

## **Workshop**

### **“Socio-ecological research: The cases of rural development and agro-biotechnology”**

**Location:** ul. Nowoursynowska 166, Stary Kampus SGGW, Budynek numer 8, sala 112

The workshop is organised by Daniela Gottschlich and Dr. Tanja Mölders (Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany) in cooperation with:

Prof. Dr. Hanna Podedworna (Warsaw University of Life Science, SGGW, Poland)

Dr. Piotr Stankiewicz (Institute of Social Science, Nicolaus Copernicus University Toruń, Poland)

Dr. Lutz Laschewski (Alcedo Social Research, Neustrelitz, Germany)

#### **Background of the workshop:**

The workshop is organised in the frame of the socio-ecological research project “PoNa – Shaping nature: Policy, Politics and Polity. Rural development and agricultural biotechnology between criticism and vision” at Leuphana University in Lüneburg (Germany) ([www.pona.eu](http://www.pona.eu)). The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in the context of the Socio-Ecological Research Programme.

The Socio-Ecological Research Programme attempts to establish “Social Ecology”<sup>1</sup> as an interdisciplinary research area, which seeks to combine natural and social sciences in order to identify paths of sustainable development ([www.sozial-oekologische-forschung.org/en](http://www.sozial-oekologische-forschung.org/en)).

PoNa is a so-called junior research group. The project aims to explore policies that shape nature-society interactions in the field of rural development and agro-biotechnologies. It is designed as a comparative Polish-German research project.

The members of the project team have a background in various fields of social and environmental sciences. In the context of the project the workshop seeks to bring together researchers (Rural Sociologists, but also Social Scientists from other fields) as well as political and administrative actors from Poland with the project team. The workshop pursues several objectives:

- To introduce the German programme of socio-ecological research as sustainability research and to inform about the PoNa project.
- To get to know sustainability research approaches and equivalents to socio-ecological research in Poland.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to mention that the terminology is used in a particular notion. Internationally Social Ecology has different meanings including a particular school in the field of urban studies.

- To explore current international developments of rural research that may inform the research agenda of the project.
- To discuss current developments in Polish rural sociology and other fields of social sciences that deal with policies for nature and the PoNa research themes rural development and agro-biotechnology in the light of the former.
- To identify political trends and public discourses in Poland (e. g. industrial agriculture vs. alternative food production systems, globalisation and the governance of agriculture and rural areas, technology and risk governance). To examine possibilities of common (research) interest and possibilities of further Polish-German cooperation among the workshop participants (from science as well as from practice).

In order to facilitate the workshop, the PoNa team has asked Lutz Laschewski to provide an input paper that informs about theoretical development in international rural research. The paper will also formulate some hypotheses, on how far these debates may inform socio-ecological research, but also rural sociological research in Poland. The paper will be circulated in advance to the workshop, so that participants are able to thoroughly discuss the paper, but also to add further issues or different perspectives. Further inputs are

- brief reports about PoNa research activities in the fields of rural development and agro-biotechnology as well as
- statements by participants.

The guiding questions are: What are the specifics of development processes shaping nature, the political debates, but also the academic discourse in the two policy arenas rural development and agro-biotechnology in Poland? In which way can sustainability research/ socio-ecological research in general and the PoNa research-project in particular deal with these specifics conceptually as well as empirically? Which contribution can the PoNa project make to these debates?

## Programme

### 17. March 2011

15.30	Coffee
16:00	Words of welcome Prof. Dr. Alojzy Szymański, Rector of SGGW Prof. Dr. Franciszek Kampka, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
16:10	Introduction by the organizers
16:40	Socio-ecological research: Why do we need it, what's its added value towards others approaches, why it's worth to discuss it?
17:10	Networking – first step
18:00	The PoNa-project and what it is all about: Themes, objectives, research questions, methods
19:00	Dinner

## 18. March 2011

- 8:45 Welcome
- 9:00 “Nature Views and Sustainability in Rural Research: A Review”
- Input from Dr. Lutz Laschewski
- 9:30 Rural Development
- Inputs from PoNa and Prof. Dr. Hanna Podedworna
  - Inputs from Participants
  - Open Discussion
- 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:45 Agro-biotechnology
- Inputs from PoNa and Dr. Piotr Stankiewicz
  - Inputs from Participants
  - Open Discussion
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Final Discussion
- References and Connections between
    - o Rural Development and Agro-Biotechnology,
    - o German and Polish situation,
    - o Research and Political Implications
    - o ...
- 16:00 Follow up: Where to go from here?
- Networking – second step
- 17:00 End of workshop

### Contact Info

For general information and any questions about the programme, contact the Programme Chair: Daniela Gottschlich ([daniela.gottschlich@uni.leuphana.de](mailto:daniela.gottschlich@uni.leuphana.de)) or Dr. Tanja Mölders ([tanja.moelders@uni.leuphana.de](mailto:tanja.moelders@uni.leuphana.de)).

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