RSA Research Network
Governing the Sustainability Transition
– Defining Challenges and Opportunities for the Regional Scale –

PROGRAMME OF THE FIRST WORKSHOP

Transformation Processes and their Meaning for the Sustainability Transition
– Linking Local Practices and Global Agendas –
9-10 October 2013, University of Westminster, London, UK
Regent Street 309, Board Room, 1st floor (please report to Reception in the foyer)

As in the previous workshops or conferences of the RSA Network (formerly called “Ecological Regional Development”) we try to use innovative formats in order to provide a dynamic platform for both giving individual papers and discussing overarching topics. This time we will have paper sessions and (sub)workshops. In the five paper sessions the papers are presented to the plenary, but the discussion is confined to only specific, individual clarifications aimed at the presenters directly. The presentation should take no more than 18 minutes to leave a bit of time for questions. The three workshops will deal with cross-cutting issues which arise from the paper sessions. To allow intensive discussions we will divide into three groups. After the workshops the results of the discussions are reported back to the plenary. The last workshop will also discuss the results of the whole event.

For those who arrive early enough there is the possibility to meet up on Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm, at the Italian Restaurant Sergio’s, 84A Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 7QY. It’s a 5-6 mins walk from the University (web: www.SergiosW1.co.uk) (see Map).

First day, Wednesday 9th

09.00 Registration and Coffee

09.30 Welcome and Introduction
Tassilo Herrschel, Manfred Walser, Gerd Lintz

10.00 Session 1: Politics and Governance of Sustainability Transition
Chair: Alain Thierstein
Tassilo Herrschel: Governing the sustainability transition – Squaring the circle between conflicting interests
Mario Reimer, Karsten Rusche: Sustainability management in European city-regions – Towards strategic green governance? A research proposal
Fred Steward: Pioneer Cities – Transformative innovation policy through challenge led clusters and transition pathways

11.15 Coffee
11.35 Session 2: Multi-scalarity of Governing Sustainability Transition
Chair: Bernhard Müller
Alain Thierstein, Nadia Alaily-Mattar: Forging a role for spatial transformation in driving sustainability transition
Marco Pütz: Transformation by rescaling: Dealing with problems of fit regarding climate change adaptation in Switzerland
Yolanda López-Maldonado: Transition towards sustainability – First steps for a transdisciplinary transition plan related to the groundwater management in Mexico
Holger Sauter (short poster presentation): Transformation towards a sustainable energy system – Analysis and modeling of governance processes on regional level in Bavaria

13.05 Lunch

14.00 Workshop 1 (discussing key points from sessions 1 and 2)
Moderators: Tassilo Herrschel, Manfred Walser, Gerd Lintz

14.45 Report back (workshop moderators)

15.15 Coffee

15.35 Session 3: Regions and Sustainability Transition
Chair: Julia Affolderbach
Corinne Roëls: Territory-based energy foresight in France
Carla de Laurentis, Malcolm Eames and Miriam Hunt: Backcasting in sustainability foresight – Exploring sustainability transitions in the Cardiff City-Region
Leo Baumfeld: The dynamics of regional identities – A balanced model of change
Vanesa Castán Broto: From places to territories – Understanding the dimensions of regional energy transitions without losing track of local processes

17.00 End of first day
Time to go to hotel, have a drink or a walk around the West End of London

17.30 – 19.00 Meeting of the core group of the Network

19.30-21.30 Conference dinner (subsidised, individual contribution: £ 10 (for 3-course meal and coffee). Drinks beyond water are extra, though.
Location: Height’s Bar, top floor of the St George’s Hotel, 14-15 Langham Place, London W1B 2QS (just off Regent Street, 5 mins north of the University (workshop venue), see Map).
Second Day, Thursday 10th

9.00 Coffee and Registration (for day attendees)

09.30 Session 4: Place-based (urban) Governance of Sustainability Transition
Chair: Tassilo Herrschel

*Fabian Faller:* Local transition paths to sustainability. How a biogas plant transformed local policy: the case of Beckerich/Luxembourg

*Zak Accuardi:* Urban transitions – Characterizing development patterns in cities

*Gerhard Fuchs:* Local and regional initiatives for low-carbon energy innovation – Analyzing strategic action fields

*Markus Egermann, Gerold Janssen:* Accelerating transition initiatives in city-regions

11.00 Coffee

11.20 Workshop 2 (discussing key points from sessions 3 and 4)
Moderators: tbc (volunteers sought)

12.00 Report back (workshop moderators)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Session 5: Mechanisms and Practices of Governing Sustainability Transition
Chair: Corinne Roëls

*Gerd Lintz, Dan Greenwood:* Challenges to the Energy Transition. Evaluating the coordinative effectiveness of governance with regard to the siting of wind turbines

*Marco Hölzel:* Conversion – A chance for subculture, the creative class and sustainable development

*Manfred Walser:* Web 2.0 and regional development – a matter of transculturation?

*Julia Affolderbach et al.:* Socio-technical transition through innovation in green building

15.00 Coffee

15.30 Workshop 3 (discussing key points from session 5 and overall conference theme)
Moderators: tbc (volunteers sought)

16.30 Report back (by groups and moderators) and overall debate
Discussion about key insights, conclusions, questions and possible way forward for the Network and addressing the topic further

17.30 Close of conference (drinks reception after close)
Map of Location of Workshop and Restaurants

Sergio’s
St. George’s
University
Regent St.