



Introduction

Polycrisis Talks is an online webinar series organised and delivered by the **PolyCIVIS Network**. It aims to highlight **challenging realities, real life case studies and optimistic perspectives**, supported examples of good practice, to shed light on how each continent or country within the network faces, is affected by, and manages different crises.

Each guest speaker contributed valuable insights into how local contexts—whether in Africa or Europe—navigate the complexities of polycrisis. The series offers a platform where partners can discuss shared concerns, while also drawing attention to specific actions taken at local and national levels that may otherwise go unnoticed.

Ultimately, each webinar helps deepen our understanding of the unique characteristics and challenges across countries, and the diverse solutions developed by the public and private sectors, as well as academia. These discussions and shared experiences serve as important sources of knowledge, helping us collectively search for effective and inclusive **polysolutions**.

Season 1 webinars

1) Strategies for addressing polycrisis in the Sahel region

Speaker: John Oti Amoah (PhD), University of Cape Coast

Moderator: Dan Schreiber

"If we really want external interventions that will help curb the situation, there should be true co-creation, not top-down approaches with token participation from the Global South." – Dr. John O.T. Amoah

Dr. John Oti Amoah explored the complex conflicts in the Sahel, highlighting drivers such as radicalized groups, porous borders, and land disputes, and proposing transformative social policies to promote peace and inclusion. The ongoing crisis has displaced millions (UNHCR, 2022), with spillover effects across neighboring countries. These overlapping threats reveal the limits of current social policies and test the resilience of communities and systems at all levels. This webinar shifts the polycrisis debate by examining conflict drivers in the Sahel and the responses from national, regional, and global actors.

2) Trembling stories, weaving resilience: Folklore Studies and narratives in Natural Disaster discourse

Speaker: Katerina Schoina, PhD Student, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

Moderator: Professor Mauve Carbonell, Aix-Marseille Université

"Narratives have always been a cornerstone of cultural identity and collective memory. In the aftermath of natural disasters, they capture the raw emotive dimensions of human experience." – Katerina Schoina

Katerina Schoina took us to a different realm, exploring how folklore and narratives, from Greece to Indonesia, weave resilience into communities facing natural disasters. These stories remind us that human connection—through oral traditions or digital platforms—can transform trauma into hope.

3) Roots of African Resilience (RoAR): Mozambique Country Assessment

Speaker: Professor Almeida A. Sitoe, Eduardo Mondlane University Moderator

Moderator: Professor Noor Jehan Gulamussen, Eduardo Mondlane University

"The stakeholders are unanimous in indicating that improving governance and institutional coordination are the highest priorities to build resilience" - Professor Almeida A. Sitoe

Professor Almeida A. Sitoe took us to Mozambique, where the Roots of African Resilience (RoAR) framework highlighted how multidimensional poverty and weak governance drive vulnerability. He also explored pathways to resilience through coordinated strategies focused on livelihood recovery, resilient housing, and institutional strengthening.

4) Polycrisis and Polysolutions: a need for a Pedagogy for a problem-solving approach

Speaker: Prof. Germain Ngoie Tshibambe, University of Lubumbashi

Moderator: Evika Karamagioli, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

"It's important to help equip Congolese students with a deeper understanding, not only of the polycrisis, but also of potential polysolutions, while actively engaging local policymakers in the discussion" - Prof. Germain Ngoie Tshibambe

A webinar that illuminated the need for a problem-solving pedagogy to tackle polycrisis. They challenged us to rethink education, moving beyond traditional methods to empower students with critical thinking and creative solutions for crises like poverty, insecurity, and governance challenges. Their call for "polysolutions" echoed through the Polycrisis Talks series, urging collaborative and innovative approaches.

5) Polycrisis and Migration

Speaker: Dr. Anthony Tibaingana, Makerere University

Moderator: Roman Puff, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

"We can, and should, use our platforms to challenge the perception that migrants are always in need of support" - Dr. Anthony Tibaingana

Dr. Tibaingana explored the complex interplay between migration and polycrisis, drawing on desk research to show how each drives and reinforces the other. His talk highlighted how polycrisis can trigger migration, which in turn can generate new crises, creating a circular flow of disruptions and challenges. As long as polycrisis persists, migration remains both a consequence and a contributing factor.

6) Mapping health and socio-economic impacts of mining-related polycrisis in southern Katanga

Speaker: Prof. Salvius Bakari Amuri, University of Lubumbashi

Moderator: Dr. Anthony Tibaingana, Makerere University

"This crisis is not just environmental, it's a crisis of governance, of corruption, and of lost futures" - Prof. Salvius Bakari Amuri

Prof. Salvius Bakari Amuri, in this last webinar of the season, highlighted the mining-related polycrisis in South Katanga, DRC. While the region fuels global cobalt production, local communities face severe health, environmental, and social impacts—from pollution and biodiversity loss to child labor and displacement. Despite an existing mining code, weak enforcement and corruption hinder progress. Prof. Bakari called for urgent, multidisciplinary action to support a more just and sustainable future.



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