

Call for Papers

“Governance for Industrial Transformation”

2003 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change

Berlin, 5-6 December 2003

The Environmental Policy and Global Change section of the German Political Science Association (DVPW) and its partners invite papers for the 2003 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, to be held in Berlin on 5-6 December 2003. This year's discussions will address the theme “Governance for Industrial Transformation”. The 2003 Berlin Conference has been endorsed by (IHDP-IT), and is organised by the Environmental Policy Research Centre of the Freie Universität Berlin. Additional support is provided by the SUSTIME Project of the University of Applied Sciences Lausitz and partners, the Global Governance Project (glogov.org) of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the Freie Universität Berlin and Oldenburg University, and the German Association for Ecological Economic Research (VÖW e.V.).

The Need for Industrial Transformation

Current patterns in the production and consumption of goods, energy and services fail to meet basic requirements of environmental sustainability in both industrialised and developing countries. The use of natural resources and the utilisation of the environment as a sink for emissions exceed tolerable rates, and most producers and consumers are still able to externalise costs caused by their emissions or by the extraction of materials at the expense of future generations or of other world regions. Although some indicators point to an increasing decoupling of economic growth from environmental degeneration, most observers agree that this is not sufficient for sustainable economic and environmental conditions. A more comprehensive industrial transformation towards sustainability is hence needed, in particular in the richer countries of the North. But what forms of governance are likely to pave the way for such transformation?

Problem perceptions and policy approaches: Market versus State Failure

Some scholars view market failure as the chief cause of the problem. They see the state as the appropriate actor with sufficient capacity and legitimacy to correct these failures. Others argue, however, that in addition to market failures, the limited capacities of governments to intervene in market activities are part of the problem. They claim that ‘state failure’ results from conflicting policy objectives for governments to protect the environment and to further economic growth and employment at the same time. In addition, governments often lack the necessary information and knowledge required for the effective and efficient correction of market failures.

Governmental regulations therefore at best support the ecological modernisation of economies by redirecting modernisation processes towards environmentally sounder technologies. Ecological modernisation alone, however, will not overcome structural rigidities, and in many cases, its achievements are compensated, and often overcompensated, by economic growth.

The conclusions based on this state failure diagnosis vary considerably. Some scholars stress the need to better involve other stakeholders to compensate insufficient state capacities. Others hope that in the long run, autonomous trends of technical modernisation will automatically reduce emissions. A third group of studies stresses the deficits of traditional command and control but also simple incentive based policies. More complex strategies, often in an evolutionary spirit, such as strategic niche management, transition management, or recently “time strategies” and other types of innovation policies and ‘ecological industrial policy’ which build on and aptly use and modulate ongoing innovation dynamics and rely more on the interaction of political and broader societal forces, have been advocated for. Yet it is open if these strategies are likely to bring about the necessary changes.

The Core Challenges

Given this dilemma of simultaneous market and state failure, the 2003 Berlin Conference aims at bringing together new and innovative research in this field — in particular with an empirical emphasis — that indicates possible pathways for the successful governance of industrial transformation processes. We invite papers that address one or several of the following issues:

1. **History:** Case studies that draw on historical experiences with the management of industrial transformation and the stimulation of ecologically friendly innovations and markets: What were the driving forces — autonomous market mechanisms, state regulation, or a combination of both? What conclusions can be drawn regarding the dynamic nature of economic and political development, in particular with a view of economic globalisation and a possible retreat of the capacity of states to act?
2. **Foresight:** What methods are available to forecast future patterns of production in order to devise and implement appropriate policies as early as possible? Which indicators are necessary and available for the application of foresight methods?
3. **Scope:** What should be the scope of industrial transformation? Are efficiency improvements as a result of modernisation processes a sufficient condition for industrial transformation? Are markets or governments the proper institutions to cope with this requirement? Or are the options for change limited for example by deeply rooted cultural norms, consumer (and voter) preferences or the infrastructure. Which policies are likely to address these issues successfully?
4. **New Generation of Strategies and Instruments:** In how far are evolutionary strategies such as strategic niche management, transition management or time strategies likely to bring about the necessary changes? Are the so-called 3rd generation instruments that build on collaboration and information — such as the eco-management and audit scheme, sustainability reporting of companies or voluntary agreements — likely to contribute to the required changes, and under which institutional settings, incentive structures and actor constellations is

this the case?

5. **Multi-actor and multi-level Governance:** What institutions, actors, strategies, instruments are most likely to bring forward substantial changes in the relationships between societies and the natural environment? Which governance structures are promising to provide a sustainable use of regional and local resources? Are dialogues between industry and environmentalist NGOs an effective and legitimate instrument to regulate a globalising industry? Which other actors (e.g. financing services, consultants or trade unions) are able to intervene successfully in favour of, or as an impediment to an industrial transition? What role can international organisations play in this respect? How can the different levels from global to regional be co-ordinated?

Plenary speakers include

Rainer Baake (State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety); **Prof. Dr. Pier Vellinga** (IHDP-IT), **Prof. Dr. Martin Jänicke** (Freie Universität Berlin), **Prof. Dr. Stefan Zundel** (University of Applied Sciences Lausitz), **Dr. René Kemp** (MERIT); **Prof. Dr. Jan Rotmans**, Director ICIS, University of Maastricht; **Prof. Dr. Marina Fischer-Kowalski**, member of the IHDP-IT Scientific Steering Committee, University of Vienna (t.b.c.); **Dr. Frans Berkhout**, Director of the Sustainable Technologies Programme, University of Sussex; **Prof. Dr. Nicholas Ashford**, Director of the Technology and Law Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; **Ashok Jaitly M.A.**, Rural Energy Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi

How to Participate

The 2003 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change is the third of its kind in Germany. The last meetings, in 2001 and 2002, each gathered around 200 participants from all over the world for intensive two-days debates. While the Berlin Conferences have so far been organised by the German Political Science Association, we also seek dialogue with colleagues from economics and other fields of the social sciences. Furthermore, we welcome representatives of natural and integrative sciences. The conference will be held in English. Prospective paper-givers should send an abstract of their paper that outlines the main argument, method and finding of the research to the conference office (BC2003@zedat.fu-berlin.de). The submission must include name, affiliation and address of the author(s) and must not exceed 300 words. Longer abstracts will not be considered for review and will be discarded without further notice.

Deadline

The deadline for submissions is 15 July 2003. All paper and panel submissions will be reviewed before being accepted for the conference programme. We will send out decisions on acceptance of papers by 14 August 2003. We expect all presenters to e-mail the final version of their paper by 15 November. Full papers submitted earlier will be posted on our web site to initiate early discussion.

Financial Support

We are making all efforts to ensure funding to reimburse the travel costs of some paper presenters. For earlier conferences, generous donor support allowed us to reimburse parts of the travel costs of many non-German participants, with special consideration of participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and for more junior colleagues.

Further Information

Further information about the 2003 Berlin Conference will be posted at www.environmental-policy.de.

For questions or suggestions, please contact

- Bianca Barth, manager, 2003 Berlin Conference [BC2003@zedat.fu-berlin.de]