

Spring Campus, March 27-31, 2017

## Opening Day

From March 27-31 Freie Universität will host the second Spring Campus event of the University Alliance for Sustainability on the topic *“Societal Transformation to Sustainability: Universities as Pacesetters?”*.

Following a whole institution approach, the Spring Campus brings together researchers, management staff, as well as PhD candidates and students to contribute to a lively discussion of the event’s topic.

### Program focus and objectives

In 2016 in Paris all member states of the United Nations adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative sustainable development goals and targets (SDGs) to be implemented by 2030. The need for extensive change – a societal transformation indeed – has been widely acknowledged by politics and science.

Ideas on how to achieve this goal differ considerably. The challenge of realizing the transformation to a sustainable society calls for multi-level coordination, involving multiple stakeholders, managing change at different rates and scales. During the Spring Campus we will address the questions:

What changes would be regarded as transformative? How can a societal transformation be achieved that is socially accepted and politically feasible?

Who are the stakeholders that need to be involved and what can governance for transformation look like?

What is the role and responsibility of higher education organizations and how can they become active leaders? How can universities unfold their potential to foster interdisciplinary cooperation and lead transformative change?

The Opening Day invites all participants of the Spring Campus to attend. It features keynote speeches from renowned experts as well as presentations from representatives from UAS partner universities. The talks will be followed by a facilitated discussion, elaborating on the question of the relevance of universities in the societal transformation to sustainability.

During the conference we aim to build a scientific understanding of transformative change, offering scientists the opportunity to connect for solution-oriented research and be part of growing a network of informed and inspired university stakeholders that bring change to their home institutions.

Coming from different cultural and professional backgrounds, participants will also share experiences on how international networks can connect communities and trigger engagement in sustainability. In this way the Alliance hopes to contribute to spreading innovative ideas, interesting research and sustainable campus solutions across the globe and to spark extended dialogue between all stakeholders on campus and beyond.

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**Monday, 27 March • Conference Room 2.2058, Fabeckstr. 23-25**

Chair: Prof. Brigitta SCHÜTT, Vice-President, Freie Universität Berlin

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
12:30 pm	Registration
1:30 pm	Opening <i>Prof. Brigitta Schütt, Vice-President, Freie Universität Berlin</i>
	Key Note Speakers <i>Jürgen Trittin, Member of the German Parliament, Alliance '90/The Greens and former German Federal Minister of the Environment: "The Transformation to Sustainability in Times of Uncertainty" (working title)</i> <i>NN: "Universities and their Community – What Role Should a Modern University Assume?"</i> Q&A with both speakers, <i>Caroline Paulick-Thiel, nextlearning e.V.</i>
3:15 pm	Coffee Break
3:45 pm	Key Note Speakers <i>Dr. Wilfried Kraus, Ministry for Education and Research: "Governing Research for Sustainable Development: The Vision and Mission of the German Ministry of Education and Research" (working title)</i> <i>Prof. Eran Feitelson (Hebrew University), " Societal Shifts, Sustainability and the Role of Universities"</i> <i>Hillegje van't Land (International Association of Universities) "IAU Global Survey - Higher Education: A Catalyst for Innovative and Sustainable Societies" (working title)</i>
5:30 pm	Interactive Session and Facilitated Discussion Moderation: <i>Caroline Paulick-Thiel, nextlearning e.V.</i>
6:30pm	Reception and Get-Together