

## PhD Program in Science & Policy: Stakeholder Engagement

**Lecturer:** Dr. Minu Hemmati, *Dr Minu Hemmati Consulting*, Berlin; Dr. Rémi Willemin (Eawag), and Dr. Luisa Last (PSC)

**Location:** ETHZ, Center

**Dates:** 02.-04.06 and 09.07.2025

**Credit Points:** 2 ECTS

### Overview

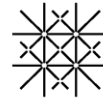
During their work life, most life scientists will have to deal with issues relating to the development of their field, some of which may be subject to controversial debates in society and politics. They may be asked to give advice to governmental institutions on policies relating to natural resource governance, conservation, sustainable use of ecosystems, and others. Life scientists may also be invited to participate in stakeholder engagement processes, as thematic or facilitation experts, as representatives of the scientific community or other organizations or sectors they may work for.

Communicating and collaborating effectively across the boundaries and differences of various stakeholder groups and engaging constructively with representatives from government, business and civil society in multi-stakeholder processes will be key competencies in this context. In this course, students will learn to understand different stakeholders and multi-stakeholder processes, and how to effectively engage in multi-stakeholder settings.

The course will combine presentations of background information, practical exercises, group discussions and individual reflection.

### Objektives

- Gain a basic understanding of stakeholder engagement and multi-stakeholder processes.
- Learn to identify and analyze stakeholders.
- Understand how to engage with different stakeholders and work effectively in various multi-stakeholder settings (i.e., different groups, diversity and power relations).
- Understand different levels of engagement, including their strengths and weaknesses.
- Learn about criteria and methods for evaluating stakeholder engagement processes.



Prior knowledge: They will be provided with preparatory literature and instructions; apart from this, no prior knowledge is required.

**Individual assessment:** Study pre-reading / reading essentials before the workshop, active participation during the workshop, presenting and submitting individual / small group assignments.

**Number of participants:** A maximum of 16 students will be able to enrol in this course.

**Trainer:**

Dr. Minu Hemmati is a clinical psychologist with a doctorate in organisational and environmental psychology. Since 1998, she has been working independently with international organisations, governments, non-government organisations, women's networks, companies, and research institutions, developing, facilitating, coaching, and evaluating multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships. She is author of the book [Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Governance and Sustainability. Beyond Deadlock and Conflict](#) (2002), and a co-author of the [MSP Guide – How to Design and Facilitate Multi-stakeholder Partnerships](#) (2015).

More information at [www.minuhemmati.net](http://www.minuhemmati.net) and [www.msp-institute.org](http://www.msp-institute.org).

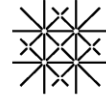
[Dr. Rémi Willemin](#) (post-doctoral researcher in Environmental social sciences at Eawag) is trained as geographer, historian, videographer, and facilitator. Dr. Willemin acquired experience in participatory visual research during a PhD in the [URPP global and biodiversity of the University of Zurich](#). He worked as a facilitator in citizen assemblies, e.g., for the ecological transition for the Greater Geneva region, as well as in projects on public participation for the [Swiss umbrella association for participation](#). In the project [Engage](#), Dr. Willemin supports the co-development of collaborative tools and platforms to identify trade-offs in Science-Policy Dialogues and to foster collaboration and trust between natural scientists, social scientists, policy-makers, practitioners, as well as the broader society. Engage offers opportunities for skill-building to enhance the capacity of scientists and scientific institutions to engage in Science-Policy Dialogues.

[Dr. Luisa Last](#) (Coordinator of the [PhD Program in Science and Policy](#)) is trained as an environmental scientist with expertise in biodiversity, molecular ecology, microbiology, as well as science and policy training. Dr. Last is an Educational Expert with [Engage](#), an ETH domain joint initiative, and actively designs and facilitates impactful capacity building workshops. As Postdoc at ETH Zurich, she was involved in multiple foresight and stakeholder engagement activities together with the Federal Office for



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Agriculture and the European Commission ([4<sup>th</sup> SCAR Foresight](#)). As the EU Fellowship Program Officer for [RESPONSE](#), she supports emerging researchers in their efforts addressing global challenges. Additionally, she co-edits the blog [Engaging in a Science and Policy Dialogue](#), fostering critical discussions at this intersection.