

## Preliminary Program

### PhD Workshop: “Sustainable Development Research – an Interdisciplinary Chance or Challenge?”, September 3-4, 2020

*Organized by PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin)*

#### Abstract:

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN reflect the global consensus on improving sustainability. The goals have important implications for policy and research, in areas ranging from climate protection to gender issues. The SDGs are complex and interwoven; the success of one goal is often closely linked to that of another. Timely and impactful implementation of the goals therefore requires interdisciplinary research.

The workshop offers the opportunity to discuss the complex topic of sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective with an international group of PhD students and professors. Participants are asked to provide a short abstract outlining their research and a reflection of how their topic interacts with one or more SDGs. Through the workshop, participants develop a broader understanding of interdisciplinary research collaborations in the field of sustainable development.

Rather than presenting general overviews of sustainable development research, the workshop is interested in topical areas of individual dissertations, which should be reviewed in light of the 17 SDGs.

We invited PhD candidates specializing in sustainability-related research to apply. Deadlines have already passed, but interested PhD Students may contact [uas@fu-berlin.de](mailto:uas@fu-berlin.de) for remaining places. Please state your name, research topic, affiliation and full contact details.

#### Program Design: PhD Workshop

The PhD workshop is part of the Spring Campus Conference of the [University Alliance for Sustainability](#). Participants will have the opportunity to engage actively in the conference. Participants can attend the Opening Day on August 31 and a research workshop of their choice on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 1-2. We encourage you to use this opportunity to present your research.

On Thursday and Friday, September 3-4, we will convene for two PhD workshops. Those are organized in cooperation with [UNA Europa](#), a European network of universities, of which Freie Universität Berlin is a partner. PhD Candidates from the UAS and UNA partner universities will be thematically grouped in two parallel running workshops – **please indicate the title of the PhD workshop in your application.**

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Thursday will be dedicated to conference-style presentation sessions by PhD candidates. On Friday we will offer four different training modules. Topics may range from journal publication strategies and scientific policy advice to academic writing in sustainability research. Accepted participants can choose one of the modules.

### Funding for PhD Candidates from

- UAS partner universities

For further information on the selection process, please contact your respective International Office and/or UAS contact person at your university.

The University Alliance for Sustainability provides funding for up to 4 PhD students per UAS partner university. They may receive a lump-sum for their travel and accommodation to attend the Spring Campus Conference from March 30 - April 3, 2020. The amount will be transferred to their personal account after the Spring Campus. UAS participants can request a cash check in case a transfer is not possible. Please note that this request has to be made **by June 31** at the latest.

Please note that there are country-specific lump-sums for each partner university:

	Lump-sum for travel	Lump-sum for accommodation
<b>Peking University</b>	850 €	50 per night for up to 6 nights (300 Euro max.)
<b>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</b>	400 €	
<b>University of British Columbia</b>	1300 €	
<b>St. Petersburg State University</b>	275 €	

- UNA partner universities

The organization process is organized decentrally, at each UNA Europa university. Interested PhD candidates are invited to reach out to their local contact point: <https://www.una-europa.eu/news/phds-apply-now-for-una-europa-workshop-on-sustainability/>

The participation in the PhD Workshop on September 3-4, 2020 is free of charge for UNA candidates. If you wish to participate in the main conference from August 31- September 2, the conference fees for non-UAS PhD students apply: [https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/04\\_Registration/index.html](https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/04_Registration/index.html)

Participants are responsible for booking their own flights and accommodation. The UAS team is happy to help with questions regarding the stay in Berlin.

- Participants from other universities

PhD students from non-UAS and non-UNA member universities are invited to apply to both the conference program and the PhD workshops. Please note the conference fees for non-UAS PhD students on our website: [https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/04\\_Registration/index.html](https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/04_Registration/index.html)

## Preliminary Program

**Thursday, 3 September 2020 • Fabeckstraße 23-25, Freie Universität Berlin**

Chairs: PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><b>Welcome and Workshop Intro</b> “Sustainable Development Research – an Interdisciplinary Chance or Challenge?”</p> <p><b>Introductory Round – Workshop Chairs and PhD Candidates</b></p> <p>PD Dr. Berthold Kuhn, Freie Universität Berlin</p>
10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Break and networking
11:00-12:30pm	<p><b>Topical Input</b></p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00pm – 3:30pm	<p><b>Interactive Group Session I: “How does your topic interact with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?”</b></p> <p>Together with peers from various disciplines, participants reflect on their PhD research project in light of the 17 SDGs. Examples of questions explored in this session may include: How do research-driven solutions in your PhD thesis intersect with sustainability? How can solutions to the challenges you address in your PhD thesis foster sustainable development? At the policy-making level, how can you communicate your findings and implications of your research?</p> <p>This workshop allows PhD researchers the opportunity to engage with how their research project interacts with sustainability. Through the workshop, they can develop a shared understanding of how this multifaceted field is understood from a wide variety of perspectives in both the natural sciences and social sciences. Participants may explore opportunities for interdisciplinary research collaborations.</p>
3:30-4:00pm	<b>Coffee Break</b>
04:00 pm- 5:30pm	<p><b>Continuation of Group Session and Reflection</b></p> <p><b>Wrap-Up and Feedback Session</b></p>

## Call for Applications

**Friday, 4 September 2020 • Fabeckstraße 23-25, Freie Universität Berlin**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<b>PhD Training Sessions</b> – All PhD students choose one module: Topics, tba
10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Break and networking
11:00-12:30pm	<b>PhD Training Sessions continued</b> Topics, tba
12:30 pm	Lunch