

Workshop in Sustainability Economics: Responsibility for the Sustainable Management of the Global Commons

March 20–23, 2018 | Genuesser Schiff, near Kiel, Germany

Environmental, Resource and Ecological Economics Group, University of Kiel, Germany
Chair of Environmental Economics and Resource Management, University of Freiburg, Germany

Background

The sustainable development goals have set sustainability high on the international political agenda, especially with regard to the sustainable use of global commons such as climate, biodiversity, or the ocean. Trade-offs between different goals of sustainability, and inherent uncertainty about the future, raise the fundamental question of ‘What exactly is implied by, and required for, sustainability with regard to the global commons?’

The workshop explores the hypothesis that the philosophical concept of responsibility can fill a gap in our thinking of how to define, and operationalize, sustainability under uncertainty. The concept of responsibility relates an abstract and general norm (sustainability) to the specific facts of a concrete action context (managing the global commons), to guide action. It applies to actors at all levels of organization, including individuals, corporations, and governments. The concept is especially relevant in situations characterized by limited knowledge about the consequences of actions and asymmetry of agents (e.g. in terms of resource endowment or capacity to act), which typically prevail in decision contexts where sustainability is at issue.

Bringing together the perspectives of economics, philosophy and political science, the workshop will discuss in particular:

- principles and limits of responsibility,
- trade-offs between different normative objectives and values,
- societal decision-making under uncertainty in view of long-term ecological-economic system dynamics,
- implementation, through institutions, of responsibility for sustainability.

Format

The workshop brings together a focused group of approximately 15 participants in a stimulating environment for an intensive and fruitful discussion.

Aims and Scope

The workshop aims at (1) taking stock of the scholarly discussion of responsibility in view of sustainable management of global commons; (2) exploring the potential of conceptualizing sustainability under uncertainty as responsibility; (3) developing new approaches and concepts for future research on the sustainable management of the global commons.

Invited Speakers (tbc)

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| John Broome | Oxford University |
| Christopher Costello | University of California at Santa Barbara |
| Ottmar Edenhofer | Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) |
| Marc Fleurbaey | Princeton University |
| James Konow | University of Kiel and Loyola Marymount University |
| Bertil Tungodden | The Choice Lab, NHH Bergen |
| Zofia Stemplowska | Oxford University |
| Alexander Vostroknutov | Maastricht University |
| Paolo Piacquadio | University of Oslo |
| Hilary Greaves | Oxford University |
| Geir Asheim | University of Oslo |
| Simon Caney | Warwick University |

Venue



The workshop will take place at the Genueser Schiff, which is beautifully situated in the dunes of the Baltic Sea, roughly two hours from Hamburg. The thatched country house and idyllic chimney house are situated at the coast in a pristine nature reserve. The quietness and vastness of the dunes and Baltic Sea provide a peaceful and recreational environment, which should build the basis to stimulate fruitful discussions and productive research. Almost all rooms have a panoramic sea view. The restaurant serves classic as well as modern dishes prepared with fresh locally and organically grown products.

<http://www.genueser-schiff.de/Willkommen/-/-/en>

Program

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

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| before 6:00 pm | arrival and check-in |
| 6:00 pm | welcome reception |
| 7:00 pm | dinner |

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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| full day | scientific program, hike along the coast |
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Thursday, March 22, 2018

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| full day | scientific program |
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Friday, March 23, 2018

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| after breakfast | check-out |
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Hosts

The workshop is organized by the *Environmental, Resource and Ecological Economics Group* at the *University of Kiel* (Prof. Dr. Martin F. Quaas, Dr. Moritz A. Drupp), and the *Chair of Environmental Economics and Resource Management* at *University of Freiburg* (Prof. Dr. Stefan Baumgärtner). Previous instalments of the workshop series on *Sustainability Economics* can be viewed at:

<https://www.ere.uni-freiburg.de/workshops-en>

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Travel

By plane:

The closest international airport is Hamburg (HAM). There will be a shuttle transfer from/to the airport for workshop participants.

By train:

The closest railway stations are Oldenburg(Holst) or Plön.

Detailed travel information will be provided later.

Acknowledgement

The workshop is funded through a grant from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of its program *Sustainable Economy*.

