



Dr. Sarah Kessler
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DR. SARAH KESSLER

RESEARCH INTERESTS climate cultures, social theory, social movements, societal change, environmental sociology, sustainability research, practice theory, science communication and digital ethnography

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

From March 2023, Assistant Professor at the Institute for Social Change and Sustainability, WU Vienna

2018 – 2023 LMU (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität), Department of Geography

09.2022 – 02.2023 Postdoctoral Researcher (on maternity leave), research project BAYSICS

09.2018 – 08.2022 Researcher and Doctoral Candidate, research project BAYSICS

Qualitative multi-method study (interviews, media analysis, focus groups) of diverging climate-cultural orientations in German society

Thesis: Competing Climate Cultures in Germany: how differences in responsibility, efficacy and knowing result in variations of collective denial

09.2016 – 09.2020 PlanetPaket – Founder of eco conscious start-up, cradle to cradle-certified wrapping paper, successful exit in 2020

Small local eco responsible business for paper products, built up from scratch

09.2016 – 08.2018 BIMobject Deutschland GmbH (part time) Internal project manager

01.2014 – 08.2016 ZMM Zeitmanager München GmbH Project Manager

EDUCATION

10.2015 – 07.2016 Social Entrepreneurship Akademie, Certificate programme for societal innovations

10.2014 – 07.2015 Hochschule München, Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship, Academic Programme for Entrepreneurship (APE)

2013 Master of Philosophy, University of Cambridge/UK, Development Studies, graduated with Distinction

2012 Bachelor of Arts, Durham University/UK, Combined Social Sciences, First Class Honours

PUBLICATIONS

- Kessler, S. 2024.** *Competing Climate Cultures in Germany: Variations in the Collective Denying of Responsibility and Efficacy*, Bielefeld, Germany: transcript, ISBN: 978-3-8376-7143-8
- Kessler, S. 2024.** (in prep.) *Climate-cultural diversity in everyday (professional) life: Group-specific differences in thinking about and acting on climate change*
- Blühdorn, I. & Kessler, S. 2023.** *Ökologische Wende und Soziale Frage*. In Sozialalmanach 2024, Luzern, Switzerland: Caritas-Verlag
- Kessler, S. & Rau, H. 2023.** *Worte ohne Taten? Die Kluft zwischen Verantwortung und Wirksamkeit als Dilemma der Nachhaltigkeit*. In Henkel, A. and Gruber, H. (eds.) *Dilemmata der Nachhaltigkeit*. Nomos Verlag
- Kessler, S. 2022.** *Competing Climate Cultures in Germany: How differences in responsibility, efficacy and knowing result in variations of collective denial*, Doctoral dissertation, München, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität.
- Kessler, S. & Rau, H. 2022.** *Capturing climate-cultural diversity: A comparison of climate change debates in Germany*. In T. Heimann, J. Sommer, M. Kusenbach and G. Christmann (eds.) *Climate Cultures in Europe and North America*. Routledge Edited Volume

MEMBERSHIPS CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC TALKS (SELECTION)

- 10.2023** Presentation at **Momentum Kongress, Hallstatt**
- 09.2023** Keynote Speaker at **Extremwetterkongress 2023, Hamburg**
- 06.2023** Presentation at **SONA Conference: Knowledge Transfer in Crisis**
- From 2022** Member of **LMU ZEPP (Centre for Ethics and Philosophy in Practice)**
- From 2021** Recipient of **LMU mentoring programme**
- From 2021** Member of **LMU Climate Forum and LMU Young Climate Forum**
- 09.2021** Lecturer **Munich Climate School**
- 08.2021** Presentation at **RGS-IBG annual international conference 2021**
- 06.2021** Presentation at **SONA virtual conference at Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg: Sustainability Dilemmas**
- From 2020** Member of the **scientific board** of the **nationwide environmental consciousness report** (Umweltbewusstseinsstudie UBA)
- 10.2020** Guest Lecturer at **Bavarian Volkshochschule**, Topic: Climate responsibility
- From 2019** Lecturer **Public Climate School**
- 2018** Guest lecturer at **Munich technical university** (PlanetPaket founding story)
- 2017** Guest lecturer at **Social Entrepreneurship Academy**
- 04.2016 – 10.2016** **Start-Up League, incubator** of the Strasczeg Centre for Entrepreneurship, Hochschule München

TEACHING

From 03.2023 at WU Vienna

BA: Capitalism and Critique **and** Capitalism, Democracy, Sustainability: Opportunities and Contradictions

MA: Social Structures and Social Change

11.2022 Weeklong seminar at **Georg von Vollmar Akademie**, Kochel, Between responsibility and denial; societal perspectives on a socially just handling of the climate crisis

04.2022 – 07.2022 Harvard BOK higher education **Teaching Certificate** (online course)

Fall semester 2021 LMU Munich, Department of Geography: Regional Geography UK & Ireland

WORKSHOPS (SELECTION)

10.2023 Presenting with confidence (Millie Baker, The Speaking Adventure)

12.2021 Science communication (NaWik Institute)

11.2021 Women in science & professorships (University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf)

11.2021 Workshop financial affairs (Mentoring Programme)

10.2021 Funding workshop (Mentoring Programme)

07.2021 Proposal writing (DFG Workshop)

03.2020 Statistical foundations (LMU Graduate Center)

2019 Academic writing (LMU Graduate Centre)

2019 Qualitative research methods (LMU Graduate Centre)