

Framing and Unframing of Bottom-up Local Experiments in Socio-ecological Change

Research Design Workshop

with **Dr. Katharina Miko-Schefzig**,
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Wednesday, 03 April 2019 14:00 - 16:30
D5 3.033

Local experiments in socio-ecological change (LESECs) seem to have become the “new normal” form of acting on socio-ecological challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, resource exhaustion and environmental injustice. In the current environmental politics literature, especially grassroots LESECs, such as food co-ops, urban gardens, repair cafés, sharing platforms, sustainable housing projects, are almost unequivocally framed as signs of hope and promising practice fields for overcoming unsustainable nature-society relations. What is striking about these appropriations of and weavings of LESECs into scholarly normative narrations is their disengagement with the narratives on the ground. In the existing scholarship, the question of why local experiments in sustainability do what they do seems to be secondary to claims that what they do paves the way to, anticipates, and represents a small-scale embodiment of a sustainable society – a constellation we problematize. How do LESECs make sense of their own actions is one of the core questions that drives the research for our FWF-project based article *Framing and Unframing of Local Experiments in Socio-Ecological Change*. In the workshop, we seek to focus on the translation of a research question and interest into a concrete research design.

The input of the research project team members, Margarete Haderer (postdoc) and Hauke Dannemann (predoc) from the Institute of Social Change and Sustainability (WU) will be followed by a commentary by Dr. Katharina Miko-Schefzig from the Competence Center for Empirical Research Methods (WU) and a plenary discussion.