

ISOE-Newsletter Social Ecology, June 2008

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Highlights

01\ Population Dynamics and Supply Systems. A Transdisciplinary Approach

Demographic developments and their possible consequences are increasingly gaining interest for science, politics, media and society. While industrial nations are facing declining populations and aging societies, developing countries must cope with urbanisation, migration and population growth. With respect to sustainable development the challenge is to deal with how many people are living at which place at a given point of time, and which needs they possess. Supplying the population with elementary goods such as food and water in a socially just and ecologically safe manner becomes a major task. The new publication "Population Dynamics and Supply Systems" presents the central findings of the interdisciplinary junior research group "Demographic trends, needs & supply systems (demons)" which analysed the complex interactions between population dynamics and transformations of water and food supply systems. Against the background of a jointly developed theoretical framework the book presents empirical case studies in selected regions in Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa from pre-historic times up to the present and identifies specific problem constellations. Innovative solutions are introduced in order to enhance the capability of supply systems to adapt to demographic changes.

http://www.isoe.de/ftp/publikationen/Handout_dh_population.pdf

The book is published by Campus: <http://www.campus.de/isbn/9783593385457>

Distribution throughout the world except Germany, Austria and Switzerland by "The University of Chicago Press": <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/hfs.cgi/00/282352.ctl>

Find further information on the interdisciplinary junior research group demons: <http://www.demons-project.de>

02\ International Perspectives on Transdisciplinary Research Approaches

The 1st international conference within the funding programme Social-Ecological Research of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research "Long-Term Policies: Governing Social-Ecological Change" took place at the end of February in Berlin. Its aim was to create a forum for transdisciplinary research with respect to long-term policies from various fields. Within the semi-plenary session "Transdisciplinarity Research Approaches to Social-Ecological Change – an International Perspective" organized by ISOE, the Social-Ecological funding programme and included subjects, concepts and approaches were introduced and discussed. http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2008/papers/bc2008_Jahn.pdf

The conference papers respectively presentations are available for download on the conference' website: <http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2008/download.htm>

03\ Energy Saving by Intelligent Measuring and Feedback Systems

By receiving an energy bill only once a year one is hardly able to track the reasons for an increase in consumption. The principle of feedback might be of great help to the customers giving short-term information on energy consumption and costs. A specific display or internet information could show when the energy consumption is increasing or when it is at a low level. By monthly comparisons of energy consumption one could also learn to deal more efficiently with domestic appliances. Within a new joint project three research institutes work together with nine practice partners investigating the question how user-friendly information and communications systems can help private customers to expand their knowledge for "intelligent" handling and behaviour towards a more sustained energy consumption.

Further information on the new project: <http://www.iso.de/english/projects/intelliekon.htm>

04\ Pharmaceutical Residues: How to Effectively Lower Occurrence in the Environment

At the international conference "Sustainable Pharmacy" at the end of April experts met from science and industry as well as representatives from administration, water management, health care and environmental research to discuss how pharmacy can become more sustainable. The growing problem of environmental impacts of pharmaceuticals can only be solved with an integrated strategy that combines the development of more sustainable products, with the environmental-conscious handling of medicine on the part of physicians, pharmacists and patients and the optimisation of municipal waste water treatment. This conclusion was drawn by the conference organisers from "Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU" (German Federal Foundation for the Environment), University Hospital Freiburg and ISOE.

Find out more within the press release following up the conference:

http://www.iso.de/ftp/presse/Prsust_pharmacy.pdf

Conference contributions can be downloaded at: http://www.dbu.de/550artikel27307_147.html

Further information on the research project "Management Strategies for Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water – start": <http://www.start-project.de>

05\ Year of Sanitation

To put the spotlight on sanitation, the UN General Assembly declared the year 2008 the International Year of Sanitation. Its goal is to raise awareness and to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to reduce the proportion of the 2.6 billion people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 by 50%. Northcentral Namibia which has been hit by floods in the first quarter of 2008 shows exemplarily the importance of flood secure sanitation concepts in order to cope with climate change effects emerging today. The international research project 'CuveWaters' is working on the development and implementation of a concept for an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), in order to improve the living conditions for the population in the Cuvelai-Etосha Basin via innovative and adapted water technologies. You will find further information on the project "Integrated Water Resource Management in the Cuvelai-Etосha-Basin" on the project's website: <http://www.cuvewaters.net>

06\ Motivating and Enabling Private Home Owners for Energy Efficient Refurbishment

Around 14.5 million single and double occupancy houses in Germany are holding a considerable potential to save energy and cut down CO₂-emissions. But until now many private home owners appear to be reluctant to energy efficient refurbishment. Besides insufficient market transparency the lack of information and inadequate incentives for investments constitute major obstacles in this respect. To tackle these obstacles a new joint research project will develop an integrated and target group oriented policy and advisory approach aiming to activate and motivate private home owners to carry out energy efficient measures to modernise their buildings.

Further information on the new project: http://www.iso.de/english/projects/enef_h.htm

07\ Sustainable Consumption and Production

The 12th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (erscp2008) in September 2008 in Berlin will be part of the 5th Forum for Sustainability organised by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The overall goals of the international conference at the interface of science, industry, public authorities and politics are to facilitate innovations and to promote sustainable consumption and production by challenging participants' projects, ideas and approaches and by stimulating debate regarding their contribution to sustainable development. The main issues of the conference will be sustainable housing and construction in Europe, sustainable

supply chain management, sustainable production and resource efficiency and sustainable energy supply and consumption. More information on the upcoming conference:

<http://www.fona.de/en/6067>

New Publications and Downloads

08\ Handbook of Transdisciplinary Research

The “Handbook of Transdisciplinary Research” which has just been published by Springer introduces the different tasks of transdisciplinary research as well as conceptual and methodological approaches for solutions and illustrates them by giving concrete projects in a national and international context. Matthias Bergmann’s and Thomas Jahn’s article “CITY:mobil: A Model for Integration in Sustainability Research” looks at the project ‘Strategies for a Sustainable Urban Mobility’ as a good example of successful integration work. Researchers from a number of different disciplines, as well as planners from two model cities, formed the research group CITY:mobil and cooperated within this project to develop innovative research methods, on the one hand, and planning tools aimed at a more sustainable mobility in cities, on the other. The project was designed to integrate planning and technical aspects as well as economic, ecological and social goals. Read the full article under: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/publikationen/bm_thj_hb_transdis_res2008.pdf

Further information on the Handbook is available under:

<http://www.springer.com/environment/book/978-1-4020-6698-6>

09\ Social-Ecological Research - Framework Concept 2007-2010

The framework concept of the Social-Ecological Research funding programme has been revised and presents outlines goals, context, objectives and funding instruments of the funding programme. The Social-Ecological funding programme was set up by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in 1999. The experiences made in the first phase of the funding programme and especially the results of the programme evaluation carried out in 2005 were an essential basis for the revision of the original concept in order to outline the concept for the second funding phase from 2007 to 2010. The revised framework concept is available in an English version: http://www.sozial-oekologische-forschung.org/_media/SoeF_Broschuere_internet.pdf

Find out more about the funding programme and its projects under: <http://www.sozial-oekologische-forschung.org/en/index.php>

10\ Problem Transformations in Transdisciplinary Research

The article “Transformations of Social and Ecological Issues into Transdisciplinary Research” by Egon Becker which was published 2002 by the UNESCO/EOLSS in “Knowledge for Sustainable Development. An Insight into the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems. Volume 3” has been updated. The revised version “Problem Transformations in Transdisciplinary Research” is available for download: http://www.isoe.de/ftp/beitrag/EB_eolss.pdf

Further information on EOLSS you will find under: <http://www.eolss.org>

11\ Linking Sustainable Consumption to Everyday Life

The EU-funded network “Sustainable Consumption Research Exchanges” (SCORE) which consists of around 200 experts from the field of sustainable innovation and sustainable consumption has just published the first book in the series “System Innovation for Sustainability 1”. The book examines what sustainable consumption and production is and what it could be, provides a state-of-the-art review on the system innovation policy perspective and looks at the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches. The article by Irmgard Schultz and Immanuel Stieß “Linking Sustainable Consumption to Everyday Life: a Social-Ecological Approach to Consumption Research” outlines a conceptual and methodological framework for social-ecological consumption research, linking lifestyle analysis to the study of everyday behaviour and environmental impact assessment. Based on this framework, a typology of nutrition styles and their environmental impact is presented, resulting from a representative survey about nutrition habits in Germany.

More information on the book you will find on the website of Greenleaf Publishing:

<http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/productdetail.kmod?productid=2590>

The abstract of the article by Irmgard Schultz and Immanuel Stieß is available under:

<http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/greenleaf/abstractpopup.kmod?productid=2706>

12\ Further New Publications

Brugnach, Marcela/Andrew Tagg/Wim J. de Lange/Florian Keil (2007): Uncertainty Matters: Computer Models at the Science–Policy Interface. *Water Resources Management*. 21(7), 1075-1090

Kluge, Thomas/Ulrich Scheele (2008): Private Sector Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation. In: Waltina Scheumann/Susanne Neubert/Martin Kipping: *Water Politics and Development Cooperation*. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 205-226

Kluge, Thomas/Stephan Liehr/Alexandra Lux/Petra Moser/Steffen Niemann/Nicole Umlauf, Wilhem Urban (2008): IWRM Concept for the Cuvelai Basin in Northern Namibia. *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*. V. 33 (2008), 48-55

About Us

Electronical newsletter “Social Ecology” of the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) (twice a year). To unsubscribe please send an email to isoenews@isoe.de with the reference “unsubscribe isoenews”. If you wish to receive the electronical newsletter free of charge please order at <http://www.isoe.de/english/service/newsform.htm>
Technical support: hansen@isoe.de

Editorial staff:

Michaela Kawall (ViSdP), email: kawall@isoe.de;
Engelbert Schramm, email: schramm@isoe.de;
Petra Hansen (webmaster), email: hansen@isoe.de

Institut fuer sozial-oekologische Forschung (ISOE)
Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE)
Hamburger Allee 45
D - 60486 Frankfurt am Main

Tel. +49 - 69 - 70769190
Fax +49 - 69 - 707691911
info@isoe.de
URL: <http://www.isoe.de>