

A New Odyssey for Public Engagement: The O.D.E.S.S.I. Framework and Emerging Pathways

Attendee Profiles.

29-30 September 2025
Reading Room, 10–11 Carlton House Terrace (the British Academy)

Presenters & Chairs: Day 1.

Day One Keynote: [Shaofeng Hu](#)

Theme 1: Open. Deliberative.

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Theme 3: *Sensible and Sensitive*.

[Lynn Frewer](#) (Chair)

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Theme 4: *The I in We*

[Oliver Pritchard Moore](#) (Chair)

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Presenters & Chairs: Day 1.

Shaofeng Hu is the Director of the Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences for UNESCO. He used to work with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Asia-Pacific Office, as Programme Officer, Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator, and Southeast Asia Regional Coordinator, and Senior Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator for Asia/Pacific to provide policy and technical assistance to the developing countries in this region for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Before that, he worked at the UNEP's Paris Office on the information exchange concerning the ozone layer protection policies and technical information. During 1994-1999, he worked in the predecessor of Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol following his four-year working in Chinese Academy of Environmental Sciences on research of Environmental Standards. He received his bachelor's and master's degree from Peking University, China.

Sophie Gilbert is a Programme Lead at GESDA – the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator – where she leads the development of the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, a tool that anticipates advances in science and technology over the next 5, 10 and 25 years to strengthen international diplomacy. She joined GESDA from the Wellcome Trust, where she managed a multi-million-pound research portfolio in the clinical and discovery sciences. Before joining Wellcome, Sophie worked in academia, gaining her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Oxford. Following this, she spent time at Imperial College London and later University College London as a postdoctoral research associate, with research interests relating to stem cell development and genetics. Sophie has a keen interest in translating scientific discoveries to a wide audience: she has authored an illustrated book on genetic modification for children and received a number of awards for outreach and science communication.

Martin W Bauer is Professor of Social Psychology and Research Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He investigates 'common sense' in relation to science and emerging technologies in the international MACAS network [mapping the cultural authority of science]. He is a Fellow of the German National Academy of Technical Sciences [acatech] and former editor of *Public Understanding of Science*, and the UK PI on EU Horizon POIESIS, (2022-2025). Recent publications include: AI and Common Sense - Ambitions and Frictions (Routledge, 2024; with B Schiele) Public Communication of Research Institutes: 'Arms race' for visibility or science substance? (Routledge, 2022, with Marta Entradas); The Psychology of Social Influence – Modes and Modalities of Shifting Common Sense, (CUP, 2021, with Gordon Sammut); Atom, Bytes & Genes – Public Resistance and Techno-Scientific Responses, (Routledge, 2015). [ORCID: 0000-0002-0800-8133](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0800-8133)

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Natalia Pasternak is a microbiologist, science writer and communicator. Her work in research, teaching, and advocacy focuses on improving science communication, increasing vaccine uptake, and combating denialism and misinformation. She promotes critical thinking among future policymakers and aims to foster international collaboration for evidence-based decision-making. She is a columnist for The Skeptic (UK) and a former columnist for O Globo and Medscape (WebMD). For three years, she presented two weekly editions of the radio segment The Hour of Science, broadcast nationwide by Brazil's CBN Radio. She is currently a professor at Columbia University (USA), visiting professor at Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Brazil), and a research collaborator at the Vaccine Development Laboratory at the University of São Paulo. Pasternak holds a PhD and postdoctoral degree in Microbiology from the University of São Paulo. She has authored over 300 popular science articles, academic papers, and books. She is president of the Question of Science Institute (IQC) and editor of its namesake magazine. Twice named "Personality of the Year" in the Science category (2020 and 2021) by IstoÉ Magazine, she was listed by the BBC and The Jerusalem Post as one of the world's most influential people. She is a member of PAHO's Strategic Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases.

Ian Wiggins is Director of International Affairs for the Royal Society, the UK's National Academy of Science, where he leads on the Society's global engagement. Before joining the Royal Society in 2022, Ian worked at the University of York in a number of roles including as Director of Operations, and served as the first Director for the York-Maastricht Partnership, the university's strategic relationship with Maastricht University. Ian is a former British Diplomat where he worked in the Foreign Office HQ in London on counter terrorism, climate change, and energy policy briefs and had diplomatic postings in Moscow and in Washington D.C. where he was Deputy Head of the Embassy's political section during the 2016 Presidential elections. Alongside his role at the Royal Society, Ian is a member of the Advisory Council for Wilton Park, an executive agency of the UK's Foreign Office; and is a member of the International Science Council's Committee for Finance, Compliance and Risk. Outside of the Society, Ian is also Chair of Trustees for Excel Learning Trust, a charity which runs seven schools based in York. He is a chemist by training and holds a Master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Nottingham.

Trupti Patel is the Programme Lead of Sciencewise. She has a background in science and society. She led a national public dialogue on Genomics and Biobanking, in particular focusing on equity and under representativeness of non-European ethnic groups in health research at Genomics England as a part of their Diverse Data initiative. The project produced an ethical policy framework for biobanking and health research more widely. She also worked as an academic on projects related to science and society at the interface of government and research including one with DCMS on what privacy laws should look like on smart home devices prior to their rollout to market, and another with the European Commission at the end of Horizon-2020 on ways to engage the public and bring their voices into decision-making in science and innovation post-Responsible Research and Innovation. Within the latter role she developed case studies on fab labs, living labs and maker spaces the Commission was piloting as a way to bring public voices into discussions which are often closed off.

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Katharine Dow is the Senior Research Social Scientist at the Environment Agency and has research expertise in environment and climate change, public perceptions of technologies, reproduction, social inequalities and multispecies ethnography. She holds a PhD in social anthropology from LSE and has worked in research positions at the University of Edinburgh and University of Cambridge and had a visiting fellowship at the University of Copenhagen. She has published widely in journals including the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Environmental Humanities and Medical Anthropology Quarterly, as well as a monograph with Princeton University Press. At the Environment Agency she leads social science research on net zero, and is a freelance advisor for the ARIA project, Futuring Biological Commons.

Tracey Brown OBE is the Director of Sense about Science. Under her leadership, the charity has launched important initiatives to promote open discussions of evidence, including AllTrials – a successful global campaign for the reporting of all clinical trial outcomes, the Ask for Evidence campaign and Risk know-how. She initiated Evidence Week in the UK Parliament and co-founded the international Maddox Prize. As a champion of public engagement in some of the trickiest areas of research and evidence for more than two decades, Tracey writes about the public and evidence and leads Sense about Science's work on transparency of evidence and AI in policy. She is honorary Professor in the Department of Science, Technology and Engineering in Public Policy at UCL.

Bankole Falade is a psychologist with a background in crop protection and environmental biology. His research has evolved around public perceptions of the intricacies of disease development and containment, focusing on viruses such as Ebola and Zika which originated in Africa, polio, and COVID-19. Born in a multi-ethnic country where 98 percent believe in divine intervention in lived experiences, his research has focused on what appears to be public revolt when science engages religious beliefs or when religious leaders use beliefs to further political aims, and the roles of ethnic identity and language of communication in the acceptance of scientific innovations. His research on the perceptions of vaccines in Africa show significant differences between anglophone and francophone Africa, a colonial legacy, and between various ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria. Scientific knowledge helps but it's not the harbinger of acceptance. Prior to a career in psychology of communication, he was a journalist and science teacher in Nigeria for several years editing two national newspapers. He also had a short political career as press secretary before taking up science and health communication research.

Annette Boaz is Professor of Health and Social Care and Director of the Health and Social Care Workforce Research Unit at King's College London. She has more than 25 years of experience in supporting the use of evidence across a range of policy domains. She was part of one of the largest UK investments in the evidence use landscape, the ESRC Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice, was a Founding Editor of the Journal Evidence & Policy and an ESRC ARI Fellow. She has undertaken an international leadership role in promoting the use of evidence, publishing a new book on evidence use 'What Works Now' and co-leading Transforming Evidence with Kathryn Oliver.

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Robin Lovell-Badge is Principal Group Leader and Head of the Laboratory of Stem Cell Biology and Developmental Genetics at the Francis Crick Institute. He was an early pioneer of work with embryonic stem cells, chimeras and transgenic mice, known particularly for discovering Sry, the Y-linked sex determining gene, and the Sox gene family. He has had long-standing interests in the biology of stem cells, in how genes work in the context of embryo development, and how decisions of cell fate are made. Major themes of his current work include sex determination, gonad development and maintenance, development of the nervous system and pituitary, and the biology of stem cells within these systems. He has authored or co-authored more than 300 publications. Robin is also very active in both public engagement and policy work, notably around stem cells, genetics, human embryo and animal research, and in ways science is regulated and disseminated. He has received the Louis Jeantet Prize for Medicine (1995), the Amory Prize (1996), the Feldberg Foundation Prize (2008), the Waddington Medal of the British Society for Developmental Biology (2010), the ISSCR Public Service Award (2021), and the Genetics Society Medal (2022).

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Presenters & Chairs: Day 2.

Françoise Baylis is a distinguished Research Professor Emerita at Dalhousie University, is a leading philosopher and bioethics expert, renowned for her pioneering research at the intersection of healthcare ethics, practice and policy. Her work challenges conventional bioethics, pushing for broader, deeper thinking on health, science, and public policy, all the while advocating for more ethical and inclusive approaches to science and biotechnology. Baylis is a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Nova Scotia. She is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the International Science Council. In 2022, she received the Killam Prize for the Humanities and in 2023 she was awarded the Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prize in Humanities—Canada's highest honours for scholars in the humanities. Baylis is President-Elect of the Royal Society of Canada.

Lynn Frewer is a Professor and Chair of Food and Society at Newcastle University, (UK). Previously she was Professor of Food Safety and Consumer Behaviour at Wageningen University, (Netherlands), and Head of Consumer Science at the Institute of Food Research at Norwich, (UK). Lynn's research interests focus on understanding food systems, developing effective risk and benefit communication strategies with consumers, understanding and measuring societal and individual responses to risks and benefits associated with food security issues throughout the supply chain, and agrifood governance and associated policy issues. Lynn also has interests in stakeholder engagement in the development of improved food security linked to agrifood research. Lynn has published extensively in these research areas, (with more than 400 peer reviewed journal articles) and continues to contribute to national and international research agenda setting and evaluations relevant to society, food, the environment and agriculture.

Jan Marco Müller is the Team Leader for Global Approach, Multilateral Dialogue and Science Diplomacy for the European Commission. Following his PhD in Geography at the University of Marburg (Germany), Jan Marco Müller's early career included management positions at the UFZ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig (Germany), the former JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability in Ispra (Italy) and the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Wallingford (UK). After being an Assistant to the Director-General of the Joint Research Centre JRC (2009-2012) in Brussels, he managed the office of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso (2012-2015) and then helped setting up the Commission's current Scientific Advice Mechanism. 2017-2020 he worked for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) as Coordinator for Science Diplomacy and Acting Chief Operations Officer. 2020-2022 he served as first Science & Technology Advisor of the European External Action Service (EEAS), before joining the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation as Coordinator for Science Diplomacy and Multilateral Relations, where he coordinates the development of a European framework for science diplomacy. Jan Marco Müller is a Fellow of the International Science Council.

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Amit Kumar is a tenured Faculty/Senior Researcher at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a public policy think-tank based in New Delhi, India. He is an Engineering graduate from University of Delhi and holds a PhD in Science Policy Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. He has been mainly working in the research domain of technology assessment, technology foresight, ethical and socio-economic implications of emerging technologies such as Synthetic Biology, Genome-Editing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and their national and global governance and regulatory architecture, inclusive digitalisation, science diplomacy and biodiversity. He has been involved in several national and international projects within the domain of STS (Science-Technology-Society) policy studies. He has published number of papers/articles in peer-reviewed journals and contributed chapters in books; apart from preparing reports, policy briefs and discussion papers on related topics. He is also Associate Editor of Science Diplomacy Review (SDR) journal and Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR), an international, indexed, peer-reviewed and open access journal. The Economic Survey 2023-24 of the Government of India had cited his RIS Policy Brief on '*Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Jobs in India*'.

Emma Cook is Head of Engagement at UKRI-BBSRC, where she coordinates strategic initiatives to connect bioscience with a broad range of stakeholders. With a career that began with people and training then took shape in science and discovery centres, Emma has developed and delivered impactful projects, exhibitions, and evaluation frameworks that foster dialogue between researchers and diverse audiences. Her work is defined by a commitment to building strong partnerships. In 2016, Emma was awarded a Churchill Fellowship, enabling her to explore international approaches to enabling impact within cultural organisations. This experience deepened her expertise in designing engagement strategies that are both inclusive and evidence-based. In her current role Emma now brings together public engagement, public affairs, partnership development and impact narratives.

Rebecca Asher leads the Engagement Lab at Wellcome, a new programme focusing on how science can earn public trust. She works in a jobshare with Emily Jesper-Mir. Rebecca and Emily previously managed engagement and partnership strategies within Wellcome's Data for Science and Health team. Before joining Wellcome, Rebecca was Deputy Director of Sense about Science, a charity that promotes the public interest in sound science and evidence. She formerly worked in the media, in senior editorial roles at the BBC and ITV, and is the author of two books for Penguin Random House.

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Alice Howarth is one of the organisers of the annual festival of science, reason and critical thinking, QED. She is also Vice President of the local community interest group, the Merseyside Skeptics Society which has been delivering public engagement events across the Merseyside region for over 15 years. She is co-host of the globally successful Skeptics with a K podcast, deputy editor for The Skeptic Magazine, UK and delivers public engagement lectures across the UK and internationally including as an invited speaker at conferences and events in Australia, Germany, Vienna and The Netherlands. In her day job, Alice works for the University of Liverpool in the Open Research Team, which is part of Libraries, Museums and Galleries. She facilitates the University's engagement with the UK Reproducibility Network's flagship project, the UKRI funded Open Research Programme (ORP). Alice brings together researchers and research enablers to work on enhancing research culture. As EDI lead, Alice sits on the core management group for the ORP, and works to develop and deliver on EDI, evaluation and sharing and integrating goals across the entire programme which unites 24 member institutions across the UK

Michael Marshall is the co-founder of the annual festival of science, reason and critical thinking, QED. Since 2011, QED has successfully brought entertaining and accessible science communication to a lay audience from across the world, on a shoestring budget. He is also the Project Director of the Good Thinking Society, President of the Merseyside Skeptics Society, and editor of The Skeptic magazine. As a long-term activist for science and challenger of pseudoscience, he successfully campaigned to end funding for ineffective homeopathy services on the NHS, and has exposed fake cancer cures and dangerous alternative medical practices. His work has seen him go undercover to investigate psychics, flat earthers and conspiracy theorists, and during the pandemic he documented the increasing radicalisation of antivax spaces online, including successfully deradicalising one of the leaders of the antivaccine movement. His investigative work has informed hundreds of articles across the UK media, and he has written for the Guardian, New Scientist and New Statesman, as well as lecturing on journalism for undergraduate students as part of degree courses at several universities.

Annette Markham is [Professor at Utrecht University](#) with a Chair in Media Literacies and Public Engagement. A pioneering interpretive sociologist of digital culture since the mid-1990s, she has a long history of adapting methods to study the impact of digitalization on identity formation and organizing practices since 1995. From the perspective of social studies of science and technology, Markham's work how more proactive ethics and attention on tacit aspects of research practice can influence frameworks for research design, which in turn can generate more nuanced and mindful on-the-ground techniques across scientific and everyday science domains. Markham a Between 2020-2023, she was a Director of the Digital Ethnography Research Centre at RMIT University in Melbourne. In 2024, she founded and co-directs the International [Futures + Literacies + Methods Lab](#). Among her publications, she is editor of [Internet Inquiry: Conversations about Method](#) (2009), [Metaphors of Internet in the Age of Ubiquity](#) (2020), and author of the video series, *On Method: Being a Reflexive Practitioner*(2020). A complete list and information about recent and upcoming speaking engagements can be found at <https://annettemarkham.com>

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David Ludwig is an Associate Professor at the Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation (KTI) Group of Wageningen University and Research (WUR) in the Netherlands. He is also a Principal Investigator of the Global Epistemologies and Ontologies (GEOS) project that investigates foundational questions of action research and community-based science. Recent books include: *Transformative Transdisciplinarity. An Introduction to Community-Based Philosophy*, 2025, Oxford University Press. *Global Epistemologies and Philosophies of Science*, 2021, Routledge. *The Politics of Knowledge in Inclusive Development and Innovation*, 2021, Routledge.

Invited Guests

Julian Little set up Julian Little Communications in 2020, using his 35+ years' experience to help other individuals and organisations improve their communications and public affairs activity, and react to, and deal with, issue and crisis management situations. Until 2020, Julian was Head of Communications & Public Affairs for Bayer Crop Science in the UK. He worked initially in company R&D both in the UK and France, moved into project management, and then into science communication. The latter involved multi-stakeholder (media, political, retailer, NGO, etc) outreach during GM field trials here in the UK, defending the company's insecticide portfolio, and more recently on bee-friendly farming practices. A regular commentator on TV and radio, as well in print media, he has also submitted written and given oral evidence to numerous Parliamentary Select Committees. Julian was the long-term Chair of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council and headed the communications groups of both EuropaBio and CropLife UK for nearly ten years.

As a science communicator, he has been a visiting lecturer on science and issue communication at a number of universities and is an active member of the advisory groups of both Future Biogas and Science for Sustainable Agriculture.

Emily Jesper-Mir leads the Engagement Lab at Wellcome, a new programme focusing on how science can earn public trust. She works in a jobshare with Rebecca Asher. Rebecca and Emily previously managed engagement and partnership strategies within Wellcome's Data for Science and Health team. Before joining Wellcome, Emily co-led the public engagement partnerships programme at Sense about Science, a charity that promotes the public interest in sound science and evidence. She previously worked in scientific publishing as managing editor of the international, peer reviewed journal BJOG, at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Nita Pillai is Director of Partnerships and governance at Sense about Science. She has over 15 years' experience working for a range of non-profit organisations working across policy and research. Nita was previously at the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) where she oversaw their portfolio of projects focused around training and upskilling anaesthesia providers in low and middle income countries. Prior to that, at the Fairtrade Foundation, Nita led the policy and research team before developing the organisation's work on the impact assessment and evaluation of Fairtrade projects. She has extensive experience of working on complex global projects and programmes and working with, and coordinating diverse teams. Nita also has a PhD in Microbiology and a Masters in Public Health Nutrition from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and previously worked at Consumers International, the Overseas Development Institute and ActionAid

Philippa Michael is Head of Public Initiatives (Wellcome) - Philippa Michael leads the Public Initiatives and Engagement Labs teams at Wellcome, a global charitable foundation dedicated to advancing science to solve urgent health challenges. With a background in insights, marketing, engagement and strategic communications, her current work focuses on public trust and the trustworthiness of science as well as the Wellcome Global Monitor, a survey spanning 140 countries that explores public attitudes towards science.

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GSEJ Team Profiles.

Matty McKenna is a Political Science and Public Administration scholar and member of the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ) at the University of Kent. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher on the ARIA-funded project, Futuring Biological Commons. He completed his ESRC-funded PhD in the Department of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Birmingham. His thesis explored how governance traditions shape practices and beliefs regarding cooperation, conflict, and power within the relationship between central and local government. Using a deliberative democratic lens, the thesis offers ways to overcome dysfunctional relational dynamics between conflicting groups. Matty is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Social Policy, University of Birmingham, where he is involved in a number of ongoing interdisciplinary research projects on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The first focuses on a comparative analysis of policy implementation and the street-level practices of healthcare professionals across Northern Europe and West Africa. Here, Matty is interested in how risk knowledge(s) are mobilised within the relational and affective practices of caring for patients. The second project examines AMR policymaking in the UK Parliament and Government, and the ways in which evidence is negotiated and translated in spaces where science and policy intersect.

Ceylan Hassan is an ESRC SEDarc-funded PhD researcher supervised by Prof. Joy Zhang and Dr. Alex Hensby and a member of the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ) at the University of Kent. Ceylan is exploring how eco-cultural communities resist epistemic loss in her project Rooted Resistance. Drawing from multidisciplinary media and biodiversity conservation backgrounds, she emphasizes epistemic justice and non-extractive knowledge production. Her work centers on small-scale agricultural and Indigenous communities in Cyprus and Northeast Brazil, examining intersections of cultural integrity, environmental sustainability, and food sovereignty in colonized semi-arid regions. She investigates socio-ecological challenges these groups face due to historical and modern colonization, analyzing their resistance through eco-cultural identities. Ceylan is developing eco-cultural mapping methods to co-produce knowledge with human, other-than-human, and more-than-human communities, transcending nation-state boundaries. This approach highlights situated knowledge's role in environmental management, aiming to bolster local defenses against resource and knowledge extractivism. Her research informs policies promoting governance shifts and food sovereignty, while fostering bioregional solidarity networks that enhance resilience against epistemic destruction. By comparing cases across regions, she advocates inclusive environmental governance and academic practices that prioritize non-extraction.

Camille Serisier is an artist, educator, and researcher currently completing her doctorate at the University for the Creative Arts with the generous assistance of [Fast Forward: Women in Photography](#) and a Vice Chancellor's Studentship. Her work explores the potential of visual storytelling as a force for positive social change. By designing and delivering participatory art projects with community groups, Camille uses storytelling to nurture agency and facilitate diverse authorship. Camille has over twenty years' experience exhibiting with and working in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) sector. She has worked with small, medium, and large-scale arts institutions, such as the Smithsonian Museum (USA), the Museum of Australian Democracy (AUS) and the Peter Marlow Foundation (UK). She helps museums around the world create bespoke engagement activities that encourage participation and play. Camille also collaborates with transdisciplinary researchers to investigate the power of visual storytelling as a participatory and creative method. She contributes to projects at the University of Kent as an Affiliated Researcher at the Centre for Social Science and Epistemic Justice and at the University for the Creative Arts as a Participatory Research Officer.

Oliver Pritchard Moore is a Sociologist of Science and Technology Studies and member of the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ) at the University of Kent. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher on the ARIA-funded project, Futuring Biological Commons. He previously completed a Wellcome Trust funded PhD on zoo animal nutrition science at the Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter. His research explores care practices, the production and circulation of scientific knowledge, the representation of non-human animals and the environment, and the power dynamics between scientific experts, non-scientific experts, and institutions. After his PhD Oliver worked on an EU Horizons project, trans4num, which is investigating the use of nature-based solutions and how to create transformation pathways for greater up-take of sustainable agricultural practices and nutrient management. Oliver's role focused on stakeholder engagement and understanding how farmers and farm advisors engaged with agricultural science research.

Trude Sundberg is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Kent, Director of the University of Kent's Q-Step Centre and a member of the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ). An internationally recognized scholar, Dr Sundberg has a longstanding record of excellence in research, teaching innovation, public engagement and collaboration with policymakers worldwide. Their research focuses on working closely with those with lived experiences of marginalization to create sustainable solutions to issues related to climate change, social inequality and impacts of discrimination. As a result of this work, Dr Sundberg is deeply engaged in innovating research methods, often through exploring ways in which we can co-create knowledge. Throughout their time at the University of Kent they have been deeply involved in public engagement and science communication. Currently, Dr Sundberg is leading a collaborative project on Water Security in South Asia, partnering with community members and researchers from the University of Calcutta. They are also part of the Care-full Synthesis project, a groundbreaking project associated with [Synthetic Human Genome](#) (SynHG).

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Joy Y. Zhang is a Professor of Sociology and Founding Director of the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ) at the University of Kent. Her research examines evolving science–society dynamics and their implications for the global ethical governance of emerging life sciences. Conceptually, her work advances the theorisation of cosmopolitanisation, decolonisation, commoning, epistemic justice, and subaltern politics. Empirically, her research focuses on four major scientific powers—China, India, the UK, and the US. She has studied the governance and science diplomacy of emerging life sciences—including stem cells, synthetic biology, genome editing, and experimental therapies—alongside climate politics, food movements, and environmental engineering. She currently leads three cutting-edge social research programmes on engineering biology and its applications in critical minerals, biomedicine, and agriculture, with the aim of informing social and policy deliberation in the UK and internationally. She is the author of three academic books and publishes widely in high-impact journals across the natural and social sciences. She is frequently interviewed by global media and advises leading research and policy institutions in Europe and Asia.

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The O.D.E.S.S.I. initiative is informed by 3 ongoing research projects:



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of:

