

Spring Campus Conference, August 31 - September 04, 2020

Workshop: “Financial Markets and Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change”, September 01-02, 2020

Organized by Prof. Kurt Hübner (University of British Columbia), PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin) and Prof. Itay Fishhendler (Hebrew University)

Abstract

The world is on a growth trajectory that runs the severe risk to miss even the modest 2-degree target of the Paris Accord and to jeopardize the achievement of the sustainable development goals. From a global perspective, climate policies have not been successful. This verdict holds for national strategies as well as for the approach of sustainable finance that wants to incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into business decisions, economic growth processes, and investment strategies. At the same time, the awareness of climate-related financial risks is growing, not least due to increasing risks stemming from damage to property, land, and infrastructure as well as from weather-related damages. Moreover, changes in relative prices of energy sources as well as political decisions may result in stranded assets and broader economic disruption. Sustainable finance also covers efforts to redirect capital flows to countries that are in urgent need to adjust to rising temperatures.

As society's expectations change, the finance industry must be transparent and clear about how its products and services simultaneously create value for its customers, clients, investors, as well as for society.

As a result of all those economic and political processes, finance industry and financial markets have moved center in promoting sustainable development. This includes the practices of financial institutions like pensions funds, the role of central banks in designing frameworks for green finance, and also the efforts of financial actors to create new financial products and services in support of sustainability transitions.

The workshop will take place at the annual Spring Campus Conference of the University Alliance for Sustainability. Further information on the conference please see: <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/index.html>

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Tuesday 01 September 2020 • Fabeckstraße 23-25, Freie Universität Berlin

Chair: Prof. Kurt Hübner (University of British Columbia), PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin) and Prof. Itay Fishhendler (Hebrew University)

+++ Due to the postponement of the conference we are currently in contact with all contributors regarding their availability for our new dates. Programs are preliminary and will be updated as necessary. +++

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	
9:00 am	Plenary Session, open for all participants	
10:00 am	Coffee Break	
	<i>Workshop II: "Financial Markets and Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change"</i>	
10:30 am	Introduction	Prof. Itay Fishhendler, Hebrew University
	Overview on the topic of financial markets and climate policies	Prof. Kurt Hübner, University of British Columbia
	Taking stock of green financial policies	Dr. Bjarne Steffen, ETH Zürich
12:30 pm	Lunch	
02:00 pm	UNDP's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy	Dr. Christoph Nedophil, Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing
	Sustainable Finance in Germany: Discourses, Drivers and Policy Initiatives	PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn, Freie Universität Berlin
	Quo vadis sustainable investment	Claudia Tober, Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (FNG)
	Green finance in Europe	Nana von Rottenburg, Deutsche Energie Agentur (DENA)
04:00 pm	Coffee Break	
04:30 pm	Divesting from fossil fuels: A quantitative analysis of the largest European pension funds	Florian Egli, ETH Zürich
	Green finance in China	Sandra Ghosh, Deutsche Energie Agentur (DENA)

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	Climate Reporting as Instrument for CO2 Reduction (CRed)	Naciye Atalay, Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (FNG)
6:30	We have pre-booked tables in the restaurant "Luise" near U-Bahn station Dahlem Dorf for a self-organized dinner.	

Wednesday, 02 September 2020 • Fabeckstraße 23-25, Freie Universität Berlin

Chair: Prof. Kurt Hübner (University of British Columbia), PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin) and Prof. Itay Fishhendler (Hebrew University)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	
9:00 am	Plenary Session, open for all participants	
10:00 am	Coffee Break	
	<i>Workshop II: "Financial Markets and Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change"</i>	
10:30 am	How does climate change affect organizational performance?	Dr. Wiebke Szymczak, Universität Hamburg
	The impact of CEOs' early-life experiences on corporate sustainability policies. Evidence from publicly-listed US firms	Simone Wagner, Universität Hamburg
	Brainstorming on the contribution of science to policy-making and civil society action in the field of sustainable finance	Prof. Itay Fischhendler, Hebrew University, Prof. Kurt Hübner, University of British Columbia and PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn, Freie Universität Berlin
		Discussant: Expert from <i>Finanzwende.de</i> (tbc)
12:30 pm	Lunch	
02:00 pm	Excursion: After a sightseeing tour of Berlin's city center participants can choose between two tour offers (please indicate your choice in the registration form): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futurium: The House of Futures. Here, everything revolves around the question: how do we want to live? In a "Tour of the Futures", visitors get to know different future concepts and approaches to solutions. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLS Bank (tbc): GLS Community Bank eG is a cooperative bank and claims to be the world's first eco bank. The bank was awarded the German Sustainability Award as the most sustainable company and was named Bank of the Year for the 10th time in succession. Join the banks team for a discussion on sustainable finance in the international finance world.
06:00 pm	Farewell Dinner, Restaurant Paresüd, Prellerweg 47, 12157 Berlin