

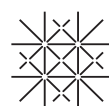
3<sup>rd</sup> PhD Summer School

# RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Conceptions of Sustainability –  
and How They Shape Research



July 18<sup>th</sup>– July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
University of Basel, Switzerland



University  
of Basel

*msd*

# RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Conceptions of Sustainability – and How They Shape Research**  
July 18<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, University of Basel, Switzerland



## Content

In science we encounter overwhelming diversity of sustainability conceptions. The international PhD Summer School 'Research on Sustainable Development' helps to find way through this thicket: How do researchers in my discipline conceive sustainability? How do these conceptions frame my own thinking and research? What understandings are predominant in other disciplines? How can I harness these conceptions to rationalise my research and to spot research gaps? What pitfalls should be avoided when thinking and talking about conceptions of sustainability?

The PhD Summer School provides a platform to discuss such questions in a highly interdisciplinary and inspiring atmosphere. The participants will learn how to deal with the diversity of sustainability conceptions and will acquire a profound and differentiated basis for substantiated contributions in sustainability sciences. Distinguished guest speakers will give inputs and comment on the participants' presentations.

The PhD Summer School will be highly interactive. Participants will receive a certificate of participation and 3 ECTS. The course will be held in English.

## Benefits

Participants will:

- get to know the relevant scientific understandings of sustainability;
- discuss and elaborate approaches to deal with the manifold understandings;
- clarify conceptual assumptions regarding sustainability in order to make original research contributions;
- experience the rich interdisciplinary discourse in sustainability sciences among PhD students and learn how to locate their own research in this wide context;
- get to know finely selected international PhD students who research in the context of sustainability.

## Target group

Advanced PhD students from any discipline who research in the field of sustainability and who are passionate about furthering the interdisciplinary discourse.

## Contributions of participants

The PhD Summer School is highly interactive and requires active attendance from the participants, including:

- an oral presentation, commented by senior researchers and peers;
- presentation of a poster on your understanding of sustainability in your research;
- preliminary writing of a text on your scientific understanding of sustainability;
- preliminary reading of preparing texts.

## Guest speakers

Our guest speakers are recognized experts in sustainability sciences and are renowned for their ability to think outside disciplinary boxes.

### Natural Sciences

Prof. Dr. Konrad Steffen, director of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) – climate scientist well known for his outstanding research on the effects of global warming in the Arctic.

### Economics

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Buchholz, University Regensburg and Research Professor at the Ifo Center for Energy, Climate and Exhaustible Resources, University of Munich – environmental economist with a critical and creative mind.

### Social Sciences

Prof. Dr. Susan Baker, Cardiff School of Social Sciences and Co-director of the Sustainable Places Research Institute of Cardiff University – expert in theories of sustainability with broad experience in practical issues such as governance, climate change and biodiversity.

## Organizers and Contributors from the University of Basel

- Prof. Dr. Patricia Holm, Dep. of Environmental Sciences, Program Man-Society-Environment
- Prof. Dr. Frank Krysiak, Dep. of Economics, Environmental and Energy Economics
- Prof. Dr. Paul Burger, Dep. of Social Sciences, Sustainability Research Group
- Dr. Marius Christen, Dep. of Social Sciences, Sustainability Research Group

## Application

To apply, send the following documents by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2016 to [marius.christen@unibas.ch](mailto:marius.christen@unibas.ch):

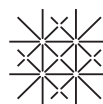
- a letter of motivation including your affiliation and your year of PhD (max. 200 words);
- a description of your PhD research concerning the following questions (max. 400 words):
  - What is the aim of your PhD research?
  - In what respect is your PhD contributing to sustainability sciences?
  - What methods do you use?
- one full paper of your PhD research (draft or published)

The number of participants is limited to 15. There will be no attendance fee. Travel expenses and board and lodging are up to the participants. For participants with low income there will be support for local lodging possibilities.

## Contact

Dr. Marius Christen, [marius.christen@unibas.ch](mailto:marius.christen@unibas.ch)

For further information please consult:  
[www.msd.unibas.ch/en/home/studies/phdschool.html](http://www.msd.unibas.ch/en/home/studies/phdschool.html)



University  
of Basel

msd