas are linked to GEC: as an environmental historian, I study the relations between societies and the environment, and to be able to tackle GEC issues we need to look at these relations, too. As a political ecologist, I believe that the environment is political, so power matters in environmental issues.

## Why are you interested in GEC research?

I want to contribute useful knowledge for transformations to sustainability, which doesn't only require expertise from purely scientific disciplines but also from others such as mine.

Besides, science is always political even if some may think it is not. GEC research therefore gives me the opportunity to ensure that my personal political commitment is not just to understand the world but also contribute to change.

## What are the biggest challenges for you when working on GEC topics?

First, GEC topics have, by definition, a global dimension. However, some global solutions only have benefits to a certain group of people. The local dimension shouldn't be missed out in this global discussion.

Second, communities I work with may have too-high expectations of what I can achieve for them. That's why I have to be very careful how to phrase what I can offer them.

**Job title:**  
Director of the  
KTH Environmental  
Humanities Laboratory

**Organisation:** Kungliga  
Tekniska högskolan (KTH)

**Research area:** Environmental history,  
political ecology

**Favourite research trip:** The toxic tour  
with activists in Campania (Italy)  
and summer schools with the  
ENTITLE project.



## Which of your projects did SSEESS support, and how?

My project "Justainability" is one of the 38 research initiatives awarded within the Transformations to Sustainability programme of the ISSC in 2014. We got seed funding from SSEESS for six months to strengthen networks between our scientists from Sweden and those from developing countries.

We used that period to build a solid proposal for the ISSC call. The joint kick-off meeting in Stockholm was crucial for the development of this proposal because it included partners from eight different countries: Brazil, India, Italy, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey.

To show that we live what we say in our proposal – to experiment with creative alternatives – we also used that period of funding to organise local labs (our basis research unit of the proposal), make a trailer, and hire a graphic designer to visualise what we are doing. If you wish to know more about the 'Justainability' project, visit our webpage: <http://www.kth.se/en/abe/inst/philhist/historia/ehl/justainability>

Read more about SSEESS seed funding  
and the ISSC on the next page





# SSEESS seed funding

SSEESS sometimes offers seed funding, such as for Swedish participation within ISSC's Transformations to Sustainability programme in 2014.

38 research initiatives were awarded within the ISSC programme. SSEESS supported two Swedish social scientists with seed funding, following its policy to strengthen networks between GEC scientists from Sweden and developing countries. The funding aimed:

- to build necessary partnerships with colleagues from other disciplines and fields and from different countries
- to identify and establish contact with relevant societal stakeholders
- to engage identified stakeholders as knowledge partners in the co-design of proposals to develop Transformative Knowledge Networks

SSEESS wants to increase the participation of Swedish researchers such as Marco Armiero in international GEC programmes.

More information at  
[www.sseess.org/grants-and-more](http://www.sseess.org/grants-and-more)



## SSEESS

The Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS) is a collaborative partnership between the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, FORTE, Formas, Vetenskapsrådet, and Sida.



On behalf of the members of the SSEESS partnership, the Secretariat acts as a Swedish link to Global Environmental Change (GEC) Research.

As a Swedish link to GEC research, SSEESS aims to increase the participation of Swedish researchers in international GEC research programmes and organisations.



# The ISSC

The International Social Science Council (ISSC) is an international, membership-based non-government organisation. It is the primary body representing the social, economic and behavioural sciences at an international level.

The ISSC works to strengthen the social sciences to help solve global problems, through a broad portfolio of international scientific programmes, events, publications and partnerships.

With support from Sida, the ISSC launched the grant programme 'Transformations to Sustainability' in 2014. The programme enables social science researchers to lead "Transformative Knowledge Networks" that conduct research on social transformations related to concrete challenges of global change and sustainability.

As a member of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, the ISSC has also played an important role in the development of the international research initiative Future Earth.



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