

Call for Applications

PhD Workshop: “Sustainable Development Research – an Interdisciplinary Chance or Challenge?”, April 4-5, 2019

Organized by Prof. Brigitta Schütt (Freie Universität Berlin), Prof. Pascal Borry (KU Leuven), Prof. Piotr Szwedo (Jagiellonian University)

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 and explore opportunities for joint interdisciplinary research projects.

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.

Program Design: PhD Workshop

The PhD workshop is part of the Spring Campus Conference of the [University Alliance for Sustainability](#). Participants of the Ph.D. Workshop will have the opportunity to participate actively in the conference. Participants can attend the Opening Day on April 1 and a research workshop of their choice on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2-3. We encourage you to use this opportunity to present your research.

On Thursday and Friday, April 4-5, we will convene for two Ph.D. Workshops. Those are organized in cooperation with [UNA Europa](#), a European network of universities, of which Freie Universität Berlin is a partner. PhD Candidates from the UAS and UNA partner universities will be thematically grouped in two parallel running workshops – **please indicate the title of the PhD workshop in your application.**

In addition to the conference-style presentation sessions, we will offer different training modules. Topics may range from presentations skills, research ethics, intercultural competence for academic settings, publication strategies etc. Accepted participants can choose one of the trainings offered.

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Thursday 4 April 2019 • Fabeckstraße 23-25, Freie Universität Berlin

Chairs: Prof. Brigitta Schütt (Freie Universität Berlin), Prof. Pascal Borry (KU Leuven), Prof. Piotr Szwedo (Jagiellonian University)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p>Welcome and Workshop Intro “Sustainable Development Research – an Interdisciplinary Chance or Challenge?”</p> <p>Introductory Round – Workshop Chairs and PhD Candidates</p> <p>Prof. Brigitta Schütt, Freie Universität Berlin</p>
10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Break and networking
11:00-12:30pm	<p>Dr. hab. Piotr Szwedo, Jagellonian University: „Water-Food-Energy Nexus. Governance, Law and Management.”</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00pm – 3:00pm	<p>Interactive Group Session I: “How does your topic interact with one or more Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?”</p> <p>Together with peers from various disciplines participants reflect their PhD research project in the light of the 17 SDGs. Examples of questions explored in this session may include: How do research driven solutions in your PhD thesis intersect with sustainability? How can solutions to the challenges you address in your PhD thesis foster sustainable development? At the policy-making level, how can you communicate the findings and implications of research?</p> <p>This workshop allows Ph.D. researchers the opportunity to engage with how their research project interacts with sustainability. Through the workshop, they can develop a shared understanding of how this multifaceted field is understood from a wide variety of perspectives in both the natural sciences and social sciences. Participants may explore opportunities for interdisciplinary research collaborations.</p>
03:00 pm- 5:30pm	<p>PhD Training Session – All PhD’s choose one module:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training I: Logframes and Work Breakdown Structures – Core Elements of Research Proposals, chaired by Prof. Brigitta Schütt, Freie Universität Berlin • Training II: Research-Ethics, chaired by Prof. Pascal Borry, KU Leuven

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training III: Shaping Sustainability Discourses through Academic Writing, chaired by Dr. Andrea Kölbel, VDI/VDE IT GmbH • Training IV: Program Theory – A Tool for Participatory Planning and Evaluation, chaired by Sebastian Niedlich, Freie Universität Berlin
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Friday, 5 April 2018 • Fabeckstraße 23-25, Freie Universität Berlin

Chairs: Prof. Brigitta Schütt (Freie Universität Berlin), Prof. Pascal Borry (KU Leuven), Prof. Piotr Szwedo (Jagiellonian University)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Welcome and Reflection of Day I/ Continuation of Group Session from Day I Workshop Chairs
10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Break and networking
11:00-12:30pm	Interactive Group Session II: “What is interdisciplinarity?” Sustainability research often calls for interdisciplinary research projects. Based on a brief keynote by Brigitta Schütt there will be time to discuss in small groups questions like: How to set-up interdisciplinary projects? What are challenges when managing interdisciplinary projects? What are preconditions to work in interdisciplinary projects? When is “interdisciplinarity” only a buzzword?
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Interactive Group Session II: “How to do interdisciplinary studies” Presentation of findings by each group and discussion.
3:30-4:00 am	Coffee Break and networking
04:00 pm- 5:30pm	Wrap-Up and Feedback Session