

**Call for Abstracts
for the Innovative and Immersive Session**

**Policy and Governance of Illicit and/or Clandestine Transactions and Land-
Use Changes**

Innovative and Immersive Session at the 4th Open Science Meeting of the Global Land Programme
<https://glp.earth/osm-2019>

April 24th-26th, 2019 in Bern, Switzerland

Submission of abstracts: <https://www.conftool.com/osm2019/index.php?page=submissions>
Submission deadline: October 30th, 2018

Session Organizers:

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Nicholas Magliocca (Department of Geography, University of Alabama)

Academic research and investigative journalism have revealed the role of illicit and/or clandestine transactions (financial and in-kind) in driving land-use changes. Examples include illegal deforestation, agricultural expansion funded through tax havens, urbanization and infrastructure development via bribes, and large-scale commodity agriculture established for money laundering. Given the growing influence of illicit and/or clandestine transactions on land systems, this immersive session invites a range of practitioners and watchdog organizations to reflect on the role of science in informing policy on this topic, and present what they see as the types of evidence and/or research required to better govern harmful effects of illicit capital flows and/or clandestine transactions on people and nature. While data to study these activities becomes increasingly available (e.g. Panama/Paraside papers, satellite data, and social media), the movement of capital and new technologies to obfuscate digital trails is also growing. Closer collaboration between scientists, journalists, and civil society actors may aid efforts to make headway. This session invites perspective from diverse global settings and will explore questions like: For what phenomena are there sufficient evidence to warrant taking action or informing policy, and what kind of illicit economic links to land require more research? What data could or should scientists make better use of? What policies are needed to ensure data on these transactions could be made more available? What are possible or existing governance structures (formal and informal) that could be leveraged or need to be built (e.g. certifications and consumer pressure from timber to oil palm, international agreements, or national laws)? Panelists will be invited to comment on these key questions and the policy relevance (or lack thereof) of the research in the preceding panel on the same topic, as well as field audience questions to discuss this important issue. This innovative/immersive session supports OSM theme 3 by proposing steps forward in supporting transformation regarding this global challenge.

Please contact [Beth Tellman](#) for more information.