



# “More than a buzzword? Mapping interpretations of the 'polycrisis' concept and a framework proposal for the research field”

This document contains detailed information about the research project and aims to help you make a fully informed decision about your participation. Please read this document carefully and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding the project or any information included in the document.

## Purpose of the project

The concept of 'polycrisis' is attracting growing interest in political and academic circles and, more broadly, among the general public. Not for nothing was it named word of the year 2022 by the Financial Times: the term encapsulates the major challenges facing humanity, while at the same time conveying a sense of urgency and multitude. However, the word 'polycrisis' is used in many ways and with different motivations, creating a certain ambiguity, even cacophony.

To bring clarity to the 'polycrisis' concept, we aim to map out the different interpretations and underlying assumptions that surround its use, and identify clusters of understandings, if any. We then would like to suggest a framework proposal for the emerging research field, using the map previously done. We hope that this study can inform academics, policymakers, and governance bodies on the proper use of the word and help navigate current multiple crises.

## Your participation

### Q-sort interviews

If you agree to participate, this will mean taking part in a one 90-minute interview, which will take the form of an informal conversation. This interview will begin by an introduction to the project, before taking on an interactive nature whereby you will give a score to a series of statements coming from academic or grey literature, based on how much you agree with them, and explain why. You will then be able to explain your choices of sorting more thoroughly in a semi-structured interview.

After the interview the data will be compiled, analysed and discussed in an academic article to be completed during 2024.

### Referral

We would be very grateful for your referrals to any other relevant participants within your network who you believe would make an interesting contribution to the research.



## **Results**

The results of the study will be used to write an academic publication addressing the following research question: “What are the current clusters of meaning surrounding the polycrisis concept?”. The results might also feed into popular science briefs and other communication materials. The statement pool will figure explicitly on the publication. The study generated will contribute to framework development and beginning to quantify possible instrumentalizations of the concept, which, in turn, will inform and prioritize specific domains of research and help public awareness.

## **Participation is voluntary**

Participation in the project is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time before, or during the interview, without giving a reason. Following the interview, withdrawal of consent is still possible, and you may request data relating to your interview to be deleted until the end of redaction of the paper. There will be no negative consequences for you if you choose not to participate or later decide to withdraw. You will be kept updated throughout the research process and notified prior to publication.

## **Privacy**

All information collected will be stored securely in a place set up by Stockholm University for this purpose. The interview is designed to collect your perspectives on the concept of polycrisis, its definitions, usages, and anything you find relevant to the concept’s pertinence. You will be asked to provide generic details about your occupational group, domain expertise, and years of experience. These data will be further de-identified to maintain pseudonymization when they are processed to present any results and describe the sample. You will not otherwise be asked to provide any other possible direct or indirect personal identifiers. The pseudonymised, semi structured interview data will be stored securely for ten years on Stockholm University’s servers, as required by University regulations, after which all data will be destroyed. The records of this study will belong to Stockholm University and the confidentiality of the participants is protected by Swedish law through the Public Access to Information Act (SFS2009:400).

## **Your rights**

According to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and national supplementary legislation, you have the right to:



- withdraw your consent at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of the processing that occurred in accordance with your consent before it was withdrawn,
- request access to your personal data,
- have your personal data rectified,
- have your personal data erased,
- have the processing of your personal data restricted.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact SRC Ethics sub-committee ([src-ethics-review@su.se](mailto:src-ethics-review@su.se)) regarding the processing of your personal data.

## **Who is responsible for the project?**

### Principal investigator:

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This research is part of the ESCAPE project of the Global Economic Dynamics and the Biosphere programme (GEDB).

## **Project results**

When the research is complete, you will be notified and you can opt to receive a copy of the results, alternatively you can opt out of this step if that suits you better.

## **Consent**



I have read and understood the information about the study in the document. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and I have had them answered. I may keep the written information.

☐ I consent to participation in one 60- 90-minute interview.

And that the data gathered in this interview be used and processed in the relevant software, in a secure location.

☐ I consent to the processing of my personal data as described in the document.

☐ I consent to my contribution to the project being saved for the duration of this research, as described in the document

Place and date

Signature

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