

## Crafting or Designing? Intended Institutional Change for Social-Ecological Systems

*Sustainable Hyderabad – Albrecht-Daniel-Thaer Kolloquium 2012*

*7. June (evening) & 8. June*

*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

*Convenors: Andreas Thiel, Dimitrios Zikos, Christian Kimmich, Christine Werthmann*

The *Sustainable Hyderabad Project* and the *Albrecht-Daniel-Thaer Kolloquium 2012* will bring together interdisciplinary scientists to engage into the challenge of understanding institutional arrangements whose purpose is to mediate social-ecological change.

The institutional arrangements of interest here are those that structure and regularize human interactions. Institutions provide information and distribute costs and benefits—often unanticipated—from those interactions. The Albrecht-Daniel-Thaer Kolloquium 2012 is dedicated to a specific facet of the interrelation between institutions and the way humans shape, and are shaped by, social-ecological systems. We will devote attention to *intended* institutional change whose rationale is the deliberate replacement of existing defective institutions, or the creation of new institutions to mediate novel problematic circumstances.

The distinction between crafting and designing is intended to suggest a tension between new institutions that are the product of deliberate democratic discourse versus those that emerge from the claimed wisdom of experts. Institutions that are crafted may be seen as result of important open-system processes. Institutions that are designed may be seen as the result of closed-system rules.

All institutional arrangements are reflections of underlying political commitments. The role of science is to elucidate the normative ground on which explicit rules and evolved habits of action depend for their social legitimacy.

It therefore follows that the claimed “*goodness of institutions*” depends on: (a) how the social-ecological system is conceptualized and problematized; (b) how normative visions for the performance of social-ecological systems are created and legitimized; and (c) how new institutions relate to pertinent political processes concerning their adoption and implementation.

The Kolloquium will provide a forum for addressing how scientists engage the problem of institutional crafting or design for social-ecological systems. We are interested in contributions covering urban and rural settings and circumstances. These issues should be addressed through a set of conceptual, methodological and empirical papers which disentangle intended institutional change from various perspectives.

For further guidance we propose an open-ended list of questions for consideration by contributors.

1. How can science, its theories and methodologies contribute to intended institutional change and how does it relate to the legitimacy of processes for change? What could be the role of intended institutional change from the perspective of broader social-ecological evolution?
2. How could we analytically deal with the inevitable, unintended consequences of intended institutional change and our often only partial understandings of social-ecological settings?
3. What could be criteria to characterize processes and outcomes of processes of intended institutional change?

## Program

June 7. (18:00) Keynote

Marco Janssen, Associate Professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Director of the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity, Arizona State University, USA

June 8. Workshop (full day). Venue: (t.b.d.)

## Conditions of participation

Participation in the workshop will be for free. However please notice that due to space constraints, the number of attendants will be restricted. We cordially ask you to register no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at [craftinginstitutions@lists.hu-berlin.de](mailto:craftinginstitutions@lists.hu-berlin.de). Participants will be selected in priority order until all slots are filled.

Further information on the Sustainable Hyderabad Project: [www.sustainable-hyderabad.de](http://www.sustainable-hyderabad.de)

