

Sustainability Governance in Troubled Times

Department Socioeconomics Research Seminar

with

Susan Baker, Cardiff University

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18:00 – 20:30, D4.3.106, Welthandelsplatz 1, WU

Aspirations to govern *for* sustainable development have not been realized. Technocratic practices of governance *of* sustainability have depoliticised the agenda. This, in turn, can reinforce the erosion of trust in democratic institutions and procedures. But the rise of right wing populism has re-politicized the public sphere: We are in ‘troubled times’ – which both reveal and enhance the political nature of steering.

Populism itself aligns with the demand for governance that reflects the ‘will of the people’. But its right-wing expression privileges a form of bounded stakeholder participation. Furthermore, while governance *for* sustainability is premised on value changes, for populism, the ‘common sense’ of the people is the basis of all good politics. The populist imaginary does not challenge underlying values nor offer a corrective. Rather, it presents further threats *for* sustainability.

Susan Baker's input will be followed by a short commentary by Margaret Haderer (IGN). Departmental Research Seminars seek to facilitate and foster open and engaged discussions. Accordingly, there will be plenty of space for contributions from all participants.

Susan Baker is emerita professor at the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University.

Margaret Haderer is a post-doctoral researcher at the IGN working on the FWF-funded presearch project *Urban Experiments in Socio-Ecological Change*.