



NACLICS

International PhD Academy & Research Conference 2024

International PhD Academy on Innovation, Development & Policy
Innovation for Sustainable Development

June 16 - 22, 2024 | Saint Mary's University | Halifax, NS Canada



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The second NACLICS International PhD Academy and the inaugural NACLICS Conference 2024, themed "Innovation for Sustainable Development," was a landmark academic event organized by the North America and Caribbean Chapter of Globelics (NACLICS), the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University, HEC Montréal, Stony Brook University, and the Centre for Democracy and Technology. The Academy and conference took place from June 16 to 22, 2024, at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The event saw enthusiastic participation from **18 PhD students** and a total of **50 attendees**. With contributions from **30 speakers and experts**, the sessions were rich in insights, promoting collaborative learning and networking opportunities.

The PhD Academy included an opening lecture, two plenary panels, four professional development

workshops, PhD parallel paper session presentations, and a hackathon on climate action. In addition, participants in the PhD Academy took part in the International Conference, which included one keynote lecture, two plenary panels, eight parallel sessions, four workshops, roundtable discussions for potential projects, four parallel experiential learning tours, a reception, and a farewell dinner. All of these activities provided excellent opportunities to form new partnerships and advance innovation theory, sustainable development, and policymaking at the provincial, Atlantic, and international levels.

Claudia De Fuentes, the local organizer from Saint Mary's University and NACLICS, noted, *"This event brought together a diverse group of scholars and practitioners, all dedicated to finding sustainable solutions to global challenges. The collaborative spirit and innovative ideas shared here were truly inspiring."*



OBJECTIVES

The PhD Academy and International Conference contributed to the capacity building of young scholars and emerging leaders from academia, government, and industry, and provided a platform to disseminate and share the most recent advances in the areas of innovation for sustainable development and policymaking for innovation and sustainable development. Furthermore, participants at the events explored sustainable solutions to global challenges through innovation, received professional development, and networked with scholars from a range of career stages, sectors, and countries.

Specifically, the objectives of the International Conference included:

- a. Allowing academic and practitioner experts to share knowledge and skills relevant to innovation for sustainable development.
- b. Nurturing professional development and networking through connecting expert scholars, practitioners, and young scholars. These connections are relevant for future research, employment opportunities, and professional development.
- c. Building capacity in a multidisciplinary network of participants working in innovation for sustainable development, and policymaking for innovation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

During the PhD Academy and Conference, various activities were conducted to achieve the event's goals, which are briefly described below:

i. PhD Academy Welcome Ceremony

The PhD Academy was inaugurated with a welcome reception led by NACLICS interim board members, including **Dr. Susan Cozzens** from Georgia Tech. Dr. Cozzens remarked, *"With this academy and conference, NACLICS aims to exemplify the critical intersection of innovation and sustainable development, providing a platform for groundbreaking discussions and collaborations."* The Welcome Ceremony also featured welcome remarks from **Adam Sarty**, Dean of FGSR at Saint Mary's University; **Ashraf Al Zaman**, PhD Coordinator at Saint Mary's University; **Claudia De Fuentes**, Associate Professor at SMU and NACLICS local organizer; **Susan Cozzens**, Professor Emerita at Georgia Tech; **Jahan Ara Peerally**, Associate Professor at HEC Montreal; and **Alejandra Rosales Soto**, Associate Professor at CETYS University.

ii. PhD Academy Opening Lecture

The opening lecture for the PhD Academy, **"Knowledge to Policy: Beyond Linear Models,"** featured distinguished panelists such as **Gabriela Dutrénit** from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, **Susan Cozzens** from Georgia Tech, and **Carlos Freire** from MacEwan University, moderated by **Claudia De Fuentes** from SMU.



iii. PhD Academy Plenary panels

The PhD plenary panel sessions delved into crucial themes such as **“Innovation Policy and Sustainable Transitions”**, and **“Partnership for Innovation and Sustainable Development”**. The panelists included **Will Gibbons** from the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS), **Dominic Aquilina** from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), **Fernando Santiago** from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), **Clovis Freire** from UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), **Rafaelle Trapasso** from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), **Allan Gray** from the Port of Halifax, **Eric Siegel** from the Ocean Frontier Institute, **Doug Jones** from Ignite, and **John MacQuarrie** from Cavendish Farms. All the sessions facilitated in-depth discussions on developing innovation policies and partnerships to address sustainable transitions.

iv. Parallel Paper Sessions, PhD Academy

PhD students had the invaluable opportunity to present their research papers and receive constructive feedback from a panel of internationally recognized reviewers. The interactive discussions on each presentation allowed the students to refine their ideas, address potential gaps, and consider new perspectives. This enriching experience significantly contributed to their academic and professional development.

v. PhD Academy Hackathon

The PhD Academy also included a dynamic hackathon focused on innovation for sustainable development. Moderated by **Sandra Schillo** from the University of Ottawa, **Thomas Woodson** from Stony Brook University, and **Claudia De Fuentes** from Saint Mary's University. The hackathon fostered teamwork and innovative problem-solving, and the final presentations were at the PIER.



vi. PhD Academy Professional Development Workshops (PDW)

The PhD Academy PDWs were a major draw, covering essential topics such as excelling in literature reviews and advanced techniques for digital transformation. One of the key workshops, led by **Dr. Guy Paré** from HEC Montréal, focused on best practices in conducting literature reviews. Other PDWs included experts like **Wendy Carroll** from Saint Mary's University, **Sandra Schillo** from the University of Ottawa, **Jennifer McGill** from Pier Labs, **Bryan Daniels** from Pier Labs, **Jahan Ara Peerally** from HEC Montreal, and **Jason Turner** from Saint Mary's University.

vii. Conference Keynote

The keynote of the NACLICS Conference 2024, titled **"Innovation and Sustainable Development,"** was delivered by **Cristina Chaminade** from INGENIO (CSIC-UPV). Her presentation delved into the critical interplay between innovation and sustainable development, posing essential questions about the implications of adopting weak or strong sustainability goals and exploring how system innovation can be enacted and accelerated.



viii. Conference Plenary Panels

The conference featured several panels focused on two main themes: (i) **Beyond Endless Frontiers: Rethinking the Social Contract for Science and Innovation**, and (ii) **Global Value Chains and Green Windows of Opportunity**. These panels were moderated by **Susan Cozzens** from Georgia Tech and **Alejandra Rosales Soto** from CETYS University. The panelists in these sessions included **Jeff Kinder** from the Council of Canadian Academies, **Rhonda Moore** from the Institute on Governance, **Sandra Schillo** from the University of Ottawa, **Kent Williams** from Acadia University, **Thomas Woodson** from Stony Brook University, **Roberta Rabelotti** from the University of Pavia, **Tommaso Ferretti** from the University of Ottawa, and **Jahan Ara Peerally** from HEC Montreal. These plenary panels emphasized the need for local and global action to address sustainable transitions.

ix. Conference Parallel Sessions

During the two-day conference, we held eight parallel sessions. In these sessions, expert scholars, practitioners, and doctoral and postdoctoral researchers presented their recent practical, empirical, and/or conceptual contributions to innovation for sustainable development. It was exciting to see that several presentations focused specifically on issues related to Halifax and the Atlantic

region of Canada. These locally focused presentations sparked unique discussions that would be difficult to replicate if the conference were held in a different region.

x. Conference Professional Development Workshops (PDWs)

The PDW sessions aimed to develop and strengthen participants' skills. During the conference, the PDWs offered novel methodological techniques, including social network analysis, data analytics, machine learning, and video ethnography. The experts included **Tatevik Poghosyan** from the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, as well as **Feng Liu**, **Jason Rinhelander**, **Michael Zhang**, **Matthew Boland**, and **Ethan Pancer** from Saint Mary's University.

xi. Experiential Learning Tours

The Experiential Learning Tours were a standout feature. Participants visited leading innovation hubs and businesses like **Volta**, **Pier Labs**, **Cove**, and **Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards**. These tours provided firsthand insights into digital transitions, ocean innovation, and agricultural transitions. A PhD student participant expressed, *"The NACLICS PhD Academy and Conference was an invaluable experience. The opportunity to learn from and network with leading experts in the field of sustainable development was immensely beneficial for my research and career."*



SPONSORS

The NACLICS PhD Academy and Conference 2024 received support from multiple sponsors, including **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Saint Mary's University, HEC Montréal, Port of Halifax, Young Scholars Initiative, NS Department of Agriculture, Sobey School of Business, David Sobey Retailing Centre, Stony Brook University, ONSIDE, Saint Mary's University Faculty Union, Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC Blue Water), Pier Labs, VOLTA, COVE, Wine Growers of Nova Scotia, and Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards.** Special thanks are extended to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for their exceptional support.

CONCLUSION

The NACLICS PhD Academy and Conference 2024 significantly advanced the discussion on innovation and sustainable development. It provided an unparalleled platform for academics and practitioners to learn and network with scholars, researchers, and industry leaders. The collective insights and innovative solutions discussed during the event have the potential to drive meaningful progress in addressing global challenges through sustainable development.

In particular, some of the benefits of the PhD Academy and Conference were:

1. **Connecting doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers with policymakers from Canada** (e.g., the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, ISED) **and international organizations** (e.g., UNIDO, UNCTAD, OECD) who work on innovation and sustainable development. Participants gained firsthand insight into careers as policymakers and expanded their networks for future employment opportunities.
2. **Connecting scholars and practitioners** for future research projects and the development of related initiatives on innovation for sustainable development.
3. **Building a platform of academics and practitioners** interested in developing theoretical frameworks, empirical analyses, policymaking, and skills in innovation for sustainable development from a multidisciplinary perspective.
4. **Connecting doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers with their peers from across the globe** to develop a network for current and future research projects and employment opportunities.
5. **Developing practical skills to further their research and policymaking capabilities** through PDWs and the hackathon. The skills participants learned will reverberate throughout academia, industry, and government as they return to their homes and implement change.

For further details, visit www.nacls.org

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