

Criteria of sustainability build a central focal point in developing theories of sustainability. By answering the important question of “What to sustain?”, criteria specify the direction of a sustainable development. Further they guide our actions and function as benchmarks for the assessment of the consequences of our actions. This concerns the question of “How to sustain?”. From a scientific perspective, criteria of sustainability are not allowed to be intuitively or dogmatically decided upon – even though this is often the case both in scientific and political practice. Rather their selection ought to be based on a rational foundation.

Starting with the basic assumption that sustainability is based on normative as well as descriptive assumptions, this workshop aims to reflect the fundamentals of criteria and their role in transformation processes.

Consequently, the workshop is structured by the following four questions:

- What influences do considerations of justice and/or good human life have on the formulation of sustainability criteria and on the transformation processes along these criteria?
- What influences do the underlying assumptions regarding the relationship between society and nature have on the conceptions of criteria and on transformation processes?

- How can normative and descriptive aspects in the subject area of sustainability criteria be merged?
- How can instruments for the transformation processes into practice be combined with criteria of sustainability?

This workshop’s emphasis is on the social sciences research in sustainability bringing together an international circle of experts from philosophy, sociology, political science, and economics. It is directed towards the collection and development of new and innovative ideas and thoughts from all these disciplines. The workshop should encourage exchange among them as well as further develop the international discussion.

Participants are required to register with Stephan Schmidt (Stephan.Schmidt@unibas.ch) as the places available are limited. Please register by April 4.

A contribution towards expenses (coffee, lunch) of 30.- CHF will be charged.

Program Sustainability Research
University of Basel, Klingelbergstr. 50, 4056 Basel,
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**International Workshop
7-9 April 2011**

Criteria of Sustainability



UNI
BASEL

Program Sustainability Research
Sponsored by the SNF and FAG

Program

Thursday, April 7

20.00 Apéro (by invitation only)

Caveau Bâle, Gerbergasse 26

Friday, April 8

9.00 – 13.00

Session on the normative foundations

Kollegiengebäude, Petersplatz 1

Fakultätenzimmer

Paul Burger, Alexandra Sauer, Stephan Schmidt & Marius Christen (University of Basel)

Thematic Introduction

Lukas Meyer (University of Graz)

TBA

Lieske Voget (University of Greifswald)

A normative theory of strong sustainability – from normative fundamentals to specific criteria

Frank Krysiak (University of Basel)

An Economic Perspective on Intergenerational Justice, Risk, and Agency

13.15 – 14.00 Lunch

15.00 – 19.00

Session on the descriptive foundations

Biozentrum, Klingelbergstrasse 50, Sitzungszimmer 1067

Rupert Baumgartner (University of Graz)

Strategic perspectives as descriptive basis for sustainability criteria

Frido Brand (ETH Zurich)

A Typology of Approaches to Human-Environment Systems: Theoretical Power and Sustainability Criteria

Arnim Wiek (Arizona State University, by videoconference)

A pragmatic and systemic framework for analyzing communities from an activities-oriented sustainability perspective

20.00 Dinner (by invitation only)

Manger & Boire, Gerbergasse 81

Saturday, April 9

9.00 – 12.30

Session on transformation

Kollegiengebäude, Petersplatz 1
Fakultätenzimmer

Claudia Pahl-Wostl (University of Osnabrück)

Potential and limitations of governing transformations towards sustainable resources management - Experiences from the field of water resources

Frank van Laerhoven (University of Utrecht)

Shifts in environmental governance

Paul Burger (University of Basel)

Concluding words

12.30 Lunch