



4th Workshop on Adaptation Research in Social Sciences

Implementer, Networker, Governance Facilitator?
Challenges and conceptual frameworks of social sciences
in interdisciplinary climate adaptation research

– Call for Papers –

6th April 2011, Hamburg, Germany

HafenCity University Hamburg (HCU) is hosting the 4th Workshop on Adaptation Research in Social Sciences on 6th April 2011. Since 2009, network meetings in Leipzig, Oldenburg and Bonn have been serving as a platform for discussions amongst social scientists on the issue of adaptation. It is now time to take stock: the Hamburg workshop will investigate challenges and conceptual approaches in social sciences in the field of interdisciplinary research on climate adaptation.

Workshop Theme

Social science based research on climate change adaptation is frequently conducted in diverse interdisciplinary research consortiums that include natural, engineering and social sciences. Frequently these research frameworks involve actors from political, administrative and planning institutions as well as private companies, and both non-governmental and citizen organizations. Within these joint projects, social scientists are confronted with a variety of methods, practices and professions. While social scientists track their own research agenda, they also fulfil specific functions in these interdisciplinary settings. More often than not both are linked to implementation (e.g. successful enforcement of adaptation measures), networking (e.g. bringing together involved stakeholders) and governance (e.g. formal and informal arrangements contributing to the steering and regulation of climate adaptation).

Contributions may include any of the following topics

1.) Climate adaptation research as an interdisciplinary issue

- **Interplay of social, natural and engineering sciences:** Within interdisciplinary adaptation research frameworks different cultures, paradigms and prospects encounter one another; social sciences meet climate science, coastal engineering, urban and regional planning, urban or landscape design, nature protection, hazard and disaster research, etc. What are the opportunities and challenges of these possible interactions?
- **Interdisciplinary reflections on key concepts of adaptation research:** Different disciplines use and conceptualize adaptation related terms, such as adaptive capacity, climate knowledge, resilience, risk, and vulnerability, in a variety of ways. What is our contribution to these frameworks and how do these frameworks contribute to social sciences?

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2) Conceptual/ Methodological Frameworks

• **Governance as an analytical framework:** Governance is a buzzword in social sciences. The concept can serve as an analytical framework to examine governance modes and instruments in adaptation to climate change. How do we analyze potential changes in governance? Do concepts like Environmental Governance, Regional Governance, Reflexive Governance or De-Institutionalization help to understand adaptation processes?

• **Governance as prescriptive and normative concept:** Some approaches tend to move from descriptive tools (analysis) to prescriptive (management) support or normative guidance (e.g. Earth System Governance, Transition Management or Adaptation Communication). What research questions and methods are urgent in climate adaptation research to accompany this movement? Which concepts contribute to climate adaptation governance?

Submission Procedure

Paper proposals are welcome and all will be considered for the workshop programme. Abstract submittals (max. 300 words and five key words) will be accepted until 21st February 2011. Participants will be informed about the acceptance of their paper after 2nd March 2011. Registration with/without paper contribution is possible until 16th March 2011. Workshop language is English. There is no registration fee.

Abstract deadline

21st February 2011

Abstract submission

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Review Panel

- HCU Climate Team
- Speaker of the Network Adaptation Research in Social Sciences
- Research Center of Biotechnology, Society, Environment (University of Hamburg)

Registration Procedure

Registration deadline

16th March 2011

Registration and organizational inquiries

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Organisation

Workshop-Organizer

HafenCity University Hamburg, Urban Planning and Regional Development Team: Prof. Jörg Knieling, Jannes Fröhlich, Martin Krekeler, Philipp Schuster

Location

HafenCity University Hamburg, Urban Planning and Regional Development
Averhoffstraße 38, D-22085 Hamburg