



Call for contributions – Prolonged Deadline 29th May 2026

Summer school: *Holding the Ruins, Shaping the Future* *Loss & Damage, Climate Assemblies and Plural Ways of Knowing* *Environmental Harm*

(8-12 June 2026 at University of Tübingen, Germany)

Loss and Damage (L&D) and Climate Assemblies have emerged as two closely connected developments in contemporary climate politics. While Loss and Damage addresses the irreversible impacts of climate change and the question of how environmental harm becomes politically recognized, Climate Assemblies and related participatory formats open spaces in which citizens collectively deliberate about climate futures and possible pathways for action. Together, they foreground fundamental questions: How does environmental harm become knowable and politically visible? Whose knowledge counts in climate decision-making? And how citizens and everyday experiences inform meaningful climate action across local, national and global scales?

The summer school “**Holding the Ruins, Shaping the Future**” brings together scholars, artists and practitioners working at the intersections of climate politics, arts-based research and participatory governance to explore plural ways of knowing environmental harm and their implications for decision-making and action. Particular attention is given to Climate Assemblies, citizen councils and community-based initiatives as spaces where knowledge production, democratic deliberation and future-making intersect.

Building on debates within Loss & Damage research and the Loss & Damage Collaboration Network’s Arts and Culture Program, as well as emerging debates around Climate Assemblies and participatory climate governance, the summer school examines how alliances between science, art and civic participation can diversify dominant forms of climate knowledge and governance. By foregrounding lived experiences, Global South perspectives and arts-based approaches, the programme critically engages with how environmental harm is articulated, debated and acted upon within Climate Assemblies and related participatory spaces, as well as within and beyond the UNFCCC climate regime.

We welcome contributions from PhD candidates and early-career researchers engaging with questions from disciplinary, transdisciplinary or practice-based perspectives. Contributions may include theoretical reflections, empirical research, methodological explorations, arts-based approaches, or work-in-progress presentations. We particularly encourage submissions that critically engage with the relationships between knowledge production, participation and climate governance engaging with questions such as:

- How does pluralising ways of knowing shape how environmental harm is recognized, communicated and negotiated in climate politics?
- How do Loss & Damage debates reconfigure questions of responsibility, justice and repair across local, national and global scales?
- In what ways do Climate Assemblies and other participatory formats open up, possibly reproduce or reshape existing power relations in climate decision-making and collective action?
- How can arts-based and practice-based approaches function as forms of knowledge production that contribute to pluralising climate knowledge and inform processes of decision-making and climate action?
- How do local experiences and Global South perspectives travel between community-based initiatives, participatory forums and international climate governance arenas?

The summer school invites PhD candidates and early-career researchers to present and discuss their work in a supportive, transdisciplinary environment. Participants will receive feedback on ongoing research, engage with invited scholars and practitioners, and explore connections between academic research, artistic practice and participatory formats. The program combines academic keynotes, participants’ inputs and arts-based formats. This includes insights from the collaborative project ReStaging Climate Assemblies between the University of Tübingen and the University of Sheffield. The summer school will take place at the Landestheater Tübingen (LTT) on Wednesday 10th June 2026.

Prolonged Deadline: Please submit a **150-word abstract** by **29th May 2026** to verena.gresz@uni-tuebingen.de. Limited travel subsidies are available upon request.

Convenors:

[Jun-Prof. Dr. Riccarda Flemmer](#) and [Verena Gresz \(Doctoral Student\)](#)

Team "Political Struggles in the Global South"