



**Gerechte Nachhaltige Entwicklung
auf Grundlage des Capability-Ansatzes
(Fair sustainable development
based on the capability approach)**



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of Education
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'Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' (WCED 1987)

Closing workshop Presentation of Case Studies & Concepts, GeNECA-data and First Analyses

13-14 May 2013, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg, Germany

The workshop aims at presenting the latest findings of our research and presenting the data on capabilities, sustainability related behaviour and attitudes gathered as part of the innovation sample of the socio-economic panel (SOEP-IS).

The first day concentrates on the case studies and conceptual questions that have arisen in the course of the project. The case studies comprise (1) a study of community currencies: Do community studies enhance sustainable quality of life?, (2) a study on a conflict concerning nature conservation in Leipzig from a capability perspective and (3) a study on corporate SHD impacts based on the CA: lessons of the Bayer CropScience Model Village Project in India. The conceptual questions concern (a) the relation between needs-based conceptions of sustainability such as Max-Neef's and a capability-based conception of sustainability and (b) the issue of agency in general and group agency in particular.

The second day is dedicated to presenting the data collected and the analyses conducted in the context of GeNECA. The data was collected as part of SOEP-IS and comprises answers to a broad range of questions that concern quality of life, capabilities, sustainability actors, sustainability and justice attitudes and environment-friendly behaviour. Analyses in GeNECA have focused on (1) an actors' based public choice perspective on sustainability, (2) quality of life, freedom and capability and (3) understanding sustainable consumption.

The workshop further aims at reviewing the whole project and pointing to open questions that deserve further research.

We invite interested colleagues to attend the workshop and participate actively in discussions! Participation is free of charge, but we ask for registration since the number of seats available is limited.

Registration

If you want to attend, please send an email to o.lessmann@hsu-hh.de. The workshop can only accept a limited number of attendants and attendants will be selected in a first-come first-serve order. There is no funding available, but we are happy to confirm the participation in this research workshop.

Aims and objectives of the research project GeNECA

Sustainability policy has to consider the interdependencies of human life and nature; it has to meet the high moral standards of intra- and intergenerational justice set by the Brundtland Commission in 1987; and, finally, it has to motivate people to behave accordingly. This is quite a challenging task that often is responded to in a too simplistic way. Current sustainability science and civic engagement often focus on the environmental dimensions and herewith on intergenerational justice.

The Capability Approach is a leading paradigm in development economics that has informed development policy during the last 20 years. With its focus on human development it has highlighted the interaction between social and economic development. The issue of intragenerational justice constitutes an ongoing motive within the Capability Approach, but intergenerational justice and environmental concerns have often been left out of its scope.

The project GeNECA aims at conceptualizing sustainable development on the basis of the Capability Approach so as to combine the issues of inter- and intragenerational justice drawing on an integrated understanding of social, economic and environmental development. Resuming the spirit of the Brundtland commission, GeNECA puts the needs and capabilities of people all over the world, now and in future into its focus.

On the basis of conceptual reflections, current sustainability indicators will be complemented by capability-based indicators. The concept will further be used in case studies on various areas of governance to prove its usefulness in decision processes. A feedback mechanism will be installed to amend the conception to the demands of applicability.

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Coordination

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