



3rd GESIS Workshop on Earth Observation Data in the Social Sciences November 26-28, 2025

We invite paper submissions to a three-day workshop on **Earth Observation Data in the Social Sciences**, which aims to bring together scholars at all career stages and allow for a deep discussion of papers that focus on using Earth observation data. Using Earth observation data for social science research questions or linking them with social science data sources like surveys or digital behavioral data offers great potential for studying micro-level attitudes and behavior and macro-level policymaking in subject areas such as climate change and environmental degradation, inequality, or economic development. At the same time, researchers face methodological, legal, and ethical challenges. Therefore, we would like to address the **potential and constraints** of this data source and facilitate a transdisciplinary exchange of expertise and best practices in our workshop.

The organizers welcome papers on a broad range of topics and methods. We invite both methodological contributions and substantial papers from research at the **interface of social and Earth system science**, as well as work from either discipline that advances understanding or offers new potential for the other. We are particularly interested in papers relying on **innovative methods and experimental research designs** that seek to explore advancements in the operationalization of Earth observation data for social scientific research.

The workshop will take place in person at **GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne, Germany**, from **November 26 to 28**. We plan to have an in-depth and rich discussion of up to fifteen papers and welcome our keynote lecturers, **Prof. Dr. Monika Kuffer** from the University of Twente and **Dr. Ana Andries** from the University of Surrey.

Registration is free. Further information on the institute is available here: <https://www.gesis.org/en/home>.

Article abstracts (max. 500 words) should be sent to dennis.abel@gesis.org by **August 6**. Decisions will be emailed in mid-August. Please indicate whether you are interested in a paper and/or poster presentation in your submission.

Early-career researchers and those traditionally underrepresented in social sciences (e.g., women, LGBTQI+, first-generation graduates, ethnic minorities) are strongly encouraged to apply.

Our keynote speakers

Prof. Dr. Monika Kuffer



[Monika Kuffer](#) is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation at the University of Twente. Her research focuses on sustainable development (SDGs), particularly poverty (deprivation), living quality, and economic development in urban/rural environments using remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and AI-based methods. Her current projects include [IDEAtlas](#) and [SPACE4ALL](#). Among other positions, she is the Dutch representative of the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSel).





Dr. Ana Andries

[Ana Andries](#) is a Lecturer in GIS and Remote Sensing with applications in sustainability assessment at the University of Surrey. Her expertise spans environmental impact assessment, environmental auditing, spatial analysis, and sustainable development. She has worked on multiple projects exploring EO technologies for tackling environmental and socio-economic challenges, leading the [Space4Sustainability](#) initiative at the University of Surrey. Before her academic role, she gained industrial experience as a GIS Quality Control specialist at the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) under the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).



The organizing team

Dennis Abel, Stefan Jünger, Jonas Lieth, Amelie Veit

