



Lecture Series *Transformations to Sustainability*



Governance of Sociotechnical Transformations (GOST)

1 March 2019, 10:00 – 11:30 am
UFZ KUBUS, Lecture hall 1A

Sheila Jasanoff: Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Andrew Stirling: Professor of Science & Technology Policy, SPRU – Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex

Abstract. What role do sociotechnical imaginaries and complexities play in shaping societal transformations? Prof. S. Jasanoff and Prof. A. Stirling will discuss these and other questions that are related to a new, 3 year collaborative project, Governance of Sociotechnical Transformations (GoST), which is part of the global Transformations to Sustainability (T2S) research programme. The project is a collaboration between Harvard University, the University of Sussex, the Indian Environment Support Group, the African Centre for Technology Studies, and UFZ. It focuses on T2S in three areas of crucial relevance to sustainable development: energy systems, agriculture, and urban digital infrastructures.

The talk will demonstrate that efforts towards sustainability transformations often fail because they are imagined and enacted in ways that are too one-dimensional and one-directional. As an alternative, Jasanoff and Stirling advocate more experimental but also more participatory approaches towards trans-

formations, not propelled mainly by what is (or is thought to be) technologically feasible, but more fundamentally by diverse human imaginations of what might be good and attainable worlds.

Prof. Dr. Sheila Jasanoff is a Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the Harvard Kennedy School. A pioneer in her field, she has authored more than 120 articles and chapters and is author or editor of more than 15 books, including *The Fifth Branch*, *Science at the Bar*, *Designs on Nature*, and *The Ethics of Invention*. Jasanoff was also awarded the Albert O. Hirschman Prize of the Social Science Research Council in 2018.

Prof. Dr. Andrew Stirling is trained in astrophysics, archaeology and anthropology, later he worked for Greenpeace International before researching in technology policy. He focuses especially on questions of uncertainty, participation, diversity and sustainability in the governance of science and innovation.

GoST is part of the joint transnational research programme “Transformations to Sustainability” (T2S), launched by NORFACE and the Belmont Forum in 2017. This programme will contribute to re-structuring the broad field of sustainability research by placing social science and humanities at the heart of interdisciplinary research in a step change in scale and scope for research programming on this topic. (see Transformationstosustainability.org, contact: silke.beck@ufz.de)

The lecture series Transformations to Sustainability was initiated by the Thematic Area ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY and is offering a comprehensive discussion platform, welcoming colleagues from all disciplines at UFZ. For further information contact the head of RU 6 Environment and Society: bernd.hansjuergens@ufz.de.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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