



Berlin Workshop in
Institutional Analysis of
Social-Ecological Systems

Governing the Anthropocene: Cyber-systemic possibilities

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Welcome Address

Konrad Hagedorn
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
k.hagedorn@agrar.hu-berlin.de

What is WINS?

Workshop in Institutional Analysis of SES

- Subject: how institutions and governance structures regularize interaction of actors mediated by social-ecological-technical systems (SETS)
- Observation: scientific communities use different analytical frameworks, heuristics and languages
- Explanation: they work on different *physical transactions and transformations*, activities through which humans interact in SETS
- Gains possible: communication across most of them is rather weak - mutual learning!

Intention, Meaning and Relevance

- Framing a research problem implies 3 components: **intention**, **meaning**, **relevance** (Lichtenberg).
- **Intention**: What problems do we want to solve with the expected outcomes of our analysis?
- **Meaning**: theory which provides explanation of reality in that area where the problem is.
- **Relevance**: empirical substantiation of theories, positive and normative – do we understand the problem and can we aim to solve it?
- **„Frameworks“ emerge from „Framing“**

The Role of WINS

- Sufficient reason for diversity of frameworks and heuristics for the Institutional Analysis of SES
- Bridging between communities as a focus
- Scholars' collective action needs to be organized
- WINS - institutionalized space for bridging
- Analytical frameworks are a **starting idea** – real bridging will occur in **joint practice** of research, teaching and communication

Core Elements of the WINS Agenda



- **Integrative Discourses** for institutionalizing communication between members of several research communities
- **Interdisciplinary Research** for conducting studies guided by one or more, single or linked analytical frameworks
- **Advanced Studies** addressing both junior and senior researchers



WINS Organisation

- ❑ Steering Group
- ❑ Coordination Team
- ❑ Affiliated Faculty
- ❑ Associated Fellows
- ❑ Visiting Scholars
- ❑ Graduate Students and Postdocs
- ❑ Working Groups
- ❑ Research Projects
- ❑ Teaching Modules

WINS Guidelines

- Our understanding of WINS is not to form a strongly formalized group working in the bondage of strict rules and inflexible procedures
- Our visioning orients towards a permanent lively workshop developing a culture of openness
- Welcoming everybody who may contribute to creative discourse, research and teaching

Questions for this Workshop

- ➡ Systems approach to institutions and governance structures – where are the micro-foundations?
- ➡ Governing the anthropocene – isn't this infeasible given the insights from institutional analysis, and in view of the ubiquity of institutional failures?
- ➡ Solving real actors' problems in crafting institutions - what have these two approaches contributed to this?

THANK YOU for your attention!

**Welcome to the Workshop on
“Governing the Anthropocene:
Cyber-systemic possibilities”**