Presentation of PCI & the PCI Sustainability project

- Introductory words from the Belmont Forum
- Introduction of PCI by Thomas Guillemaud (INRAE) 20 min
- Introduction of PCI Sustainability by Eric Pante (CNRS) 10 min
- Questions / Discussion 30 min

*something different is surely "in the air," something that is intellectually exciting, practically compelling, and might as well be called "**sustainability science**."*

Clark & Dickson 2003 PNAS

Eric PANTE, CNRS | Oct 15, 2026

Why a new thematic PCI ?

1- Because science for sustainability is not sustainability science

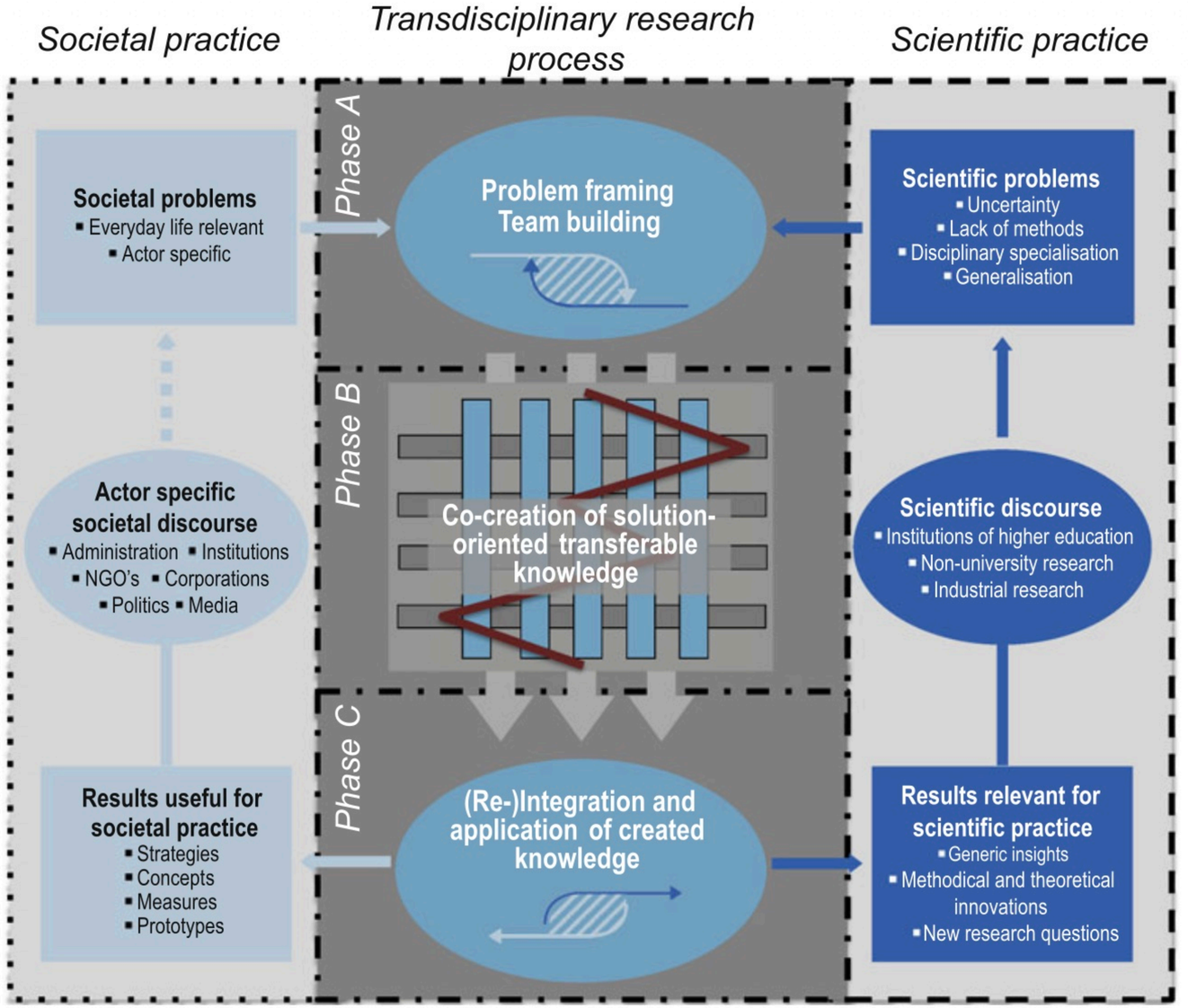
Sustainability science is […] a vibrant arena that is bringing together scholarship and practice, global and local perspectives from north and south, and disciplines across the natural and social sciences, engineering, and medicine.
Clark & Dickson 2003 PNAS

> *Sustainability science seeks to extend scientific investigation into domains characterized by a distinct problem-solving agenda, physical and social complexity, and complex moral and ethical landscapes. In this endeavor, it arguably pushes scientific investigation beyond its usual comfort zones, raising fundamental issues about how best to structure such investigation.*
> Nagatsu et al. 2020

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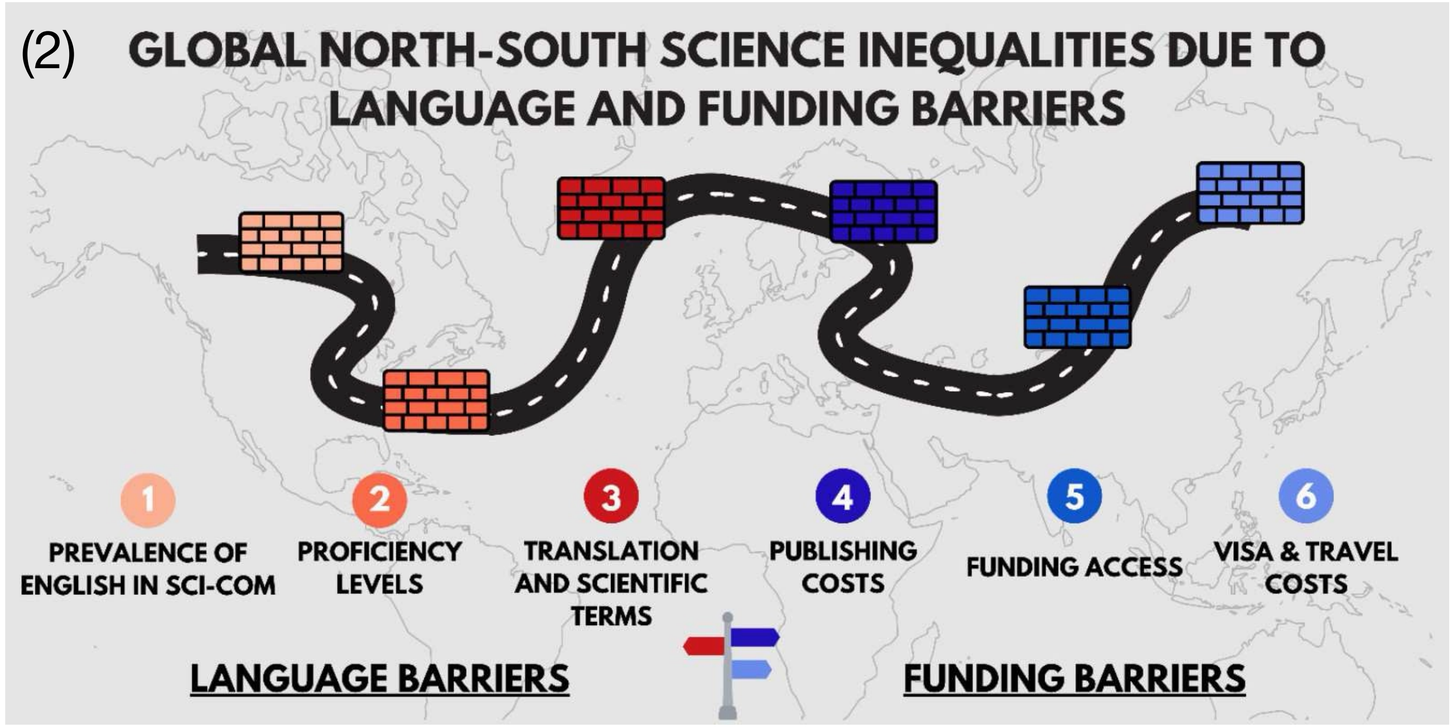
2- Because sustainability science has its own epistemological framework

sustainability challenges require new ways of knowledge production and decision-making. One key aspect of sustainability science, therefore, is the involvement of actors from outside academia into the research process in order to integrate the best available knowledge, reconcile values and preferences, as well as create ownership for problems and solution options.
Lang et al 2012



Why a new thematic PCI ?

3- Because openness, equity and transparency are core to the sustainability science ethos



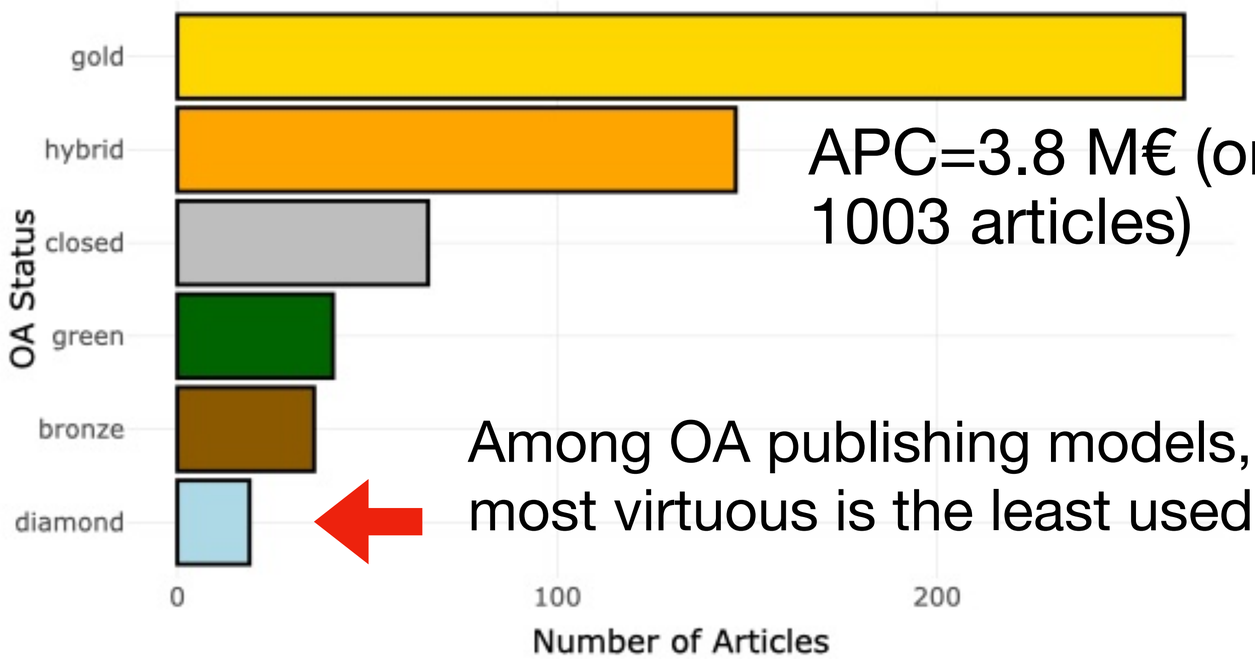
- Yet, it is a challenge to publish OA in Sustainability science, particularly in the Global South
- “78% of research cited in SDG policy includes authors based only in countries in the Global North” (1)
- "Global South policy remains highly dependent on Global North research” (1)
- “Publication models can influence SDG policy impact:” policymakers from the Global South cite OA research more frequently than non-OA. (1)

(1) From publications to policy: The impact of research towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Springer Nature, Overton
(2) Turba R et al (2026) Global North-South science inequalities due to language and funding barriers. Peer Community Journal, Vol6, e9

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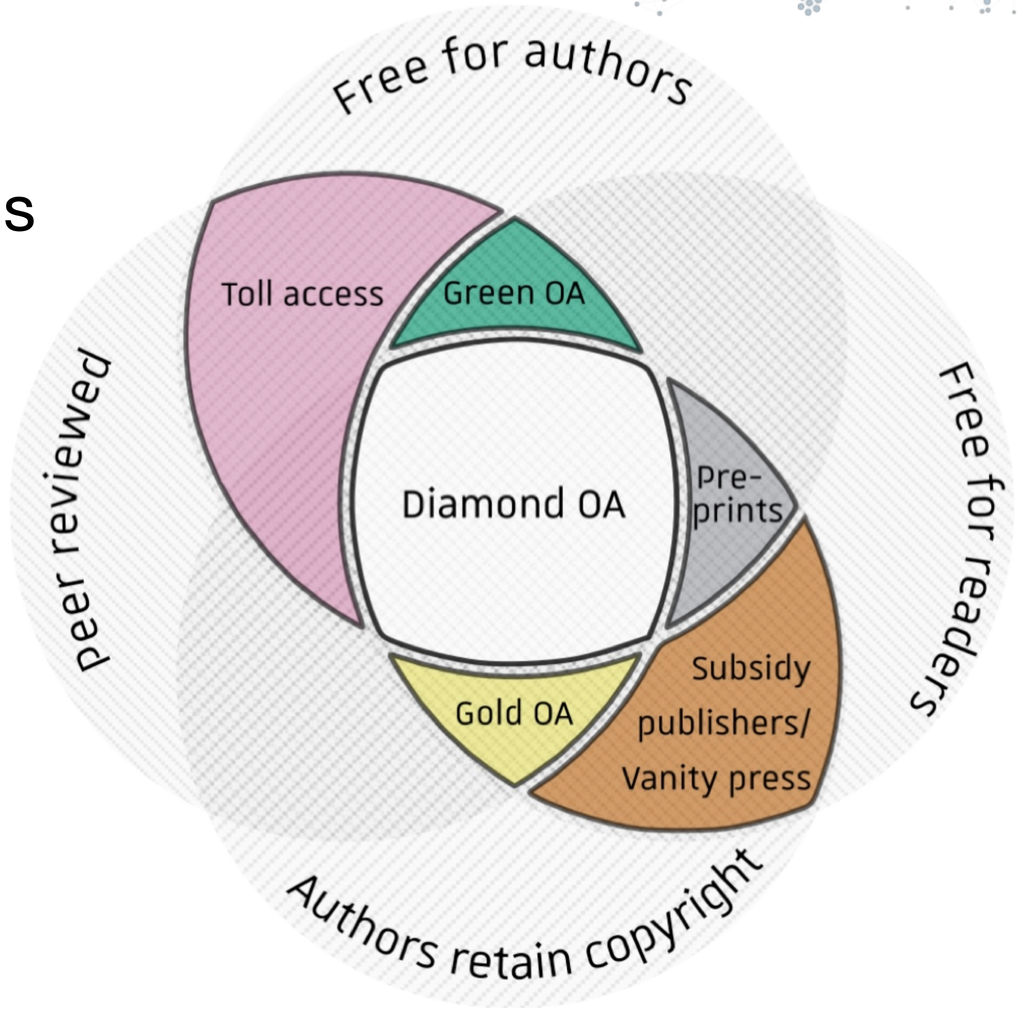
3- Because openness, equity and transparency are core to the sustainability science ethos

OA status among 574 Belmont Forum publications



APC=3.8 M€ (on 1003 articles)

Among OA publishing models, the most virtuous is the least used



https://blogs.egu.eu/divisions/sm/files/2021/04/thing-for-martijn.png

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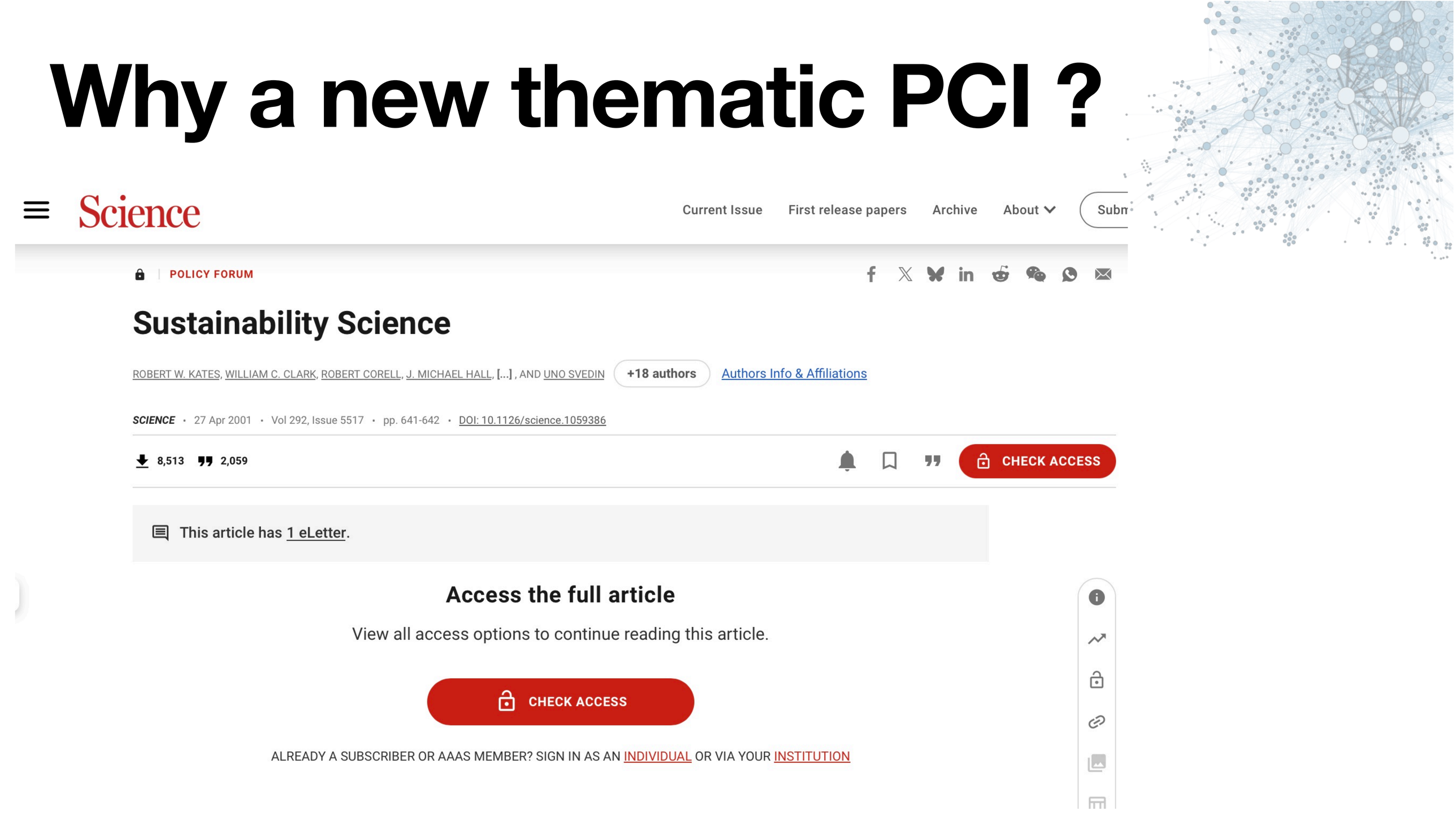
SocSES
SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

TABLE OF JOURNALS

Name	Type of SES Research Published	Website
Ecology & Society	Publishes interdisciplinary SES research on resilience, governance, adaptation, and transformations, with a strong emphasis on participatory approaches and knowledge co-production.	View Website
People & Nature	Explores the interactions between people and nature, integrating diverse disciplinary perspectives on human-nature relationships and sustainability.	View Website
Ecosystems and People	Focuses on ecosystem services, social-ecological resilience, and sustainability, emphasizing actionable and policy-relevant research.	View Website

List of 28 journals publishing SES research -> one is diamond OA.

Why a new thematic PCI ?



Why a new thematic PCI ?

So what would PCI Sustainability look like?

- Encompass the inherently integrative nature of transdisciplinary sustainability research, which weaves together knowledge from natural and social scientists, policy practitioners, indigenous peoples, and local communities.
- Support the FAIR and CARE principles and transparent review of preprints, create a community of engaged reviewers across disciplinary and societal actor boundaries, thus elevating the visibility of sustainability-focused outputs.
- Offer an avenue for diamond open-access publication with Peer Community Journal

Why a new thematic PCI ?

Who supports the PCI Sustainability project?

BELMONT FORUM

cnrs ÉCOLOGIE & ENVIRONNEMENT

IAI

futureearth French Hub

IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement FRANCE

Join the PCI Sustainability community!



- ✓ met the 20 manuscript pledge target within days
- ✓ met the 50 Recommender pledge target within a month
- ✓ Signees from 32 countries
- ✓ Diverse: recommenders w/ ORCID match 4/4 domains, 14/26 fields, 30/252 subfields in OpenAlex

Global and Planetary Change	16
Nature and Landscape Conservation	5
Sociology and Political Science	5
Ecology	4
Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law	4
Plant Science	4
Environmental Engineering	3
Soil Science	3
Artificial Intelligence	2
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	2
Environmental Chemistry	2
General Agricultural and Biological Sciences	2
Genetics	2
Information Systems and Management	2
Oceanography	2
Social Psychology	2
Building and Construction	1
Civil and Structural Engineering	1
Developmental and Educational Psychology	1
Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics	1
Finance	1
General Health Professions	1
History and Philosophy of Science	1
Immunology	1
Information Systems	1
Molecular Biology	1
Nuclear and High Energy Physics	1
Pharmacy	1
Public Administration	1
Waste Management and Disposal	1

OpenAlex

Join the PCI Sustainability community!



Map of SES institutes



Now : need to reach out to the global Sustainability Research community

What the community (you!) can do:

- register your interest as recommender and / or author, or just ask to be kept in the loop
- Spread the information with colleagues
- Introduce us to contacts at Sustainability Research institutes

Detailed steps for the creation of a PCI

✓ Preliminary discussions with the PCI team

✓ Choose one or two colleagues to set up and manage the PCI

✓ Define the scientific field covered by your PCI

✓ Establish a first group of recommenders

✓ Get submission pledges

- Submit your proposal to the PCI organisation for discussion and approval
- Recruit more recommenders
- Nominate a representative and set up a managing board
- Open the PCI publicly: receive submissions and manage evaluations
- Communicate on the PCI
- Find a managing editor

Join the PCI Sustainability community!

Thank you ! 🙂

Registration form

PCI Sustainability

https://ericpante.github.io/projects/PCIsustainability.html