

PHD STUDENTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

People, projects, networks

Albrecht Daniel Thaer – Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science
Faculty of Life Sciences
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin





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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the inaugural PhD portfolio booklet curated by the Food & Democracy cluster. It is a first effort of its kind that is truly 'for PhDs by PhDs,' and provides a snapshot of some of the diverse doctoral research being done at the Agricultural Economics Department. Our aim in coordinating this booklet is twofold: first, to improve the visibility of the research projects and key resources which contribute to the landscape of doctoral studies in the department; and second, to bring the unique projects and people together 'under one roof,' to build dialog on the common interests, challenges and experiences which we share.

As presented here, we bridge many backgrounds, geographical foci, methodologies and research questions, however a few core themes emerge: governance, climate instability and risk, trends in agricultural livelihoods, etc.

Overall, the work of the PhDs here shares a common motivation: to understand the biggest challenges of the current food system and contribute to societal changes in the long term: food security, inclusive governance and strengthened democracy.

With this first PhD portfolio, we provide one example of a way to expand the dialog between divisions and across disciplines and hope that it is the first of many collaborative showcases of our work while doctoral candidates at Humboldt University.

This effort is sponsored by the Graduate Centre Life Sciences, and we would like to acknowledge their support in making this possible, along with the activities of the Food & Democracy Doctoral Research Cluster.

Enjoy reading and getting to know your fellow PhD students!

Thies Popp, Olga Stanaya, Genna Tesdall, Wiebke Nowack and Julia Dennis

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1 DIVISIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT

GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION

Prof. Dr. Christine Bauhardt

About

The connections between gender and globalization are at the core of our research and teaching programme. Our research focuses on two approaches: Firstly, we analyse the impacts of global economic and social restructuring on women, men and gender relations in different societies with respect to both urban and rural areas; Secondly, we study practices and policies that foster globalization, such as economic liberalization, privatization as well as natural resource management, all from a gender perspective. Our aim is to shed light on the implicit gender dimensions of globalization, accounting for the intersectionality of gender with other structural stratifying categories. Our teaching and research team comprises areas of specialization such as: resource politics (esp. water management), feminist political ecologies, socio-economic and socio-cultural dimensions of rural development, spatial planning, food sovereignty and meal cultures.

Which courses are offered?

- The Role of Gender for Sustainable Resource Management
- Gender Analysis in Economics
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Gender und Ökonomie - Feministische Kapitalismuskritik und Perspektiven für eine Postwachstumsgesellschaft
- Transdisziplinäres Colloquium

Who is doing PhD research here?

Meike Brückner ...24

Ilenia Iengo ...18

Nicholas Bourguignon ...26

Suse Brettin ...30

Ana Alvarenga de Castro

Did you know that ...

... Prof. Dr. Bauhardt is one out of 238 signatories of a letter (published in September 2018) in which academics called on the EU and its member states to plan for a post-growth future in which human and ecological wellbeing is prioritized over GDP?

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Prof. Dr. Harald Grethe

About

Research at the division for International Agricultural Trade and Development focuses on questions of socio-political relevance, e. g. the distributive effects of trade integration, the future design of the multi-lateral trade framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as the increasing rivalry between the production of food, and the energy and industrial uses of biomass. Three closely related research fields can be distinguished:

- The development of quantitative simulation models to analyze questions of economic and agricultural development, trade, poverty and income distribution and the interaction between water, energy and agriculture.
- The governance as well as the quantitative analysis of sustainable global biomass systems, i.e. the efficient production and use of scarce resource biomass. This involves the analysis of new bio-

mass production systems such as lignocellulose crops or microalgae, as well as a more sustainable uses of biomass.

- The role of the agricultural sector within society at large, the communication between the agricultural sector and various societal groups, concepts to reconcile domestic demands for non-market goods (for example, environmental externalities and animal welfare) with the reality of internationally integrated agricultural sectors.

Which courses are offered?

- Microeconomics: Theory and Policy Analysis
- Introduction to Simulation Models in Market and Polity Analysis
- Intermediate Computable General Equilibrium Modelling
- International Macroeconomics and Agricultural Trade
- Economics of Agricultural and Rural Development

Who is doing PhD research here?

Nicholas Ashiabi ...44
Khawla Konyina ...22
Zuhail Mohammed ...42
Wiebke Nowack ...32
Davit Stepanyan
Ferike Thom ...16

Did you know that ...

... Prof. Dr. Harald Grethe is the chairperson of the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture's Scientific Advisory Board on Agricultural Policy, Food and Consumer Health Protection since 2015?

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD POLICY GROUP

Prof. Dr. Peter H. Feindt

About

The Agriculture and Food Policy Group focuses on developing public policy insights grounded in past, present and future challenges within the agri-food sector. Research and education themes within the group include, among others:

- Agricultural Policy in Transformation: Globalisation & Trade, Environment & Climate Change, Financialisation & Soft Law
- Food Governance: Food Security, Food Democracy, Food Safety and Consumer Autonomy in a Globalising World
- Governance of the Bio-Economy
- Governance of Animal Welfare and Animal Production Systems
- Resource Governance in Coupled Social-Ecological Systems
- Governance of Transformations: Transformative Institutional Change in Multi-Policy and Multi-Level Systems for Food and Agriculture

Which courses are offered?

- Public Policy Analysis: Agriculture and Food Policy
- European and International Agricultural Policy
- Futures of Agriculture and Food
- Qualitative research methods: Research design and techniques
- Rural development

Who is doing PhD research here?

Julia Dennis ...20

Thies Rasmus Popp ...38

Olga Statnaia ...36

+ Guest Researcher Genna Tesdall ...40

Did you know that ...

Since 2014, Prof Feindt chairs the Scientific Advisory Council for Biodiversity and Genetic Resources at the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In 2018, he was elected member of the board of the German Alliance for Agricultural Research (DAFA).

HORTICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bokelmann

About

The division dealt with questions of management of horticultural enterprises. The scope of the research program included all activities producing horticultural goods or services.

Specific to horticulture, enterprises are commonly small and family-based, characterised by a high degree of production dependence on biological rules, and act in an international market. Furthermore, producers are increasingly required to consider demands for sustainable production to maintain competitiveness.

Within the working group on agricultural informatics, central topics included structuring, processing, and analysing topic-related information, especially economically determined data. Knowledge in this area is vital since integrating electronic information systems and data networks is becoming crucial to the management of agricultural production and services.

Which courses were offered?

- Farm Management in the Agricultural and Horticultural Sector
- Human Resource Management
- Environmental Management and Information Systems
- Marketing in the Agribusiness and Food Sector
- Farm Management in the Agricultural and Horticultural Sector

Who is doing his / her PhD here?

New PhD students are going to start once the new head of the division has arrived.

Did you know that ...

... since Prof. Dr. Bokelmann is, to our regret, retired and, there will be a new division for Management of agricultural value chains (Management agrarischer Wertschöpfungsketten).

RESOURCE ECONOMICS GROUP

Prof. Dr. Klaus Eisenack

About

The Resource Economics Group advances economic research on sustainable development, in particular:

- Institutional economics of climate change adaptation;
- Political games in climate change mitigation;
- Governance of path dependence in the energy transition;
- Archetype analysis as an approach to study social-ecological-technical systems.

The Resource Economics Group has sectoral expertise on the economics of climate change, the energy and water sectors, pasture management, and urban governance. It addresses problems of sustainable development like climate change and overexploitation of natural resources. We have extensive regional experience in Germany and Central Asia.

The group have a strong theoretical background in environmental and

resource economics, political economy and institutional economics. Their research combines quantitative and qualitative methods, game theory, simulation, and comparative case studies.

Which courses are offered?

- Environmental and Resource Economics
- Advanced Environmental and Resource Economics
- Institutional Economics and Political Economy

Who is doing his / her PhD here?

Anastasia Gotgelf

Paul Neetzow ...28

Anke Wolff

Did you know that ...

... the Resource Economics Group is a cooperation partner of the research group CoalExit at TU Berlin? CoalExit is a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research group which brings together scholars from TU Berlin, HU Berlin, the Hertie School of Governance, and DIW Berlin.

FARM MANAGEMENT GROUP

Prof. Dr. Martin Odening

About

The division's focus is on investment and finance in agriculture, risk management (in particular climate risks) and structural change in agriculture. Our current research projects are about the following topics:

- Price Formation and Agricultural Land Markets
- Market integration and border effects in agricultural land markets
- Demand and Supply for Crop Insurance in Agriculture
- Index-based insurance and data scarcity
- Liquidity and the Role of Information in Agricultural Commodity Markets
- Testing for Regional Convergence of Agricultural Land Prices

Which courses are offered?

- Quantitative Decision Models in Agricultural Business Economics
- Agricultural Land Markets
- Risk Analysis and Risk Management in Agriculture

Who is doing his / her PhD here?

Olena Myrna
Steffen Volkenand
Katarina von Witzke
Xinyue Yang ...[34](#)

Did you know that ...

... Prof. Dr. Martin Odening has done research at the University of New England and the University of Minnesota before?

JUNIOR AND S-PROFESSORS

In addition to the six regular divisions at our department introduced before, there are junior professors, S-professors and honorary professors who also supervise PhD students and give highly interesting lectures.

JUNIOR PROFESSORS

Quantitative Agricultural Economics

Prof. Dr. Matthias Ritter

Courses offered: Econometrics, Applied Data Analysis, Risk Analysis and Risk Management in Agriculture

Vocational Teaching in Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences

Prof. Dr. Marcel Robischon

Courses offered: The practice of teaching, The practice of teaching and on aspects of research in agrarian vocational education

S-PROFESSORS

Economics and Politics of Rural Areas

Prof. Dr. Klaus Müller

Associated with the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

Sustainable Land Use and Climate Change

Prof. Dr. Hermann Lotze-Campen

Associated with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
Courses offered: Human-Environmental Systems Interaction

Economics of Agricultural Cooperatives

Prof. Dr. Markus Hanisch

Supported by the Raiffeisen-Stiftung
Courses offered: Co-operation and Co-operative Organizations

HONORARY PROFESSORS

Prof. Dr. Matthias Weiter

who gives a seminar on Institutions and Instruments of Development Co-operation every summer semester (incl. excursions)

Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald

who has for example given lectures on Agrarian and Environmental Ethics and is the director of Schweisfurth Foundation



2 PHD STUDENTS AND THEIR PROJECTS

In this chapter, doctoral candidates of the Department of Agricultural Economics present their research projects by pointing to the imperative urgency of their research topics, motivations and methods. Furthermore, they provide information about their educational backgrounds, professional experiences and social engagement. Aside from professional information, the introduced PhD students were asked to share more personal information, for instance which challenges they face and what or who inspired them.

This chapter illustrates the diversity of research conducted by PhD students in the Department of Agricultural Economics. However, despite all differences, our researchers also have much in common.

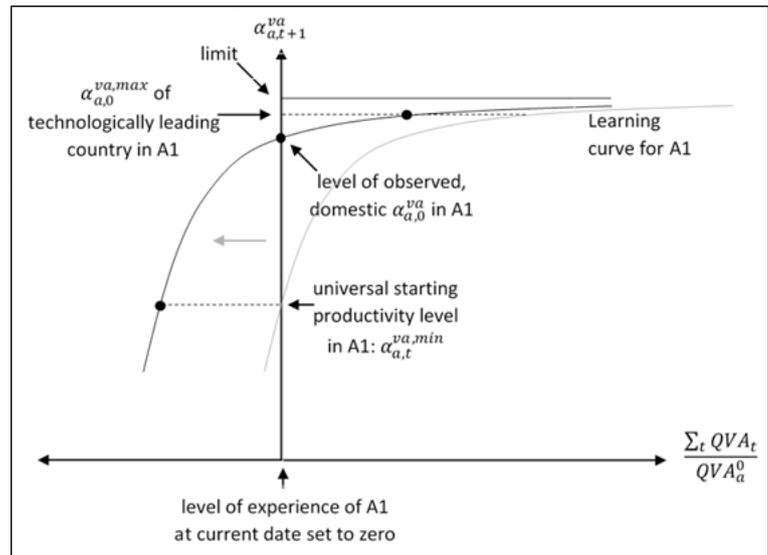


Figure: Productivity parameter $\alpha_{a,t}^{va}$ over time as a function with a limit. Vertically and horizontally adjusted. Own graphic.

THE INFANT INDUSTRY ARGUMENT FOR PROTECTION IN A CGE MODEL

Ferike Thom (Germany), International Agricultural Trade and Development

The idea behind the infant industry argument for protection is that young, inefficient and therefore not competitive industries can “mature” when protected from the world market and achieve competitiveness this way. The expected mechanism is that the price increase for imported goods due to the tariffs leads to import substitution and this again to an increased domestic production. Through that the industry in question will gather more experience and its

productivity will increase at a higher rate. In other words, there will be learning by doing on an industrial level. I want to find out how I can include this mechanism in a dynamic CGE model. So far research on this topic was almost exclusively conducted in a static context, examining only at one single time period. This results in findings about welfare losses due to trade distortions, but the effects on experience I suspect cannot be found with this method.

I believe it is important to examine this aspect of trade protection, too, in order to make realistic assumptions about the effects of different trade instruments and agreements. Having implemented a preliminary mechanism on sectoral learning by doing in the IFPRI Standard model, I now focus on further research on production theory.

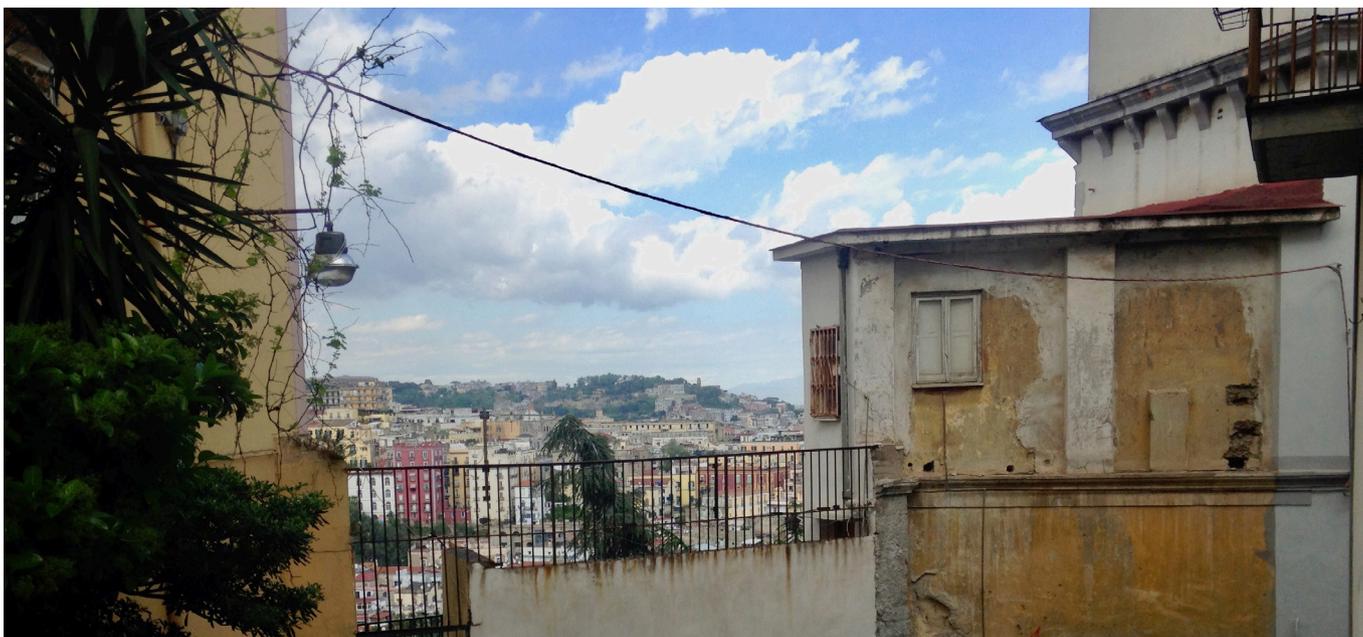


ferike_thom@yahoo.de

While studying economics (B. Sc.) at Humboldt-University, Ferike worked at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) in the department for education and family. In her bachelor thesis she examined how Berlin high school students decide about their further education based on the expectations they have about academic and vocational training both in terms of monetary and non-monetary returns and which role the parents' education plays in this. After that Ferike studied Agricultural Economics (M. Sc.) at Humboldt-University and at Universidad Polytécnica de Madrid. In her master thesis she laid the grounds for her PhD project.

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"Not to lose myself in all the different paths I could follow for answering my research question."



THE LABORS OF SOCIAL REPRODUCTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, FEMINIST AND ANTI-CAPITALIST STRUGGLES FOR A POST-GROWTH SOCIETY

Ilenia Iengo (Italy), Gender and Globalization Department

Ilenia Iengo is an early stage researcher of the Marie Skłodowska WEGO Feminist Political Ecology ITN. Her PhD aims to build a feminist urban political ecology topography from grassroots struggles for a good life and post-growth societies, focusing on the labors of social reproduction. Widening the political and analytical concept of labors in struggles for socio-environmental justice provides an opportunity to

cast a light on the porous bodies we are made of and care for; and it reveals convergences in grassroots movements' practices and tactics for alternative commoning. Her PhD is an evolution of her experiences as activist and researcher from the Land of Fires in Southern Italy. She will engage with the commoning strategies of grassroots environmental justice, feminist and anti-austerity movements in Naples, Italy and

investigate the tensions or possible alliances in the struggles for a post-growth, inclusive right to the city. It is from the socio-environmental margins of a subaltern city, the interstitial South of the North, with a long history of gendered politics, environmental injustice and austerity that her research will investigate the radical political actions and possible alliances of counterplanning from commoning projects.



ilenia.iengo@gender.hu-berlin.de,

Ilenia holds a B.A. in International Relations from L'Orientale University and a M.A. in International Environmental Studies from Norwegian University of Life Sciences. Her work investigated the Urban Political Ecology of waste conflicts, toxic biographies and environmental injustice in Campania, Italy, where she is part of the Stop Biocidio coalition. At the KTH Environmental Humanities Lab she worked on the project ToxicBios: a guerrilla narrative project mapping contamination, illness and resistance for emancipatory storytelling. Latest publication: Iengo, I. Armiero, M. 2017. The Politicisation of Ill Bodies in Campania, Italy. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 24(1).

Tell us more about yourself!

"I am a fellow of WEGO Innovative Training Network in Feminist Political Ecology with 15 other PhDs at different international institutions. I will spend six months at the International Institute for Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands and Puntodi Vista in Bolsena, Italy."

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"To compromise with the normative and elitist structures of academia."

If I was a theory ...

"I surely am: Social Reproduction Theory."



FOOD DEMOCRACY: ANALYZING POWER AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE TO END HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Julia Dennis (USA), Agriculture & Food Policy

This doctoral thesis aims to understand how food democracy, through operationalized variables, could be measured in the context of global agri-food governance institutions. Despite technological innovations and an overall increase in global food quantity, an estimated two billion people remain malnourished today. On the one hand, agri-businesses, non-governmental organizations, and celebrity philanthropists are encouraged to partner with states for healthier food systems, as this

could mean a more deliberative, inclusive and effective turn in food governance. However, widening the governance circle also leads to new questions about democratic legitimacy beyond the state. The concept of food democracy has been inspiring political research since the mid-1990s, though so far researchers have focused on the local level, for example in urban gardens or community-supported agriculture. More theoretical and empirical work needs to be done to identify links

between participation, power and food democracy nationally, regionally and transnationally. This research will aim to answer such questions as: how do global private actors become democratically legitimate and act on behalf of the public good? How do we democratize governance to represent those at the ends of the 'value chain,' such as food producers and consumers? At what level (global, local, national) should food policy be democratized? Why democratize in the first place, and who benefits?



julia.dennis@hu-berlin.de

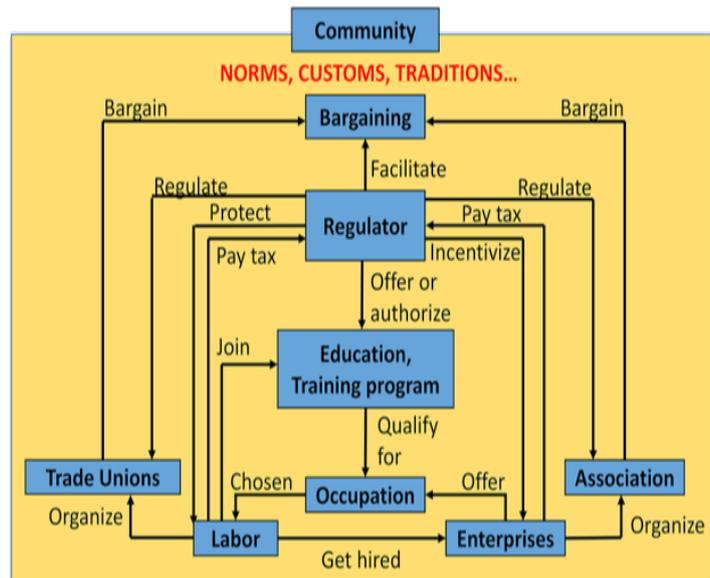
Julia comes from a background as a journalist with a Master's in Environment and Development Studies from King's College London. She is currently a DAAD-funded doctoral candidate writing her doctoral thesis, but before moving to Germany, she was a Communications Manager at the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) in the UK and Switzerland. In 2015/16, she was German Chancellor's Fellow with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation working at Germanwatch in Berlin.

What inspired you for PhD?

"Before we can be sustainable, we need to decide what we want to sustain, and what we don't. When it comes to food systems, the answer is rarely unanimous. I want to apply democracy theory in food and agriculture studies to build onto conversations about how we live, eat and grow together in the future."

If I were a theory, then I would be....

"Ideational power. This theory conveys the importance of language, discourse and communications in creating movements for or against progress in sustainable transformations. Beyond policies, the power of ideas can create action, and this is definitely seen in the call for food democracy."



ROLE & INFLUENCE OF ENTREPRENEURS ON RE-SHAPING FORMAL SKILL FORMATION IN SYRIA SINCE 2000 - A CONTRIBUTION TO DEFINING THEIR ROLE IN A FUTURE SYRIA

Khawla Konyna (Syria), International Agricultural Trade and Development

The case of the Apprenticeship Scheme (AppS) in Syria that was introduced into the vocational education system in the year 2000 have different facets which intersect with various fields of academic research. First, it is a policy borrowing in education. The AppS is a tailored-copy of the "Dual Ausbildung" system in Germany which is in fact a specific vocational education policy of "collective skill formation" type. Second, this case is seen as an institutional novelty in Syria because it is a first institutionalized partnership between the state actors and the private sector actors in

the provision of vocational education. Third, through development cooperation, actors were supported during the process of piloting the AppS and conditioning it for the national context. However, this process of policy borrowing has never reached the internalization stage; neither have many attempts to introduce the model of VET in Germany to the Middle East through development cooperation programs. To explain why and fill the research gap, the issue of "context" is identified as being of complex significance. No theories can explain that even groups in socialized communities often fail to

obtain jointly beneficial outcomes. The base hypothesis is that the collective skill formation system can only be built through a trust-based partnership between the actors. The trust is then reflected on the institutions. Using different theories of the institutional economics, I will analyse the different perspectives of the three levels of actors. My thesis will focus on two sectors: "Agro-food, food processing and packaging" and "Metal products and Engineering". Those two sectors are especially relevant to the re-construction of the post-conflict Syrian economy.



khawla.konyina@hu-berlin.de

Khawla holds an MBA from Dauphine University in Paris International (2009), a Master of Applied Mathematics from Harvard University (2002) in Boston, and a Master degree in Informatics from Damascus University (1999).

Khawla is currently a PhD-candidate at the Humboldt University in Berlin and works as a consultant for the development agencies in the fields of Labor Market, Employment, Training and Education.

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"The field of human resource development and employment attracts development projects, but the practice is not well founded on theory. I decided to do research in order to serve development programs which are struggling to create a sustainable impact.

The biggest challenge in doing the PhD is -in fact- part of the motivation. Namely, the pre-assumptions about the challenge. Slowly, as a researcher I question my assumptions and argue why or why not using theories."



KITCHEN STORIES OF MEAL SOVEREIGNTY AND RESISTANCE: EATING AFRICAN INDIGENOUS VEGETABLES IN URBAN AND RURAL KENYA. ON GENDER, PLACE AND AGENCY

Meike Brückner (Germany), Gender and Globalization Department

Meike's PhD project, supervised by Prof. Christine Bauhardt, investigates meal practices of African Indigenous Vegetables, a traditional food that has been almost forgotten; however, recently it's gaining popularity. Applying a qualitative-participatory approach the project raises the following questions from a gender perspective: To what extent do material (e.g. water) and immaterial

resources (e.g. knowledge) determine daily meal practices? How does the presence or absence of resources influence a self-determined diet and thus meal sovereignty? What role does meal sovereignty play in food and nutrition policies? The aim is to politicize meal practices of planning, procuring, preparing and eating, as well as to make agency and resistance of consumers visible.



meike.brueckner@hu-berlin.de

Meike studied Sociology, Human Geography and Cultural Anthropology at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena in Germany and at the Dalarna University in Sweden. After she finished her studies, she worked at the University of Potsdam in the field of health sociology. At the Division of Gender and Globalization, Meike has been involved in the HORTINLEA project "Meal Cultures in Market Trends and Consumption Habits" and only recently she joined the SUSFOOD project PLATEFORMS that aims to produce in-depth knowledge on sustainable food practices in the home.

Who/what inspired you for PhD?

"The energy and agency of the women I worked with during my first field research in Kenya encouraged me to do this PhD – and they still do. Observing, talking and interacting with them taught me about the complexities of food, to understand the bigger picture – the historical, political and ecological circumstances – and to link that to the micropolitics – the everyday cooking, nourishing and caring through and for food. Moreover, the quote "Eating is an agricultural act" by Wendell Berry inspired me to study and highlight the connection between agricultural production practices on the field and practices of preparing and cooking in the household, and thus to apply a relational understanding of agriculture and food."



LIQUID ENCOUNTERS: FLUID CONVERSATIONS AROUND WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND GENDERED NATURE CULTURES

Nick Bourguignon (Netherlands & USA), Gender and Globalization Department

The research project aims to present an understanding of the naturecultures of water sketching the different layers of political intervention in infrastructural planning and spatial development in Europe. This will build awareness of the complicated entanglements of social, cultural and economic factors influencing the governance of water. The research project will explore water use, planning and governance from feminist political ecology, queer ecology, and body

politics lenses. These approaches will help analyze and question multiple regimes of power dynamics as seen through gender, water resources, environments and landscapes, and political dimensions. Fieldwork will take place in Spain. The ESR will explore communities that are in river basins that either have water extracted to or receive water from other basins as part of the Spanish National Hydrological Plan. Here, political contestations for and against the Plan will be

explored, and how this contestation is given meaning at different scales. My interest is to see how care can be an organizing principle for social and environmental struggles at different scales and dimensions. Fieldwork will be based on a mixed methods approach, but relying on qualitative tools such as participatory action research and some ethnographic methods such as semi-structured interviews, participatory reflection and action, and mapping.

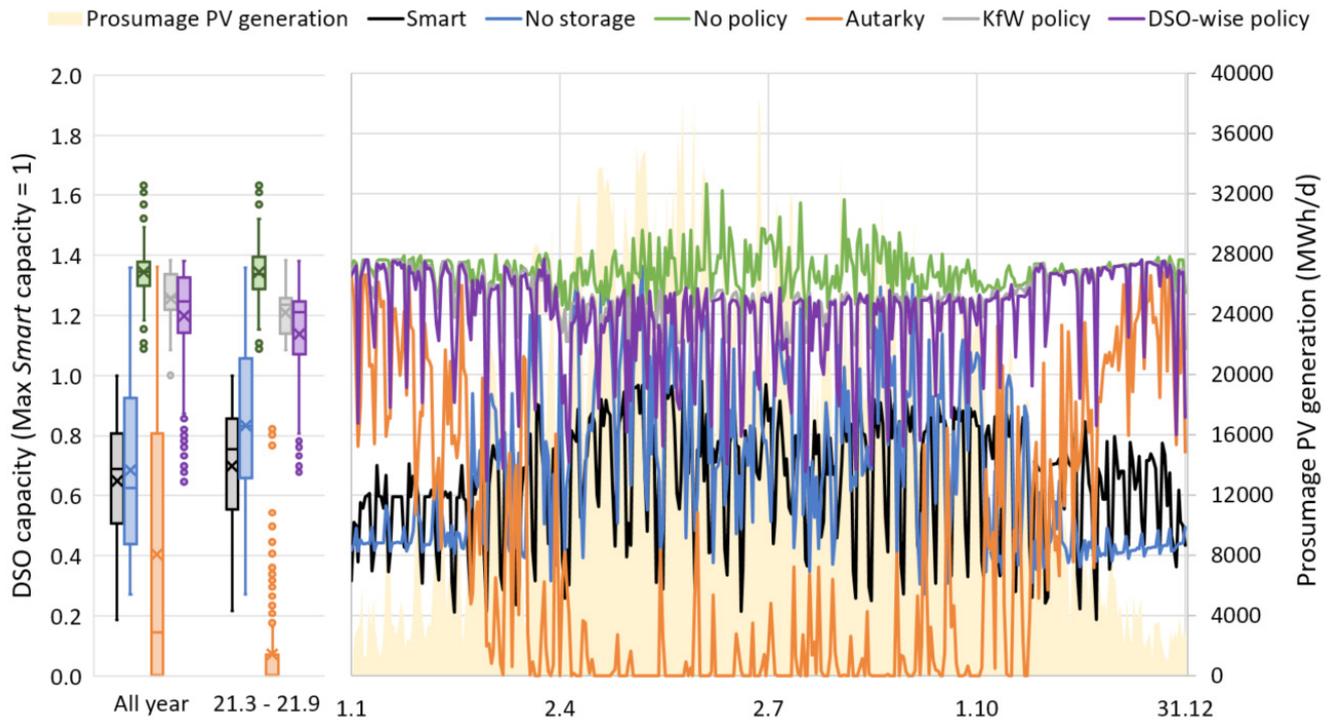


nick.bourguignon@gender.hu-berlin.de

Nick studied politics and sociology at Warwick University for my Bachelors and did my Masters of Arts in Development Studies with a focus on agrarian and environmental studies at the International Institute of Social Studies in the Hague. Past research explored common property forestry management and agrarian change in Spain. Nick also worked as a consultant in the independent office of evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Tell us more about yourself!

"I am part of the WEGO Innovative Training Network in Feminist Political Ecology with 14 other PhD researchers based in other institutions in Europe. As part of this training I will spend 3 months in Montevideo, Uruguay and another 3 months at IHE Delft. The biggest challenge in doing the PhD has been adapting to new institutions and languages."



THE ECONOMICS OF POWER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Paul Neetzow (Germany), Resource Economics Group

The transition to renewable energy systems (RES) introduces a multitude of challenges towards the deployment of power system infrastructure. RES, like wind and solar, are volatile as well as site dependent such that their highest potential is often at a distance to, as well as temporally deviating from the loads. However, from a technical per-

spective, the stability of the power system requires demand and supply to be matched in space and time. In his thesis, Paul uses analytic and numeric modeling approaches to study the interdependence of electricity infrastructure, in particular RES storage and grids. He analyzes which interdependencies may generally occur. For instance, Paul investigates

the circumstances in which increasing storage capacities may reduce or increase grid requirements. In addition, he is interested in the effects of multilevel systems and decision hierarchies, e.g., if decisions are made on small-scale storage units, distribution and transmission grids.

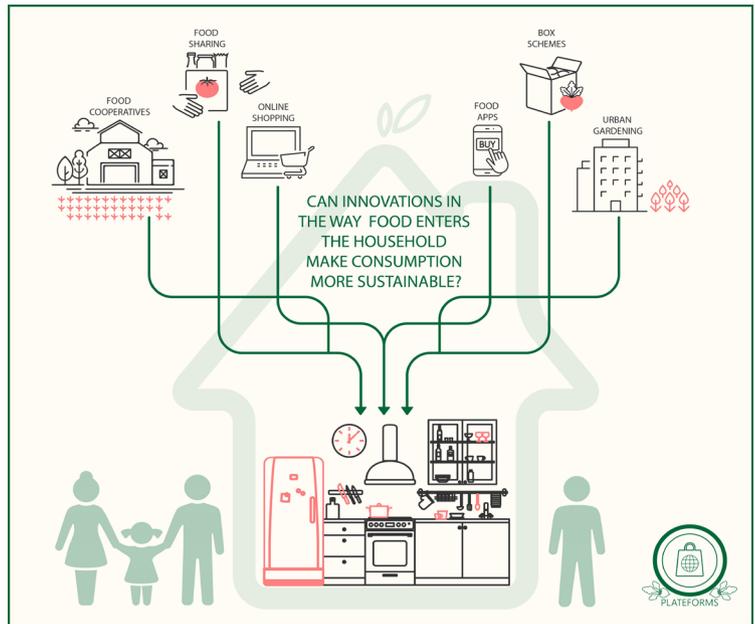


paul.neetzow@hu-berlin.de

Paul has worked with the Resource Economics Group for almost three years. Before coming to Berlin, he finished a Masters in Sustainability Economics and started PhD work at the University of Oldenburg, where he also worked in the project de.zentral (de-zentral.de). Paul holds a Bachelor in Biomimetics of the Hochschule Bremen. He has also conducted research in Melbourne, Montreal and Baltimore. When he is not working on my thesis, I play handball and disc golf.

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"For me, the greatest challenge in doing the PhD is to stay focused and motivated. It is easy to be distracted by the little everyday duties and not making any progress on the 3/4/5 year project ahead of you. Also getting up in early."



KITCHEN STORIES OF MEAL SOVEREIGNTY AND SUSTAINABILITY: POTENTIALS OF FOOD PROVISIONING PLATFORMS IN FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRACTICES. ON CARE, WORK AND ECOLOGY.

Suse Brettin (Germany), Gender and Globalization

The variety of possibilities for food provisioning has risen within the recent years. There are a number of socio-technical innovations that provide different solutions for concerns and problems within the current food regime, like sustainability within production and distribution, waste reduction, higher participation for the consumer, saving time and money, etc. Yet little is known about the influence of such innovations on the actual food practices in the

household. The research will address this issue and aim to bring practices of production in conversation with practices of consumption. Within this scope, a special focus will be put on the gendered division of labor relating to food practices, especially care work, an aspect that has so far received little attention in discussions about sustainable food practices. The overall aim is an in-depth analysis of the relations between food production, provisioning, and consumption

practices in households to foster a more holistic discussion about sustainable food systems. Thus, the project is positioned between individualistic and systemic approaches: individual consumer behavior is understood as being embedded in food practices and meal cultures, which in turn are characterized by a variety of socio-cultural aspects. Research will be conducted through qualitative participatory methods.

Suse studied Educational Studies, Political Studies and Psychology in Jena, Leipzig and Veracruz, México. After finishing the Magister and working two years as a freelancer, Suse earned a Master in Gender Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin(2017).

Suse started working at the Division of Gender and Globalization in 2013 as student assistant and since 2016 she is happy to be a research assistant. Currently, she is part of the SUSFOOD project PLATEFORMS, which is also the framework for her PhD.

suse.brettin@gender.hu-berlin.de

Where would you like to spend a Research Semester?

"Since I already had a very enriching and fruitful research stay for a former project on water politics, agriculture and ecology in Australia I am currently considering the possibility of picking up these threads again and spend another time for research there."



MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE – A MATTER OF (FARM) SIZE?

Wiebke Nowack (Germany), International Agricultural Trade and Development

The farming sector in Germany has been experiencing a fundamental structural change. This inter alia comes along with growing farm sizes and the market exit of many farms (e.g. decrease in number of farms from 667 300 in 1990 to 269 800 farms in 2017). From a historical perspective, there are several positive developments associated with structural change, e.g. increases in (labour) productivity and efficiency, decrease of consumer prices. Though, against the backdrop of the 21st century's conditions, the

established agricultural development strategy has become contested and is worth reevaluation– in light of global challenges, including as climate change and resource degradation, and also with respect to national challenges related to rural development, declines of social cohesion and changing values in society. In the course of her dissertation, Wiebke explores sociocultural dimensions of the changing size structure in the German farming sector. Her first step has been a systematic structuring of the ongoing political debate on

growing farm sizes and the decreasing number of active farms. Currently, she is reviewing literature on the roles and functions of agriculture for rural development (or 'the social dimension of multifunctional agriculture'). The next and central step of her dissertation will be an empirical study on the 'social functions', which agricultural activities fulfil in communities characterized by different farm size structures - and potential changes of these in the course of market exits of farms and growth of others.



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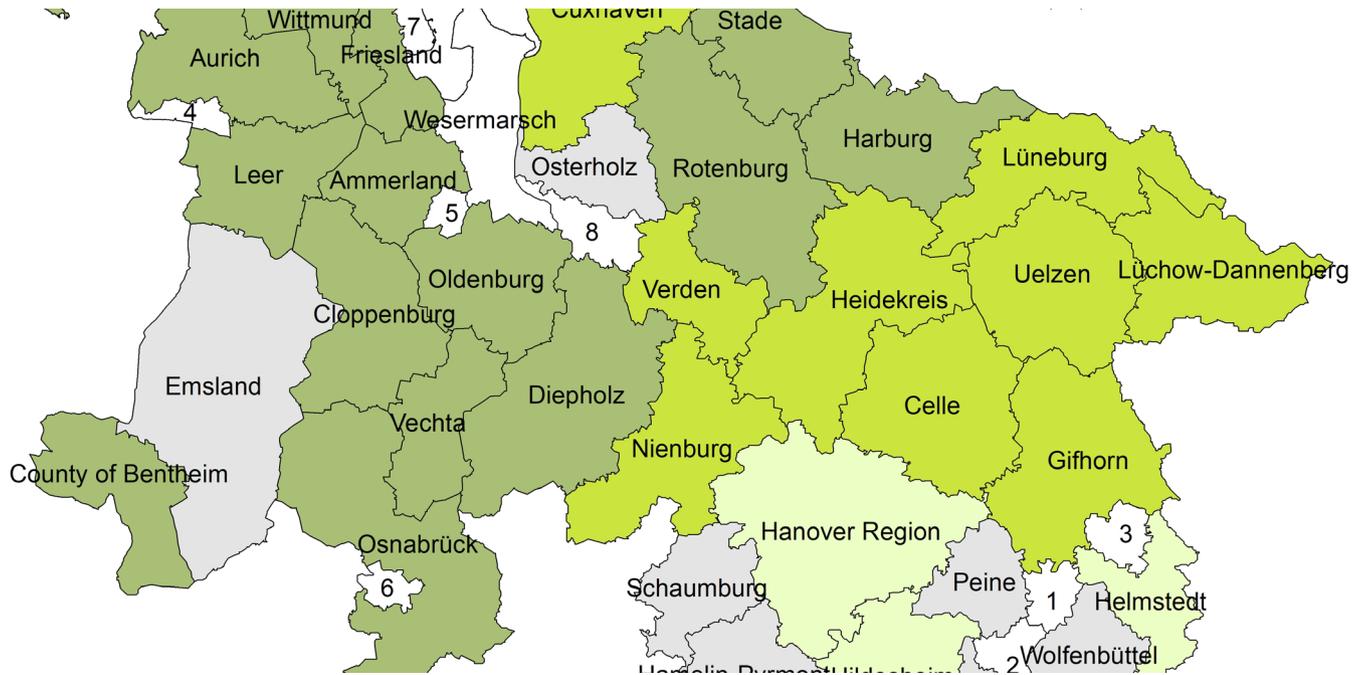
Before coming to Berlin, Wiebke studied Geography and Economics in Münster and Trondheim (Bachelor) and did a Masters in Agricultural Economics at Hohenheim University. For her Master thesis, she analysed the movement at the base of the German Wir haben es satt – demonstrations. This has been a major motivation to conduct research related to the role of agriculture in society. Her PhD work is financed by the Heinrich Boell Foundation, and she is part of the foundation's research cluster 'transformation research'.

Where would you like to spend a Research Semester?

"Although I am mainly looking at the German agricultural sector, it would be great to spend some time in Norway at RURALIS, Institute for Rural and Regional Research, in order to learn more about the established Norwegian policies concerning agricultural structures."

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"There are mainly two: Staying focused while researching a complex topic and (2) dealing with perspectives from different disciplines."



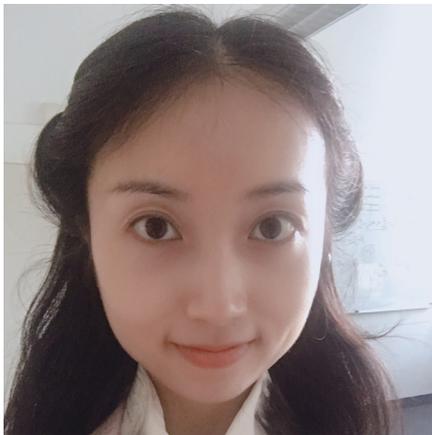
SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL BEHAVIOR OF FARMLAND PRICES IN REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL LAND MARKETS

Yang Xinyue (China), Farm Management Group

To better understand the spatial and temporal behavior of land prices, Xinyue's dissertation analyzes the price convergences of regional agricultural land markets to get their spatial market integration. The process of farmland price changes over time and space is analyzed. Specifically, the applicability of the law of one price to land markets is investigated. In this process, absolute and relative versions of this law are

distinguished. Panel data, unit root, and stationarity tests are applied to land sale prices in the German federal state Lower Saxony. Three main clusters with different price developments are detected. The results indicate that the law of one price holds only locally due to structural differences among regions. To analyze the process of price diffusion, a price diffusion model is employed which combines features of mar-

ket integration models and spatial econometric models. An application of this model to farmland prices in Lower Saxony shows that prices on a county-level are cointegrated. Apart from convergence towards a long-run equilibrium, it is found that price transmission experiences short-term adjustments caused by neighboring regions.



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Prior to entering the Ph.D. program, Xinyue was employed as a research assistant. In her work as a research assistant, she launched a survey to assess the value of arable land under the "increasing vs. decreasing balance" policy, which links rural land to urban land. Additionally, during her time as a master student in Land Resource Management, Xinyue's research focused on the impacts of roads on rural society and the ecological consequences of land use changes in the Three Gorges Reservoir.

If I was a theory ...

"... I would be the new economic geography (NEG). Gaining knowledge is a centripetal force which leads to an "endogenous growth" of myself. Morality and kindness is a centrifugal force which leads to disperse from depression. The two forces finally shape who I am."



POLICY DESIGNS IN FOOD SECURITY POLICY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Olga Statnaia (Republic of Moldova), Agriculture & Food Policy

Food (in)security is not a new issue but has been one of the main concerns of scientists, policy makers, national governments, international circles, and even individuals during the last decades. The Right for Food is one of the basic rights captured in numerous declarations. The Food Security Concept has evolved over the time. Almost every decade brings new challenges and reveals deep complexity of food security, which is far more than food supply and demand balance, but also a matter of

sustainable production and consumption, dietary patterns, health, gender equality, biodiversity, climate change, ethics, and morality. Food security policy is not a set of technical tools, but a social construct, and is therefore comprehensive rethinking and reconstruction of food security policy is important. The project aims to identify and classify various policy designs in the field of food security and to examine the relationship between food security policy design in different countries

and the resulting level of food security. The overall goal of the project is to examine and highlight effective policy for improving food security of different countries. Objectives of the research are 1) to develop a methodology for identifying the applied food security policy patterns in different countries under different conditions; 2) to structure and analyse determined policy patterns; and 3) to identify which elements of policy design are necessary and sufficient for sustainable food security.



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Olga studied Economy at the Academy of Economic Studies of the Rep. of Moldova (M.Sc.) and the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation and is currently a Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung-funded doctoral candidate in Food and Agriculture Policy Department at the Albrecht-Daniel-Thaer-Institute. Prior, she worked for the Moldovan Government as a Leading Consultant in International Relations and Investments and did internships in German Parliament and NGOs.

Where would you like to spend a Research Semester?

"I would like to spend a research Semester in Colombia, the country which fascinates me with its magical realism, contradictoriness, history and struggle for the better future."

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"The biggest challenge is to stay focused on your research questions and to get lost in theories, methods and data."



PATTERNS OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE RESILIENCE OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Thies Rasmus Popp (Germany), Agriculture and Food Policy

The agricultural sector faces several new challenges, which have led to intense discussion about the need to consider risk management tools in agricultural policy portfolios. One reason for implementing risk management tools is the recognizable trend towards liberalization in agricultural policies that replaces protectionist producer support with more market-oriented policies. This development exposes farmers to higher price volatility on global markets that increases market-related risks to farm income and triggers a preference for instruments that support the mar-

ketization of risks, such as insurances. Other reasons include novel risks from environmental change, societal change, or biohazards. Thies' dissertation aims to understand the policy of agricultural risk management and its influence by examining the perception of risks within OECD countries. Detailed information about robustness, adaptability and transformability of agricultural systems shall identify the influence of risk management tools on their resilience and can contribute greatly to an efficient and sustainable policy design, which meets societal challenges.

Since risk management tools can be implemented in all kinds of underlying policy paradigms, it is expected that policies will converge in policy mixes with a rising share of risk management support especially through new drivers, such as more frequent weather extremes and an increasing influence of the financial sector. The influence of such policy portfolios on the resilience on agricultural systems will be investigated by a mixed methods approach, which uses methods like panel data analysis, content analysis of policy documents and in-depths interviews.



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As a farmer's son, Thies was always interested in agricultural, political and economical topics. After finishing school with an A-level with focus in agriculture he completed a vocational training as a banker. Thies studied Economics (B.Sc.) at the University of Kiel. During the master program Agricultural Economics at HU Berlin, he did an Erasmus semester at the University of Life Sciences in Poznan, Poland. November 2017, he started as Research Assistant and PhD candidate at the chair of Agriculture and Food Policy.

During the master program Thies worked as Q-Tutor at the Bologna.lab at HU Berlin. In this program students have the opportunity to carry out self-planned research projects in collaboration with other students from different disciplines.

Since he still has good contacts to Savings Banks, he from time to time runs business games for the Savings Bank Foundation of International Cooperation to enhance the financial education in low-income countries.

Where would you like to spend a Research Semester?

"In North Korea. Agriculture, as the most important sector and the exceptional position of the country would offer a great environment to do research. In the future, an integration into global markets could give valuable insight about trade and its social-environmental impact."

Who/what inspired you for PhD?

"I really enjoyed the activities of the Q-program and wanted to learn more about my field."

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"The bureaucracy. The use of public money takes a lot of time and patience. This is a complaint which I have in common with the farmers!"

If I were a theory, then I would be....

"Utilitarianism, because I like to maximize my utility which is not necessarily monetary."



THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES

Genna Tesdall (USA), International Agriculture and Food Policy

As the agriculture sector ages, especially in Germany and the United States, youth involvement in agriculture is a key barrier both our nations face in ensuring a stable agricultural sector. However, youth face many barriers to being involved in agriculture based on institutional structures, discourses, and funding.

Youth are an underrepresented other in agriculture-related discourses, despite identification that youth need to be involved in policy discourses in order to increase their involvement in agriculture.



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Genna Tesdall is a globally minded Iowan (USA) who just completed a Master of Science at Penn State University in Plant Pathology and International Agriculture and Development. She also intered and consulted at the CGIAR International Potato Center in Peru. In addition, she relishes partnership and strategy building from her year as President of the NGO the International Association of Agriculture and Related Sciences Students (IAAS) based in Belgium and study abroad at the University of Hohenheim.

Where would you like to spend a Research Semester?

"I would actually love to spend a research semester in my home state of Iowa in the USA. The agricultural politics that govern the agricultural landscape facinate me—and they shaped the way I grew up and even my education."

Who/what inspired you to do your research?

"My undergraduate mentor, Prof. Dr. Gail Nonnecke, helped me find my way into international agriculture and nurtured thinking of agriculture as a system."



DEPICITNG VOCATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEMS IN COMPUTABLE GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM MODELS

Zuhal Mohammed (Sudan), International Agricultural Trade and Development

During the last decades, education has become foundational part in long-term plans and strategies for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. In most of these countries, a large proportion of the government expenditure on education is devoted to acknowledged education, resulting in increasing the number of schools or improving the infrastructure of the colleges. As consequence, the number of acknowledging educated people has been grown nearly in all those countries. However, their economic performance remains unable to make significant progress despite

this massive growth in acknowledged schooling. In contrast, the vocational training (VT) has been neglected as educational sector within the agenda of those governments. This is reflected in disproportionately increasing expenditure in various education sectors other than VT. On the other hand, the inappropriate educational outcomes have caused an increase in the unemployment rate among the youth. At the same time, there is a shortage of the number of labor with a specific skill to satisfy the growing needs of the productive activities. In her Ph.D. project, Zuhal explores the impacts of increasing VT expenditure

on human capital growth, households' welfare, labor markets and the production structure of the economy. There are two steps have been taken to achieve the targeted goal. The first step has been developed was a quantitative economy-wide model, named STAGE-Edu, provides a well-suited toolkit for evaluating the effects of educational expenditure policies, including the acknowledged education and VT. The second step is an in-deep analysis by quantifying the influences of various options of expanding the government expenditure on education and VT in Sudan, using STAGE-Edu Model.



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Zuhail earned a B.Sc. from Al -Zaeim Al-Azhari University in Agricultural Extension and Economics and a Masters in Agricultural Economics at the University of Khartoum. Thereafter, she worked as a Junior Researcher at Agricultural Economics and Research Policy Center, which belongs to Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC) in Sudan. Zuhail's experience includes creating and implementing surveys, monitoring and evaluating economic trends and providing recommendations for new economic development projects.

Zuhail's Ph.D. study is financed by the DAAD as well as two other completion grants from Foundation Fiat Panis and the H. Wilhelm Schaumann Foundation.

What inspired you for PhD?

"Doing my PhD on economic modelling is improving my knowledge on this field as well as enhancing abilities to become an excellent policy analyst. Therefore, I enable myself to follow my personal mission to assist the policy-makers to determine the best ways of using the economics resources in a rational way, in order to contribute in improving livelihood and alleviating poverty in the Sudan."

What is the biggest challenge in doing the Ph.D.?

"Considering my topic, the main challenges are; a) to find proper formula to capture qualitative methods and behaviours and b) to find the initial value of parameters of these functions."

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SEDENTARISATION – A COMPUTABLE GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM ANALYSIS

Nicholas Ashiabi (Ghana), International Agricultural Trade and Development

In the past, there have been considerable efforts by various governments to modernise pastoralism, some of which have resulted in sedentarization. Besides, due to climate changes which have resulted in extreme weather conditions such as droughts and flooding, some pastoralists have embarked on voluntary sedentarization as a means of securing their livelihoods. Sedentarization significantly affects pastoralists in every aspect of their wellbeing since pastoralism is not only a mean of livelihood but also a way of life for the pastoralists. Therefore, altering

their way of life will require a drastic shift in behaviour which will take some time to accomplish. It could also imply an alteration or an entire shift in their livelihood activities. Prominent among such changes include intensification of livestock production and diversification into agricultural crop production. There is therefore need to have an economy-wide analysis of the impact of sedentarisation.

In his PhD project, Nicholas focuses on Ethiopia as a case study for the STAGE Computable General Equilib-

rium model. Pastoralism plays a very important role in the economy of Ethiopia. It is estimated that pastoralists account for about 14% of the total population of Ethiopia but control about 61% of the country's total land area. The pastoral population occupy the drier and hotter lowland areas of the country, such as the whole Somali region, the Afar region, Borana, and Karrayu. However, rigorous sedentarisation policy has been enacted by successive Ethiopian governments.



Before coming to Berlin, Nicholas studied Economics and Sociology (Bachelor) and Economics (Masters) in University of Ghana. For his master's thesis, he analysed the role of health expenditure on infant and maternal mortalities in sub-Saharan Africa. After his studies, he worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research in Ghana.

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Where would you like to spend a Research Semester?

"I would like to spend a semester in Ethiopia to gain more insight into the study country and at IFPRI in order to gain more coding experience into GAMS."

What is the biggest challenge in doing the PhD?

"There are mainly two: (1) coding in GAMS and (2) staying focused within a complex topic."




**Wohin und wie steuern wir unsere Agrar-
und Ernährungssysteme?**
Zwischen gesellschaftlichen Ansprüchen und globalen Märkten
Wissenschaftliches Symposium, 22. Februar 2018
foodberlin


3 RESOURCES FOR PHD STUDENTS

DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

About

Since 2005, the Doctoral Certificate Program in Agricultural Economics offers the first permanent, structured training of doctoral students in the field of agricultural and food economics in Germany. The aim of the program is to increase educational quality and efficiency in dealing with dissertation topics through systematic instruction in relevant theory and methods. Following Bachelor's and Master's studies, this doctoral program represents a third step in a consecutive education in agricultural, food, and environmental economics.

Course of study

The doctoral certificate program is made up of modules and includes a total of 30 credit points (CP). One credit point corresponds to 30 hours of work for the students, of which ten hours are contact hours with the lecturer. Modules are offered in block format. A one-week block is worth 3 credit points and a two-week block 6 credit points.

Resources and offers for PhD students

Participation in the Doctoral Program is voluntary and is not a prerequisite for completing PhD studies. Students are eligible for admission to the Certificate Program if they are accepted as a doctoral student at one of the participating faculties. It is also possible to attend certain modules with vacancy as a guest. The program enhances the doctoral training of the participating faculties and promotes networking within agricultural economics.

Semester 1	Module 1+2 Theory	Module 3+4 Empirics	Module 7+8 Soft skills
Semester 2	Module 5+6 Focus topics		
Semester 3	Colloquium 2	Colloquium 1	
Semester 4	Colloquium 3	Dissertation	
Semester 5			
Semester 6			
	Disputation		



Doctoral Certificate Program in
Agricultural Economics

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
TU Braunschweig | Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen | Georg-August-Universität
Göttingen | IAMO Halle/Saale | Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg | Universität
Hohenheim | Universität Kassel | Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel | Technische
Universität München | Universität Rostock | Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

<http://www.agrarökonomik.de>

FOOD & DEMOCRACY CLUSTER

This PhD booklet is one activity of this unique, interdisciplinary cluster based at the Life Sciences Faculty. Beginning in March 2018, the aim of the cluster is to foster an atmosphere for support and scientific exchange in the PhD community and beyond. Creating sustainable food systems in the future will require interdisciplinary solutions from across diverse scientific fields. With its outreach in the Berlin agri-food community, this cluster provides a platform

for dialog- both amongst PhD candidates, and also between researchers and societal stakeholders. Thus, the group name 'Food & Democracy' combines both the science of food and agriculture with this idea of outreach, representation and participation from both experts and citizens. So far this year we have organized several research colloquia, hosted speed presenting workshops, traveled together to Münchenberg for the ZALF's PhD day, and were hosted

at the German Federal Ministry for Agriculture. The goal: breakdown silos around food and agriculture research sectors in order to create a space for new ideas and collaborations to emerge.

Target Groups and Activity Areas Supported by the Graduate Centre Life Sciences, the monthly activities of the cluster primarily target doctoral students of life sciences faculty and additional interested doctoral students from HU and other



academic institutions. However, the cluster also connects potential doctoral students with key stakeholders from business, civil society, journalists, and public servants working in around the topics of food and agriculture.

Core Activity areas

- Research exchange and cooperation
- Career development
- Networking and sciences community building
- Communicating science



How to get involved

We are a conduit to help realize activity ideas from PhD candidates, so for all those who would like to participate, please contact us at the email below- for example, to practice your upcoming presentation, organize a farm visit, host a guest speaker from a local start-up or suggest a new cluster activity altogether. **Join us!**

Links and Contact

Contact: julia.dennis@hu-berlin.de

Title of Moodle-Course:

Food and Democracy - Topic Cluster



FOODBERLIN

About

FoodBerlin is a research and innovation network for sustainable food systems of scientists from major universities and research institutes in the Berlin-Brandenburg region. FoodBerlin promotes science's contribution to this key topic of the future and gives it visibility. Cooperation with the private sector, politics, consumers and producers open up action-relevant services for research and training as well as advice on sustainable nutrition systems. FoodBerlin bundles competences in interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research networks, joint teaching and continuing education programmes and practical advice. With this multidimensional approach, FoodBerlin can comprehensively address socially relevant issues. Starting from the capital region, FoodBerlin will extend its range and strives to become a sought-after contact partner for sustainable food systems.

Main activities

The members of FoodBerlin, who all are dedicated scientists, together develop innovative services for research, teaching and consulting. They look at the entire value chain - from primary production to consumer behaviour. Knowledge creates change! FoodBerlin has the critical mass to address research, education and consulting on sustainable nutrition systems in an innovative and interdisciplinary way. In order to strengthen the contribution of science to the fields of sustainable production, processing and marketing of food, FoodBerlin has a broad spectrum of activities in the following areas:

- Support of research
- Promoting young talent
- Consulting and qualifying
- Raising awareness for sustainable food systems





Resources & offers for PhD students

The rapid development in the field of sustainable nutrition systems requires experts who know and can shape international trends and new concepts in the production, processing and marketing of food. FoodBerlin imparts this specialist knowledge. In addition to university teaching, the members of FoodBerlin offer students and doctoral candidates numerous opportunities for qualification in this field.

- Annual Doctoral Day
- Summer School
- Information event Science, Ethics, Politics
- Graduation Theses, PhD Topics (Networking forum)
- Your dream project



www.foodberlin.de
kontakt@goodberlin.de



BOLOGNA.LAB – NEW TEACHING. NEW LEARNING.

About

The bologna.lab is a cross-faculty teaching and learning laboratory with four main focus points: opportunities for research-based learning, interdisciplinarity, flexibilisation and internationalisation of the curriculum. It aims to promote student-led, independent learning. The bologna.lab is home to seven projects aimed at developing innovative teaching and learning formats and monitoring their implementation and progress. It offers students and teaching staff alike a wide range of opportunities to get involved.

The bologna.lab has been funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the framework of the Quality Pact for Teaching since 2012. It is part of the HU's successful bid 'Übergänge' (Transitions).

Role and Aims

The projects hosted in the bologna.lab focus on four key issues:

- Research-Based Learning: The Q-Programme develops and

tests a variety of teaching and learning formats which provide students with early opportunities for independent research from the undergraduate level onwards. The programme comprises four core initiatives, which offer different formats for independent, research-based study for different groups and at different stages in the degree programme.

- Interdisciplinarity: The development of interdisciplinary study formats are the main focus in the projects Diversity and Knowledge and Humboldt-Bachelor. These teaching and learning formats help students to develop a reflective understanding of science and thus sharpen their grasp of their own subject and of the different academic disciplines.
- Flexibilisation: The projects Study and High-Performance Sport and Part-time study develop and implement teaching and learning formats aimed which propose more flexible curricula
- Internationalisation: The projects Berlin Perspectives and International Teaching Development promote international study options at Humboldt-Universität. While Berlin Perspectives develops specific teaching and learning formats for incoming international students, Internationalisation of the Curricula aims at increasing internationalisation at home and creating additional opportunities for international exchange and mobility.

for students and enhance their opportunities for self-organised studies. These projects seek to offer solutions for students faced with additional obstacles in their studies because they need to fit their university schedule around double (or multiple) commitments outside of university (e.g. work, (child-)care, or personal health issues).

Q-Teams

Concept: Q-Teams are student research teams, supervised by PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Within the framework of an on-going research project based at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin or at a cooperating extramural research institute, the students work on a question of their own devising. Through research-based learning, they gain experience of and insight into research, either in their own subjects or in an interdisciplinary context.

Format: A Q-Team is made up of five to ten students, ideally from different departments. It meets over a period of one to two semesters. The Q-Team leaders (PhD students, postdocs or other junior researchers) are employed on a fee basis for the supervision of a Q-Team, or can apply for material resources. They supervise the content and methodology of the project, gain mentoring and teaching experience and, thanks to the (interdisciplinary) exchange with the students, can gather ideas

and suggestions for their own research projects. In an ideal scenario, the students experience the entire research process, from formulating a question to publishing the results. Applications are accepted regularly.

www.bolognalab.hu-berlin.de
qbologna@hu-berlin.de





GRADUATE CENTRE LIFE SCIENCES

The Graduate Centre Life Sciences is the central service facility for all current and prospective doctoral candidates at the Faculty of Life Sciences. It offers information on the admission to doctoral studies, further education, networking and counselling during the doctoral study period, as well as support for all doctoral students at the end of their doctoral degree programme. The Graduate Centre Life Sciences is the contact point for all current and prospective doctoral candidates at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in Agricultural Science, Biology, Biophysics, Horticultural Science and Psychology. The further education courses offered by the Graduate Centre Life Sciences are primarily targeted at doctoral candidates who are not enrolled in a structured doctoral degree programme. At the same time, the Graduate Centre is the networking point for all doctoral degree programmes and their doctoral candidates at our Faculty. In this way, the Graduate Centre Life Sciences

promotes networking between all doctoral candidates at the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Main activities

In our faculty, you can undertake doctoral studies in the following subjects: Agricultural Science, Biology, Biophysics, Horticultural Science and Psychology. The Graduate centre offers resources for graduate students before, during and while completing their doctoral qualifications in the Life Sciences Faculty at Humboldt University. The coordinator takes care of all further education and training, networking and information that the Graduate Centre offers, as well as representing the interests of the doctoral students. They are the point of contact for all doctoral student and supervisor concerns which go beyond the formalities of the doctoral degree programme. Resources and offers for PhD students
The Graduate Centre offers a range of subject-specific and general

further education and training to all doctoral candidates at the Faculty of Life Sciences, who do not do their doctoral studies within a structured doctoral programme ("individual doctoral candidates"). Participation in the workshops is free of charge.

- Workshops
- Colloquia, symposia & retreats
- Offers of the doctoral degree programmes
- Modules
- Topic clusters
- Career development
- Certificate

Useful links & Contact

<https://fakultaeten.hu-berlin.de/en/lewi-en/scientific/gradcentre/graduatecentre>

Caroline Falk
Coordinator of the Graduate Centre promotion.lewi@hu-berlin.de
Tel.: +49 30 2093-46286

IRI THESYS

IRI THESys stands for interdisciplinary research for global sustainability, collaborative research between humanities, social and natural science, local, regional and international cooperation, transdisciplinarity and communication with society, and a new generation of scientists. The core aims of IRI THESys are a better understanding of these phenomena from a multi-disciplinary perspective uniting the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and the embedding of interdisciplinary findings in discourses about the future viability of life on Earth. The IRI THESys combines quantitative and qualitative research methods and empirical and normative research approaches to better understand complex human-environment systems. It provides a platform for cooperation between scientists from various disciplines and departments of the Humboldt-Universität and regional, national and international partner institutions, who collaborate to solve interdisciplinary research questions related to land- and resource-use,

urbanization in the 21st century, climate change impacts and intra- and intergenerational environmental justice.

Main activities

The IRI THESys actively promotes the advancement of young scientists through its interdisciplinary junior research groups and a cross-faculty graduate program and supports the dialogue between science and civil society through public activities such as lecture series, summer universities and exhibitions.

Activity areas:

- THEYSys Research Groups (5 total)
- Publications and discussion papers
- Knowledge exchange and citizen outreach

Resources and offers for PhD students

Promoting young researchers is a priority task of IRI THESys. We aim for a new generation of scientists who are specialized in their field, well

integrated in international networks and live the interdisciplinary idea. This way, they are best educated to perform research along IRI THESys' research themes for more sustainable development paths in the 21st century.

- Interdisciplinary Graduate Program for PhD Candidates
- Bi-weekly Research Colloquium
- Summer School
- Lectures
- Student-driven Nachhaltigkeitsbüro
- Regular seminars and workshops
- Resources to support financing PhD travel and conferences

<https://www.iri-thesys.org/iri-thesys@hu-berlin.de>

Topics
(Not too broad)

Trips ↴
(Horse) Farm near
Berlin



Bioeconomy

Market-based
research /
mathematics
& Ag

Food &
Psychology!

AI

presentations
speed! 10 min
2 min

Communication
↳ Twitter?>
↳ facebook?>

Guest
lecturers
networks
= PUBLIC

Visits
↳ Foodwatch
↳ BMEL
↳ Inst. for
Food Safety
↳ Food council
↳ Hello Fresh!

F & Drinks
Soft!

Tues & Thurs
(possible 2
2nd Tues?)

Bulletin
Board
updates

IMPRINT

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