

WINS Seminar [Winter Semester 2016/17]

The WINS Seminar is held during academic term on Thursday afternoons, 15:00–17:00 hrs (ct), in Room 4088 of the IRI THESys, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Quartier Stadtmitte, Friedrichstrasse 191, 10117 Berlin.

Platz zum Querdenken (off the beaten track)

This year WINS is dedicating three Seminars (Thursdays 03 Nov., 01 Dec. and *05 Jan.) to make space for lateral thinking and debate on the Seminar Theme - Governability in the Anthropocene.

Thursday 01. Dec. 2016 (Room 3010a, 3rd floor)

Discussion Thema:

Truth, Transformation and Aesthetics

Long the basis for marketing research, and now further reinforced by recent advances in brain science, it is today clear that the aesthetic, both visual and visceral, plays a central role in guiding human decision making processes. Decisions taken by humans, individually and collectively, are central to the human-environment transformation that have brought about The Anthropocene and they will play a central role in the processes of human-environment transformations that can effectively address the challenges of The Anthropocene.

This week's PLatz zum Querdenken WINS Semniar, inspired by the engaged discussion held after WINS' screening of the film Embrace of the Serpent on Friday last, will provide a space to explore the place of aesthetics in the governability of The Anthropocene. The discussion will begin with a 10 minute intervention by Katharine Farrell on the contribution of the aesthetic in film to the social construction of self-understanding of environmental place. The opening discussion question will begin with the question:

what do today's popular culture stories tell their listener about the place of human beings and human society in the ecological life of the planet earth?

Semester Theme, Winter Semester 2016/2017

Governability in the Anthropocene

As the negative impacts of anthropogenic climate change, habitat destruction, pollution and resource depletion become ever more prominent, the failure of contemporary governance structures to provide for effective solutions is increasingly apparent. Scholars from a range of disciplines argue that the basic form of governance challenges has changed as humanity has achieved a more or less fully globalized and industrialised world. It has been argued that conventional institutions such as states, markets and international organisations are no longer up to the task of ensuring governability in what has come to be called the Anthropocene.

The question of whether or not the Anthropocene can be governed at all has been raised and it has even been suggested that democracy and free-trade might be incompatible with achieving governability in the Anthropocene. Some scholars see these challenges

IRI THESys

Integrative Research Institute
on Transformations of
Human- Environment Systems

WINS

Berlin Workshop in
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as an opportunity to address long recognized limitations in contemporary institutions, others see them as a matter of grave concern, a threat to democracy and to free-trade. This year, for the WS 2016/17 WINS Seminar, WINS takes up this debate about governability in the Anthropocene as a guiding thematic for the Seminar series. In this way we aim to foster critical and constructive dialogue on the topic and invite presenters to address, within the scope of their area of expertise and interests, and to address within their lecture, their position regarding what role(s) institutions might be playing in shaping these governability problems and whether, and if so, how they might contribute toward solving them.

* the date of the third Platz zum Querdenken Seminar has been changed: from 2 Feb. to 5. Jan. 2017.