

Meeting Summary, Eco-Democracy Network – October 14, 2025

Meeting participants:

Christin Eriksson, Teresa Elkin Postila, Diana Holmqvist, Carrie Karsgaard, David Kronlid, Ole Andreas Kvamme, Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Johanna Lönngrén, Linda Murstedt, Elin Saether, Linda Wilhelmsson

1. Welcome and Background

The meeting opened with a welcome and a brief overview of the agenda. The network's origins were traced back to the June symposium, where participants began exploring the concept of eco-democracy. The network seeks to bring together scholars from diverse disciplines to collaboratively develop the concept of eco-democracy.

2. Call for Special Issue and Potential Journals

Main Points:

- A special issue was proposed to continue the collaborative exploration of eco-democracy initiated at the June symposium.
- The draft for the call is based on symposium discussions and submitted abstracts, aiming for inclusivity across disciplines.
- The call is not yet tailored to a specific journal, allowing flexibility in framing (e.g., philosophical vs. educational focus).
- Journals considered:
 - Educational Philosophy and Theory – positive response, theoretical framing.
 - Environmental Education Research – open to both empirical and theoretical work.
 - Australian Journal of Environmental Education – environmental education focus.
 - Canadian Journal of Environmental Education – recently restarted, interest expressed.
 - Democracy & Education – mentioned, scope to be reviewed.
- Discussion on whether the call should be open or limited to the network.
- Emphasis on balancing inclusivity with clarity to avoid overly broad submissions.
- Timeline: Aim to submit the call in early 2026, with journal selection guiding final framing.

We invite participants in the network to comment on the draft for the call (posted in OneDrive) with suggestions to improve it.

3. Network Structure and Strategies

Main Points:

- The network will be practically coordinated from Mid Sweden University.
- Ethical principles and global representation (Global North/South) are important.
- Participants shared what they value in a network:
 - Trust, creativity, and meaningful conversations.
 - A balance between structure and flexibility.
 - Clear direction and shared goals.
 - Diversity of perspectives.
 - Space for critical theoretical engagement (e.g., ontology, responsibility).
 - Opportunities for collaborative writing and symposia.
- A blueprint for the network structure will be drafted and shared for feedback.

4. Network Fundings

Main Points:

- Two funding options from the Swedish Research Council were discussed:
 - **Network Grant:**
 - Duration: 1–3 years. 1-4 other researchers
 - Amount: 100,000–400,000 SEK/year.
 - Supports activities like seminars, workshops, conferences, and joint publications.
 - No salary funding; suitable for initial collaboration.
 - Application opens early 2026; funding starts January 2027.
 - **Research Environment Grant:**
 - Duration: 3–5 years. 2-6 other researchers
 - Larger scale, includes salary funding.
 - Requires more publications and formal structure.
 - Including junior researchers or PhD students is encouraged.
- A shared document will be created for ideas and planning.
- The network may apply for a shorter-term network grant first, then aim for the research environment grant later.

5. Webpage and Online Communication

Main Points:

- A public website has been launched via Mid Sweden University and the KUF Research Group.
- Website sections include:
 - Network description
 - Symposium documentation
 - Network meetings

- Special issue
- Network participants
- Documentation from the June symposium will be uploaded soon.
- Keynote speakers are requested to review and approve the summaries of their presentations, and to contact Linda Wilhelmsson with any feedback or consent to share presentation materials.
- To be listed on the website, participants should get in touch with Linda Wilhelmsson
- The website will serve as the public-facing platform; OneDrive will be used for internal collaboration.

6. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Main Points:

- The network aims to stay practically focused, working toward concrete outputs like symposia and publications.
- Coordination will be handled via email and shared documents.
- A follow-up online meeting is proposed for late November or early December 2025. Preparing the Call for SI and the plan for the ECER Symposium.
- A Doodle poll will be sent to find a suitable time across time zones.
- Members are encouraged to invite others who may be interested in joining.