ETHICS AND PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

The planetary boundaries framework examines the profound risks human actions pose to Earth's stability and resilience. Since its introduction in 2009, and through subsequent updates, the framework has become one of the most influential ideas of our age, yet it has not been put to close ethical scrutiny. This book takes a multidisciplinary approach to the ethics of the planetary boundaries, ranging from international law to Indigenous knowledge and from science to art, and political ecology. The editors introduce each boundary before two chapters examine the reach, limits, and ethical stakes of each of the nine planetary boundaries. This volume comes at a critical moment, when unprecedented environmental challenges demand new approaches, tools, and perspectives to address questions of epistemology and justice. It is a valuable resource for students, citizens, and academics concerned with relationships of knowledges, ethics, and environments. This title is available Open Access through Cambridge Core.

SIMON P. MEISCH is Senior Lecturer at the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities at the University of Tübingen. Meisch's research focuses on co-production, ethics, and epistemic justice in transdisciplinary sustainability research, particularly in relation to climate and water-related challenges.

JEREMY J. SCHMIDT is Reader in Environmental Geography in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at Queen Mary University of London. Schmidt's research examines the relationships of ethics and policy to a world increasingly shaped by human impacts on the Earth system.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 00:59:44, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009443586

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 00:59:44, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009443586

ETHICS AND PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

Edited by

SIMON P. MEISCH
University of Tübingen

JEREMY J. SCHMIDT
Queen Mary University of London

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 00:59:44, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009443586

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009443579

DOI: 10.1017/9781009443586

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009443586 under a Creative Commons
Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any
medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given.
You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009443586

First published 2026

Cover image: Cover illustration by Anna Voigtländer.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Meisch, Simon editor | Schmidt, Jeremy J.
Title: Ethics and planetary boundaries / Edited by Simon P. Meisch, University of Tübingen, Jeremy J. Schmidt,
Queen Mary University of London.
Description: New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2026. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2026013279 (print) | LCCN 2026013280 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009443579 hardback |
ISBN 9781009443586 epub
Subjects: LCSH: Environmental geography | Environmental ethics | Climatic changes–Political aspects
Classification: LCC G143 .E84 2026 (print) | LCC G143 (ebook)
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2026013279
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2026013280

ISBN 978-1-009-44357-9 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal,
56, 1°, 28003 Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 00:59:44, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009443586