



UiO : **Faculty of Law**
University of Oslo

Corporate Law and Sustainability

Securing the Future of European Business

Beate Sjøfjell, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo;
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Economics and Management, NTNU



 **@BeateSjafjell**

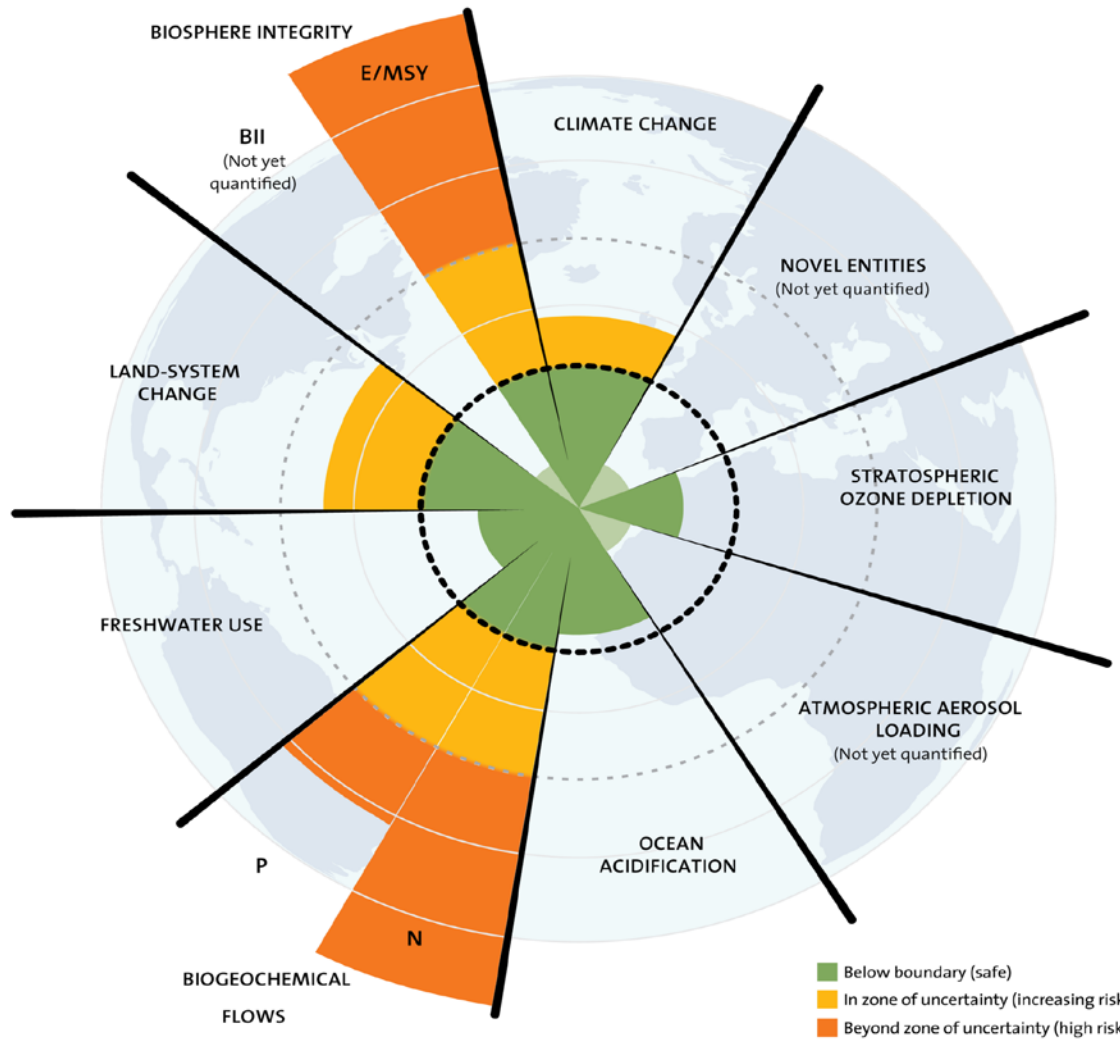
Photo: Michael
Held



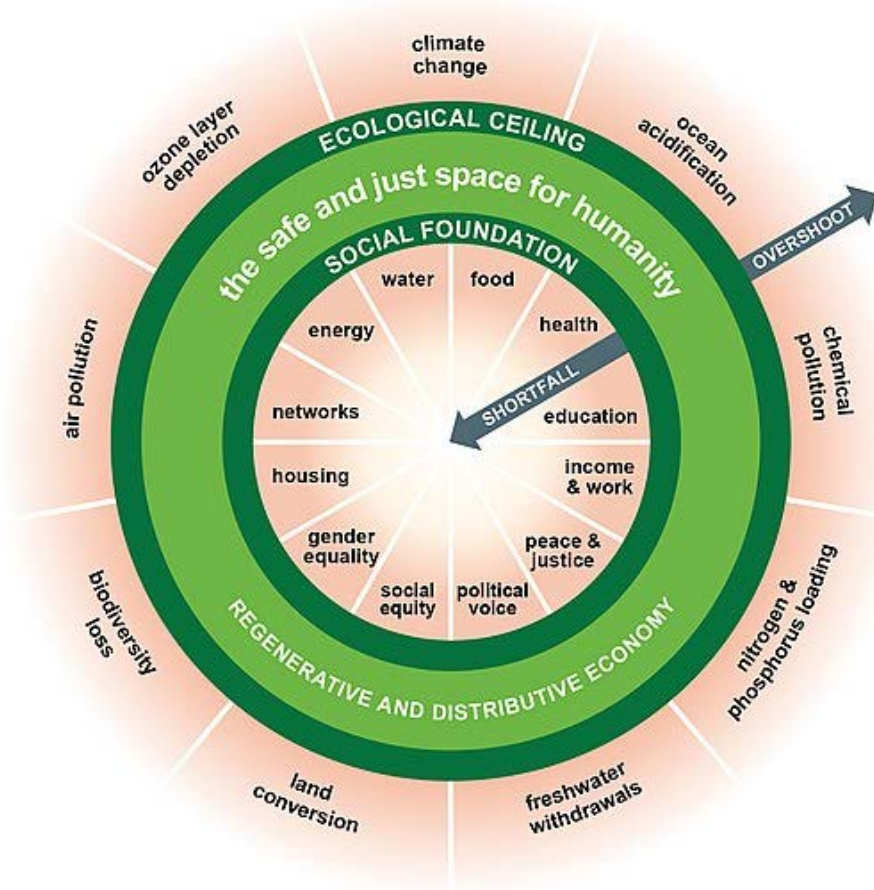
UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Source: un.org:
About the Sustainable
Development Agenda



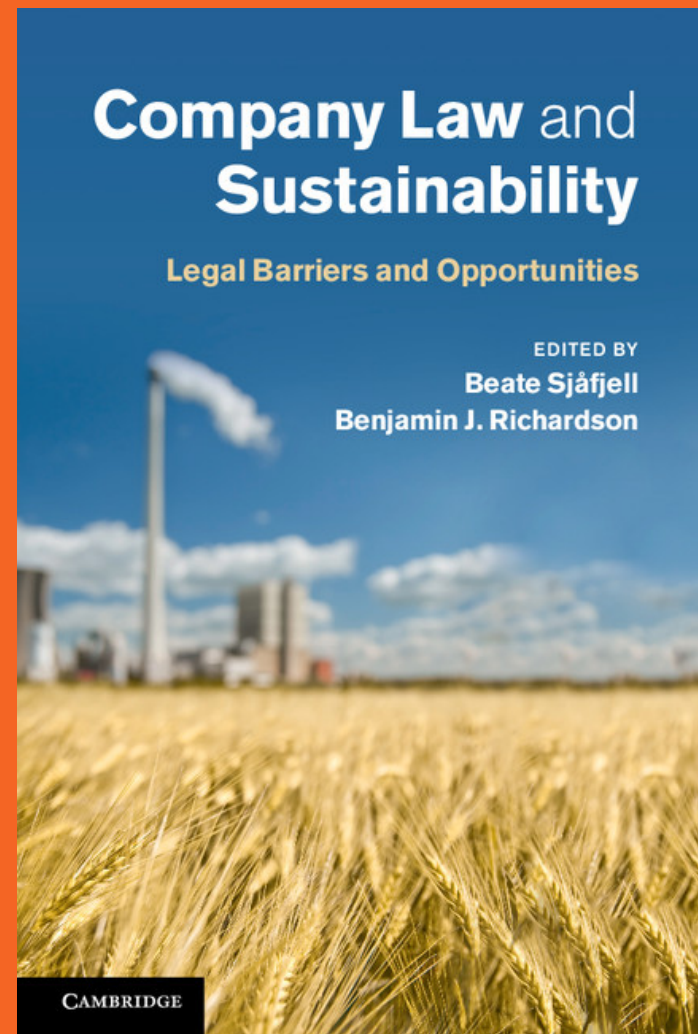
Credit: J.
Lokrantz/Azote
based on Steffen et
al. 2015.



Source: Raworth 2017;
Leach, Raworth &
Rockström 2013

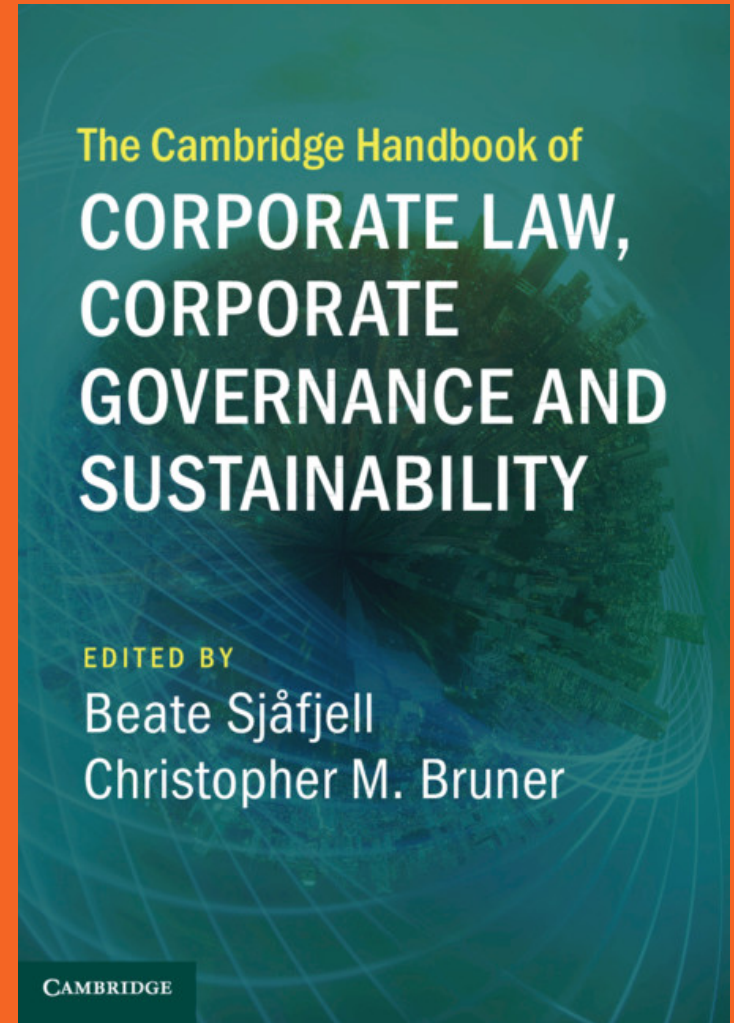
Shareholder Primacy: The Main Barrier to Sustainable Companies

Sjåfjell, Johnston,
Anker-Sørensen & Millon
Chapter downloadable at SSRN:
ssrn.com/abstract=2664544



Cambridge Handbook of Corporate Law, Corporate Governance & Sustainability

Sjåfjell & Bruner (eds).
Our introductory chapter is
downloadable from SSRN:
ssrn.com/abstract=3383384








































































Obstacles to Global Sustainable Business

Sjåfjell, Mähönen, Johnston & Cullen
Report downloadable at SSRN:

ssrn.com/abstract=3354401



Table 1: Financial Risks of Unsustainability⁴²

Risk categories		<i>Planetary Boundaries – example categories of unsustainability</i>			<i>Social foundation – example categories of unsustainability</i>		
		Climate change	Biodiversity	Novel entities	Human rights violations	Lack of decent work	Tax evasion
Transition risks	Policy risk						
	Liability risk						
	Reputation risk						
	Market risk						
	Technology risk						N/A
	Business model change risk						
Physical risks	Acute risks						
	Chronic risks						
	Global catastrophic risks				N/A	N/A	
Societal risks	Risk of unrest						
	Risk of authoritarianism						
	Societal breakdown risk						

Source: B. Sjøfjell, The Financial Risks of Unsustainability: A Research Agenda <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3637969>



All reports are available at:
smart.uio.no/reform_proposals

Integrating sustainability in business

- **Redefined purpose**
 - Sustainable value creation within planetary boundaries
- **Redefined duties**
 - Integrating sustainability in business models and strategies
 - Sustainability due diligence across global value chains
 - Ambitious plan for continuous improvement
- **Assurance, auditing and enforcement**
 - Assurance of process by external experts
 - Auditing of sustainability reporting
 - Public and private enforcement

Selected SMART reports

- **Obstacles to Sustainable Global Business. Towards EU Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development:**
<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3354401>
- **Supporting the Transition to Sustainability: SMART Reform Proposals:** <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3503310> (introductory report)
- The detailed reform proposals:
 - **Securing the Future of European Business: SMART Reform Proposals:** <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3595048>
 - **Financing the Transition to Sustainability: SMART Reform Proposals** SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3594433>
 - **Towards a Sustainable Circular Economy: SMART reform proposals:** <https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=3596076>
- **Facilitating Interdisciplinary Corporate Sustainability Research: The SMART Research Guide:** <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3626903>
- **The Financial Risks of Unsustainability: A Research Agenda,**
<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3637969>

Securing the future of European business is possible, with legislative reform supporting the transition

Research Group **Companies, Markets & Sustainability**(the Company Law Group):
jus.uio.no/companies

Sign up for our Newsletter:

jus.uio.no/companies under Newsletter

 @BeateSjafjell
 @CompanyLawGroup #SMARTLegacy
#FuturingNordics