



Navigating Conflicts and Convergences: Unraveling the Dynamics of Social Acceptability in Socio-Environmental Transitions

20th RIODD Conference, Toulouse, October 8-10, 2025

Call for Proposals

The International Research Network on Organizations and Sustainable Development (RIODD) will hold its twentieth conference (<https://riodd.net/>) in Toulouse in 2025.

This edition is organized in partnership with the University of Toulouse Capitole and the University of Toulouse. It will be held in Toulouse from October 8 to 10, 2025. Thursday, October 8, 2025, is reserved for doctoral sessions and will be subject to a specific call. The congress will thus run from the evening of October 8 to October 10, 2025.

- Deadline for thematic session proposals (open): **Tuesday, March 4, 2025**
- Launch of the call for communication proposals: Friday, April 6, 2025
- Deadline for communication proposals: Friday, June 6, 2025
- Notification of the Congress Scientific Council's decision: Friday, July 4, 2025

Congress website: <https://riodd2025.sciencesconf.org/>

Contact email: riodd2025@sciencesconf.org

To present your work at the twentieth RIODD Congress:

It is possible to propose thematic sessions related to the congress theme (or related to the general theme of RIODD, namely the links between organizations and sustainable development). We will receive proposals by email or direct submission on the site until **March 4, 2025**.

Specific calls for communications for thematic sessions will be posted on the congress website and distributed like the general call for communications from **April 6, 2025**. Communications related to a thematic session should be submitted on the congress website in a reserved tab.

Any communication proposal outside thematic sessions, related to the call for communications or the general themes of RIODD, will be considered. The congress thus proposes a thematic

orientation that is not exclusive. Calls for thematic sessions and communications are addressed to all disciplines in human and social sciences, but also to other concerned disciplines, notably engineering sciences, natural and earth sciences.

Theme of the Twentieth RIODD Conference

Navigating Conflicts and Convergences: Unraveling the Dynamics of Social Acceptability in Socio-Environmental Transitions

The Anthropocene age marks a tipping point in the Earth system, the beginning of the great acceleration leading to the exceeding of planetary boundaries. International scientific expertise - the IPCC for climate change and IPBES for biodiversity - warns of the need for profound changes in our ways of living, eating, moving, producing, consuming, and living in general. However, the most recent data indicate that we have exceeded the 1.5°C warming threshold, while the great collapse of biodiversity is confirmed. Most planetary boundaries are thus exceeded. What is blocking progress?

Despite a multiplicity of public policies, sometimes considered timid, insufficient, or ineffective, adherence to socio-environmental transitions is regularly tested to the point of confrontation, marking the antagonism of positions and the limits of deliberation. The mobilization of the yellow vests in 2018 and the mobilization of farmers in several European countries in 2024 - to cite just these two examples - express the rejection of certain political measures in favor of socio-environmental transitions. The ability of public and private actors to design and implement fair and effective socio-environmental policies is severely shaken. The credibility of policies guided by sustainable development objectives is then regularly questioned. And with it, anticipations are revised so that the commitment of many actors is weakened.

Understanding the barriers to socio-environmental transitions must thus be put on the research agenda, which requires questioning the notion of social acceptability. However, to avoid the frequent drifts of instrumentalization of the notion, social acceptability should be analyzed in light of power dynamics and conflictual relationships inherent in socio-environmental transition processes. By exploring its multidimensional, processual, and contextual character and its links with notions of environmental justice, trust, power, and democratic deliberation, considering socio-technical lock-ins, can shed light on understanding the factors leading to truly inclusive, equitable, and effectively impactful socio-environmental transitions.

The specialized literature points to the importance of environmental justice (i.e., an equitable distribution of benefits, risks, and costs of change, but also the processes and rules of deliberation and decision-making) as a condition for social acceptability. However, the role of organizations has so far been very little analyzed. How can organizations contribute to establishing the legitimacy of change and creating conditions for the adherence of concerned actors? Through trust, democratic procedures, principles of environmental justice, and/or through constraint and sanction...? Does the reference to general interest and the state of necessity impact acceptability and thus the adherence of different stakeholders? Do certain forms of governance have a propensity to produce stronger transformative effects than others?

How does the organizational fact combine with structural, economic, technical, social, ideological, political, cultural, and psychological factors to condition the social acceptability of socio-environmental transitions? How do political and media powers condition or not social acceptability? A priori, one might think that open and inclusive forms where the power of

capital is under social control (such as social and solidarity economy organizations or mission-driven companies) have a greater propensity to act in this direction. But is this really the case?

This 20th RIODD congress will therefore focus on the description and analysis of organizational modes that facilitate or block socio-environmental transitions in order to identify levers for action, by questioning the notion of social acceptability. It invites participants to address these questions through a diversity of approaches (theoretical and conceptual approaches as well as qualitative and/or quantitative empirical work) and in a plurality of perspectives (from the angle of actors promoting changes as well as those opposing them) and scientific disciplines. Particular attention will be paid to ongoing experiments where involved actors put social acceptability to work and seek original and innovative ways of doing things.

This congress thus invites a broad approach to phenomena, also taking into account the evolution of the geopolitical context, the multiplication of armed conflicts, the questioning of the rule of law, the polarization of our societies, the growing vulnerability of certain populations, in short, what makes us collectively accept the unacceptable. While the subject is of great topicality in Europe, the examination of historical cases and international comparisons will provide valuable insights.

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