

PhD Workshop: “Sustainable Development Research – an Interdisciplinary Chance or Challenge?”, November 04-10, 2021

Organized by PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin)

Abstract

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN, reflect the global consensus about improving sustainability. The goals have important implications for policy and research in areas ranging from climate protection to gender issues. The SDGs are complex and interwoven; the success of one goal is often closely linked to the success of another. Timely and impactful implementation of the goals therefore requires interdisciplinary research.

The workshop offers the opportunity to discuss the complex topic of sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective with an international group of PhD students and professors. Participants are asked to provide a short abstract outlining their research and a reflection of how their topic interacts with one or more SDGs. Through the workshop participants develop a broader understanding of interdisciplinary research collaborations in the field of sustainable development.

Rather than presenting general overviews of sustainable development research, the workshop is interested in topical areas of individual dissertations, which should be reviewed in the light of the 17 SDGs.

UAS Conference and participants

The PhD workshop is part of the Conference of the [University Alliance for Sustainability](#).

The workshop is open for participants from **UAS partner universities** (FUB, Germany; UBC, Canada; PKU, China, HUJI, Israel and SPBU, St. Petersburg) as well as from **Una Europa** partners (Freie Universität Berlin, Università di Bologna, University of Edinburgh, KU Leuven, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Uniwersytet Jagielloński in Kraków, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Helsingin Yliopisto).

Interested PhD candidates from non-partner universities are also invited to apply. Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage actively in the research and management workshops offered in the framework of the [UAS Conference](#).

How to apply

We invite PhD candidates specializing in sustainability-related research to apply. Abstracts (max. 500 words) outlining the aims and methods of individual papers and their relation to

one (or more) SDGs should be sent to uas@fu-berlin.de or your local contact point by **October 25, 2021**. Please state your name, research topic, affiliation and full contact details.

- **UAS partner universities:** For further information on the selection process, please contact your respective International Office and/or UAS contact person at your university.
- **Una Europa:** For further information on the selection process and the funding mechanism, please contact your respective International Office and/or Una Europa contact person at your university.
- **Participants from other universities:** PhD students from non-UAS and non-UNA member universities are invited to apply to both the conference program and the PhD workshops. Please contact: uas@fu-berlin.de for further information.

Impressions from the PhD Workshop 2020:

For me as a Politics student focusing on the international level, it was a perceived challenge at first to find overlapping approaches to the topic with the other participants. However, I finally joined together with students of Engineering, Law, Economics and Management investigating scientific and behavioral aspects. What seems like an arbitrary mix of research foci, in the end, was a highly beneficial lens that widened my perspective on approaches to the climate change challenge. The discussion not only helped me to see the plethora of small aspects that make up the 'big picture' of national policy positions in the international negotiations, but it also opened up my view on how the SDGs (esp. 13 and 17) fit with my own research project.

It is highly motivating to see how differently, but equally passionately, people tackle the same overarching challenge. In this sense, the workshop showed me how much potential interdisciplinary collaboration has for designing comprehensive and, thus, more effective projects.

- *Kim Vender is a 4th-year doctoral researcher in Politics and International Relations, University of Edinburgh and participated in the UAS Conference 2020.*

Program Design

01.11.2021: Getting Ready

Register on our virtual platform "Lounjee"

Create a profile and network with the other participants of the PhD workshops. Get an overview:

- Click on register to add your PhD workshop and trainings to your personal agenda.
- Browse the "Discover" or "Participants" section to chat with interesting contacts
- Visit the "Sponsor" section to find out more about the sustainability initiatives of UAS partner universities.

In case of any questions you can contact Katrin Schweigel via the Lounjee platform or the UAS Team via email: uas@fu-berlin.de

04.11.2021: Live Session – PhD Workshop Introductory Session

Our live session runs from **4-6pm CET** (To transfer these to your time zone you can use [this website.](#))

In this session we will kick-off the program for the coming week. What to expect:

- Welcome and program presentation by PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn, Freie Universität Berlin
- Round of Introductions
- Introductory Talk by Dr. Berthold Kuhn & discussion
- Discussion of group work and tasks for the second live session on November 10.

05.11.-09.11.2021: Group-Work Phase and Self-Study of Training Sessions

There are **two program points** in this period:

- **The group work within the PhD workshop:** Five PhD students will form a team and will discuss their research projects along the guiding questions provided by Dr. Kuhn in the introductory session. We will facilitate this via the group chat function. **Each group** prepares a short presentation for the meeting on November 10 focusing on the questions:
 - What were your main discussion points?
 - In what range do the group's research projects address the SDGs?
 - What did you learn in the discussion of the abstracts for your own research projects?Presentations should not exceed 10 minutes max.
- **We offer three different short training modules**, which you can view in self-study.

10.11.2021: Live Session: Presentation of Group Work Results and Discussion

Our live session runs from **4-6pm CET**. Each group prepares a 10-minute presentation (see description above). We will end the PhD Workshop with a joint discussion and feedback round.