

PhD Summer School

RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resilience, Justice or what else?
How Conceptions of Sustainability
Shape Research



June 23rd – 27th, 2014

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, SWITZERLAND



msd

RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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How Conceptions of Sustainability Shape Research

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Content

How do researchers in my discipline conceive sustainability?
How do these conceptions influence my research? What other understandings are predominant in other disciplines? How can I harness these conceptions to rationalise my research, to spot research gaps or to measure sustainability in novel ways?

The first international PhD Summer School in Basel, Switzerland, provides an interdisciplinary platform to discuss questions with regard to research in sustainable development. The course fosters discourse among PhD students from multiple disciplines. The participants will discuss the diversity of sustainability conceptions and how they shape disciplinary research. They will acquire a rich and differentiated basis for well-founded research in sustainability sciences. Distinguished guest speakers from natural and social sciences as well as economics with broad backgrounds about sustainability issues will give inputs and comments on the participants' contributions. Participants will receive 3 ECTS.

Aims

The Summer School aims:

- to foster interdisciplinary discourse on sustainability science among PhD students;
- to enhance the participants' knowledge of different theoretical options on the sustainability science market and;
- to clarify conceptual assumptions regarding sustainability in order to make original research contributions, e.g. by spotting research gaps or developing new models of measuring sustainability etc.

Target group

PhD students from any discipline with research projects in the field of sustainability sciences / regarding sustainability issues.

Contributions of participants

The Summer School is highly interactive and thus requires active attendance from the participants, including:

- presentation of a poster on their own PhD research project;
- short oral presentation, commented by senior researchers and peers;
- preliminary reading of central texts of the sustainability debate.

Guest speakers

Our guest speakers have broad knowledge about sustainability issues in their field of research and are well known for their interdisciplinary affinity and their ability to think outside the disciplinary boxes.

Natural & Medical Sciences

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Henner Hollert, Head of the Department of Ecosystem Analysis (ESA), Institute for Environmental Research at RWTH Aachen University

Social Sciences & Psychology

Prof. Dr. Susan Baker, School of Social Sciences, Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University

Economics & Technical Sciences

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gebhard Kirchgässner, Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research, University of St. Gallen

Further senior researchers from the University of Basel

Prof. Dr. Patricia Holm
Prof. Dr. Frank Krysiak
Prof. Dr. Paul Burger
Dr. Marius Christen

Application

To apply, send the following documents by the 30th of April, 2014 to marius.christen@unibas.ch:

- a cover letter including your affiliation and your year of PhD (max. 200 words);
- a short description of your PhD research stating its relation to sustainability (max. 400 words).

Maximal number of participants: 20; a waiting list will be maintained. There will be no attendance fee.

Contact

Dr. Marius Christen, marius.christen@unibas.ch

For further information about the programme, accommodation etc. please consult:
www.msd.unibas.ch/en/home/studies/summerschool.html

