

Practices of Material Participation - Citizenship and the Politics of Social-Ecological Transformation

University of Siegen, (Germany) 1st / 2nd of December 2017

Workshop Location: **AH 217/218**, Herrengarten 3, 57072 Siegen

Short Description

Civic engagement and political participation have undergone major changes over the past decades. Within political sociology, scholars have diagnosed decreasing numbers of “dutiful citizens” who limit their public engagement to voting and party membership, while a politics of protest and resistance by “critical” or “actualizing” citizens seems to have gained importance since the late 20th century. More recently, a third development of citizen engagement has been emphasized in the literature on citizenship, which focuses on various phenomena like creative or material participation, new forms of prefigurative lifestyle politics or socio-technical innovations. This third development becomes particularly visible within the effort for social-ecological transformation: From the degrowth movement to urban gardens, from community-supported agriculture or repair cafés to web-based culture jamming or sharing initiatives, grassroots innovations aim to change local practices and production modes in order to prove the viability of alternative, “convivial” or sustainable ways of life. These developments still await further systematic empirical research as well as normative reflections evaluating new participatory practices from perspectives of critical social and political theories. Here, some crucial questions remain unanswered: Are these forms of engagement still political? How new and effective are they in terms of social-ecological change?

Convenor: Prof. Sigrid Baringhorst, Mundo Yang, Lisa Villioth, Jörg Radtke

Contact: greenovation@uni-siegen.de

Program

Dec 1st:

13.15-14.00 Arriving

14.00-14.20 Welcome message, introduction Prof. Sigrid Baringhorst, University of Siegen

14.20-14.40 Project presentation: “What’s Political about Social Innovations? – Aspects of Community Supported Agriculture and Foodsharing” Dr. Mundo Yang, University of Siegen

14.40-15.40 “The Paradoxical Possibilities of Social Innovation in an ‘Alternative’ Place”
Dr. Noel Longhurst, University of East-Anglia

15.40-15.50 Short coffee break

15.50-16.50 "Social Movement Politics, Everyday Life and Socio-Material Change: Struggles in the ‘Sharing Economy’"
Dr. Luke Yates, University of Manchester

16.50-17.50 “Volunteering and Civic Action – Boundaries Blurring and Boundaries Redrawn”
Prof. Adalbert Evers, University of Heidelberg

17.50-18.15 Break

18.15-19.30 Roundtable Discussion: “How Political are Material Practices for Social-Ecological Change?”

Participants: Noel Longhurst, Sigrid Baringhorst, Adalbert Evers, Luke Yates

20.00 Dinner (*on invitation only*)

Dec 2nd:

8.45-9.00 Arriving and coffee

9.00- 10.00 “Aesthetics and Politics of Repair”

Prof. Vera Kuni, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main

10.00-11.00 “Repair Cafés: Reflecting on and Acting on the Material Dimension of Consumer Goods”

Dr. Sigrid Kannengießer, University of Bremen

11.00-11.25 Break

11.25-12.25 “New Urban Gardens between Real Utopias and Poverty Management: A Comparison between New York and Berlin”

Dr. Christa Müller, Anstiftung Ertomis, München

12.25-13.10 “Practices of Participation within Eco-Villages”

M.A. Anne Schwab, University of Siegen

13.10-13.30 Coffee break

13.30-14.15 “Culture Jamming: Re-Doing Consumer Culture”

Prof. Dr. Sigrid Baringhorst, University of Siegen – Closing Lecture and Discussion