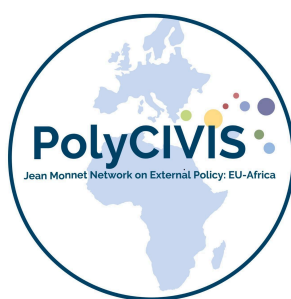# DATABASE: COMMENTS

AS PART OF THE REPORT: THE POLYCRISIS DATABASE

BY POLYCIVIS RESEARCH WORK PACKAGE

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Database: Publications

Our bibliographic database is divided into two main groups of publications: academic literature and non-academic productions. It was first created as a simple bibliography, but we then decided to use the software Zotero to sort the data, label the publications and, later, have the opportunity to publish the Zotero database and include it in our website.

In the academic literature, we created 4 sub-categories.

- The first one gathers the publications that mention the polycrisis in the title.
- The second one includes publications that mention the polycrisis in the abstract or introduction, as a matter of "context" for the research work.
- The third one is a work that we underwent to propose a "genealogy" of the polycrisis, to also include work on interrelated polycrisis, that can also contribute in finding polysolutions.
- Eventually, the last folder is composed of works that have been suggested to us during consultations, with topics that people associate to the polycrisis.

In the non-academic literature, we included a press review, that allows to understand how the general audience is informed on the polycrisis. We also gathered some reports and news, mainly from NGOs, and a few other types of publications.

We plan on using this database for further projects (introduction of the book, communications during conferences), and we see that it can be useful, for example, for:

- A historiographical work on the publications focusing on polycrisis, that will analyze the publications, identify the trends and the evolution of these trends over time.
- A reflection on the "genealogy" of polycrisis, and what we consider as such, or not. This can lead to addressing the issue of whether polycrisis is new or not, and how the concept helps.
- An identification of topics that are usually linked to polycrisis.
- A work on grey literature to understand how the concept is vulgarized to the broad audience.
- Policy-briefs to governance institutions.

1) Academic literature: key elements (analysis, description)

Publications with polycrisis in the title

General comment on the literature

We identified a total of 119 publications addressing the topic of polycrisis that mention the phenomena in the title. These publications were very diverse, coming from different fields, focusing on various areas and addressing an important range of topics. Therefore, in order to conduct an analysis on the type of works around polycrisis, we ordered the data by creating labels, induced through a thematic analysis of the abstracts. We came up with the following chart:

Disciplines	Political Science Administration/Management Economy International Relations Law Geography	Chemistry Agronomy Health
	Art Literature Education Sociology Psychology History	Environmental Studies Transdisciplinary Urbanism
Geographies	Cross-country Global Global South European Union Asia	Mediterranean Region Arctic East Africa East-Central Europe South-Eastern Europe
	Lebanon United Kingdom India Russia France Canada Estonia Finland Germany New Zealand Japan Spain Germany Switzerland Italy	Southern Madagascar Bengal

	Sweden Nigeria Poland	
Key word	Solutions Doing Research	Agroecology Food Security Biodiversity Sustainability Development Climate Anthropocene SDG
	Conflict	Democracy Institutions Populism EU-Integration
	Capitalism Trade Taxes Tourism Housing Work Family Technology	Deglobalization Social Change Culture Power/Leadership Decolonial Gender Philanthropy

These labels allow to identify some trends in the literature, such as:

 A centrality of the European Union, both as geography and as institutional construct, on the topic of polycrisis (22,5% of all publications). The European Union is analyzed in terms of institutional design, democracy, integration and disintegration.

 A centrality of international relations in the publications (20% of the publications), at least in the earlier publications, but that tends to give more and more space to other disciplines.

 The focus on capitalism (6,5% of all publications) in the analysis of the polycrisis.

The development of the use of polycrisis in other geographical areas and in relations with a wide array of topics, such as: tourism, psychology, housing, technology…

Deeper analysis of the main trends

Altogether, we can summarize the polycrisis' literature as belonging to one of the following categories, that will be considered as guiding lines for future work:

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Building a global research agenda on polycrisis This type of reference aims at defining the polycrisis, describing its particularities or building a research agenda on the polycrisis.	Polycrisis and "the real world": case studies This type of publication gives detailed analysis of the polycrisis' impact in some spheres or case studies of one object "in a context of polycrisis". Typical examples of this category could be "health/housing/tourism/finance in a time of polycrisis".
Rethinking research in a time of polycrisis Some of the articles analyzing the impact of the polycrisis focus on the field of research. They question academic disciplines and research methods in times of polycrisis.	Proposing polysolutions Numerous publications propose solutions to the polycrisis, at many levels. It can be micro-solutions (in one specific topic affected by the crisis), macro-solutions (to act on the polycrisis at different levels, usually through solidarity of governance mechanisms) or a meta-level (by conceptualizing new economic models, for example).

Further uses of this bibliographical list

As part of our next steps, we recommend using the bibliography to conduct a lexicographic analysis on the titles and abstracts, to go further in the analysis, and propose a historiographical or literature review, that will help mapping the research on polycrisis and reflect on it. This work could help identify: who publishes on polycrisis? What are the differences in the research on polycrisis in the North and in the "Global South"? What are the emerging trends in the literature around polycrisis?

Publications with polycrisis in the context

The 29 publications with polycrisis in the context are academic works that mention the polycrisis in the abstract or in the content. To attain a deeper understanding of the articles, books and books chapters included in this collection, we proceeded with the same labelization work. This highlighted that the topics in this collection are the same as the one in the "polycrisis in the title"'s collection, but with an accent on the

European polycrisis. In the opposite, only few writing elaborates on solutions to the crisis and none describes how to do research about it, but they rather analyze its effect and describe them.

Polycrisis genealogy

Going back to the roots of the term polycrisis can help identify interesting research avenues. To create this folder, we questioned the literature as follows:

- o Which authors wrote about the polycrisis and what did they write before?
- o Are there concepts/notions that present the same characteristics as the polycrisis and could be linked to the polycrisis?
- o Edgar Morin is considered as the first person who wrote about polycrisis in the 1990s: are there other scientists who conceptualized complexity/polycrisis in other places or at other times?

Therefore, the collection "Polycrisis genealogy" gathers publication on multiple crisis, crisis entanglement, sustainability, existential risk, etc. These publications were recommended by the network.

We completed the database with further texts from the main authors on polycrisis: the philosopher Edgar Morin, who is considered as the first to conceptualize the polycrisis ; the politician Jean-Claude Juncker who used the notion during his mandate at the European Commission ; the historian Adam Tooze and the Cascade Institute's team Thomas Homer-Dixon and Michael Lawrence.

This collection could be useful, in the future, to question the notion and its uses in research.

Related publications

We consulted the network to get their insights into the notion of polycrisis and identify what they link to this terminology. This allowed to list terms, that were useful in conducting a genealogical review of the polycrisis and topics, that our network strongly links to the polycrisis.

Further included notions could be:

- o In history/political science: Long-term governance ; Crisis in history ; Environmental crisis and politics ; Cooperation ; Solidarity ;

- o In international relations: Tipping Point ; Risks (Existential, Interconnected, Systemic, Catastrophic) ; Systemic (Equilibrium, Roadblocks) ; Complex systems ; Interconnectivity ; Intersystemic Feedbacks ; Boundary Condition ; Crisis (Cascade, Entanglement) ; Intertwinement ; Domino Effect ; Critical

Transitions ; Path Dependance ; Stress ; Trigger ; Feedback loop ; Independent Networks ; Impact (Intra-systemic, Inter-systemic) ; Stability Landscapes ; Anthropocene ; Complex Systems ; Complex Adaptative Systems ; Multiple System ; Linear Approaches ; Transition Management Theories; Multilevel Perspective ; Social-Technological system ; Social-Technological-Economical system ; Anticipatory Governance ; Impact Assessment ; Discount Rate ; Interdisciplinary Thinking ; Positive Tipping Points ; Behavioral Nudges ;

o   In law: Polymorphic Justice, Mutual trust, principle of proportionality, non discrimination, minimum core guarantees, standard criteria.

Moreover, it could be interesting to question the following terms, that sometimes appear in articles:
- o   Polysolutions
- o   Polyrepresentations
- o   Polycleavage

2) Grey literature: key elements

We decided to enrich this database with grey literature, that was divided in two different types of libraries: one for press articles and one for reports from international organizations, European institutions and research institutes.
To identify the publications, we used basic research engines with the help of AI (ChatGPT was, for example, questioned on who writes about polycrisis? What are the main newspapers worldwide? etc.).

Press review (49 articles)

Using google research engine, we created a press review with articles on the polycrisis. We decided to include the following journals in the research (by geographical areas):

- United States : *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*
- United Kingdom : *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Financial Times*
- France : *Le Monde, Libération, Le Figaro, Les Échos*
- Germany : *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)*, *Die Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung*
- Spain : *El País, El Mundo*
- Italy : *La Repubblica*, *Corriere della Sera*
- Canada : *The Globe and Mail, La Presse, Le Devoir*
- Africa : *Jeune Afrique, Le Monde Afrique, Le Matin (Maroc), Daily Nation (Kenya), Mail & Guardian (Afrique du Sud), The Africa Report*

Doing so, we realized that the terminology "polycrisis" is used by some newspapers, but not by others. For example, we didn't come up with articles that refer to the polycrisis for: The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, Le Figaro, Süddeutsche Zeitung, The Globe and Mail, La Presse, Jeune Afrique, Le Monde Afrique, Le Matin (Maroc), Daily Nation (Kenya), Mail & Guardian (Afrique du Sud), The Africa Report.

This list could be useful in further work, for the final conference or book, by being thematically analyzed as part of an article on the mediatic coverage of the polycrisis.

Grey literature (55 entries)

Grey literature includes mainly reports, from international organizations and think tanks. They are mainly focused on the polycrisis and include the notion in the title of the report, but they can also address related topics (for example: policy-making, armed conflicts, humanitarian work…), since they were also proposed by the network.

The main contributors in the grey literature are the UN, and its institutions: UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP, UNOCHA…Otherwise, there are reports from the European Commission and projects receiving EU research grants (such as InDivEU, EUnpack) or think tanks (European Policy Centre, Center for European Reform).