

Announcing a virtual Summer School

Analysing Transformative Processes for the Management of the WEF nexus and the Advancement of the SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa

7-12 March 2021 v. 19 Jan 2021

Organised by Osnabrück University (DE), Rhodes University (SA)
University of Cape Town (SA) and University of Kwazulu-Natal (SA)
Co-hosted online by The Integrated Assessment Society e.V. (DE)

Sponsored

by the Volkswagen Foundation's program

Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa

Purpose

For the past two years, Osnabrück University in Germany together with Rhodes University, University of Cape Town and University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa have been sharing knowledge, approaches and experiences on transformative processes in the context of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany. The project seeks to better understand transformative processes associated with implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the WEF nexus approach.

As a culmination to its transformational learning cooperation, the project partners invite applications from young researchers based in or originating from sub-Saharan Africa together with young researchers from Germany interested in joining its summer school in March 2021. The event will take place online and run from the evening of March 7th to March 12th.

Young academics and practitioners from Africa and Germany will have the opportunity to learn from the expertise and related case studies of highly experienced academics (see p. 5). The summer school will cover conceptual and methodological experience and which have been applied and tested in cases in South Africa. Specifically, the summer school will:

1. strengthen understandings and capacity for enhancing socially transformative processes at the WEF nexus and for inter-sectional SDG engagement;
2. present the newest knowledge consolidated in the two workshops in 2019 and 2020 as well as pre-existing knowledge;
3. facilitate the development of new networks and/or linkages with existing networks; and
4. strengthen international exchange and collaboration by further expanding this research community and its activities among young academics.

Participants

The summer school is aimed at researchers in the early stages of a scientific career. They may be those who, after completing doctorate or post-doctorate research, go on to work for governmental, non-governmental or private sector organizations concerned with natural resources/environmental management. These individuals have the potential to play an important role in supporting decision making as academics or as future managers of natural resources. This summer school is intended to boost the opportunities of these individuals to succeed in their work and influence positive transformations. Emphasis will be placed on attracting female researchers. Participants attending the live session during the week of March 7th 2021 (opening session in the evening) will receive a certificate of completion.

Main Outputs

In addition to knowledge and practical experience, the most important outcomes of this event for participants will be a Sub-Saharan African network of experienced researchers and young academics concerned with processes of transformation in the WEF nexus. Furthermore, the slides and potentially the recordings from the presentations will be made openly available and promoted online. The workshop will contribute practically to the development of the research network and establish stronger links between Germany and the Association of African Research Universities (ARUA) leading energy, climate change, water and food security.

Format

The Transformative Processes Summer School will take place remotely as an online event. The majority of presentations will be prerecorded and made available to registered participants approximately two weeks prior to live online sessions in March during which there will be summaries of their sessions by the presenters, Q&A and discussion sessions and small group work and exercises. A virtual field trip in one or more of the case study areas is also planned.

Application process

The number of participants is limited and will rely on a selection process based on a number of criteria including region/country of origin or current study/employment (with priority given to sub-Saharan Africa & Germany), education, relevant research area, knowledge and experience, interests, gender and English proficiency. Interested individuals are asked to send a **curriculum vitae and letter of motivation with a maximum of 300 words** to Caroline van Bers (cvanbers@uni-osnabrueck.de) and Larissa Koch (larissa.koch@uni-osnabrueck.de) by **Tuesday 26 January, 2021**. There is **no fee** for participants.

Dates

- 15.12.2020: Applications accepted
- 26.01.2021: **Application deadline extended**
- 29.01.2021: Confirmation of participation to selected applicants
- 17.02.2021: Access to prerecorded lectures and slides
- 07.03.2021: Summer School live sessions begin
- 12.03.2021: Summer School ends

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7-12 March 2021

Summer school program

(Provisional v. 19 Jan. 2021)

Sunday, 7 March 2020 - Sessions will be held virtually using Zoom (All times are SAST - UTC+2)

19.00 Welcome and Introductions (1.5 hours)

Heila Lotz-Sisitka (Rhodes University) and Claudia Pahl-Wostl (Osnabrueck University)

- A virtual toast to launch the summer school
- Review of the agenda and logistics
- Short introduction round of all instructors and participants (name & affiliation)
- Small group exchange on each other's **work/interests** and **expectations** for the week.

Monday, 8 March (SAST, UTC+2)

10:00 Introduction to the theme

Transformative approaches for the management of the Water Energy-Food Nexus and the advancement of the SDGs in sub-Saharan Africa

Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka (Rhodes University) and Prof. Claudia Pahl-Wostl (Osnabrueck University)

10:30 Keynote Address: Energy and transformative processes in the context of the WEF Nexus
Dr. Jiska de Groot (University of Cape Town)

11:30 Break (3 hours)

14.30 The conceptual framework

Towards Qualitative Cross-case Analysis of Transformative Processes in the face of Resource Nexus Challenges Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka (Rhodes University) and Prof. Claudia Pahl-Wostl (Osnabrueck University)

Summary of the prerecorded presentation and paper on the conceptual framework including four overarching themes: Catalysing and supporting transformative learning; navigating and transforming power relations; mobilizing individual, collective and relational agency, and, challenging unsustainable structures.

Plenary Q&A and discussion

15:30 Small groups to discuss various aspects of the conceptual framework

17:00 Plenary: reporting back

18:00 Close of day

Tuesday, 9 March (SAST, UTC+2)

10:00 (Virtual) Field trip of the case study areas

Films from the case study areas in South Africa
Michelle Hiestermann (Rhodes University) and Dr. Sabine Stuart-Hill (University of KwaZulu-Natal and University of Koblenz)

12:00 **Break**

14:00 **Applying the concepts to three case studies in South Africa**

- Blyde region, South Africa, Reuben Thifhulufhelwi (Rhodes University)
- uMngeni catchment, South Africa, Kate Pringle (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- Tsitsa project, South Africa, Dr. Matthew Weaver (Rhodes University)

Summary of the *Prerecorded* presentations of the cases

Plenary discussion and identifying questions for small group sessions.

15.30 **Break**

15:45 **Small groups:** Applying framework to the case study to determine where transformation is occurring or has potential, and exploring the applicability to (potential) case studies in other regions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Plenary: reporting back

17.15 **Close of day**

Weds. 10 March (SAST, UTC+2)

10:00 **The role of crises, knowledge, governance and tools in transformations**

- **Crises, shocks and other drivers for transformations**, Nelson Odume (Rhodes Univ.) and Claudia Pahl-Wostl (Osnabriueck University)
- **Knowledge for transformations/ Indigenous knowledge and past knowledge for transformation**, Dr. Richard Meissner (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) and Dr. Jim Taylor (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa)
- **Hybrid governance**, Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Reuben Thifhulufhelwi (Rhodes University)
- **Tools and Processes for Transformation and T-Learning**
Dr. Jessica Cockburn (Rhodes University) and Dr. Sabine Stuart-Hill (University of KwaZulu-Natal and University of Koblenz)

Format: Short summaries of the prerecorded presentations on the themes

Plenary: Q&A and Discussion

11:30 **Break**

14.30 **Small groups:** an exercise on the themes

Plenary: reporting back

16:30 **Close of day**

Thu. 11 March (SAST, UTC+2)

10.30 **Transformative Processes Keynote: New forms of social and environmental governance**

Prof. Lena Partzsch (Institute of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography, University of Freiburg)

Q&A and discussion moderated by Claudia Pahl-Wostl

11:30 **Special session on transdisciplinary research and transformation**

Strengthening transdisciplinarity and contribution to transformation in our own research
Prof. Sheona Shackleton (University of Cape Town) & Prof. Tally Palmer (Rhodes University)

12.30 **Break** (2 hours)

14:30 **Transdisciplinary research continued: A creative exercise** on strengthening the transdisciplinarity and contribution to transformation in our own research

16:30 **Close of day**

Fri. 12 March (SAST, UTC+2)

10:00 Summer school Review

Synthesis of the Summer School sessions

Heila Lotz-Sisitka and Claudia Pahl-Wostl

10:30 Interactive discussion of experiences and insights: What has been learned and how can this be used in your own research? What are potential follow-up activities?
(moderated by Sheona Shackleton)

11:15 Closing words: Sheona Shackleton, Heila Lotz-Sisitka, and Claudia Pahl-Wostl

11:30 Close of Summer school

Sessions led by:

- **Dr. Jessica Cockburn**, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Dr. Jiska de Groot**, African Climate and Development Initiative, Univ. of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Michelle Hiestermann**, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka**, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Dr. Richard Meissner**, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research CSIR, South Africa
- **Dr. Nelson Odume**, Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Prof. Claudia Pahl-Wostl**, Institute of Environmental Systems Research, Osnabrück University, Germany
- **Prof. Tally Palmer**, Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Prof. Lena Partzsch**, Chair of Sustainability Governance, Institute of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography, University of Freiburg, Germany
- **Kate Pringle**, Institute of Natural Resources, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- **Prof. Sheona Shackleton**, African Climate and Development Initiative, Univ. of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Dr. Sabine Stuart-Hill**, Centre for Water Resources Research, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and Institute for Integrated Natural Sciences, University of Koblenz, Germany
- **Dr. Jim Taylor**, Director of Environmental Education, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
- **Reuben Thifulufwelwi**, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Dr. Matthew Weaver**, Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, South Africa

Organisation and moderation:

- **Leigh Cobban**, African Climate and Development Initiative, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Larissa Koch**, Institute of Environmental Systems Research, Osnabrück University, Germany
- **Caroline van Bers**, Institute of Environmental Systems Research, Osnabrück University, Germany
- **Dr. Wilma van Staden**, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa

Contacts

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