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**Title: Solutions for the world ocean**



By studying the global mobilization toward plastic pollution in the world ocean, we are highlighting the vital role of transnational approaches in bridging spaces and communities. We argue that since « closed societies are no longer an option » (Kaldor, 2008: 44), whole-of-society partnerships are key to addressing transnational problems and achieving the 17 SDGs. In this light, central to our research are the roles of ideas and norms in connecting populations and enabling common understandings.

Our research question asks: How do global norms on plastic pollution in the world oceans emerge and produce change? Visibly, plastic pollution is pervasive and can affect how oceans provide environmental, economic and social inestimable contributions to life on earth (Jacques, 2013: 453). As an integral part of the 14th SDG, we illustrate that plastic pollution in the world oceans is a case that simultaneously attests dynamics of planetary interconnectedness and the necessity for beyond-borders cooperation.

As many other transnational problems, environmental concerns call for the necessity to take each other into account and act in concert (Corry and Stevenson, 2017: 1). Hence, we must now move to « beyond nation-state frameworks of analysis » to understand and act on the world (Robinson, 1998: 578). Accordingly, we suggest that building adapted frameworks to support whole-of-society cooperation and cross-disciplinary discussions is essential. In our study, we show that transnational approaches offer the potential to address beyond-borders challenges in a way that much of the literature tend to ignore. As we argue, to be answered, transnational issues require « unprecedented levels of cooperation » (Carter, 2007: 176), and we suggest that academic research can support this process.

In sum, on-the-ground initiatives are changing the world on a daily basis and we suggest that this dynamic needs to be further integrated in global governance. Hence, searching for pragmatic beyond-borders solutions and exploring new areas of transnational research is central to our contributions. Finally, in our study on the emergence of norms on plastic pollution in the world ocean, we highlight that the global civil society is emerging, and with it, many solutions to achieve the 17 SDGs.