

Unpacking the political in contemporary discourses on sustainability transformations: Agency, choice, and democratic pathways?

Workshop

Scoping a research area for applied social science
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ Leipzig / Germany
Nov. 10-11 2016

Dear potential participant of the transformation workshop,

as already mentioned in our email and the description of the workshop, this questionnaire constitutes an important input into the workshop. It was designed to take up as much as possible of your individual interests, concerns and background experiences.

The information gathered through this questionnaire will be treated anonymously. We will present the results of this “survey” at the first session of the workshop. They will help to open up the discussion and to identify topics to be addressed in in-depth discussions by the working groups. Besides, the questionnaire will help us to include further potential input from your side.

We kindly ask you therefore to briefly answer the questions and send the questionnaire back by email to jan.wolfrum@ufz.de **until July 15th 2016**. Please also feel free to contact us with any other suggestions you may have, regarding the format and focus or anything else that will, in your view, enrich the workshop.

We would also like to ask you to send us articles that you have co-written or papers you can recommend for informing our discussion on transformation.

Thank you very much for your contributions!

Questionnaire

1. What are your area(s) of expertise (e.g. climate change, ecosystem services, energy policy, consumer politics, mobility, sustainability, socio-technical innovations...) and what is your professional background?
2. What is your understanding of transformation compared to other concepts such as transition, governance and sustainability...?
3. Who are the potential agents of change, and what are their levers (experts, bottom-up movements, state actors, business, individuals, others)? What agency do they perform? What political understandings underpin claims about transformation? Which agent of change are you particularly interested in?
4. In which transformation experiments / research projects (e.g. transition town...) have you been involved?
5. What are the lessons learned from these examples, e.g. in terms of relevant containing and beneficial elements, political impacts, etc., that could be further discussed in the workshop? Do you see alternative pathways and future directions of interactions?
6. Do you have suggestions for the outcome of the workshop (relevant journals, comments, discussions, workshops...)?