



## TRANSFORMATION

CONSTRAINTS

DEVELOPMENT

22-24 February 2016 Vienna University of Economics and Business

[www.growthintransition.eu/conference2016/](http://www.growthintransition.eu/conference2016/)

## WORKSHOPS

# CONSTRAINTS

### MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2016 16:00-18:30

#### How Adaptable is our Society?

Identifying some structural barriers in our struggle for sustainability and the innovative power of social relations

 LC - Festsaal 2

Organised by: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

The limits to change – identifying some structural barriers in our struggle for sustainability (Daniel Hausknot)

Sustainability science suggests that any future sustainable society will have to differ as radically from contemporary industrial societies as these differ from the agrarian societies of the past. The required transition implies radical changes also in the institutional structures of society. Historical analysis suggests that the modern state co-evolved with the fossil energy system in a rather fundamental sense. This process suggests a structural coupling of political modernity with the unsustainable industrialism of our age that needs to be overcome if anything like 'sustainability' were to be achieved. The talk will empirically reconstruct the historical coupling of modern democracy with fossil energy and identify some of the structural barriers in overcoming that coupling.

Achieving Together Something Completely New. The Innovative Power of Social Relations (Tom Kehrbaum)

Contemporary challenges are enormous. Climate change, migration, digitalization of the working and living environment are just three of the most pressing topics Europe and the rest of the world is facing. These challenges will result in fundamental changes in the life of many people. Although the entire history of mankind has been punctuated and driven by steps of social and technological

innovation which brought about diverse cultures, people are unsettled by the speed and force of present transformation processes. Fear paralyses curiosity and banishes all the positive force and magic of beginnings. However, the power of social relationships, trust and mutual learning play an important role in the context of change processes. They provide security, trust and courage to try out something new. In this speech, therefore, social and anthropological conditions of innovation processes will be discussed and their relation to current transformation processes in economy and society will be analyzed. It will be argued that new styles and forms of communal interaction and social organization go beyond limits and achieve new and human ways of sustainable development.

 lecture

 interactive format



# CONSTRAINTS

## ...and How Will we Feed Ourselves in Future?



LC – Clubraum

Organised by: Environment Agency Austria | University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

A clear trend has been emerging: The population is continuing to grow, whereas agricultural land is on a decline in quantity and quality. What options are there to provide people with food – today and in future? What is happening currently and hampering the provision of a sustainable food supply? Which economic framework will ensure food security?

We ask four experts for their opinion. *Kurt Langbein* will show trailers from his brandnew movie „Landgrabbing“; *Hans Herren* will present insights from agricultural sciences; *Tanja Dietrich Hübner* will bring in her perspective from a food retailer; and *Gertraud Leimüller* will demonstrate how innovative options could emerge for our future. We will debate the input in a Fishbowl-discussion and will ask three leading personalities for their reflection.

## Secular Stagnation



LC – Galerie

Organised by: Sustainable Europe Research Institute | Club of Rome – Austrian Chapter

Facing an economic growth slightly above zero percent and similar forecasts, the world is looking more and more towards Japan, which is handled as a Laboratory for a „Secular Stagnation“. The term describes a long Phase of weak economic growth under the condition of low real interest as well as low inflation. As potential causes, decreasing population, underinvestment/overmuch saving or inequality are discussed.

This is the main topic of the workshop, in which (i) the main focus lies on the consequences (not so much the

causes) and (ii) Japan serves as an anchor point. *Christine Ax* will depict the social and socio-political changes in Japan caused by the Stagnation – Lessons for Europe.

The economical aspect or rather the impacts on the economical system will be explained by a presentation, held in Vienna by Dr. Richard A. Werner, Professor of International Banking at the University of Southampton/UK. In the following Discussion (maybe in groups), both aspects should be more prepared and the outcomes shall be presented.

## Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe A social and environmental transition for a dynamic Europe



AD – Sitzungssaal 1

Organised by: Austrian Institute of Economic Research

The overall vision of the four year lasting research project „WWWforEurope“ is that by 2050 Europe will have become a role model for a dynamic, open, and pluralistic economic area characterised by limited income differences, absolute decline of emissions and resource use and positive spill-overs to neighbours and the world at large. In the short and medium run this will mean fostering dynamics and employment via consolidation and reprogramming, while in the long run Europe should become front-runner in a socio-ecological transition

with high priority of sustainability and Beyond GDP goals. This session will provide insights in the main outcomes of the project with particular focus on the concept of high road competitiveness, on indicators for sustainable development, an introduction to the idea of adapting welfare states through social investments (from public and private sources) as well as a historic overview on socio-ecological transitions

*Workshop held in English.*

## Five Principles of Psychic Maturing



Sitzungssaal 2

Organised by: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

“Growing in the face of limits”: a motto that very accurately puts the tenor of environmental responsibility in a nutshell—but with equal accuracy also points to psychological principles that are essential for the maturing (the “growing-up”) of both individuals and societies. These principles will become intelligible through the lens of a constructive

acceptance of five types of limits that we consistently must encounter in our lives—that is, of the limits

1. of our powers and possibilities of influence
2. of our importance in relation to others
3. of the possible fulfillments of our wishes and drives
4. of the unity of our inner life, and
5. between our ego and the outside world.

lecture

interactive format



# CONSTRAINTS

## Ecosystem Services

Perspectives on the economic valuation of nature in Austria



AD – Sitzungssaal 3

Organised by: Federal Chancellery

Nature is the basis of our livelihood as well as for wealth and well-being. Current economic and financial policy has no methodical approach to integrate the value of nature. The economic valuation of ecosystem services could potentially illustrate this value and enhance its influence on political decisions. Ecosystem services contribute to human well-being, like provisioning (fresh water, food,...), regulating (protection from floods, climate regulation,...), supporting

(photosynthesis, soil formation,...) or cultural services (recreation, education). In line with the EU biodiversity strategy the Member States map the state of ecosystems and their services, assess the economic value of such services and promote the integration of these values into decision making processes as well as into accounting and reporting systems by 2020.

The workshop aims to discuss opportunities and risks of the economic evaluation of ecosystem services.

## Constraints in/of Science



AD – Sitzungssaal 4

Organised by: Institute for Advanced Studies

Scientific knowledge and expertise is highly requested. This holds true for the economic and political sphere as well as for private life. Scientific knowledge production seems borderless. But are there no limits to science and research? How is about limits as a consequence of dominant (main-stream) paradigms? How is about the limits of knowledge

production within disciplines? Science and research needs funding from public and private sources – how does this influence scientific freedom? How can these limiting factors be overcome? These (and further) questions will be discussed in a round-table-setting.

## Aman Iman – Water is life (Tuareg)



AD – Sitzungssaal 5

Organised by: European Environmental Office

Population, wealth, energy and water – the unequal distribution of resources is characteristic of our era. Our „world game“ illustrates the finite nature of water (availability, provision, consumption) and poses some pressing questions: How important is access to clean water, what is ‚water justice‘ and how is it used and consumed in Austria and elsewhere? Given the imperative of the sustainability principle, how can we ensure a fair distribution of water both between current users and between generations? Questions to be raised and answered in the course of the workshop: How can water be fairly and equally distributed? Should water qua ecosystem service be prized and commodified? Is privatization and commodification of water services practi-

larly promising? Or should universal access to clean water and sanitation be a legally enshrined human right? How can the example of Ecuador and its revolutionary law on water (institutionalizing of water, national water plan, river basin management plan, information and civil society participation) be a role model for countries around the world? Experts from the chamber of labour, eNGOs, the beverage industry and the Ecuadorian ambassador in Germany will elaborate on all this and beyond. Latter is founding father of Ecuador's latest constitution that codified the universal human right to water and the rights of nature, based on the concept of „Buen Vivir“.

## Overcome Intrapersonal Limits in Order to Live Sustainably



AD – Sitzungssaal 6

Organised by: Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research

In this interactive workshop we address our own inner limits that we encounter, when we try to live and act sustainably: feelings of helplessness, senselessness, loneliness, desire for security through traditional ways of life, comfort and convenience etc. Besides recognizing those limits and an exchange about them (Dyade and Dialogue), we will collect ideas, how the participants have already overcome the

limits or try to do it (cards and circle). In a third part of the workshop we want to explore together, what we would need (from outside, from inside, individually, collectively, bottom-up or top-down), to live sustainability, as we deem it important (dynamic facilitation or other method). We will conclude the workshop by developing individually the next concrete step.  
*Workshop held in English.*

lecture

interactive format



# TRANSFORMATION

TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2016 11:15–13:00

## Inequality, Democracy, Participation



LC – Festsaal 2

Organised by: Federal Chancellery

Growing inequalities in OECD countries do not merely relate to income and wealth but they have far reaching consequences for social cohesion and mobility, political participation, etc. The panel approaches the topic of inequality from different perspectives and tackles the following questions: What are the effects of growing inequality on economic development and growth? Are we really in need of GDP-growth

to establish a “fair” distribution? How can we counteract? What does this mean in regard to trust in social relations, democratic institutions, enterprises and the state? In what way does it affect the social fabric of our societies? Will a reduction in inequality add to the solution of the multiple crises of capitalism?

## Transformative research Approaches, examples and perspectives



LC – Clubraum

Organised by: Vienna University of Economics and Business

This workshop discusses concrete approaches, examples and perspectives of transformation research. Members of the Competence Center for Sustainability of the Vienna University of Economics and Business report on their work and show what kind of contribution an economically, socio-

logically and juridical informed research can bring about in terms of a better understanding of the possibilities and constraints in approaching a transformation towards sustainability.

## Urban Transition Re-thinking urban quality of life Part I – Lectures



LC – Galerie

Organised by: Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology  
Austrian Society for Environment and Technology

The world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is an urbanised world. Urban regions increasingly house the majority of the population and generate the greater part of our wealth. They are in worldwide competition for quality of life, productivity and communication and advertise about investments and the ‘best minds’. The transformation of current energy systems to a post-fossil-fuel, CO<sub>2</sub>-free society presents enormous challenges for cities, partly due to the fact that the use of renewable energy providers in urban regions is of course more complicated than in rural areas. The successful design of urban transformation processes to develop future-oriented cities and to overcome boundaries in our way of thinking in this respect is therefore the central question which this workshop will seek to address.

The panel of top-class experts uses practical examples in different cities, success factors and drivers of development (including the implementation of the ‘Smart City’ concept) and simultaneously changing social and economic demands to shed light on this situation. Challenges here are the scarcity of housing in quickly-growing cities, the links between energy planning and town planning, the building of new districts with sustainable (energy) infrastructures, stakeholder engagement or the development of new funding and business models, among others. As examples Hamburg, Vienna, Salzburg and Graz will be considered, where aspirations to reduce urban greenhouse gas emissions via innovative projects will be introduced and scrutinized for their impact. There will also be a focus on the feasibility of such initiatives within the scope of district and housing estate developments.



# TRANSFORMATION

## Scenarios for Europe Using Much Less Resources



AD – Sitzungssaal 1

Organised by: Sustainable Europe Research Institute

The aim of the POLFREE project was to create, model and visualize scenarios for the emergence of resource-efficient economies, through linking quantitative economic and ecological models, and simulating the policies and policy mixes derived in the earlier work. The scenarios and associated policy analysis will be given an integrated interpretation across economic, ecological and social dimensions.

The aim of this workshop is to confront Austrian decision makers from business, administration and NGOs with these scenarios and to elaborate in a participatory effort concrete viable pathways for their organisations within the realm of the POLFREE scenarios.

*Workshop held in English.*

## Sustainable Old-Age Provision



AD – Sitzungssaal 2

Organised by: Ecosocial Forum Austria  
Federal Ministry of Finance

The reduction of poverty in old age is one of the biggest sociopolitical successes in Austria. Even after the financial crises 2009 the share of over-65-year olds threatened of poverty or social exclusion decreased, the situation got worse for younger than 18-year olds. The federal grant for the pensions is increasing, the peak will be 2030/2035. From 2020 onwards till 2040 Austria is going to pay more as a percentage of GDP than any other EU-country for pensions.

The Ageing Report 2015 shows the prospective costs of the pension system. The transformation of the society (f.e. demographic changes) play a very important role. As the budgetary impact of the pension system does also influence other areas, they are of great importance.

We will discuss how a fair and sufficient pension system will also be financeable for succeeding generations and how to set the course, as well as how to legitimate this democratically.

## Energy Transition: Technology versus Lifestyle



AD – Sitzungssaal 5

Organised by: Energie- und Umweltagentur Niederösterreich

The transition of our energy system is a key project for the next century and a challenge towards a sustainable way of doing business and of living.

Two contradictory paths towards energy transition compete against each other: One is based on technical progress and big-scale-solutions: Smart Grids, CCS and nuclear fusion are ideas for realizing this path. The other path is to

change our way of life and our economic system fundamentally by changing individual behaviour, because big-scale-technical solutions will not be ready soon enough or they will be too expensive.

Both visions will be discussed during the session in form of two introductory speeches followed by an intensive discussion with the audience.

## Universities as Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Business Education



AD – Sitzungssaal 6

Organised by: Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy  
Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for  
Sustainable Development Vienna / Graz-Styria / Europaregion Tirol

In the ongoing debate about new forms of economic activities, sustainability driven entrepreneurs are more and more seen as agents of change towards a post-growth society. While focusing on the creation of social and ecological values sustainability driven entrepreneurship reflects a radical change in our understanding of the economic purpose as well as our current modes of production and consumption. Additionally, this new approach confronts entrepreneurial

education at our universities with new demands and related re-structuring of classical pedagogical concepts and curricula. Against this background, the 2 hour workshop will address two major questions: Which key competencies does sustainability driven entrepreneurship need? How and in which form could this key competencies be taught in higher education?

lecture

interactive format



# TRANSFORMATION

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2016 14:30–16:30

## Governing Transitions with Foresight

**i**  
LC – Festsaal 2

Organised by: European Environment Agency

While there is a shared understanding in the European Union that strategic foresight such as scenario building can help to improve the quality of policymaking for sustainability transitions, the empirical evidence is still lacking. The workshop aims at addressing this knowledge gap by drawing on the results of the latest EEA policy papers to review the uses and influence of foresight in the context of sustainability transitions. Based on inspiring success stories

from the EEA member countries, this session focuses on discussing: How can foresight help governing sustainability transitions? What are the key policy uses and impacts of foresight across the policy cycle? What are the main success factors for using strategic foresight as a vehicle for governing sustainability transitions?

*Workshop held in English.*

## Higher Education in the Socio-ecological Transformation

**v**  
LC – Clubraum

Organised by: Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria

Knowledge and education are factors at the core of socio-ecological transformation. It is the goal of this workshop to discuss the current and future role of tertiary educational institutions concerning questions of economic growth and

a societal transformation towards sustainability. The workshop also tries to give stimuli to carry on the insights into a future discussion after the conference.

## Beyond Growth and Post-Growth Are people and the environment being left behind?

**v**  
LC – Galerie

Organised by: Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen-Adria-University Klagenfurt

Until now, discussions about Sustainability Transitions are polarized between those acknowledging economic growth as a precondition to address social and environmental problems (such as unemployment or ) and those questioning the possibility or desirability of further growth, discussed under labels like Post-Wachstum or Degrowth. The session will bring both sides into discussion by scrutinizing arguments

for ecological limits to growth at one hand and to discuss the challenges that emerge from questioning economic growth at the other. The aim of the session is to contribute to an integrative approach towards Social-Ecological Transformations, dedicated to combine social and ecological dimensions of the current debate.

## Sustainable Leadership in Times of Crisis Are people and the environment being left behind?

**i**  
AD – Sitzungssaal 1

Organised by: B.A.U.M. Austrian Network for Sustainable Leadership

These are the questions we are going to discuss with the participants of the B.A.U.M. dialogue: How do entrepreneurs operate in times of crisis? Will politicians recognize the limits of growth and stop undesirable developments? Are people and the environment being left behind when economic growth is stagnant, unemployment is rising and social inequalities grow? Are there any answers and examples of sustainable leadership in business and politics?

In a discourse with senior executives from national and international companies as well as a dedicated politician who is trying to set necessary boundaries, we want to collectively address these issues and find approaches for a sustainable policy and corporate governance.

Welcome to the B.A.U.M.DIALOG “Sustainable leadership in times of crisis”.

**v** lecture

**i** interactive format



# TRANSFORMATION

## Steps Towards a Sustainable Society



AD – Sitzungssaal 2

Organised by: Initiative Growth in Transition, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management  
Initiative »Gutes Leben für Alle«  
Degrowth-Netzwerk  
Ines Omann

In a first step we want to ask people what they already know, have heard about and think of the initiatives Growth in Transition (GiT), Degrowth and Good Life for all (GLFA).

Then we want to shortly present the three initiatives (GiT, Degrowth, GLFA), their institutional background, history, goals and above all, their perspectives on growth and approaches towards changing society.

For the rest of the time we want to discuss (in an appropriate formats like fishbowl, world cafe, small groups, etc.) with all participants questions such as: What are necessary steps towards a sustainable society? Which of the steps are problematic, which can be agreed on easily? What can initiatives like GiT, GLFA and Degrowth do, where are limitations?

*Workshop held in English.*

## Urban Transition

Re-thinking urban quality of life Part II – Discussion



AD – Sitzungssaal 5

Organised by: Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology  
Austrian Society for Environment and Technology

Follow-up with a discussion based on the lectures previous held (*see page 4*).

## Equal Opportunities = More Power!

Equality between women and men in the energy sector



AD – Sitzungssaal 6

Organised by: Austrian Society for Environment and Technology  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

The equality between women and men in working life is an essential aspect of quality of life under the gender focus. It is about equal access to leadership positions, but also about the general conditions for work-life-balance for both genders. The energy sector in Austria is currently in change (energy transition, decentralization of energy supply, development of renewable energies etc.).

This change-energy (sic!) can be used to achieve improvements also in terms of equal opportunities.

In the workshop we will present recent data on equal opportunities in the energy sector, introduce good practices concerning equal opportunities in companies and discuss possible entry points for change



# TRANSFORMATION

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2016 17:00–19:00

## Distributive.In.Justice How to manage the socio-ecological transformation?

V

LC – Festsaal 2

Organised by: Vienna University of Economics and Business  
Environment Agency Austria

A transformation towards sustainability is only possible if ecological, social and economic factors are considered simultaneously. Especially when concerning the question of economic growth, it is evident, that well-informed (scientific) knowledge is needed in order to face the fundamental ecological and economic processes of change. The session discusses these multifold problems with a perspective on

distributional issues. Economic and also a “ecological” distribution are important factors influencing the functioning and also acceptance towards a sustainable transformation of society. In this session we bring together relevant knowledge and expertise from work of the Environment Agency Austria as well as the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

## Economics in Transition? Economic Answers to Environmental Crises

V

LC – Clubraum

Organised by: The Society for Pluralism in Economics Vienna  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

How can economics contribute to solve ecological crises as climate change, decrease of biodiversity, resource depletion or marine pollution? What are the different economic approaches? Where are the limitations of the current economic

theories and models in handling the environmental challenges that our societies are facing today? New approaches in different institutions to a different understanding of economics will be displayed in this slot.

## UN Sustainable Development Goals Austria as a »Developing Country«?

V

LC – Galerie

Organised by: Federal Chancellery | Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management | DKA Austria Catholic Children’s Movement | Paulo Freire Zentrum

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 is believed to reshape the international cooperation in main policy fields. Its core the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) apply in contrast to the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also to the wealthy industrialised countries. They should help to

transform all economies towards a socially and environmentally acceptable economy. What is the potential of the SDGs and how could they be implemented on global, regional and national levels? Will they lead to a new, more sophisticated understanding of economic growth?

## Energy Transition accomplished A View from the Future

i

AD – Sitzungssaal 1

Organised by: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

The transition of energy systems is necessary due to the threats of climate change and limited availability of fossil fuels. In fact, the transition is already happening. The specific characteristics of energy systems in the future are directly linked to our lifestyle and economy. In this workshop, we strive to address the process itself as well as the possibilities and obstacles of managing energy transition.

Following the starting input from Jürgen Schneider (Environment Agency Austria), we will draft the main milestones of energy transition in Austria and put ourselves in a future setting at which energy transition has already occurred. Looking back, we will then analyze the main challenges and developments from the perspective of different social groups. The goal of this method is to highlight the institutional breakthroughs and surprising aspects of this societal transformation

V lecture

i interactive format



# TRANSFORMATION

## Pathways to Institutional Transformation



AD – Sitzungssaal 2

Organised by: Get Active

At the first day of the conference, we learned about critical systemic boundaries. The relating question is, how to design appropriate transformational processes.

In this workshop, based on examples from experience and dialoguing, we will explore the following topics: How can transformational processes be guided and facilitated? Which competencies are needed on the levels of individuals,

organizations, communities, states and country governments? What is needed in policy- and decisionmaking-processes as well as in the collaboration between disciplines, parties and departments? How to unleash enough creativity to enable a social and peaceful transformation? How can we generate creative solutions, that are accepted by the broad population?

## Colours of Happiness

Five Principles of successful change – Reading and interview with the authors



AD – Sitzungssaal 6

Organised by: B.A.U.M. Austrian Network for Sustainable Leadership

Dodo Kresse and Kurt Völkl will present their latest book “Colours of Happiness – The 5 principles of successful change.” The reading of the authors, followed by interviews, will be a contribution to the theme of the conference day

“transformation” and touches our personal desire to realize change in our lives. “Nothing has to stay the way it is!” This idea leads us to the 5 principles for successful change, a concept created by Kurt Völkl and Heinz Peter Wallner.

## EuroBAR (Transformation)



EA – Comida y Luz Cocktailbar

Organised by: European Environmental Office

How to bring in line economic prosperity, quality of life and the preservation of our environment.

Questions we will try to answer: How have you experienced 20 years of Austrian EU-membership? What developments give you reason for concern, which ones reason for

optimism? How would you assess your own decisions? What are your limits? How much influence do you really have? How would you evaluate developments in the areas of REFIT and Better Regulation in the environmental context?