

## ISOE-Newsletter Social Ecology, December 2008

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#### Highlights

##### 01\ ISOE Report 2008

As every year we have published the Institute's annual report. It aims to inform friends, supporters and the interested public about our current research work and its perspectives. The report provides a swift overview on our projects as well as on our publications and co-operations.

For in-depth information please visit our newly arranged Internet presence where you will also find excerpts of the report in English in an electronic version.

<http://www.isoe.de/ftp/report2008.pdf>

##### 02\ ISOE is Partner of the LOEWE-Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre

In September 2008 the Hessian minister of science Silke Lautenschlaeger officially inaugurated the new LOEWE-Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre in Frankfurt.

It is funded by the federal state of Hesse's offensive for the development of scientific and economic excellency (LOEWE).

The research centre aims to deliver scientific contributions to the management and mediation of climate change induced alterations of biodiversity on a local and global level.

The following co-operation partners represent a unique interdisciplinary approach:

- Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum
- Goethe-University Frankfurt
- German Meteorological Service
- European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE)

The specific contribution of the ISOE is to guarantee that results will flow into reliable prognosis and concrete recommendations for action.

[http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/bik\\_f.htm](http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/bik_f.htm)

##### 03\ ISOE is Partner of the Global Water Partnership

The Global Water Partnership is a renowned international network that links a multitude of organisations involved in water resources management – from government institutions, agencies of the United Nations, professional associations, non-governmental organisations, to community groups and research institutions. ISOE is honoured to contribute with its research experience on developing integrated approaches to water resources management. With its current focus on Western Africa ISOE assists local authorities and stakeholders in developing management strategies that draw upon the integrated water resource management concept.

More information about the project: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/cuvewaters.htm#final>

More information about the Global Water Partnership: <http://www.gwpforum.org>

#### **04\ Water Infrastructures: International Interest in Transformation Management**

Experts from Australia, China, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel and the USA took part in the international discussion on "Sustainable Urban Water Infrastructure - Possibilities of Adaptation and Transformation" in September in Berlin. They confirmed that the intended transition of water infrastructures is of high relevance and should be pursued internationally. Thus they confirmed investigations by ISOE scientists within the framework of the project: "Transformation Management for a Sustainable Water Infrastructure" which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

For further information: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/wassertrans.htm>

#### **05\ Project: Leisure Traffic in Urban Areas in Switzerland- Main Leisure Mobility Styles were Identified**

The main goals of the projects were to quantify the key figures in leisure travel and in people's behaviour during their leisure time in order to estimate the significance of leisure travel within urban areas and to work out potentials of shifting traffic towards public transport and walking or cycling. With the approach of mobility styles developed by ISOE preferences for leisure activities, attitudes and travel behaviour were investigated. Four main leisure mobility styles were identified.

For each of these four mobility styles, a strategy and measurements were developed.

Further information: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/swissmob.htm>

#### **06\ Project: Water 2050 - First Results**

The water market is globalizing. A tendency towards more competition is detectable on local as well as on national markets. German corporations are competing with those from abroad. Whilst French, British and American firms in the water sector are considered market-leaders, the German water branch is reputed as laggard – wrongly as an international comparison undertaken in "Water 2050" proves.

Further information: <http://www.water2050.de/forschung/ergebnisse.htm>

#### **07\ Project: Energy Efficient Refurbishment of Private Homes – First Results**

The project is developing a comprehensive approach to enable and motivate private home owners in Germany to energy efficient refurbishment. Results from a qualitative survey on home owners were presented at the workshop: "Energy Efficiency and Renewables in Buildings – Challenges, Parameters and Successes from a British and German Perspective" which was jointly organised by the German Federal Energy Agency and the British Embassy in Berlin on 5. December 2008.

Further information: [http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/enef\\_h.htm](http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/enef_h.htm)

#### **08\ Zero-Emission-Mobility – First Results**

The Project is developing a target group specific communication campaign in order to motivate people to cover short distances more often by foot or bike. First results indicate that the three steps: Information – Emotion – Action lead the way to behavioural change.

Further information: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/zeroemisson.htm>

#### **09\ New Project started: "Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving in Low Income Households"**

In recent years, private households have been facing a sharp rise of electricity and heating prices. In particular, households with low income are suffering from rising energy costs. Until today, only few approaches exist to disburden these households. The research project analyses and assesses strategies to assist low income households to reduce their electricity costs.

Further information: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/energyeff.htm>

## **10\ Announcement: PERN -Cyberseminar on "Theoretical and Methodological Issues in the Analysis of Population Dynamics and Supply Systems"**

From February 2-13 2009 the Population-Environment Research Network (PERN) and the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) will carry out an online seminar to examine the theoretical and methodological aspects of research into the population-environment nexus.

Issues to be addressed in this seminar include: 1) State of the art on conceptual frameworks; 2) Methodological issues related to theory (scale, integrated analysis, normativity, inter and transdisciplinarity); and 3) Combinations of different approaches.

More information: <http://www.isoe.de/english/spectrum/cyberseminar.htm>

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## **New publications**

### **11\ Pharmaceuticals for Human Use: Options of Action for Reducing the Contamination of Water Bodies — a Practical Guide**

The report summarises the main results of the transdisciplinary research project "Management Strategies for Pharmaceutical Residues in Drinking Water" which was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

It mainly addresses decision-makers in politics and administration as well as from companies and organisations concerned. It provides information and concrete recommendations on where options of action can apply and which aspects should be observed when implementing individual measures.

Further information: <http://www.start-project.de/english.htm>

### **12/ Village-Scale and Solar Desalination Technology Experience in Namibia**

The homonymous CuveWaters Paper presents results from ongoing research work of the project "Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Northern Namibia Cuvelai-Etosha Basin – CuveWaters" funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

It identifies the critical issues and aspects that need to be considered for the further introduction and dissemination of village-scale desalination systems in rural Namibia and beyond.

Further information and download: <http://www.isoe.de/english/projects/cuvewaters.htm>

## **13/ Further New Publications**

Deffner, Jutta / Goetz, Konrad (2008): Integration of Communication into Planning to Create a Sustainable Mobility Culture. In: Meschik, Michael / Sammer, Gerd (Hg.), 4th International Symposium on Travel Demand Management. "Visions, Concepts and Experiences of Travel Demand Management". July 16-18 2008 Vienna - Semmering, Austria. Symposium Proceedings. Vienna, 116-126

Deffner, Jutta/Clarence Mazambani/Patrick Klintonberg/Komeine Nantanga/Petra Moser Norgaard/Mary Seely (2008): Selected results from socio-ecological participatory situation assessments in two sites in Central Northern Namibia. CuveWaters Paper No 3. Frankfurt am Main

Goetz, Konrad / Deffner, Jutta / Stiess, Immanuel (2008): Does the social-ecological lifestyle concept show paths towards more sustainable consumption patterns? Virulent aspects of lifestyle research for sustainable change management. In: Daub, Claus-Heinrich / Burger, Paul / Scherrer, Yvonne (Hg.), Creating Values for Sustainable Development. Proceedings of the 2nd International Sustainability Conference. August 21-22 2008 Basel, Switzerland. Basel, 1-3

Kluge, Thomas / Moser-Nørgaard, Petra M. (2008): Innovative water supply and disposal technologies as integral part of Integrated Water Resources Management: an example from Namibia. In: Int. J. Water, Vol. 4, Nr. 1/2, 41-54

Liehr, Stefan (Hg.) (2008): Driving Forces and Future Development Paths of Central Northern Namibia. In: Burns, Michael / Weaver, Alex (Hg.), Exploring Sustainability Science. A Southern African Perspective. AFRICAN SUN MeDIA, 433-469

Schultz, Irmgard / Stieß, Immanuel (2008): Linking sustainable consumption to everyday life. A social-ecological approach to consumption research. In: Tukker, Arnold / Charter, Martin / Vezzoli,

Carlo (Hg.), Perspectives on radical Changes to Sustainable Consumption and Production. System Innovation for Sustainability, Nr. 1. Sheffield: Greenleaf Publishing Ltd, 288-300

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### About Us

Michaela Kawall who was editor of this newsletter for several years started her new position as deputy press spokeswoman at the University of Applied Sciences in Darmstadt on the first of October. Since November 2008 Birgit Kullmann is her successor.

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