

CLIMATE CHANGE AND VULNERABILITY: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social scientists are more and more involved in climate impact research due to the increasing focus on vulnerability and adaptive capacity of regions, social groups and individuals. Regional conditions to adapt to climate change differ due to the specific social vulnerabilities of the inhabitants. At the same time, regional vulnerabilities are themselves affected by larger societal framework conditions. Initially the research focused merely on developing countries whereas more recently research on the vulnerability of regions in industrial countries has emerged (like the German BMBF-KLIM-ZUG projects). This tendency gives additional reasons for an in-depth discussion of the concepts of vulnerability and adaptation and their interrelation, which are crucial for social science adaptation research.

Thus in the workshop we would like to discuss

- in which relation climate risks, vulnerability and adaptation capacity are conceptualized and what the implicated explanations are;
- the connection of adaptation research and practice in ongoing transdisciplinary networks and its impacts for vulnerability studies;
- in which way vulnerable groups and vulnerable regions are defined and valued within climate research, hazard research, and development research;
- and how vulnerability approaches of social sciences (bottom up-perspective) and natural sciences (top down-perspective) are connected

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Prof.Dr.Christoph Görg (UFZ Leipzig, University of Kassel)
Dr.Sybille Bauriedl (University of Kassel)

FOR REGISTRATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION FEE IS 25 €.

17th & 18th November 2010
International Workshop

Climate Change and
Vulnerability

Perspectives from the Social
Sciences



17TH NOVEMBER 2010
PUBLIC OPENING LECTURES

4 pm, Gießhaus, Kassel University

INTRODUCTION

Christoph Görg (UFZ Leipzig, University of Kassel)

WELCOME ADDRESS

Alexander Roßnagel (vice president of Kassel University, head of Competence Centre for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation at Kassel University)

Christoph Scherrer (Globalization and Politics, University of Kassel)

KEY NOTE SPEECHES

Climate Change and Vulnerability: Perspectives of Political Ecology

Timothy Forsyth (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Challenges of Climate Change in Chile

Jorge Rojas Hernández (Universidad de Concepción, Chile)

CliMA BUFFET 6 pm, Gießhaus

Get together

18TH NOVEMBER 2010
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

KLIMZUG Building, Kurt-Schumacher-Strasse 2,
2nd floor room 2214)

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE 9 am - 9.15 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP 9.15 am - 9.30 am

Sybille Bauriedl (Kassel University)

KEY NOTES AND DISCUSSIONS 9.30 am - 11.00 am

Chair: Christoph Görg (UFZ Leipzig)

Vulnerability and Climate Change from a North-South Perspective: Conceptions and Approaches

Kristina Dietz (Free University Berlin)

Climate Vulnerability in the Bio-Bio Region

Gerardo Azocar García (Universidad de Concepción)

Ignorance and Vulnerability: The 2002 Flood in the City of Eilenburg (Saxony, Germany)

Christian Kuhlicke (UFZ Leipzig)

COFFEE BREAK 11.00 am - 11.30 am (moving to session room)

PARALLEL SESSIONS 11.30 am - 1.00 pm

Dimensions of a) Space, b) Discourse and c) Justice in Climate Vulnerability Research

a) Session on Spatial Perspectives: Mapping and Assessing Vulnerability to Multiple Stressors

KLIMZUG Building, 3rd floor, room 4402

Chair: Heidi Wittmer (UFZ Leipzig)

Input: Jörn Birkmann (UNU Bonn), Marta Bruno Soares (University of the West of Scotland), Torsten Grothmann (PIK, University of Oldenburg)

b) Session on Climate Discourses: Framing Climate Vulnerability in the Context of Dominant Discourses like Global Security, Climate Refugees and Adaptation Costs

KLIMZUG Building, 2nd floor, room 2214

Chair: Sybille Bauriedl (University of Kassel)

Input: Michael Flitner (artec Bremen), Tim Forsyth (LSE London)

c) Session on Climate Justice: Vulnerability as a Highly Contested Dimension of Climate Politics

KLIMZUG Building, 1st floor, ICDD room

Chair: Ines Dombrowski (DIE Bonn)

Input: Heike Köckler (University of Kassel), Jeanette Schade (University of Bielefeld), Andrea Santelices Spikin (Universidad de Concepción)

LUNCH AT RESTAURANT Arkadash

1.00 pm - 2.30 pm

CONTINUATION OF THE THREE PARALLEL SESSIONS ON SPACE, DISCOURSE, AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

2.30 PM - 4.00 AM

COFFEE BREAK 4.00 pm - 4.30 pm

DISCUSSION OF SESSION CONCLUSIONS 4.30 pm - 6 pm

Chair: Christoph Görg (UFZ Leipzig, University of Kassel)

END OF WORKSHOP

6 pm

Optional at 7.15 pm: City Tour from KLIMZUG building to Fulda river (ending at Orangerie)

CONFERENCE DINNER AT Orangerie

8 pm