

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

FELLOWSHIP CALL – GOVERNING THE PLANETARY COMMONS: A FOCUS ON THE AMAZON

RESEARCH QUESTION

How are the planetary commons to be governed in an ecologically responsible, just, democratic, and resilient way?

PROJECT FOR WHICH WE ARE SEEKING FELLOWS

There are increasing calls to recognize Earth's biophysical systems that provide Earth system resilience and stability as *planetary commons*. The planetary commons include globally shared geographic regions currently recognized under the global commons, but more importantly, also all biophysical systems that secure critical functions of the Earth system irrespective of national boundaries. Examples are the atmosphere and oceans; tipping elements such as the Amazon Rainforest; and ecosystems such as wetlands.

As a new paradigm for thinking about planetary resilience, the planetary commons must ideally achieve the following: safeguard critical Earth system functions that regulate planetary resilience; create responsibilities and stewardship obligations to safeguard planetary resilience; prevent crossing over into tipping points; and ensure a just world for everyone, now and in the future. While declaring the planetary commons is a first critical step, *governing* these commons raises many complex and unsettled issues.

As the first of its kind to confront the foregoing complexities, this project aims to answer the overarching question: *How are the planetary commons to be governed in an ecologically responsible, just, democratic, and resilient way?* While it is broadly concerned with the issue of planetary commons governance, the project focuses specifically on the Amazon Rainforest, a critically important Earth system tipping element that spans nine countries and that is broadly representative of the many complexities that planetary commons governance give rise to.

Sub-questions that arise in the planetary commons governance context of the Amazon include:

- Which governance models (e.g., nested, democratic, Earth system-focused) are most suitable for the Amazon?
- What type of shared stewardship obligations arise for Amazonian states as territorial custodians and other states that benefit from a resilient Amazon, and how could the relationships and obligations between these states be governed?
- How could pluriversal knowledges embedded in Earth system science, law, political science, indigenous knowledge, and art shape visions of planetary commons governance?
- How could alternative ways of knowing, being, seeing and caring, often expressed through rights of nature, inform governance in ways that dissolve entrenched dualisms while avoiding legacies and practices of (neo-) colonialism and eco-fascism?

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM CHAIR

Prof. Dr. Dr. Louis J. Kotzé

FACTS & FIGURES

Location:	Hamburg, Germany
Deadline:	16 February 2023
Selection meeting:	15 and 16 March 2023 (in Hamburg)
Decisions:	22 March 2023
Funding period:	Fellows can apply for either one, two, or three terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fall term: Sep 18 – Dec 15, 2023- Winter term: Jan 15 – March 29, 2024- Spring term: May 2 – June 28, 2024

ABOUT THE NEW INSTITUTE

On the basis of humanistic and social-scientific reflection on human becoming in the 21st century, THE NEW INSTITUTE develops concrete visions of future socio-economic and political realities. We gather thinkers and practitioners with interdisciplinary and intercultural backgrounds in academia, politics, business, media, the arts, and technology around projects that effect positive social change.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Scholars from the humanities and social sciences or practitioners in politics, business, art, media, or journalism with a commitment to the mission of THE NEW INSTITUTE, expertise in a field related to one of our projects, and interest in collaborating across our programs.

WHAT DO FELLOWS DO?

Actively participate in the collaborative fellow work on the questions of our projects.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Letter of motivation (3 pages max.); CV, including current address, nationality, gender; statement of career level; proposal for a project in accordance with the call (3-5 pages max.). More details are available on our [Fellowship](#) page. Please send your application as a single pdf to programs@thenew.institute.