

Workshop

Sustainability Economics

June 13–15, 2010 | Berlin, Germany

Sustainability Economics Group, Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany

Synthesis Research Economics for Sustainability, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Germany

Background

The vision of sustainability aims at *justice* concerning the opportunities of employing natural resources, goods and services for the satisfaction of human needs and wants. This includes *intergenerational* as well as *intragenerational* justice. - Economics, in the modern interpretation of the term, aims at *efficiency*, that is non-wastefulness, in the use of scarce resources.

There is a widespread and increasing feeling among both economists and society at large that economics should address issues of *sustainability* in the way how humans act towards nature and how they are responsible towards one another and future generations. While there are individual contributions of some economists to the discussion of specific aspects of sustainability, so far neither a unifying idea (notion, concept) nor concrete structures (scientific community, institutions, curricula, conferences, etc.) of something like *sustainability economics* do exist – at least not to any significant extent.

Interpreting currently existing economic contributions in view of the overall idea of sustainability, one could argue that the emerging field of sustainability economics can be defined by four core attributes:

1. Subject focus on the relationships between humans and nature.
2. Orientation towards the long-term and inherently uncertain future.
3. Normative foundation in the idea of justice, between humans of current and future generations as well as between humans and nature.
4. Concern for economic efficiency, understood as non-wastefulness, in the allocation of natural goods and services, their human-made substitutes and complements, and human resources such as labour or knowledge.

Aims and Scope of the Workshop

Against this background, the workshop aims at a discussion of the question: “What is sustainability economics?”, or better: “What could sustainability economics be?”, and “What should it be?”

The aims of the workshop are threefold:

1. To identify unifying and defining characteristics of sustainability economics, starting from the preliminary definition given above.
2. To propose conceptual frameworks for, and to probe components of, sustainability economics.
3. To identify key research questions and research needs, as well as to explore fruitful research perspectives for sustainability economics.

The workshop brings together a small and focused group of approximately 25 participants, including nine confirmed speakers, in a stimulating environment for an intensive and fruitful discussion.

Confirmed Speakers

Lucas Bretschger	ETH Zurich, Switzerland
Geoffrey Heal	Columbia University, USA
Richard B. Howarth	Dartmouth College, USA
Ann Kinzig	Arizona State University, USA
Frank Krysiak	University of Basel, Switzerland
Charles A. Perrings	Arizona State University, USA
John Roemer	Yale University, USA
Jeroen C.J.M. van den Bergh	Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
Arild Vatn	Norwegian University of Life Sciences, As, Norway

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Venue



The workshop will take place at the office of the Helmholtz Association in the centre of the German capital Berlin, at the bank of the river Spree. The conference location in the historical heart of the city, next to the Berlin Cathedral and Museum Island, provides a friendly atmosphere and a unique environment which should build the basis to stimulate fruitful discussions and productive research.

Accommodation is arranged at one of Berlin's most exiting hotels: The "park inn Berlin-Alexanderplatz" (<http://www.parkinn-berlin.de/default-en.html>).



Program

Sunday, June 13, 2010

till 6:00 pm	arrival and check-in
6:30 pm	welcome reception
7:30 pm	dinner

Monday, June 14, 2010

morning	scientific program
afternoon	social event

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

full day	scientific program
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Wednesday, June 16, 2010

till 11:00 am	check out
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Hosts

The workshop is organized jointly by the *Sustainability Economics Group* of *Leuphana University of Lüneburg* (head: Stefan Baumgärtner) and the *Synthesis Research group Economics for Sustainability* at the *Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ*, Germany (head: Reimund Schwarze).

More information at: <http://www.leuphana.de/seg>
<http://www.wi-n.org/en/index.php>

Scientific organizers

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