



Call for Chapters – PolyCIVIS edited volume "Facing polycrisis together: a Euro-African perspective"

"Polycrisis" is a relatively new concept, that has spread in academic literature and policymaking in the recent years. It requires a stronger definition (Lawrence *et al.*, 2024), to avoid being a buzzword serving political agendas (Roberts, 2024). Within the *PolyCIVIS project*,¹ we characterize polycrisis from a Euro-African perspective, by its trans-boundary effects, multiple causality, and complex system properties and recognize its anthropogenic dimension. While this definition is central in our edited volume, we also propose paying more attention to Morin's holistic approach of polycrisis, considering that "there is no single vital problem, but many vital problems, and it is this complex intersolidarity of problems, antagonisms, crises, uncontrolled processes, and the general crisis of the planet that constitutes the number one vital problem" (Morin and Kern, 1993, p. 74). This position allows to go further than defining properties of the polycrisis: it enables identifying concrete interdisciplinary and transnational ways towards preparedness, resilience and solutions with a focus on the European and African contexts.

Aim of the Book

In this context, the *PolyCIVIS project* is welcoming contributions for an edited volume on polycrisis. The volume aims to expand on an emerging and dynamic field of scholarly works that examine the polycrisis concept, with a key focus on existing gaps in research. The main novelty and contribution to existing research are:

- (1) Advancing discussions by going beyond Euro-centric analyses of the polycrisis, that biases current knowledge. Authors will give special attention on **Euro-African perspectives**, through **analyses from European, African and global contexts** that consider nuances and differences due to historical trajectories, socio-economic structures, and geopolitical realities.
- (2) Promoting interdisciplinary research and new methodological thinking **to achieve a more nuanced understanding of polycrisis, with an anchorage in different research fields, disciplines and geographies.**
- (3) **Providing recommendations for preparedness, resilience and solutions as well as proposing research** for improvements in and changes to current governance, economic, political, social and environmental models.

Topics

We are welcoming contributions on the following topics:

- **Theoretical reflections on the polycrisis** - to delve into the conceptual and theoretical debates underpinning literature on polycrisis, clarify and review the conceptual frameworks and theoretical foundations of polycrisis beyond the descriptive approaches, connect polycrisis to different theories and schools of thoughts, and reflects on methodologies in a context of polycrisis.
- **Perspectives on the polycrisis** - to explore the role of polycrisis in today's, yesterday's and tomorrow's world with African, European and Global empirical studies and illustrations,

¹ PolyCIVIS is a Euro - African collaboration that brings to the forefront the global polycrisis, allowing a better understanding of the impacts of several concurrent major societal crises challenging the world in the form of a polycrisis. Initiated in late 2023, PolyCIVIS allows discussion, collaboration and action arising out of the collaboration between universities in Europe and Africa. A Jean Monnet Network, (Policy Debate: Foreign policy issues: EU-AFRICA), PolyCIVIS mobilises a consortium of 21 universities: all 11 CIVIS Alliance universities, all 6 CIVIS African strategic partners, and an additional 4 African universities. More information here: <https://civis.eu/en/discover-civis/civis-alliance-projects/polycivis>

through case studies. Chapters could cover climate sustainability; food, energy, and water security; stability and governance; migration and mobility; socio economic challenges; health; etc.

- **Joint African-European approaches** - to go beyond current geographically anchored perspectives, by offering joint African-European analyses on key themes of the polycrisis, including new research avenues and perspectives (for example, the intersectional approach that takes into account the differentiated impact of polycrisis on groups characterised by specific combinations of social attributes).
- **Polycrisis: Preparedness, Resilience and Solutions (Understanding, Foresight & Management)** - to go beyond theoretical and descriptive considerations to provide inputs towards preparedness, resilience and solutions. This may capture governance, including democracy, socio-economic distribution, demography challenges, and security-related matters.

We encourage contributions with case studies and applications, interdisciplinary research, transformative methodological approaches and are open to group and individual contributions.

Targeted Audience

The primary audience is the scientific community—researchers, teachers, and graduate students—as the book contributes to a growing body of work on the concept of polycrisis. It clarifies definitions, identifies research gaps, and explores its impacts, while proposing strategies for resilience and sustainable solutions. Offering both African and European perspectives within a global framework, the book goes beyond description to provide actionable recommendations: it will also be a valuable resource for practitioners and policymakers in Europe, Africa, and beyond.

Publishing House and Editors

This book will be published by an internationally renowned academic publisher, and we are therefore seeking high-quality contributions. Editors are coming from various backgrounds and include John Oti Amoah (University of Cape Coast), Fiorenza Deriu (Sapienza University of Rome), Sabine Klocke-Daffa (University of Tübingen), Emílio Tostão (Eduardo Mondlane University) and Sarah Hassnaoui (Université du Québec à Montréal, Aix-Marseille University).

Timeline 2025/2026

- September 7th, 2025: Deadline for abstracts.
- September 30th, 2025: Invitations for selected abstracts.
- January 5th, 2026: Deadline for submission of chapters.
- March 31st, 2026: Reviewed chapters returned to authors.
- April 30th, 2026: Deadline for submission of revised chapters.
- June 2nd - 5th, 2026: Presentation of chapters at *PolyCIVIS Conference*, Aix-en-Provence, France (Optional).
- August 2026: Submission of finalized chapters by authors.
- September 2026: Finalization and submission of manuscript by editors to publisher.

Instructions

Interested author(s) should submit 200- 500-words abstract with title, name of author(s), and affiliation to: sarah.hassnaoui@ulb.be and polycivis@ulb.be by September, 7, 2025.

Final chapters should be 20 pages (6000-8000 words).

Selection will be based on the relevance to the theme, theoretical and methodological quality, innovation and originality of the research approach.

