

Spring Campus, March 30 – April 3, 2020

Workshop: “Financial Markets and Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change”, March 31 – April 1, 2020

Organized by Kurt Hübner (University of British Columbia), Berthold Kuhn (Freie Universität Berlin) and Itay Fishhendler (Hebrew University)

The world is on a growth trajectory that runs the severe risk to miss even the modest 2-degree target of the Paris Accord and to jeopardize the achievement of the sustainable development goals. From a global perspective, climate policies have not been successful. This verdict holds for national strategies as well as for the approach of sustainable finance that wants to incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into business decisions, economic growth processes, and investment strategies. At the same time, the awareness of climate-related financial risks is growing, not least due to increasing risks stemming from damage to property, land, infrastructure as well as from weather-related damages. Moreover, changes in relative prices of energy sources as well as political decisions may result in stranded assets and broader economic disruption. Sustainable finance also covers efforts to redirect capital flows to countries that are in urgent need to adjust to rising temperatures.

As society’s expectations change, the finance industry must be transparent and clear about how its products and services simultaneously create value for its customers, clients, investors, as well as for society.

As a result of all those economic and political processes, finance industry and financial markets have moved center in promoting sustainable development. This includes the practices of financial institutions like pensions funds, the role of central banks in designing frameworks for green finance, and also the efforts of financial actors to create new financial products and services in support of sustainability transitions.

Call for Contributions

The workshop invites for a stock-taking exercise across the range of those topical issues. Please send your abstracts (500-900 words) to kurt.huebner@ubc.ca, Itay.Fishhendler@mail.huji.ac.il, and berthold.kuhn@t-online.de by **January 15, 2020**. Acceptance notifications for the workshop will be sent out on January 31, 2020.

During the workshop, projects can either be introduced in a short presentation (15 minutes with 10 minutes discussion afterwards) or as part of a poster presentation session, which is recommended, especially, for PhD students.

The workshop will take place at the annual Spring Campus Conference of the University Alliance for Sustainability. For further information on the conference, please see: <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/index.html>