

# Workshop in Sustainability Economics: Experiments on Intergenerational Justice under Uncertainty

October 11–14, 2015 | Camp Reinsehlen, Germany

*Chair of Environmental Economics and Resource Management, University of Freiburg, Germany*

*Sustainability Economics Group, Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany*

*Environmental, Resource and Ecological Economics Group, University of Kiel, Germany*

## Background

The vision of sustainability requires that development paths be equitable across and within generations, while human-made and natural resources be allocated such that none are wasted in the pursuit of increasing human well-being. Sustainability is thus essentially a normative concept. It requires taking into consideration the claims of future, not yet existing persons – also addressing trade-offs between inter- and intragenerational justice goals. Investigating the long-term future necessarily implies dealing with fundamental uncertainty, because uncertainty and uncertainty-attitudes affect how societies distribute resources to insure against such uncertainties.

Behavioral economics and experimental methods (in the lab and in the field) have substantially altered the way economists perceive the world and how they derive policy recommendations. For the emerging field of *sustainability economics* the question thus arises in what way one can and should employ experimental approaches to generate insights into a just and efficient intergenerational distribution of resources under conditions of uncertainty.

## Aims and Scope

The workshop aims at developing a better understanding of how and to what extent experiments can contribute to advancing the economics and policy of sustainability. For this, we want to take stock of existing scholarly work at the intersection of sustainability and experimental economics. Furthermore, we would like to discuss and identify promising elements of a research agenda for experimental sustainability economics. Questions to be discussed at the workshop include, but are not limited to, the following:

- How to set up experiments that generate insights into intergenerational relations and very long time horizons?
- How to set up experiments studying fundamental uncertainty?
- To what extent and how can one employ experimental observations on individual or collective

behavior to improve theories of sustainability, especially with respect to the normative content of sustainability conceptions?

- What is the contribution of experimental methods for sustainability economic research, compared to modelling, non-experimental empirics, and philosophical-conceptual reflection?
- On what theoretical basis and assumptions do experiments have to rest if their results should be instructive for sustainability policy?

## Format

The workshop brings together a small and focused group of approximately 25 participants, including about ten eminent invited speakers and about ten junior researchers, in a stimulating environment for an intensive and fruitful discussion.

## Invited Speakers (tbc)

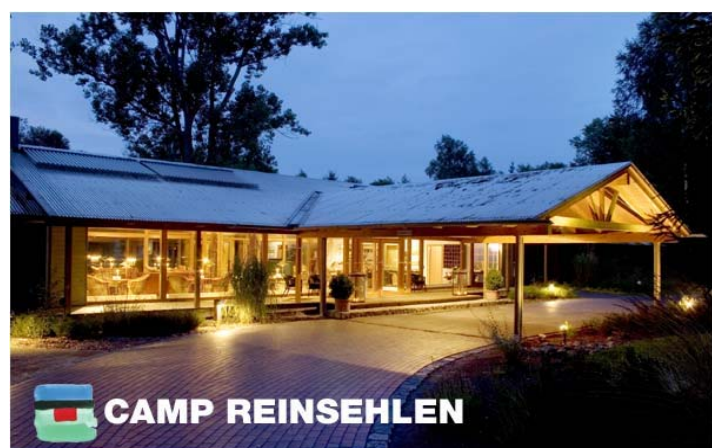
<b>Alexander Cappelen</b>	NHH Bergen
<b>Gary Charness</b>	UC Santa Barbara
<b>James Konow</b>	University of Kiel, Loyola Marymount University
<b>Andreas Lange</b>	University of Hamburg
<b>David Rand</b>	Yale University
<b>Arno Riedl</b>	Maastricht University
<b>Sabrina Teyssier</b>	INRA Versailles
<b>Bertil Tungodden</b>	NHH Bergen
<b>Alexander Vostroknutov</b>	Maastricht University
<b>Leeat Yariv</b>	California Institute of Technology

## Venue



The workshop will take place at the conference guest house Camp Reinsehlen in the heart of the Lüneburg Heath, a short hour from Hamburg. The quietness and vastness of its traditionally conserved landscape provides a peaceful atmosphere and recreational environment which should build the basis to stimulate fruitful discussions and productive research. The guest house's philosophy to live in harmony with nature and among each other, which serves the topic of the event, is furthered by the cheerful atmosphere and the celebration of the deliberate and exquisite slow food concept. Last, not least, the heathlands are a nice example of a strongly coupled ecological-economic system.

<http://www.campreinsehlen.de>



## Program

Sunday, October 11, 2015

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

Monday, October 12, 2015

full day	scientific program
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Tuesday, October 13, 2015

full day	scientific program, hike in the Lüneburg Heath
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Wednesday, October 14, 2015

after breakfast	check-out
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## Hosts

The workshop is organized by the *Chair of Environmental Economics and Resource Management* at *University of Freiburg* (Prof. Dr. Stefan Baumgärtner, Stephan Wolf), the *Sustainability Economics Group* at *Leuphana University of Lüneburg*, and the *Environmental, Resource and Ecological Economics Group* at *University of Kiel* (Prof. Dr. Martin F. Quaas, Moritz A. Drupp):

<http://www.ere.uni-freiburg.de>

<http://www.eeree.uni-kiel.de>

## Contact

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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 station is Schneverdingen.

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 *Economics of Climate Change*.

