

Spring Campus, April 1-5, 2019

Workshop: “The Use of Knowledge for Sustainability Transitions”, April 02-03, 2019

Organized by Prof. Dr. Carsten Dreher (Chair of Innovation Management, FU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Eppinger (HTW Berlin), Carsten Schwäbe, Myriam Preiss, Daniel Weiss (FU Berlin)

Abstract

Sustainability transitions aim at surmounting present environmentally damaging economic behaviours and unjust social work practices via a change in consumer’s behaviours and a substitution of old and problematic technologies by innovative alternatives. A fruitful development and diffusion of sustainable technological innovations requires new knowledge to be created, learned and adopted. This includes explicit, codifiable knowledge, such as research publications, and intellectual property rights (e.g., patents). Also trade secrets and tacit knowledge play an important role in development and adoption processes, which finally lead to the sustainability transition. While in the field of sustainability research, often open access is recommended for accelerating innovation diffusion, entrepreneurship research proposes protection of intellectual property in order to attract investments. However, the best approach of using and sharing knowledge for sustainable innovation diffusion may vary from open access to more nuanced licensing schemes, depending on the industry and region.

Furthermore, apart from the R&D and adoption activities of firms and research institutes, the dynamic development and diffusion of new knowledge for sustainability transition asks policy makers to find answers on two policy fields: First, they have to support, strengthen and accelerate knowledge creation and diffusion in order to cope with the rising and time-critical sustainability challenges, notably climate change. Second, policy-making must take decisions on the question which technological paths should be followed.

Considering these challenges in the use of knowledge for sustainability transitions our workshop aims at bringing together researches from different disciplines and regions, in order to answer the following research questions:

- Which licensing models are appropriate for sustainability transitions? Or do we need a change in intellectual property rights’ protection in order to support knowledge development and diffusion?
- How can the use of tacit knowledge in market niches or by early adopters be improved and supported? How can the public in general be of help or included in the research process?
- How can the governance of sustainability transition collect and use the dynamically evolving knowledge in the innovation processes for improving dynamic political decision making?

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In order to keep an interdisciplinary environment for the workshop, we invite scholars from all relevant disciplines to submit contributions to these research questions and to one of the following technology fields concerned by sustainability transitions:

- Energy sector with emphasis on the electricity generation
- Food and agriculture sector (including new food systems, digital and precision farming) with a focus on the supply of (sub-)urban areas and production methods for those
- Textile and apparel industry (including fibres, fabrics, finishing and dyeing processes, recycling and circular economy approaches)

Call for Contributions

We invite contributions of the research project you want to present – including abstracts about new unfinished, conceptual ideas. **Please, send your abstracts (600-900 words) to ls-dreher@wiwiss.fu-berlin.de until 31st January 2019.** The confirmations for the workshop will be sent out on **6th February 2019**. During the workshop in April presentations of projects can be done either by a short presentation (15 minutes with 10 minutes discussion afterwards) or during a poster presentation session, which is recommended, especially, for PhD students.

The workshop aims at bridging insights and theoretical concepts from different disciplines. While during the first day we will engage in presentations and discussions, the second day is dedicated to define practical implications for state and industry actors, and research implications for academia, and to spur further collaboration amongst the workshop members.