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Elements in Earth System Governance

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COLLABORATIVE ETHNOGRAPHY OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Concepts, Methods and Practices

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Collaborative Ethnography of Global Environmental Governance

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Abstract: Environmental mega-conferences have become the format of choice in environmental governance. Conferences of the Parties under the climate change and biodiversity conventions in particular attract global media attention and an ever-growing number of increasingly diverse actors, including scholars of global environmental politics. They are arenas for interstate negotiation, but also temporary interfaces that constitute and represent world society, and they focalise global struggles over just and sustainable futures. Collaborative event ethnography as a research methodology emerged as a response to these developments. This Element retraces its genealogy, explains its conceptual and methodological foundations and presents insights into its practice. It is meant as an introduction for students, an overview for curious newcomers to the field, and an invitation for experienced researchers wishing to experiment with a new method.

Keywords: global environmental politics, environmental summits, climate governance, global event ethnography, collaborative event ethnography

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