

Name: Dr. Fritz Reusswig

Potsdam Institute for Climate Research (PIK)

WINS Seminar 09.05.2018,

IRI THESys, Friedrichstraße 191, 10117 Berlin, Room 4088

Title of the presentation: Climate neutral living in Berlin: On the local protection of global commons in an urban real lab

Abstract

Dr. Reusswig will present the research approach, preliminary results and policy insights arising from the transdisciplinary research project KliB (*Klimaneutral leben in Berlin* / Climate neutral Living in Berlin), based at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research (PIK). At a time when looking to the future of environmental governance also implies addressing the erosion of democracy and rising political instability, both within Germany and internationally, collective responses to climate change at the local level can produce pathways to constructive transformation that may reach well beyond initial environment related aims. The KliB project wants to demonstrate that climate protection is possible here and now and to identify, in the real lab setting of Berlin, how the collective task of climate protection can be realized. Individual consumption and behavior changes are seen as complementary to political action, the *bourgeois* and the *citoyen* are seen as equally necessary individual reactions to the climate crisis. KliB brings together diverse civil-society actors to advance the use of climate-friendly products and alternative services—and to discuss feasible policy options. 100 volunteer households, receiving personalized advice and constant feedback on their CO₂consumption, are working together with PIK, local firms and NGOs in a learning process, to identify how it is possible to achieve a climate-friendlier lifestyle. The project aims to learn how households succeed in achieving this transformation and to identify the challenges they face, which need to be taken into account when developing policy. For more information on the KliB project see: Das Reallabor (<https://klimaneutral.berlin/reallabor/>).

Short bio

Dr. Fritz Reusswig is sociologist from the Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main, where he also obtained his Ph.D. degree. He is currently placed in Research Domain IV – “Transdisciplinary Concepts and Methods” at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). His work is focused mainly on lifestyle and consumption issues as drivers for global environmental change, especially climate change. In addition, he is interested in the role of lifestyle and consumption changes for a system wide sustainability transition. From an environmental sociology point of view, Dr. Reusswig looks also at the social construction of nature, and the public imagery related to nature, including the way biodiversity is perceived by societies. More recently, the possible role of cities for sustainable lifestyle and climate policy has become a research focus for him. He points on the extraordinary innovation potential the urban sphere bears and opts for the city as laboratory for socio-technical experiments lead by local actors. Stakeholder dialogue is in his view a core part of transdisciplinarity - both, when it comes to research and when it comes to practical oriented models for sustainable living on different scales. Dr. Reusswig currently teaches at Berlin's Humboldt University.