

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Jan Freihardt (he/him)

Date of Birth: 07-09-1992

Citizenship: German

[ETH homepage](#), fjan@ethz.ch, [Google Scholar](#), [ORCID](#), [LinkedIn](#), [ResearchGate](#), [BlueSky](#)

Address: ETH Zurich, IFW C 41.1, Haldeneggsteig 4, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland

Employment History

2025-present: Postdoctoral Researcher at the Chair for International Political Economy and Environmental Politics, D-GESS, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

2023-2025: Postdoctoral Researcher at the Chair for Global Health Engineering, D-MAVT, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Education

PhD (2023) Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), ETH Zurich
Title “When the river breaks the land: Environmental (im)mobility among rural households in Bangladesh”, DOI: [10.3929/ethz-b-000646402](https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000646402).

Dissertation committee: Prof. Dr. Vally Koubi, Prof. Dr. Lukas Rudolph, Dr. Alex de Sherbinin, Prof. Dr. Nina von Uexkull.

Visiting Researcher (2023) Climate School, Columbia University, New York, USA

M.Sc. (2020) Science, Technology and Policy, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

M.Sc. (2018) Environmental Engineering, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

B.Sc. (2016) Environmental Sciences and Technology, TU Berlin, Germany

Research Interests

Environmental migration, climate change adaptation, disaster risk communication, sustainable sanitation, air pollution

Transformative and transdisciplinary science

Teaching Experience

2025: “Ethics and Scientific Integrity for Doctoral Students of D-MAVT” (ETH Zurich, co-taught)

2025: “International Environmental Politics” (ETH Zurich & Ashesi University (Ghana), co-taught)

2024: “International Engineering: from Hubris to Hope” (ETH Zurich, co-taught)

2020: “Proseminar I: Politische Methodologie” (ETH Zurich, co-taught).

Skills

Languages: German (native), English (C2), Dutch (C2), French (C1), Spanish (B2), Arabic (A2), Bangla (A1), Hindi (A1), Latin (Latinum), Ancient Greek (Graecum).

Computer languages: R, Javascript, MATLAB, JAVA, C.

Field Research

Bangladesh: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Malawi: 2018.

South Africa: 2015.

Additional Training

2024: MITx Online MOOC “Qualitative Research Methods: Data Coding and Analysis”.

2022: GESIS Workshop "Introduction to Event History Analysis".

2021: Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis “Longitudinal Data Analysis”.

2020: ETH Winter School "Science meets Practice".

2019: ETH Singapore Month.

2018: ETH Winter School "Blockchain and the Internet of Things".

2017: ETH Cortona Week.

Grants and Scholarships

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), PhD Scholarship, Project “Climate risk, land loss, and migration: Evidence from a quasi-experiment in Bangladesh”, 2019-2023.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Graduate Scholarship, 2016-2018.

Deutschlandstipendium, 2013-2015.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Program RISE, 2015.

Swiss-European Mobility Programme, 2014-2015.

Awards

2025: PPE Young Scholars Award for Social and Institutional Change, awarded by the PPE Institute for Social and Institutional Change (ISIC) at Witten/Herdecke University.

2024: Jury distinction of the SNSF Scientific Image Competition 2024 for contribution “When the river breaks the land”.

2024: Special Mention (Non-Fiction) for documentary “Eroding Horizons: A Village On The Move” at Earth 360° Fest of Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative (BYEI).

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

11. Thalheimer, L., Cottier, F., Kruczkiewicz, A. et al. (2025). Prioritizing involuntary immobility in climate policy and disaster planning. *Nature Communications*, 16, 2581. DOI: [10.1038/s41467-025-57679-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-57679-9).
10. Rudolph, L., Koubi, V., **Freihardt, J.** (2025). Environmental change and migration aspirations: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Global Environmental Change*, 91. DOI: [10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2025.102966](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2025.102966).
9. **Freihardt, J.** (2025). Environmental shocks and migration among a climate-vulnerable population in Bangladesh. *Population and Environment*, 47, 6. DOI: [10.1007/s11111-025-00478-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11111-025-00478-7).
8. **Freihardt, J.**, Buntaine, M., Bernauer, T. (2024). Choosing to protect: Public support for flood defense over relocation in climate change adaptation. *Environmental Research Letters*, 19 104012. DOI: [10.1088/1748-9326/ad6781](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ad6781).
7. Rudolph, L., Koubi, V., **Freihardt, J.** (2024). COVID-19 vaccination uptake in remote areas - Evidence from a panel survey in Bangladesh. *PLOS ONE* 19(8), e0305659. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0305659](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0305659).
6. **Freihardt, J.** (2024). Perceptions of environmental changes among a climate-vulnerable population from Bangladesh. *Climatic Change*, 177, 25. DOI: [10.1007/s10584-024-03678-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-024-03678-6).
5. **Freihardt, J.** & Buchs, R. (2023). Framing effects in disaster risk communication: the case of coastal erosion in the United States. *Environmental Hazards*, 23(3), 287-305. DOI: [10.1080/17477891.2023.2280691](https://doi.org/10.1080/17477891.2023.2280691).
4. **Freihardt, J.** & Frey, O. (2023). Assessing riverbank erosion in Bangladesh using time series of Sentinel-1 radar imagery in the Google Earth Engine. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 23, 751-770. DOI: [10.5194/nhess-23-751-2023](https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-23-751-2023).
3. Pearce, B., Dallo, I., Choi, V., **Freihardt, J.**, Middel, C. (2022). Forks in the Road: Identifying key processes in stakeholder interaction with critical design moments. *GAIA: Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society*, vol. 31: no. 4, pp. 222-230. DOI: [10.14512/gaia.31.4.6](https://doi.org/10.14512/gaia.31.4.6).
2. **Freihardt, J.** (2020). Can Citizen Science using social media inform sanitation planning? *Journal of Environmental Management*, 259, p. 110053. DOI: [10.1016/j.jenvman.2019.110053](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2019.110053).

1. Freihardt, J., Jekel, M. and Ruhl, A.S. (2017). Comparing test methods for granular activated carbon for organic micropollutant elimination. *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering* 5(3). DOI: [10.1016/j.jece.2017.05.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jece.2017.05.002).

Book Publications

2. Freihardt, J. (2024). Rivers of Change. A Story of Eroding Villages. vdf Hochschulverlag AG, Zürich. ISBN: 978-3-7281-4188-0 (print) / 978-3-7281-4189-7 (e-book). DOI: [10.3218/4189-7](https://doi.org/10.3218/4189-7).

1. Freihardt, J. (2021). Draußen ist es anders. Auf neuen Wegen zu einer Wissenschaft für den Wandel. oekom, München. ISBN: 978-3-96238-296-4. DOI: [10.14512/9783962388355](https://doi.org/10.14512/9783962388355).

Documentary Publication

Campert, A., Freihardt, J. (2024). Eroding Horizons. A Village on the Move. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d44LCujw6pk>.

Other Publications

Freihardt, J. (2025). [Die Flut wird wieder kommen, die Menschen bleiben.](#) *Weltwoche Grün* Nr. 18.25.

Freihardt, J. (2025). [Teaching in Ghana: Confronting Privilege and Power in Global Academia.](#) *Global Health Engineering Blog, ETH Zurich.*

Freihardt, J. (2025). [Who gets a seat at the table? The exclusive world of UN Climate Conferences.](#) *Global Health Engineering Blog, ETH Zurich.*

Freihardt, J. (2024). [Climate change alone does not cause mass migration.](#) *ETH Zukunftsblog, ETH Zurich.*

Swiss Expert Group for Citizen Science (2024). Citizen Science in Switzerland: Taking Stock and Ways into the Future. Available at: <https://zenodo.org/records/12751877>.

Freihardt, J. (2023). [Millions On the Move? Unpacking the Climate-Migration Nexus.](#) *Journal of International Affairs.*

Dallo, I., Freihardt, J., von Rothkirch, J. (2020). [Six lessons from students about transdisciplinary learning.](#) *Integration and Implementation Insights Blog.*

Working Papers

Freihardt, J.: Trapped by climate change? Linking migration aspirations to actual moves among a climate-vulnerable population in Bangladesh (under review), 2023.

Aggarwal, A., **Freihardt, J.:** Preserving Statehood in Small Island Developing States Amid Climate Change: A Framework for Action (under review), 2024.

Kellhammer, M., **Freihardt, J.:** Über das Ausgesetztsein in transformativen Forschungsumgebungen, oder - Und dann flogen die Eier (under review), 2024.

Abgottspon, E., **Freihardt, J.**, Tkaczuk, J., Tilley, E.: Willingness to Pay and Economic Feasibility for Waste Management in Cape Maclear, Malawi (under review), 2024.

Fabry, A., **Freihardt, J.**, Meemken, E.-M., Koubi, V.: Climate Change, Migration, and Mental Health in Bangladesh (work in progress), 2024.

Benveniste, H., **Freihardt, J.**, Koubi, V.: The role of remittances in shaping migration and life satisfaction (work in progress), 2024.

Al-Maruf, A., **Freihardt, J.**, Koubi, V.: The interplay of household resilience and the capability to stay in Bangladesh (work in progress), 2024.

Aggarwal, A., **Freihardt, J.:** A gendered perspective on environmental migration in Bangladesh (work in progress), 2024.

Rudolph, L., **Freihardt, J.**, Koubi, V.: Neighbors' perspectives on incoming environmental migrants in rural Bangladesh (work in progress), 2024.

Freihardt, J., Koubi, V.: The effect of recurrent and concurrent climate events on migration: Evidence from Bangladesh (work in progress), 2024.

von Uexkull, N., **Freihardt, J.**, Koubi, V.: Climate change impacts in Bangladesh - securitization, conflict and cooperation (work in progress), 2022.

Media Coverage

SciComm Palaver podcast (17.03.2025): <https://sabinegysi.ch/scicomm-palaver-episode-39/>

SRF (02.03.2025). [Der Klimawandel erzeugt kaum Migration ins Ausland.](#)

Swissinfo (27.02.2025). [Der Klimawandel beeinflusst die Migration nicht immer so, wie man denkt - das Beispiel Bangladesch.](#) / [Bangladesh sheds light on climate change migration patterns.](#)

Neue Zürcher Zeitung am Sonntag (22.12.2024). [«Unser Bild von Klimaflucht ist faktisch falsch. Trotzdem wird es von Politikern und Medien weiter verbreitet»](#)

Süddeutsche Zeitung (31.08.2024). [Hungriger Fluss.](#)

Reportagen (05.2024). [Wenn der Fluss kommt.](#)

Water Stressed podcast (24.03.2024):
<https://open.acast.com/public/streams/638b10408f875f00102f5aa8/episodes/660154257143f70017a27c6e.mp3>

Somoy TV (21.02.2024): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKSQ3iwhjTM>

Deutschlandfunk Nova (28.01.2024). [Manche Regionen in Bangladesch werden unbewohnbar.](#)

Norddeutscher Rundfunk (13.01.2024). [Bangladesh und der Klimawandel.](#)

Neue Zürcher Zeitung (02./05.10.2023). [Wie reagiert man, wenn das eigene Hab und Gut immer wieder von einer Naturgewalt zerstört wird? / If your home was repeatedly destroyed, how long would it take you to leave?](#)

Conference Participant

American Political Science Association (APSA): 2023.

Annual Conference on Migration and Diversity, Berlin: 2024.

Conference on Sustainable Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2019.

Duck Family Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance: 2023.

Environmental Politics and Governance (EPG): 2023, 2024.

European Political Science Association (EPSA): 2022, 2023.

Initiative on Climate Adaptation Research and Understanding through the Social Sciences (ICARUS): 2023.

International Faecal Sludge Management Conference (FSM): 2019.

International Studies Association (ISA): 2023.

International Transdisciplinarity Conference (ITD): 2021.

Managed Retreat Conference: 2023.

Teaching and Learning for Change: Sustainability in Higher Education: 2023.

Transdisziplinarität als institutionelle Herausforderung für Universitäten, Berlin, Germany: 2021.

UN Climate Change Conference (COP): 2024 (COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan).

Workshops and Seminars (as facilitator)

Workshop for young lecturers on “Transforming our university teaching towards sustainability”, jointly organized with WWF, SDSN Switzerland & swiss young academy; Bern, Switzerland, 23.10.2024.

Kaleido Retreat, workshop on “Transformative Science”, Hasliberg, Switzerland, 06.09.2024.

ETH Zurich, workshop on “Transformative Science” as part of the “Teach Forward” series in collaboration with ETH LET, Zurich, 11.09.2023.

Alanus Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft, guest lecturer in the seminar “Social Innovation”, online, 01.06.2023.

University of Zurich, School for Transdisciplinary Studies, guest lecturer in the seminar “Einführung in Citizen Science”, Zurich, 17.11.2022.

ETH Zurich, Student Sustainability Commission, workshop on “Transformative Science”, Zurich, 03.11.2022.

Selbstbestimmt Studieren e.V., workshop on “Transformative Science”, Salzderhelden, 01.11.2022.

ETH Zurich, guest lecturer in the seminar “Migration and Mobility”, Zurich, 29.04.2022.

Selbstbestimmt Studieren e.V., seminar on “Project Management”, Sonnerden, 25.-27.02.2022.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 01.12.2021.

Scientists for Future Munich, workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 25.11.2021.

ETH Zurich, GESS who!, workshop on “Transformative Science”, Zurich, 29.09.2021.

University of Zurich, Graduate Research Center, workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 29.09.2021.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 28.09.2021.

Stiftung der deutschen Wirtschaft (SDW), workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 23.09.2021.

Congress “Science for Society”, workshop on “Transformative Science”, Kiel, 17.09.2021.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 29.07.2021.

Evangelische Hochschule Freiburg, workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 23.06.2021.

Universität Koblenz-Landau, workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 02.06.2021.

RegioTransform Bayreuth, workshop on “Transformative Science”, online, 19.05.2021.

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, guest lecturer in the lecture series »ClimateJustice Now! -Was kann der Beitrag unserer Universität zur Klimagerechtigkeit sein?«, online, 08.07.2020.

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND) and Vereinigung für ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung e.V. (VÖW), seminar on "Transformative Wissenschaft - Vom Wissen zu Wirkung", Berlin, 03.-06.09.2019.

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND), seminar on "Transformative Wissenschaften - Forschung für die und mit der Gesellschaft", Berlin, 29.06.-01.07.2018.

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND), seminar on "Wissenschaft und NGOs - Herausforderungen und Chancen", Berlin, 16.-18.06.2017.

Other Workshops, Round-Tables, and Expert Meetings

Theater Neumarkt & Collegium Helveticum, Zürich, «Ministry for the Future - Episode 3: Nomadentum», 11.04.2025 (invited expert).

Sogar Theater Zürich, «Wenn der Fluss kommt» - Reportagen live mit Benjamin von Brackel, 19.03.2025 (invited expert).

ETH Zurich, Food for Thought Event for ETH Policy Fellowship: "Dialog zwischen Wissenschaft und Politik", 24.01.2025 (invited panelist).

Columbia University, course „Climate mobility“, talk on “A gendered perspective on environmental migration in Bangladesh“, 18.04.2024 (invited speaker).

Universität Lüneburg, MA Transformationsstudien, seminar „Transdisziplinäre Forschung“, talk on “Eine Wissenschaft für den Wandel? Das Problem des Wissenschaftssystems - und Wege zu einer transformativen Wissenschaft“, 16.04.2024 (invited speaker).

BUNDjugend, working group „Global Health and Migration“, talk on “Klimaflucht in Bangladesch und darüber hinaus“, 23.01.2024 (invited speaker).

ZAK Talks as part of the KIT Science Week, Symposium “Gesellschaft im Krisenmodus? Die Rolle von Wissenschaft, Politik und Journalismus in Nachhaltigkeitsdebatten“, 2023 (invited panelist).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbu86_IMzLs&list=PL0TmH52ybqle0F0KDj0fSX3oiX6e6XDh-&index=5

Columbia University, course „Climate mobility“, talk on “A gendered perspective on environmental migration in Bangladesh“, 20.04.2023 (invited speaker).

Caritas Switzerland seminar “MigrAction“, 25.09.2022 (invited speaker).

ScienceComm. Swiss annual congress for science communication, 2022 (invited panelist).

Amnesty International, Zurich English Group, The Climate Series 2022, panel on “Fleeing climate change and the gendered impacts“, 16.06.2022 (invited panelist).

ETH Zurich, workshops on “Scenarios for a desirable future of ecological infrastructure in Switzerland” as part of the project “ValPar.CH: Werte der Ökologischen Infrastruktur in Schweizer Pärken“, Zurich, March/May 2022 (invited expert).

Helvetas webinar “Migration and Climate Change”, online, 24.12.2021 (invited speaker).

Mensa in Deutschland, talk on “Transformative Science”, online, 15.09.2021 (invited speaker). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YU1CYrZOzwQ>

Cusanus-Hochschule, panel discussion on “Transformative Science”, online, 06.05.2021 (invited speaker).

Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS), online, 12.-15.01.2021 (participant).

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND), Netzwerk Ressourcenwende, online, 09.09.2020 (invited speaker).

Professional Activities

Chair: Wissenschaft(f)t Zukünfte e.V., 2020-present.

Member: Leadership Board, Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD Alliance), 2021-2023.

Member: Swiss Expert Group for Citizen Science: Contextual analysis, recommendation and roadmap, 2021-2024.

Coach & Mentor: Focus Sustainability BOOST Programme 2024.

Conference discussant and chair: European Political Science Association (EPSA).

Professional memberships: American Political Science Association (APSA); European Political Science Association (EPSA); Global Alliance for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD Alliance); Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler (VDW); Wissenschaft(f)t Zukünfte e.V.

Reviewer: Environmental Development; Environmental Hazards; Journal of Peace Research; Frontiers in Sociology; Latin American Journal of Central Banking; Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change; Population and Environment; PS: Political Science & Politics; Society & Natural Resources; Sustainable Environment; Urban Resilience and Sustainability; Water and Environment.