

INAUGURAL MÜNSTER JUNIOR RESEARCHERS COLLOQUIUM ON SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

Date and time: Wednesday 12th July, 9:00-17:00
R.101, Graduate School of Politics Münster

The Münster Junior Researchers Colloquium on Sustainability Governance aims to bring together international young scholars and academics focusing on questions of effectiveness and legitimacy of governance arrangements, sustainability in global commodity chains, and evidence-based policymaking. Convened by the TRANSSUSTAIN research group and with funding from the smartNETWORK, this first event will have the participation of Professor Pieter Glasbergen from Maastricht University.

Privately organized governance mechanisms such as voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) have risen rapidly in the past years, placing them at the forefront of global sustainability governance. However, as certified products have entered the mainstream market, supply has vastly outpaced demand, thus turning sustainability certifications into a low entry barrier to certain markets and causing price premiums to erode. This has put into question the output legitimacy of certifications and their effectiveness in terms of creating real change on the ground. The TRANSSUSTAIN project led by Thomas Dietz, Professor of International Relations and Law at the University of Münster, hopes to shed light on previously unanswered questions in sustainability research and simultaneously contribute to the evidence on how to best regulate sustainability in the global agrifood marketplace.

During this one-day event, our aim is to provide young international scholars with an opportunity to present and discuss their ongoing research on sustainable development, cross-sectoral partnerships and sustainability standards. The participation of the invited Professor Pieter Glasbergen, one of the most distinguished scholars in the field of sustainability standards and intersectoral partnerships, will allow for an up-to-date theoretical discussion on these topics. Young scholars will also benefit from a two-hour workshop on methodological choices in PhD research.

For those who wish to attend the workshop, we encourage the submission of working papers on related topics. There will be a pre-selection by the committee for the papers to be presented and discussed on the day of the workshop.

Please confirm your assistance and submit your working papers until **June 30** to the following email address: transsustain@uni-muenster.de. You will receive further details of the event through email. This event is free of charge.

Preliminary AGENDA

9:00-9:15	Introduction to the colloquium by Andrea Estrella and Janina Grabs, PhD Researchers TRANSSUSTAIN (moderation)
9:15-9:30	Impulse presentation by Thomas Dietz, Professor of International Relations and Law, University of Münster, and Project Leader TRANSSUSTAIN
9:30-9:45	Coffee break
9:45- 11:45	Methodological choices in PhD research. Moderation: Pieter Glasbergen, Honorary Professor at Maastricht University
11:45-12:40	Lunch break
12:45-13:45	Brown bag presentation by Prof. Pieter Glasbergen on social and economic effects of sustainability certification. Title: Smallholders do not eat certificates
14:00-15:15	First Roundtable discussion (3 papers). Discussant: Prof. Pieter Glasbergen
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:45	Second Roundtable discussion (3 papers). Discussant: Prof. Pieter Glasbergen
16:45-17:00	Summary and opportunities for future collaboration by Prof. Thomas Dietz
Evening	Optional dinner and further networking opportunities

Venue

Room 101, Graduate School of Politics (GraSP)
Institut für Politikwissenschaften
Scharnhorststraße 100
48151 Münster