

Booklet of conference sessions

Calls for abstracts and papers



Forum 2023

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Session title	Mining and Biodiversity: Prospects for a Sustainable Extraction of Raw Materials	
Session-ID	1.1	
Topic	Biodiversity	
Hosts	Vera Braun & Prof. Dr. Remmer Sassen, Technische Universität (TU) Dresden, Internationales Hochschulinstitut (IHI) Zittau	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Mining remains an important economic factor in the tri-border-region Czech / Germany / Poland, but it directly affects the environment and its biodiversity. For example, with lignite mining regions of Northern Bohemian Basin, Lusatia, and Lower & Upper Silesia are Czech, Germany, and Poland the three largest coal producers in Central Europe. On the one hand, the international agreement of “phasing down coal power” of the Glasgow Climate Change Conference in 2021 and countries’ plans to exit lignite mining, e.g., in Germany, bring new chances to restore biodiversity and to consider biodiversity in times of economic transition. On the other hand, energy transition raises the demand for transition minerals and therefore new ore mining projects. This requires biodiversity-friendly mining procedures. Biodiversity management helps companies to reduce their negative impact on biological diversity. However, most mining companies fail to implement biodiversity management strategically at all stages of a mining project, so that biodiversity concepts for mining projects are mostly non-existent, weak, or not transparent. To apply environmental regulations, to gain the social license to operate, and to manage the complexity of biodiversity knowledge, mining companies cooperate with civil society actors, public authorities, and scientists.</p>	
Guiding questions	<p>Consequently, this session aims to build up know-how and create ideas for future integration of biodiversity management in mining projects from a multi-stakeholder perspective. This session can deal with the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are common or contradictory risks and opportunities of mining projects for biodiversity, economic development, and society? • How can increasing awareness of companies, public authorities, and civil society actors lead to a more biodiversity-just accomplishment of mining projects? • How can stakeholder dialogue and cooperation lead to strategic biodiversity management of mining projects? • How can biodiversity be strategically implemented in the phase of mine closure and the development of post-mining landscapes? • What challenges and good practices for biodiversity management of mining projects exist from different actors’ perspectives? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam, N., Azizi, L., Bärsch, S., Braun, V., Junge, L., Kopp, S., Lin Feuer, Y., Sassen, R. & Seidel, B. (2023). Enhancing Corporate Biodiversity Management through Reporting and Stakeholder Engagement: A Systematic Literature Review. Zittau: Working Paper. 2. Borial, O. & Heras-Saizarbitoria, I. (2017). Corporate commitment to biodiversity in mining and forestry: Identifying drivers from GRI reports. <i>Journal of Cleaner Production</i>, 162: 153-161. 3. Piria, R., Arcipowska, A., Bausch, C., Hockenos, P., Müller-Kraenner, S. & Ondrich, J. (2014). Greening the Heartlands of Coal in Europe. Insights from a Czech-German-Polish Dialogue on Energy Issues. Prague: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. 4. Schaltegger, S. & Beständig, U. (2010): <i>Handbuch Biodiversitätsmanagement. Ein Leitfaden für die betriebliche Praxis</i>. Berlin: BMU. 5. Schulz, S. & Schwartzkopff, J. (2018). <i>European Lignite-Mining Regions in Transition. Challenges in the Czech Republic and Germany</i>. Prague: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. 	

Session title	Biodiversity Management in Higher Education Institutions	
Session-ID	1.2	
Topic	Biodiversity	
Hosts	Dr. Leyla Azizi & Prof. Dr. Remmer Sassen, TU Dresden, IHI Zittau	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Protection and preservation of biodiversity is one of the great challenges for humanity as human well-being depends greatly on the diversity of genetics, species, and ecosystems, the three essential elements that form biodiversity. Universities contribute to the social, economic, and cultural development of the regions in which they operate, by transferring knowledge and technologies to business sector and to society. In addition, higher education institutions actively work to reduce the negative impacts of their own actions and operations, which might be mitigated by biodiversity related measures. However, although many universities worldwide have done much research and launched reports regarding sustainability, there is still a lack of literature focusing on biodiversity.</p> <p>Thereby this session aims at (but is not limited to) explicitly addressing the current state of the art, delivering good practice examples, identifying drivers and obstacles in implementation, describing challenges, delivering guidance, developing new approaches to biodiversity management, and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the higher education sector (esp. SDGs 14 and 15). Furthermore, it aims at shedding the light into reporting on and assessment of biodiversity in higher education, integration of biodiversity topic into curriculum and research projects, stakeholder involvement and building strategic partnerships, organizational capacity building to develop biodiversity management, identification of biodiversity related processes within the sustainability transitions, and differences in biodiversity integration across countries.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could be suitable approaches to biodiversity management in HEIs? • What could be suitable indicators for reporting on and assessment of biodiversity in HEIs? • How could biodiversity management be integrated in curriculum and research? • How can stakeholders be involved in biodiversity management in HEIs? 	
Special Issue	<p>Contributors of this sessions have the opportunity to aim for publication in the special issue call for papers from the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education (IJSHE):</p> <p>Biodiversity Management in Higher Education Institutions</p>	

Session title	Ecosystem Services – Concept, Indicators and Assessment Examples	
Session-ID	2.1	
Topic	Ecosystem Services	
Hosts	Dr. Karsten Grunewald & Dr. Ralf-Uwe Syrbe, Leibniz Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung (IOER) Dresden	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>The demand for ecosystem-based information and indicators is increasingly developing. In the EU-countries, the mapping and assessment of ecosystems followed the basic recommendations of the European MAES working group ("Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services"). Based on several scientific studies, a comprehensive and integrated knowledge for the nationwide assessment of ecosystems is now available. Furthermore, the System of Environmental Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounts (UN SEEA-EA 2021) plays a central role in the development of standardised methods for indicators of ecosystem service and national accounting systems.</p> <p>In our session, an overview on the ecosystem services concept and important terms will be given. Following, we want to discuss the steps of ecosystem assessments: their extent, condition, services, and according accounts. The monitoring of ecosystems' area provides the basis for the assessment of ecosystem conditions and services. We'll give an outline of corresponding indicators and want to discuss the possibilities of their implementation, focusing on the urban and landscape planning context.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which ecosystems in which condition provide which services (potential assessments)? • Which ecosystem services are in demand, where and by whom (flow assessments)? • Which ecosystem service indicators are widely accepted and used in practice? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burkhardt, B.; Maes, J. (Eds.) (2017) Mapping Ecosystem Services. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia 2. Grunewald, K., Bastian, O. (Hrsg.) (2023) Ökosystemleistungen - Konzept, Methoden, Bewertungs- und Steuerungsansätze. 2. aktualisierte und stark erweiterte Auflage, Springer-Spektrum, Heidelberg DOI : 10.1007/978-3-662-65916-8. 3. Oudenhoven, A.V.; M. Schröter; E.G. Drakou; I.R. Geijzendorffer; S. Jacobs; P.M. van Bodegom; L. Chazee; B. Czúcz; K. Grunewald; A.I. Lillebø; L. Mononen; A.J.A. Nogueira; M. Pacheco-Romero; C. Perennou; R.P. Remme; S. Rova; R.-U. Syrbe; J.A. Tratalos; M. Vallejos; C. Albert (2018) Key criteria for developing ecosystem service indicators to inform decision making. Ecol. Indicators 95, 417-426. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolind.2018.06.020 4. Syrbe, R.-U.; Grunewald, K. (2017) Ecosystem service supply and demand – the challenge to balance spatial mismatches. Int. J. of Biodiversity Sc., Ec. Services & Management 13 (2) 148-161. 5. UN-SEEA (2021) System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA). White cover publication, pre-edited text subject to official editing. Available at: https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting 	

Session title	Ecosystem Services in Pond Landscapes	
Session-ID	2.2	
Topic	Ecosystem Services	
Hosts	Prof. Dr. Irene Ring, André Tiemann & Linda Rogge, TU Dresden, IHI Zittau	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Shallow lakes and ponds provide valuable habitats for species and are often hotspot areas of biodiversity. Furthermore, they provide a variety of ecosystem services, such as provisioning (e.g., macrophytes, algae, fish), regulating (e.g., water retention, flood control, climate regulation) and cultural (e.g., recreation, cultural heritage, education) services. This applies to natural small-scale freshwater ecosystems as well as man-made pond landscapes. The latter have often been shaped by several hundred years of aquaculture such as carp pond farming, e.g., in Upper Lusatia in Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic or Austria.</p> <p>However, such pond landscapes and the services they provide are facing several challenges. For instance, increasingly long periods of drought, caused by climate change, are leading to disruptions in the water balance and a decreasing water level. A discharge of nutrients into waters, caused by for instance agricultural land use, has led to eutrophication in many European standing waters and is causing a change in species composition. Another challenge, especially related to ponds used for fish farming, is that these water bodies must be constantly managed and maintained, otherwise risking siltation. However, the number of actively managed pond farms is decreasing and future pond management cannot be ensured, therefore risking a loss in accompanying plant and animal species as well as ecosystem services provided.</p> <p>This session invites experts from different disciplines to present and discuss research regarding the relevance of pond landscapes and the ecosystem services they provide, outlining both ecological and economic challenges and discussing ways to preserve these valuable landscapes.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the ecosystem services provided by pond landscapes? • What is the status of assessing such services? • What are the ecological and economic challenges to preserve pond landscapes? • Which policy options exist to address these challenges? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Janssen, A. B. G., Hilt, S., Kosten, S., de Klein, J. J. M., Paerl, H. W., & Van de Waal, D. B. (2021). Shifting states, shifting services: Linking regime shifts to changes in ecosystem services of shallow lakes. <i>Freshwater Biology</i>, 66(1), 1–12. https://doi.org/10.1111/fwb.13582 2. Lasner, T., Mytlewski, A., Nourry, M., Rakowski, M., & Oberle, M. (2020). Carp land: Economics of fish farms and the impact of region-marketing in the Aischgrund (DEU) and Barycz Valley (POL). <i>Aquaculture</i>, 519, 734731. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2019.734731 3. Plieninger, T., Dijks, S., Oteros-Rozas, E., & Bieling, C. (2013). Assessing, mapping, and quantifying cultural ecosystem services at community level. <i>Land Use Policy</i>, 33, 118–129. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2012.12.013 4. Seitel, C., & Oberle, M. (2019). Ökosystemdienstleistung der Karpfenteichwirtschaft. <i>Fischer & Teichwirt</i>, 11, 409–412. 	

Session title	New Working Competencies as a Challenge for Employers and Employees	
Session-ID	3.1	
Topic	Social transformation	
Hosts	Doc. Ing. Kateřina Maršíková, Technická Univerzita v Libereci	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>The world of work and situation in the labour market has been changing significantly within last years. Both employers and employees are forced to react on digitalisation, remote work issues, current trends in managing knowledge in the hybrid working systems, integration of green and sustainable topics into daily business activities. These changes require to care about training and development of current employees as well as search of new employees with these competencies. Which competencies are needed? What are the future jobs and which jobs will not exist anymore? Current trends and challenges of the labour market in the context of HR 4.0 or HR 5.0 can be included and described within contributions presented in this session. The objective is to bring together experts in the field of managing human resources and discuss perspectives, challenges and trends from the point of view of employees and employers.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the future competencies needed in the labour market influenced by the current trends and challenges in HR. • How digitalisation and IA influences working environment? • Perspective of employees and employers in changing world of work. • What are the sustainable human resource management concepts and competencies? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sims, & Bias, S. K. (2019). Human resources management issues, challenges and trends : now and around the corner (Sims & S. K. Bias, Eds.). Information Age Publishing, Inc. 2. Marr, B. (2022). Future Skills: The 20 Skills and Competencies Everyone Needs to Succeed in a Digital World. Wiley. 3. Murray, J. E. (2019). Current Issues and Trends in Knowledge Management, Discovery, and Transfer. Information Science Reference 4. Gurinder, S. (2023) HR 4.0 Practices in the Post-COVID-19 Scenario. Apple Academic Press. 	

Session title	The Probable Futurity of the Laboring Class (Re-Assessed)	
Session-ID	3.2	
Topic	Social transformation	
Hosts	Prof. Dr. Michael S. Aßländer & Kathleen Klement, TU Dresden, IHI Zittau	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Work is a central element in human life and business organizations. In the past, it has drawn attention from different academic disciplines: economy, politics, sociology, psychology, and current studies in business ethics cover a broad scope of issues like meaningful work, gender pay gap, sweatshops or pay equality. However, many questions remain open in the conversation about human work and further research is necessary.</p> <p>During the 20th century, “being employed” became the default case for the majority of the industrial workforce and constituted the precondition for social security and social participation. However, over the past two decades, work relations have changed dramatically. New phenomena like “gig-economy” or “crowd work” not only constitute precarious working conditions but also contradict with our social esteem of work. The idea of life-long employment now is jeopardized by the social changes in post-industrialized societies, due to the effects of globalized economies, digitalization and changed industrial relations. Businesses have reorganized job content and job dynamics, and many companies have reduced their permanent staff by hiring a temporarily employed workforce. Such precarious employment and differences in income may cause growing inequalities and generate situations of social conflict and, therefore, require careful analysis from a sociological and an ethical perspective.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical and social issues regarding new labor relations • Unemployment, inequality and social conflict • New work relations and social security • Work values and work ethics in the labor relations • Ethical and sociological considerations concerning different work opportunities and payment 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aßländer, Michael S. 2022. Broken promises – The probable futurity of the laboring class (re-assessed). <i>Humanistic Management Journal</i>, 7(2), 259–275. 2. Baldwin, Richard. 2019. <i>The globotics upheaval – Globalization, robotics and the future of work</i>. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 3. Benanav, Aaron. 2020. <i>Automation and the future of work</i>. London: Verso. 4. Kessler, Sarah. 2018. <i>Gigged – The gig economy, the end of the job and the future of work</i>. London: Radom House. 5. Susskind, Daniel. 2021. <i>A world without work</i>. Dublin: Penguin Books. 	

Session title	Collective Action towards Sustainability	
Session-ID	4.1	
Topic	Responsible Management and Governance	
Hosts	Dr. Maria Riegler & Prof. Dr. Markus Scholz, TU Dresden, IHI Zittau	
Call for:	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Our society is currently facing multiple challenges – such as rising geopolitical tensions, worsening global human rights risks, climate change, overageing, etc. – that are often referred to in the extant literature as “grand challenges” or “wicked problems”. In this context, companies play an important double role since they may contribute to exacerbate certain grand challenges, but they can also contribute to tackling them. By their very nature, grand challenges “require coordinated and sustained effort from multiple and diverse stakeholders toward a clearly articulated problem or goal” (George et al., 2016, p. 1881). Building on this idea, collective action has been increasingly discussed as a potentially powerful tool that may help address grand challenges. Collective action comes in many different forms, ranging from cross-sector partnerships, strategic environmental alliances, to social movements. In terms of orientation, collective action aimed at governance (“coordinated action”, i.e., setting standards) can be distinguished from collective action aimed at collaboration and knowledge exchange (“collaborative action”).</p> <p>This session aims to provide a forum to discuss papers on collective action towards sustainability. Contributions may be empirical or conceptual; they may focus on understanding certain aspects of collective action better or on limitations and challenges associated with collective action. Ideas in this context may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the relationship between values and motivations in the context of collective action • Understanding the interplay of the private, public, and civil society sector in the context of grand challenges • The role of individuals in driving collective action • Understanding what is necessary to sustain collective action • Evaluating the effectiveness of collective action • Understanding how actors can be held accountable to their commitments • Reflecting on the legitimacy of company engagement in collective action 	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do actors’ values interact with the motivation to engage in collective action towards sustainability? • How can collective action towards sustainability be sustained over time? • How do the governmental, business, and civil society spheres interact in the context of collective action towards sustainability? • What is necessary for collective action to be effective in addressing sustainability issues? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bowen, F. E., Bansal, P., & Slawinski, N. (2018). Scale matters: The scale of environmental issues in corporate collective actions. <i>Strategic Management Journal</i>, 39(5), 1411–1436. https://doi.org/10.1002/smj.2764 2. Clarke, A., & Crane, A. (2018). Cross-sector partnerships for systemic change: Systematized literature review and agenda for further research. <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>, 150(2), 303–313. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-018-3922-2 3. Dentoni, D., Bitzer, V., & Schouten, G. (2018). Harnessing wicked problems in multi-stakeholder partnerships. <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>, 150(2), 333–356. 4. Gray, B., & Purdy, J. M. (2018). <i>Collaborating for our future: Multistakeholder partnerships for solving complex problems</i> (First edition). Oxford University Press. 5. Ostrom, E. (2010). Polycentric systems for coping with collective action and global environmental change. <i>Global Environmental Change - Human and Policy Dimensions</i>, 20(4), 550–557. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2010.07.004 	

Session title	Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG): A Path of Lights and Shadows for Management and Governance	
Session-ID	4.2	
Topic	Responsible Management and Governance	
Hosts	Matteo Cristofaro, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Nicola Cucari, Sapienza University of Rome, Sibel Yamak, University of Wolverhampton, Patricia Gabaldon Quiñones, IE Business School, Remmer Sassen, TU Dresden, IHI Zittau	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	We call for scientific works able to provide critical insights that companies and managers need to consider for planning, measuring, forecasting, or innovating their conduct and culture, weighing opportunities or threats of ESG factors (Xie et al., 2019; Billio et al., 2019; Murè et al., 2021; Giakoumelou et al., 2022). Both theoretical and empirical papers will provide new insights into the reasons, processes, practices, and implications of ESG in management and corporate governance.	
Guiding questions	<p>We look for works able to answer the following (but not limited to) areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying the concepts of ESG by delineating the boundaries of ESG components in the short and long term, assessing their intersection, and better mapping out ESG research and practice • Benefits and pitfalls of the ESG metrics, measurement issues, proxies for environmental social and governance dimensions, matters regarding transparency and reliability, • Critical assessment of the ESG rating agencies, metrics providers, and ESG information market • Short-term versus long-term implications of ESG and its impacts on sustainable transformation and performance • Going beyond shareholder primacy versus stakeholder perspective dichotomy and exploring new perspectives such as integrative social contracts theory (ISCT) or social mission theory, or critical theories • Digitalization and ESG relationship • The antecedents and consequences of ESG adoption • Assessing ESG in different contexts, such as emerging or transition economies, and investigating how different legal, regulatory, social, and cultural contexts influence ESG understanding and implementation • Understanding the macro (government), meso (organizational attributes, associations), and micro (top management, directors, employees) factors behind the implementation and understanding of ESG 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Billio, M., Costola, M., Hristova, I., Latino, C., & Pelizzon, L. (2021), "Inside the ESG Ratings: (Dis) agreement and performance", <i>Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management</i>, Vol. 28 No. 5, pp. 1426-1445. 2. Giakoumelou, A., Salvi, A., Bertinetti, G. S., & Micheli, A. P. (2022), "2008's mistrust vs 2020's panic: can ESG hold your institutional investors?", <i>Management Decision</i>, Vol. 60 No. 10, pp. 2770-2785. 3. Murè, P., Spallone, M., Mango, F., Marzioni, S., & Bittucci, L. (2021), "ESG and reputation: The case of sanctioned Italian banks", <i>Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management</i>, Vol. 28 No. 1, pp. 265-277. 4. Xie, J., Nozawa, W., Yagi, M., Fujii, H., & Managi, S. (2019), "Do environmental, social, and governance activities improve corporate financial performance?", <i>Business Strategy and the Environment</i>, Vol. 28 No. 2, pp. 286-300. 	

Session title	The Responsible Management and Assessment of Natural Resources – A Resource Nexus Perspective	
Session-ID	4.3	
Topic	Responsible management and governance	
Hosts	Juliane Dziumla & Vera Greschner Farkavcova, United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES)	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>The systemic view of synergies and interactions in environmental resource management is also known as the Resource Nexus, the research focus of the United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES). In the context of regional transformation processes, the Resource Nexus provides a conceptual approach for analysing changes, developing future scenarios and strategies, and evaluating their implementation by considering their impacts on different natural resources. A holistic impact assessment must be included in the planning and implementation phases of projects while engaging all relevant stakeholders. In the future, it will be important in the Euroregion Neisse to manage existing environmental resources, such as water and soil. With the help of an integrated approach, taking synergies and trade-offs between different resources into account it will allow to follow a path of sustainability in the long term. The Euroregion Neisse is already engaging on these topics and can in the future benefit also from the integration of assessment methods.</p> <p>Through selected examples from the region and case studies from other areas, this session will provide participants with an overview of the Resource Nexus and Sustainability Nexus concept, highlight the importance of sustainable assessment and discuss how such a management approach can provide an opportunity for economic and nature recovery for the Euroregion Neisse applying practical assessment tools. This may revolve for a successful transboundary stakeholder dialogue in managing natural resources and how to include assessment methods such as multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA), material flow analysis, life cycle assessment (LCA), input–output models, sustainability indicators and indices, cost–benefit analysis (CBA) into policy- and decision-making.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the state-of-the-art of current integrated resource management concepts, methods and indicators in transformation regions, such as the Neisse Euroregion? • How can sustainability assessment help to facilitate regional transformation, e.g., in Euroregion Neisse? • Are there best practices for involving stakeholder in transboundary transformation challenges? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bleischwitz, R., Spataru, C., VanDeveer, S. D., Obersteiner, M., van der Voet, E., Johnson, C., ... & Van Vuuren, D. P. (2018). Resource nexus perspectives towards the United Nations sustainable development goals. <i>Nature Sustainability</i>, 1(12), 737-743. 2. Kurian, M., & Ardakanian, R. (2015). The nexus approach to governance of environmental resources considering global change. <i>Governing the nexus: Water, soil and waste resources considering global change</i>, 3-13. 3. Mohtar, R. H., Sharma, V. K., Daher, B., Laspidou, C., Kim, H., Pistikopoulos, E. N., ... & Najm, M. A. (2022). Opportunities and Challenges for Establishing a Resource Nexus Community of Science and Practice. <i>Frontiers in Environmental Science</i>, 613. 4. Simpson, G. B., & Jewitt, G. P. (2019). The water-energy-food nexus in the anthropocene: moving from 'nexus thinking' to 'nexus action'. <i>Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability</i>, 40, 117-123. 5. Yi, J., Guo, J., Ou, M., Pueppke, S. G., Ou, W., Tao, Y., & Qi, J. (2020). Sustainability assessment of the water-energy-food nexus in Jiangsu Province, China. <i>Habitat International</i>, 95, 102094. 	

Session title	Life Cycle Innovations for Regional Systems of the Circular Bioeconomy	
Session-ID	5.1	
Topic	Economic transformation	
Hosts	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jakob Hildebrandt, Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	Selected contributions will be invited to submit a full paper to Special Issue within the MDPI Journal Sustainability
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>The cultivation and conversion of biomass resources within rural areas for producing bio-based products, carbon and energy carriers should be fostered under highest regional added value and economic and environmental co-benefits possible for rural entrepreneurs and communities. The process, product and life cycle innovations which are developed and accompanied from life cycle innovation experts in recent times within the framework of the rural bioeconomy are aiming for circular, value-added solutions and for substituting less-sustainable conventional products and production systems.</p> <p>This conference slot aims to bundle the expertise and case study findings which national and international bioeconomy experts could gather when assessing life cycle innovations of the circular bioeconomy, including i.e. the following key areas among further relevant aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product development, process engineering and production planning of conversion systems for natural fibre resources, biogas plants, lignocellulosic feedstock biorefineries and other bio-based product and life cycle innovations • Experts' views and findings on innovation management strategies for rural bioeconomy systems • Life cycle sustainability assessment of industrial and regional bioeconomy strategies and systems • (Dynamic-) energy and material flow analysis and life cycle assessment for assessing bio-based production systems and bio-based products • Integration of Carbon cycle management strategies within the regional bioeconomy by developing in setting strategies for carbon removal within the own bio-based value chains 	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should cross-sectoral innovation for a circular bioeconomy be facilitated for the Lusatia and Oder-Neiße region? • What major process and product innovations are upcoming within the Oder-Neiße region and how can their scale-up been supported? • How can circular bioeconomy lead to absolute impact decoupling and sustainable economic growth and what sustainability criterias need to be ensured in order to deliver on these sustainability goals? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum, MoreBio-Projekt, DBFZ Bioökonomieatlas für das Mitteldeutsche und Lausitzer Revier, https://www.dbfz.de/biooekonomieatlas/start 2. Johannes Rupp, Katharina Heinbach, Jörg Böhmer, Frank Wagener (2020): Ländliche Bioökonomie Diskussionspapier zu einer Begriffsbestimmung, Schriftenreihe des IÖW 70/20, Berlin, 42 Seiten 3. Hildebrandt, J., O'Keeffe, S., Bezama, A., & Thrän, D. (2019). Revealing the Environmental Advantages of Industrial Symbiosis in Wood-Based Bioeconomy Networks: An Assessment From a Life Cycle Perspective. <i>Journal of Industrial Ecology</i>, 23(4), 808-822. https://doi.org/10.1111/jiec.12818 4. Bezama, A., Ingraio, C., O'Keeffe, S., Thrän, D. (2019): Resources, collaborators, and neighbors: The three-pronged challenge in the implementation of bioeconomy regions, <i>Sustainability</i> 11 (24), art. 7235. http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/su11247235 	

Session title	Organization of Business Operations during military Threats and COVID-19 Restrictions	
Session-ID	5.2	
Topic	Economic transformation	
Hosts	Dr. Oksana Makovoz, National Technical University «Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute»	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>War in Ukraine resulted in economic hardships, threatening the sustainability of the business overall. Companies were forced to spontaneously reformat all business processes. Moving to a western part of Ukraine or to other countries was a challenging task for companies especially in February and March 2022. Roads were in traffic collapse and all hotels, apartments were booked. Human capital is the main revenue generator in business and in order to maintain the stream, companies had to address the risk of relocating and accommodating their employees to comfortable conditions so they can continue their work. Also continuing of a pandemic of COVID-19, business had to adapt to sustain in a new restricted condition of social distancing. As the result, most of the companies' budgets moved them investing into IT projects to find a solution to operate online with the minimal physical contact of people. To keep pace, your strategic-planning process has to be flexible enough to deal with high uncertainty. The executives revealed that in the past, their risk management focus was on a small number of well-defined risks, primarily financial risks. They told us that risk now includes a broader change management mandate. It is woven into long-term strategy development at top organizations, helping companies navigate a more dynamic operating environment. Marketing moved online, commerce moved to e-commerce, restaurants shifted to food delivery services, banking - to online banking and fin-tech to keep everybody at home. Facilitation processes as a part of business operations are not an exception here. Understanding the benefits of it in face-to-face meetings, we had to move online to save our ability to operate efficiently as we did before. Many organizations around the world made tactical decisions to utilize online facilitation technics, ensuring the group decision-making process can work even with the fact, everybody is sitting at home and cannot come together because of military threats and COVID-19 restrictions. Questions in this session may revolve around organizing online space to utilize existing facilitation methods with the appropriate tools to keep group dynamics constant.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the impacts and challenges of the war on international business. • How do the expectations within the different kinds of economic cooperation that constitute a company change during wartime? • How does the company itself try to adapt its processes and what are successful strategies of survival for a company that experiences warlike and COVID-19 conditions? • How to organize the online space to utilize existing facilitation methods? What kind of tools and how many do you need to proceed with successful facilitation? What are the must haves for successful online facilitation event? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arriola, C., Cadestin, C., Kowalski, P., Guilhoto, J. J. M., Miroudot, S., & van Tongeren, F. (2023). Challenges to international trade and the global economy: Recovery from COVID-19 and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. 2. Bernauer, V. S., Kornau, A. (2022). E-voice in the digitalised workplace. Insights from an alternative organisation. Human Resource Management Journal. 3. Potosky, D., Azan, W. (2023) Leadership behaviors and human agency in the valley of despair: A meta-framework for organizational change implementation. Human Resource Management Review, Volume 33, Issue 1 4. Rese, A. and Baier, D. (2023), "Community Management in Coworking Spaces", Bouncken, R.B. (Ed.) Awakening the Management of Coworking Spaces, Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley, pp. 111-126. https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80455-029-820231009 5. Sagie, A., Rinott, M. (2022). Shmoodle: Communication through Collaborative Drawing with an Emotionally Controlled Color Palette. Creativity and Cognition. https://doi.org/10.1145/3527927.3535209 	

Session title	Urban Dynamics beyond the Metropolises – Preventer or Driver of Regional Transformation	
Session-ID	6.1	
Topic	Spatial development	
Hosts	Prof. Dr. Robert Knippschild, Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für transformativen Stadtbau (IZS) Görlitz, Leibnitz-Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung (IOER) Dresden	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Urban transformations towards sustainability are often discussed in the context of dynamically developing metropolises and agglomerations. But what about shrinking or shrunken cities, peripherally located or border areas? Are the specific spatial characteristics here drivers or rather preventers of urban and regional transformation?</p> <p>What role do demographic developments and migration, cultural heritage in cities and rural areas, the educational landscape and economic structure, or historical developments play in unleashing transformative capacities?</p>	
Guiding questions	<p>Contributions are welcome on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New assessment of location factors for housing, living and working (digitalisation, covid19 experiences, congestion in agglomerations, societal change in lifestyle, consumer behaviour etc.) • (Re-)Evaluation of urban and rural cultural heritage for transformation • New urban-rural relationships, requirements for inter-municipal (and cross-border) cooperation • Experimentation in cities and regions - opportunities and limitations 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMI & BBSR (Ed.) (2021): Neues Europäisches Bauhaus - Positionen zum Beginn des Dialogs in Deutschland. Berlin & Bonn. https://bit.ly/3JrzSes 2. Umweltbundesamt (Ed.) (2023): Umwelt und Klima schützen – Wohnraum schaffen – Lebensqualität verbessern. Dessau-Rosslau. https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/479/publikationen/2023_uba_pos_wohnraum_bf.pdf 3. Knippschild, Robert; Zöllter, Constanze (2021): Urban Regeneration between Cultural Heritage Preservation and Revitalization: Experiences with a Decision Support Tool in Eastern Germany. In: Land 10 (2021) 6: 547. https://doi.org/10.3390/land10060547 4. Knippschild, Robert; Rößler, Stefanie; Zöllter, Constanze (2020): Renaissance of third-tier cities through in-migration? Assumptions from 'trial residencies' in Görlitz. In: disP - The Planning Review 56 (2020) 1, S. 44-52. https://doi.org/10.1080/02513625.2020.1756630 5. Battis-Schinker, Eva; Al-Alawi, Sarah; Knippschild, Robert; Gmur, Karolina; Ksiazek, Slawomir; Kukula, Marta; Belof, Magdalena (2021): Towards quality of life indicators for historic urban landscapes – Insight into a German-Polish research project 6. In: Environmental and Sustainability Indicators (2021). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indic.2020.100094 	

Session title	Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Regional Sustainable Development	
Session-ID	7.1	
Topic	Technological transformation	
Hosts	Prof. Dr. Namchul Shin, Pace University New York	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>This session provides a research forum aiming to discuss the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for regional sustainable development. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly has launched seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure a better and more sustainable future. The seventeen SDGs balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability. The importance of sustainable development has been recognized in the academia for many years. In his 1987 paper, Barbier said "...the overall goals of environmental conservation and economic development are not conflicting but can be mutually reinforcing." However, GDP, a well-known measure for economic development, ignores individuals and regions, and it also doesn't capture negative externalities such as pollution and poverty. The issue is not whether to develop, but how to develop.</p> <p>Technology plays a critical role for sustainable development; for example, carbon intelligent computing enables load shifting of energy production and usage in time and space, thereby not only lowering carbon emissions, but also yielding high economic returns. However, the challenge is that sustainable development involves not just technical but social or institutional solutions; for example, while people are environmentally concerned and monitor their behaviors with digital devices, they do not necessarily act in ways that are environmentally friendly. Also, much of the behavior that affects greenhouse gas emissions occurs at an organizational scale. Therefore, it is crucial to make changes in institutions, which would influence behaviors, habits, norms, and practices of individuals and organizations. Thus, we encourage research discussing not just the role of ICTs, but also new institutions, cultures, and policies that are needed for regional sustainable development.</p>	
Guiding questions	<p>This session solicits and invites research abstracts from both academics and practitioners across the following topics, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of ICTs for sustainable development goals (SDGs), • ICTs for environmental sustainability, • ICTs and smart cities/villages, • Socio-technical challenges for sustainable development, • The role of smartphones for sustainable development, • Sustainable development and geography (or location), • AI and sustainable development, • Culture changes and institutional changes, • Policies for technologies for sustainable development, • Emerging issues on sustainable development 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barbier, E. (1987). "The Concept of Sustainable Economic Development," <i>Environmental Conservation</i>, 14(2): 101–110. 2. Olavson, T. (2021). "How Data Scientists Can Reduce CO2," <i>Towards Data Science</i>. https://towardsdatascience.com/how-data-scientists-can-reduce-co2-6b3249e0eb61 3. Shin, N. and Dedrick, J. (2021). "Smartphones and Environmental Sustainability: A Country-Level Analysis." <i>The 29th European Conference on Information Systems</i>. 4. Watson, R.T., Elliot, S., Corbett, J., Farkas, D., Feizabadi, A., Gupta, A., Iyer, L., Sen, S., Sharda, R., Shin, N., Thapa, D., and Webster, J. (2021). "How AIS Can Improve Its Contributions to the UN's Sustainability Development Goals: A Framework for Scaling Collaborations and Evaluating Impact," <i>Communications of the Association for Information Systems</i>, vol. 48, article 42, 476-502. 	

Session title	Ecological Research in the Age of Big Data	
Session-ID	7.2	
Topic	Technological transformation	
Hosts	Center for Advanced Systems Understanding (CASUS)	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Recent technological developments have transformed our ability to collect, store, and analyze large amounts of ecological data. These new datasets, together with the analytical tools to process and interpret them, are driving ecology towards being a more quantitative and predictive science, with the potential to change how we understand and manage ecosystems. These changes, however, require ecologists to possess an unrealistically broad skillset. Fully realizing the potential of this new approach therefore requires ongoing dialogue and significant collaboration among experts from field ecology, who design and implement data collection surveys, mathematicians, statisticians, and computer scientists, who develop new analytical tools, and policymakers, who implement conservation measures. This session will bring together people working at all points along this spectrum to discuss how to better integrate ecological research from theory and study design to analysis and application. Both contributions showing how this approach is pursued in certain case studies, as well as those taking a more holistic view, are welcome.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we leverage on technological development on data collection and analysis techniques to guide ecological research? • How to integrate field work, theory and data-driven approaches in ecological research? • How can we overcome traditional disciplinary boundaries to make ecological research more impactful? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martinez-Garcia, R., <i>et al.</i>, (2023). Integrating theory and experiments to link local mechanisms and ecosystem-level consequences of vegetation patterns in drylands. <i>Chaos, Solitons & Fractals</i>, 166, 112881. 2. Nathan, R., <i>et al.</i>, (2022). Big-data approaches lead to an increased understanding of the ecology of animal movement. <i>Science</i>, 375(6582), eabg1780. 3. Runting, R. K., <i>et al.</i>, (2020). Opportunities for big data in conservation and sustainability. <i>Nature Communications</i>, 11(1), 2003. 4. Noonan, M. J., <i>et al.</i>, (2019). A comprehensive analysis of autocorrelation and bias in home range estimation. <i>Ecological Monographs</i>, 89(2), e01344. 5. Hampton, S. E., <i>et al.</i>. (2013). Big data and the future of ecology. <i>Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment</i>, 11(3), 156-162. 	

Session title	The Nature of Upper Lusatia – Changes of Biodiversity due to historical and recent Transformation Processes	
Session-ID	8.1	
Topic	Cultural and nature transformation	
Hosts	Prof. Dr. Willi Xylander & Prof. Dr. Karsten Wesche, Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde Görlitz	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Upper Lusatia is a trinational, historically developed cultural region in Central Europe with an exceptionally species-rich natural inventory. This is due, among other factors, to the gradient of about 800 meters in altitude from the north to the south, the often small-scale coexistence of different habitat and land use types, as well as different micro- and macroclimates. Low human populations in some regions also contribute to high biodiversity and species diversity in general.</p> <p>Pine, oak and quarry forests, heath areas and dunes with open sandy patches, moors, far more than 1000 ponds as well as post-mining landscapes characterize the north of Upper Lusatia, the heath and pond district. The establishment of a biosphere reserve, other nature conservation and FFH areas, funds for nature conservation measures, and an active military training area ensure the protection of numerous rare and endangered species. Fertile loess soils are found in the hill region and the “Gefilde zone” between Lauban and Bischofswerda. This region was almost completely deforested and used for agriculture until the late 18th century. Remnants (or reforestation) of the original beech forests can be found, for example, on the basalt mountains. The Lusatian and the Zittau Mountains are foothills of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains and are characterized by subalpine vegetation and fauna in the summit areas and by species-rich deciduous forests and brooks in the slope and valley areas.</p> <p>The session will present nature inventory in space and time, the ecological causes and drivers for historical and recent transformation processes and their impacts on biodiversity. We will also focus on the value of biodiversity for ecosystem services, national and regional natural heritage and identity-forming element of a cross-border region, and discuss protection and sustainable use concepts.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did biotic and abiotic conditions influence trajectories of land use change in our region? • How did historical land use change feedback on the biotic (and abiotic) environment? Which were and are the major drivers? • What are future perspectives or scenarios for ongoing change in cultural landscapes 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brozio, F. (2014) (Hg.): Die Muskauer Heide. Ein Naturreiseführer. Verlag Iutra; Boxberg, 256 S 2. Konold, W., 1997: Genese und Wandel der Oberlausitzer Kulturlandschaft. - Verh. Ges. Ökologie 27: 35-44 3. Otto, H.-W. [Hg.] (2004): Die Farn- und Samenpflanzen der Oberlausitz. – Berichte der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft der Oberlausitz 12 4. Xylander, W.E.R. & M. Wanner (2006): Impacts for conservation? Biocoenoses on military training areas and lignite mining sites in Lusatia. - Abh. Ber. f. Naturkunde Magdeburg 29: 137-152 	

Session title	How transformational Processes can affect Culture in manifold Ways	
Session-ID	8.2	
Topic	Cultural transformation	
Hosts	Coco Klußmann, TU Dresden	
Call for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Papers
Special note:	In addition to abstract submissions, posters and workshop ideas (short ones!) can be submitted. The invitation is to unfold the topic from different angles – be it academic or artistic.	
Description of the session and its objectives	<p>Culture can refer to the culture of social systems (e.g. country or company) and its adherent expressions like traditions, power relations, communication practices etc. But it can also mean the cultural practices that especially refer to the fine arts or the cultural industry.</p> <p>The latter is one way of displaying cultural interpretations of current societal hot topics and at the same time offers a space for reflecting and discussing these. This session will explore the means and ways of cultural change and changes in culture with respect to a sustainable transition. Connections and interdependencies are highlighted in order to explore framings as well as expressions of sustainable development on the different levels of culture.</p>	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards a sustainable culture or culture(s) of sustainability – how do interdependencies in and between organisations contribute to a broader cultural transformation? • What are good practices of organisations’ adopting a more sustainable culture? • Sustainability and the culture industry – how do arts perform as a means for transformation and as target for transformation? • What is the relation between social sustainability and culture? 	
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barboza, L. L., Bertassini, A. C., Gerolamo, M. C. & Ometto, A. R. 2022. Organizational Values as Enablers for the Circular Economy and Sustainability. <i>Journal of Business Management</i>, 62(5). 2. Galpin, T., Whittington, J. L. & Bell, G. 2015. Is your sustainability strategy sustainable? Creating a culture of sustainability. <i>Corporate Governance</i>, 15(1): 1–17. 3. Kagan, S. 2013. <i>Art and Sustainability – Connecting Patterns for a Culture of Complexity</i>. Transcript. 4. Ketprapakorn, N. & Kantabutra, S. 2022. Toward an organizational theory of sustainability culture. <i>Sustainable Production and Consumption</i>, 32: 638–654. 	