



# DOING BIODIVERSITY

EXPERIMENTAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFORMATIONS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Digital Workshop on **23. & 24. JUNE 2021**

with public inputs by  
**CLAIRE WATERTON & HELMUT HILLEBRAND**

HUMANITIES CENTRE FOR  
ADVANCED STUDIES  
FUTURES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Organized by:  
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# DOING BIODIVERSITY

The planetary climate crisis and biodiversity loss have engendered many effects on the organization and the understanding of knowledge practices. Social and natural scientists agree that the „Anthropocene“ challenges the hitherto hardly questioned separation of humans and nature more than ever before. Since the turn of the millennium, transnational, academic and public attempts to improve global biodiversity assessment and, simultaneously, mitigate biodiversity loss have accelerated on a formerly unknown scale. Therefore, today, and even more in light of the Covid 19 pandemic, a trans- and cross-disciplinary sensibility is needed to address the challenges of the Anthropocene and enable experimental and collaborative research. As the global ecological movement suggests, such accounts could foster better knowledge for sustainable futures. However, their still fragmented academic organization counteracts intellectual progress. As a consequence, the Anthropocene will remain a ‘poisoned gift’ not only to the humanities, but also for the natural sciences, if the effective entanglement of nature and society for which it stands remains unnoticed on the level of practical knowledge exploration. The digital workshop assembles scholars and citizens, representing different modes of enacting biodiversity for sharing their experiences and perspectives in “doing biodiversity”.

From Wednesday, 23, to Thursday 24 June 2021 we invite you to find out which differences and commonalities might challenge or fuel collaborative approaches on biodiversity as a “boundary object” linking nature and society. On Wednesday evening, we welcome cross-disciplinary inputs provided by **Claire Waterton**, sociologist from Lancaster University, UK, and leading specialist on sociological biodiversity research, and **Helmut Hillebrand**, plankton ecologist and director of the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at Oldenburg University, Germany. On Thursday, we assemble naturalists, sociologists, citizen scientists, and critical activists through three “learning cabinets” composed by small groups. Within the Learning cabinets, we discuss questions as following: How do marine biologists experience the political task to mitigate the problem of biodiversity loss? How do activists approach experts to support their goals? How do

social scientists cooperate with citizens? How do species, artifacts, techniques, infrastructures intervene? And, what could we learn from our differences and heterogeneities for experimental democracy? In short, how could sustainable futures be created in light of the ecological and socioeconomic challenges of the current global crisis? To address these questions and challenges, the workshop offers a practice-based opportunity. Three specialists, helping to enhance your exchange and cooperation, will host each Learning cabinet: **Moritz Holtappels**, biogeochemist at the Alfred Wegener Institute Bremerhaven, **Vanessa van den Bogaert**, education scientist (Ruhr-University Bochum), and **Stefan C. Aykut**, environmental sociologist at Hamburg University. The goal of the workshop is to get the participants more acquainted with the pleasures, difficulties and excitements of inter- and transdisciplinary encounters, and, in the long run, to create appropriate learning communities to overcome the academic division of labor between nature and society.

## CALL PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

As the workshop is experimental and interactive, we invite you to tell us a bit about your background and motivation. Please send us a brief (no more than one page) info about

- a) your area of research and/or activities
- b) your motivation in participating in the workshop
- c) possible experiences in inter- and/or transdisciplinary work/research
- d) your expectations on the outcomes of workshop.

## DEADLINE

June 6th 2021; Feedback until Mid-June

## REGISTRATION AND CONTACT

[zukuenfte.der.nachhaltigkeit@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:zukuenfte.der.nachhaltigkeit@uni-hamburg.de)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.zukuenfte-nachhaltigkeit.uni-hamburg.de/en.html>

## PROGRAMME

*Night Session, Wednesday 23.06.21 (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) in English language*

6:00 – 6:10	Welcome and Introduction
6:10 – 6:40	Input Helmut Hillebrand
6:40 – 7:10	Input Claire Waterton
7:10 – 8:00	Discussion

*Workshop on Thursday (9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) notably in German language*

9:30 – 10:00	Welcome, explanation of the workshop formatting
10:00 – 10:30	Cross-disciplinary “Speed-dating”
10:30 – 11:00	Short reports in the plenary and short coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	Input and discussion on cross-disciplinary research on biodiversity; explanation of the format “Learning Cabinets”
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch break
1:00 – 2:30	Cross-disciplinary “Learning Cabinets”
2:30 – 3:00	Coffee break
3:00 – 4:00	Report of the results given by the hosts, plenary discussion, outlook

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