

**JANINA GRABS**  
Curriculum Vitae

Institute of Political Science  
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster  
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School of Forestry & Environmental Studies  
Yale University  
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janina.grabs@yale.edu  
foodpolicyforthought.com

**EDUCATION**

- 2015 - 2018      Ph.D. in Political Science (summa cum laude)  
Graduate School of Political Science, University of Münster  
Dissertation: The effectiveness of market-driven regulatory sustainability  
governance  
Supervisors: Prof. Thomas Dietz, Prof. Graeme Auld  
I use a micro-institutional theoretical framework and a mixed-method  
research design, combining quantitative impact evaluation estimations with  
qualitative institutional analysis, to assess the effectiveness of market-driven  
regulatory governance through certification schemes in improving socially  
and environmentally sustainable practices of Latin American coffee farmers.  
I find that practices with high opportunity costs are unlikely to be improved  
through market-driven regulation.  
Research interests: Sustainable food systems, environmental policy, land use  
change, international political economy, global value chains, CSR
- 2014              Erasmus Mundus Master's Program in Agricultural, Food and  
Environmental Policy Analysis  
M.Sc. in Agricultural and Food Economics  
Institute for Food and Resource Economics, University of Bonn  
M.Sc. in Business and Economics  
Department of Economics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- 2012              B.A. (First Class Honors) in Political Science  
Department of Political Science, McGill University  
Exchange year at Sciences Po (Paris) 2010/11, summa cum laude

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND VISITING SCHOLAR POSITIONS**

- 2018 - 2019      Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Institute of Political Science, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
- 2018 - 2019      Visiting Assistant in Research  
School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University
- 2017 - 2018      Visiting Academic Researcher  
School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University
- 2015 - 2017      Visiting Researcher  
Center for the Investigation of Sustainable Markets, INCAE Business School,  
Costa Rica

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed journal articles

- 2019 Dietz, T., **Grabs, J.**, & Estrella Chong, A. (2019). The effectiveness of mainstreamed voluntary sustainability standards – Evidence from the Honduran coffee sector. *Regulation & Governance*, in print.
- 2018 **Grabs, J.** (2018). Assessing the institutionalization of private sustainability governance in a changing coffee sector. *Regulation & Governance*, early view.
- 2018 Dietz, T., Auffenberg, J., **Grabs, J.**, Estrella Chong, A., & Kilian, B. (2018). The Voluntary Coffee Standard Index (VOCSI). Developing a composite index to assess and compare the strength of Mainstream Voluntary Sustainability Standards in the global coffee industry. *Ecological Economics*, 150, 72-87.
- 2018 Dietz, T., Estrella Chong, A., Font Gilabert, P., & **Grabs, J.** (2018). Women's empowerment in rural Honduras and its determinants: insights from coffee communities in Ocotepeque and Copan. *Development in Practice*, 28(1), 33-50. (corresponding author)
- 2016 **Grabs, J.**, Kilian, B., Hernández, D. C., & Dietz, T. (2016). Understanding coffee certification dynamics: A spatial analysis of voluntary sustainability standard proliferation. *International Food & Agribusiness Management Review*, 19, 31-55.
- 2016 **Grabs, J.**, Langen, N., Maschkowski, G., & Schöpke, N. (2016). Understanding role models for change: a multilevel analysis of success factors of grassroots initiatives for sustainable consumption. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 134, 98-111.
- 2015 **Grabs, J.** (2015). The rebound effects of switching to vegetarianism. A microeconomic analysis of Swedish consumption behavior. *Ecological Economics*, 116, 270-279.

### Book chapters

- 2016 Maschkowski, G., Schöpke, N., **Grabs, J.**, & Langen, N. (2016). Learning from co-founders of grassroots initiatives: personal resilience, transition, and behavioral change – a salutogenic approach. In: Henfrey T., & Maschkowski G. (eds.) *Resilience, Community Action and Societal Transformation*. East Meon: Permanent Publications and Bristol: Good Works.

### Works under review

- 2019 **Grabs, J.** & Ponte, S. The evolution of power in the global coffee value chain. R&R.
- 2019 Dietz, T., Estrella Chong, A., **Grabs, J.**, Kilian, B. 4C, Nespresso AAA and Starbucks C.A.F.E. Practices: How effective are industry and company-led standards in improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers? Evidence from an impact evaluation in Colombia's Coffee Belt. R&R.

- 2019 **Grabs, J., Auld, G., & Cashore, B.** Switching between lenses for a better view: A critical review of private regulatory governance and the role of public policy. Under review.

### Works in preparation

- 2019 **Grabs, J.** Selling sustainability short? The effectiveness and limits of private governance in the coffee sector [book manuscript, aimed to be under review in early 2019]
- 2019 **Grabs, J.** Signaling sustainability: The interplay of public and private regulation of tropical commodity production.
- 2019 **Grabs, J.** Is private environmental governance an oxymoron? The effectiveness of market-based sustainability standards in improving ecosystem conservation.
- 2019 **Grabs, J.** The effectiveness of private sustainability governance: A micro-institutional approach.
- 2019 **Grabs, J. & Sun, Y.** Regulation for whom? North-South tensions and their implications for the institutionalization of transnational private regulation in the global coffee and tea value chains.
- 2019 Auld, G., & **Grabs, J.** Dynamic markets as opportunity or check for private regulatory governance.
- 2019 Sun, Y., **Grabs, J.,** Cashore, B., Bernstein, S., & Auld, G. Rethinking problems and solutions for planetary impact: Global sustainability governance and planetary politics in a new world system.

### Other publications

- 2017 IPES-Food (2018). *Breaking away from industrial food and farming systems - seven case studies of agroecological transition*. Louvain-la-Neuve: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (research lead).
- 2017 IPES-Food (2017). *Unravelling the Food-Health Nexus: Addressing practices, political economy, and power relations to build healthier food systems*. Louvain-la-Neuve: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (contributing researcher).
- 2017 **Grabs, J.** (2017). The rise of buyer-driven sustainability governance: Emerging trends in the global coffee sector. *ZenTra Working Paper in Transnational Studies* No. 73/2017.
- 2015 **Grabs, J.** (2015) *Value-adding strategies for low-emission coffee: An overview*. San Jose, Costa Rica: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

### Translations

- 2011 Hennebel, L., & Tigroudja, H. (2011). Courts, Terrorism and Human Rights. In: Hennebel, L., & Tigroudja, H. (eds.) *Balancing Liberty and Security: The*

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*Human Rights Pendulum*. Nijmegen: Wolf Legal Publishers, 1-66. Translation from French into English.

### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2018 Giandomenico Majone Prize for the best paper presented at the 2018 Biennial Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance by an early career researcher (up to 7 years after PhD)
- 2018 Admission to the Earth System Governance Research Fellow Network
- 2016 Best Paper Award in category “Relevance to managers”, IFAMA World Conference
- 2012 Allen Oliver Gold Medal (awarded to McGill graduate with highest standing in Political Science), McGill University
- Dean of Arts Convocation Prize (distinguishing outstanding academic achievement), McGill University
- McGill Arts Undergraduate Society Most Outstanding Executive of the Year, McGill University
- 2011 Admission to Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honour Society
- Albert Spanier Memorial Prize, McGill University
- 2009 – 2012 Admission to Dean’s Honor List, McGill University
- 2009 Admission to Golden Key Honor Society

### SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 2019 University of Toronto Scarborough Postdoctoral Fellowship (Can\$ 90,000), declined
- 2019 Gender Equity Grant for International Conference Visits (€400), University of Münster
- 2018 IPID4All Travel Grant for International Research Exchanges (€5,000), German Academic Exchange Service
- 2018 DAAD International Conference Travel Grant (€600), German Academic Exchange Service
- 2017 IPID4All Travel Grant for International Research Exchanges (€5,000), German Academic Exchange Service
- 2017 Gender Equity Grant for International Conference Visits (€500), University of Münster
- 2014 – 2015 Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs (€20,000), Mercator Foundation/German National Academic Foundation
- 2012 – 2014 Erasmus Mundus Scholarship (€12,000), European Union

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- 2011 The Hon. Paul & Yvonne Casey Arts Internship Award (Can\$1,700), McGill University
- 2010 Alexander MacKenzie Scholarship (2 best Honors students of Political Science of the year) (Can\$1,000), McGill University
- 2008 – 2012 James McGill Scholarship (Can\$12,000), McGill University

### INVITED TALKS

- 2019 University of Massachusetts Boston Organizations and Social Change (OSC) Research Seminar, Boston, May 1.
- 2019 Re:Co (regarding: coffee) Symposium Speaker, Specialty Coffee Association, Boston, April 10. – 11.
- 2019 “Selling sustainability short? The effectiveness and limits of eco-labels in the coffee sector”, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies research luncheon, New Haven, March 4.
- 2019 “Can private certification schemes make coffee production more sustainable?”, Yale University Sustainable Food Program, knead 2 know Seminar Series, New Haven, February 2.

### CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

#### Panel organizer

- 2019 “New instruments, same old tunes? Exploring the use of transnational private governance initiatives in international politics and public-private interactions”, 2019 International Studies Association, Toronto, March 27. – 30.
- 2019 “The role and agency of transnational private governance in a politicized marketplace: Strategies, opportunities and impacts”, 2019 International Studies Association, Toronto, March 27. – 30.

#### Presentations

- 2019 “Regulation for whom? North-South tensions and their implications for the institutionalization of transnational private regulation in the global coffee and tea value chains” (with Yixian Sun), 2019 International Conference on Regulatory Governance, Hong Kong, July 4. – 6.
- 2019 “Regulation for whom? North-South tensions and their implications for the institutionalization of transnational private regulation in the global coffee and tea value chains” (with Yixian Sun), 2019 Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), New York, June 27. – 29.
- 2019 “Is private environmental governance an oxymoron? The effectiveness of market-based sustainability standards in improving

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- ecosystem conservation”, 2019 International Studies Association, Toronto, March 27. – 30.
- 2019 “Signaling sustainability: The interplay of public and private regulation of tropical commodity production”, 2019 International Studies Association, Toronto, March 27. – 30.
- 2018 “Switching between lenses for a better view: A critical review of theoretical approaches to private regulatory governance” (with Graeme Auld and Ben Cashore), 2018 Utrecht Conference on Earth System Governance, Utrecht, November 5. – 8.
- 2018 “The effectiveness of market-driven sustainability governance through international value chains – Insights from the coffee sector”, 2018 Annual Meeting of the International Political Economy Society, Boston, November 2. – 3.
- 2018 “The rise of buyer-driven sustainability governance: Emerging trends in the global coffee sector”, ECPR General Conference 2018, Hamburg, August 22. – 25.
- 2018 “The effectiveness of private sustainability governance: A micro-institutional approach”, ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Lausanne, July 4. – 6.
- 2018 “Is private environmental governance an oxymoron? The effectiveness of market-based sustainability standards in improving ecosystem conservation”, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Environmental Politics and Governance, Stockholm, June 28. – 30.
- 2018 “Switching between lenses for a better view: A meta-assessment of private regulatory governance and the role of public policy” (with Graeme Auld and Ben Cashore), Yale Workshop on Private Authority and Public Policy in Global Context, New Haven, Jan. 10. – 11.
- 2017 “Evaluating the output legitimacy of non-state market-driven governance systems” (with Thomas Dietz), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Aug. 31. – Sept. 3.
- 2017 “The efficacy of non-state buyer-driven sustainability governance. Mainstreaming and the effectiveness of Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) in the global coffee value chain”, 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics, Budapest, June 20. – 23.
- 2017 “Is private governance effective? Evidence from the Honduran coffee sector” (with Thomas Dietz), Policy Implementation Reloaded: New Insights from Domestic, European and International Scholarship, International Conference, Münster, July 06. – 07.
- 2016 “Understanding coffee certification dynamics: A spatial analysis of voluntary sustainability standard proliferation” (with Bernard Kilian, Daniel Calderón Hernández, and Thomas Dietz; presented by Thomas Dietz),

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International Food and Agribusiness Management Association World Conference, Aarhus, June 19. - 23.

- 2014 "Success factors of grassroots movements for sustainability" (with Nina Langen, Gesa Maschkowski, and Niko Schöpke, presented by Nina Langen), International Conference on Consumer Research, Bonn, Sept. 29. - 30.
- 2014 "It's complicated: Vegetarianism and indirect environmental rebound effects", International Conference on Consumer Research, Bonn, Sept. 29.-30.
- 2014 "Success factors of grassroots movements for sustainability" (with Nina Langen, Gesa Maschkowski, and Niko Schöpke), International Society for Ecological Economics Conference, Reykjavik, Aug. 13. - 15.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### **Instructor of record, University of Münster**

In my capacity as instructor of record, I conceptualized, designed and sole-taught all of the following courses. Syllabi available upon request.

Introduction to international organizations (introductory lecture course, Summer 2018)

Methods: Policy analysis and impact evaluation (advanced undergraduate seminar, Summers 2018 & 2019)

Critical political economy: Growth, inequality and planetary boundaries (intermediate undergraduate seminar, Summer 2018)

Ethics and sustainability governance of international value chains (advanced undergraduate seminar, Summers 2017, 2018 & 2019)

#### **Teaching fellow, Yale University**

Problem solving in the global era: Social science contributions to forward looking environmental management (for Prof. Benjamin Cashore; head TF, graduate course, Fall 2018)

Global environmental governance (for Prof. Benjamin Cashore; graduate course, Spring 2019)

#### **Contributing course instructor, INCAE Business School**

Principles of sustainable development (MBA case study course, Spring 2017)

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 - now Research consultant, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems  
I assemble evidence and draft sections of IPES-Food reports, e.g. on the public health impacts of industrial food systems and transition pathways toward agroecological food systems.

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- 2015 – 2018      Research associate, TransSustain project, University of Münster  
I designed and implemented an impact evaluation study that resulted in the collection of over 1,900 household-level questionnaire responses of coffee farmers from Honduras, Colombia, and Costa Rica. My responsibilities included, inter alia, research strategy and questionnaire design and operationalization, the identification and liaison with collaboration partners, the coordination of data collection, and data evaluation and analysis using STATA, Tableau, ODK and QGIS.
- 2013 – 2014      Graduate research assistant, Institute of Food and Resource Economics, University of Bonn  
I conducted an extensive literature review, created a theoretical overview of success factors of grassroots organizations for sustainable food consumption and drafted a peer-reviewed publication.
- 2012              Research assistant, McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy, McGill University  
I collected and analyzed data on primary diabetes interventions and costs of diabetes-related prevention services in contribution to a micro-simulation model of Canadian prevention strategies.
- 2010 – 2011      Research assistant, Magna Carta Institute  
I reviewed and compiled Spanish-language case law in contribution to a scholarly article on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and translated a scholarly article from French to English.
- 2009              Research assistant, International Center for the Prevention of Crime  
I compiled and summarized country-level information in four languages in contribution to the International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety 2010.

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Policy advice and expert opinions

- 2017 – now      Co-chair of EKLIPSE Expert Working Group on business activities' impacts on biodiversity  
The group provides policy advice to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency on regulatory options to improve food and drink SME's biodiversity impacts.

### Chairing and discussant services

- 2018              Discussant, Panel: The changing roles of actors and agency in agri-food governance systems, ECPR General Conference 2018, Hamburg, August 22. – 25.
- 2018              Discussant, Copenhagen Business School Workshop on Private Authority and Public Policy in Global Context, March 22. – 23.



## Janina Grabs

2017 Chair and discussant, Panel on Refugees and IDPs, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Aug. 31. – Sept. 3.

### **Book referee services**

Elsevier Academic Press (book prospectus review)

### **Journal referee services**

World Development  
Business & Society  
Review of Policy Research  
Global Environmental Politics  
Journal of Rural Studies  
Ecological Economics  
Nature Communications  
Business Strategy and the Environment  
Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning  
Resources  
Sustainability  
Singapore Journal of Tropical Agriculture

### **Case competition judging services**

Nespresso Sustainability MBA Challenge (2016/2017)

### **FURTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

2018 - now Yale Certificate of College Teaching Preparation (CCTP), Yale University Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning.

2017 APSA Course Design and Pedagogy Workshop. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Aug. 31. – Sept. 3.

2017 Certificate in project management, Graduate Center of the University of Münster, April 18. – July 27.

2017 IMPACT: approaches and tools for enhancing the social and policy impact of your research. European Society for Ecological Economics Summer School, Budapest, June 18. – 20.

2017 Knowing and creatively using participatory teaching methods, Center for Academic Teaching of the University of Münster, June 12.

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native)  
German (native)  
French (proficient)

Spanish (proficient)

Swedish (basic - B1)

Russian (basic - B1)

Portuguese (passive - can read with dictionary)

Italian (passive - can read with dictionary)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS**

American Political Science Association

Earth System Governance Project (Research Fellow)

European Consortium on Political Research

European Society for Ecological Economics

### **REFERENCES**

Benjamin Cashore, Professor of Environmental Governance and Political Science, Yale University

Graeme Auld, Associate Professor of Public Policy, Carleton University

Thomas Dietz, Assistant Professor of Politics and Law, University of Münster

Stephen Gliessman, Professor of Agroecology, UC Santa Cruz

Last updated: 20 February 2019