



Call for papers

Students Conference on Sustainability and the Humanities

*GET INVOLVED IN THE DISCUSSION ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY -
SPEAK YOUR MIND ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THIS FIRST
STUDENTS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY!*

FOR WHOM? M.A. AND PH.D. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A HUMANITIES PROGRAMME AT HAMBURG UNIVERSITY

WHEN? 04/06/2016, 10:00-16:00H (ESA W 221)

HOW LONG SHOULD THE TALK BE? 15 MINUTES + 15 MINUTES DISCUSSION

OBJECTIVES AND TOPIC

THIS STUDENTS CONFERENCE HAS THE OBJECTIVE OF FOSTERING CROSS-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION AMONG **MASTER AND PH.D. STUDENTS, WHO ARE ENROLLED IN HUMANITIES PROGRAMMES AT HAMBURG UNIVERSITY** AND TO STIMULATE EXCHANGE ON TOPICS RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY IN THE HUMANITIES. THE CONFERENCE IS GOING TO BE HELD ON 04/06/2016, WHEN THE „GERMAN SUSTAINABILITY ACTION DAYS“ (DEUTSCHE AKTIONSTAGE NACHHALTIGKEIT) TAKE PLACE.

THE TALKS SHOULD IDEALLY BE RELATED TO ONE OF THE THREE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

SUSTAINABILITY IN NARRATIVES

AUTHORS ACROSS THE GLOBE HAVE PRODUCED NARRATIVES THAT WARN AGAINST TREATING NATURE IRRESPONSIBLY. RACHEL CARSON'S WELL-KNOWN BOOK *SILENT SPRING* (1962) POINTED OUT THE RISKS POSED BY THE PESTICIDE DDT, T. C. BOYLE'S *A FRIEND OF THE EARTH* (2000) OR JEANETTE WINTERSON'S *THE STONE GODS* (2008) DEMONSTRATE DISSUASIVE EFFECTS OF MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION. HOW DOES ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD RELATE TO SUSTAINABILITY AND THE IMBALANCE OF THE ECOSYSTEM? DO AFRICAN ORAL TALES DEAL WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE SAHARA?

STRATEGIES OF SUSTAINABILITY

COMMUNITIES WHERE RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN PRIORITISED OR HAVE FAILED ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO THE THREAT OF DISASTERS SUCH AS FLOODING CAUSED BY THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE. WHAT ACTIONS HAVE GOVERNMENTS OR GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS TAKEN TO COUNTERACT CLIMATE CHANGE? WHAT OPTIONS DO KIRIBATI COMMUNITIES HAVE AGAINST THE THREAT OF RISING WATER LEVELS? WHAT DO FILMS LIKE THE RECENTLY RELEASED GERMAN FILM *POWER TO CHANGE* (2016) ADD TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SUSTAINABILITY?

SUSTAINABILITY AND RELIGION

RELIGIONS SUCH AS CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM ARE BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT HUMAN BEINGS ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOD ON EARTH. THUS, IT IS AN ETHIC PRINCIPLE THAT PEOPLE USE RESOURCES IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER. IN THE LAST DECADES, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS HAVE INCREASED EFFORTS OF COMBINING SUSTAINABILITY AND EDUCATION. ON THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, SEVERAL ACTIVITIES CAN BE MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT, SUCH AS WATER CONDITIONING, RECYCLING AND FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY. HOW DO RELIGIONS SEE GLOBAL WARMING AND ARE THERE EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE EFFECTS? TO WHAT EXTENT DO RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN DIFFERENT WORLD REGIONS EXERT INFLUENCE ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES?

OTHER TOPICS ARE POSSIBLE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AND WE CAN DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES. TALKS CAN BE DELIVERED IN ENGLISH OR GERMAN.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT OR TOPICS BY 23/05/2016 TO JUNIORPROFESSOR DR. MONIKA ARNEZ (MONIKA.ARNEZ@UNI-HAMBURG.DE).