



NEWSLETTER OF THE DFG HUMANITIES CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES "FUTURES OF SUSTAINABILITY"

12/2024 — 18 December 2024



DFG-KOLLEG-FORSCHUNGSGRUPPE
ZUKÜNFT DER NACHHALTIGKEIT

Dear colleagues and friends of the Centre,

It has been a grim year for sustainability in many ways – with devastating floods and heat waves around the globe, the rise of right-wing politics, anti-ecological backlash, and disappointing climate negotiations, among ongoing military confrontations and the destruction of livelihoods. In this daunting political context, the Centre has committed itself to two essential tasks: to critically examine the current state of affairs, and to seek visionary ideas that can help us break through the current impasse.

Together, we have delved into theoretical reflections on catastrophe, hope, and utopian politics. We have focused on specific social and political arenas where sustainability is currently negotiated or contested, such as authoritarian green politics, low-carbon transformations in Europe, and climate reporting in newsrooms. Collaborating with international researchers, fellows, writers, and artists has been a privilege; but it's also a responsibility that drives us to intervene in vital discussions about the futures of sustainability in Hamburg and beyond. Despite the challenges we face, we extend our heartfelt season's greetings and wish you all peaceful holidays!

Christine Hentschel, Frank Adloff, and Stefan C. Aykut for the Futures of Sustainability team

LOOKING BACK AT 2024



Foto: Alexa Höber

Conference Film now on YouTube

Our international conference [“Hopeful Attachments on a Ruined Planet”](#) brought together over 60 sociologists, geographers, international relations scholars, anthropologists, philosophers and literary scholars to discuss the critical potential of hope in these catastrophic times. Check out our [conference film](#) by [Alexa Höber](#) on [our YouTube-Channel](#).

In the picture (from left to right): [Ben Anderson](#) (Durham University), [Christine Hentschel](#) (FoS), [Carl Cassegård](#) (University of Gothenburg), [Kübra Gümüştay](#) (author, Hamburg)





Foto: Martin Kollmann

"When Power Goes Green", 10 July 2024

In July, our workshop ["When Power Goes Green"](#) focused on the manifold relationships between authoritarian power and the contemporary climate crisis. It associated [Yifei Li](#) (NYU Shanghai), [Kristian Karlo Saguin](#) (University of the Philippines), [Gvantsa Gverdtseteli](#) (Roskilde University/Transparency International), and [Attila Antal](#) (Eötvös Loránd University).

In the picture (from left): Yifei Li and [Macario Lacbawan](#) (FoS)



Foto: Graphic recording by Lou Szymorek/AdWHH

"Utopias are dead! Long live Utopias!", 14 November 2024

Another highlight was the panel organized in November by the [Young Academy Hamburg](#) on Utopian Thinking, featuring [Mathias Thaler](#) (University of Edinburgh), [Davina Cooper](#) (King's College London) and [Nina Perkowski](#) (University of Hamburg). With graphic

recording by [Lou Szymorek](#).

[More on the event here](#)



Foto: Martin Kollmann

Book Presentations

Among the many book presentations we have hosted this year was a discussion on the struggles over our soils ("[Der Grund...](#)") with the authors [Tanja Busse](#) and [Christiane Grefe](#), and a discussion on the Glossary of the Present ("[Glossar der Gegenwart 2.0](#)") with [Ulrich Bröckling](#) (University of Freiburg), [Susanne Krasmann](#) and [Urs Stäheli](#) (both University of Hamburg), [Fritz Breithaupt](#) (The New Institute).

We also held launch events for [Peter Wagner's](#) (Universitat de Barcelona) deep historical analysis "[Carbon Societies](#)" and [Gerard Delanty's](#) (University of Sussex) "[Senses of the future](#)", as well as a panel discussion on the German climate transformation Outlook ("[Klimawende Ausblick 2024](#)") with [Stefan C. Aykut](#) (FoS), Peter Wagner and [Kerstin Lopatta](#) (Universität Hamburg).



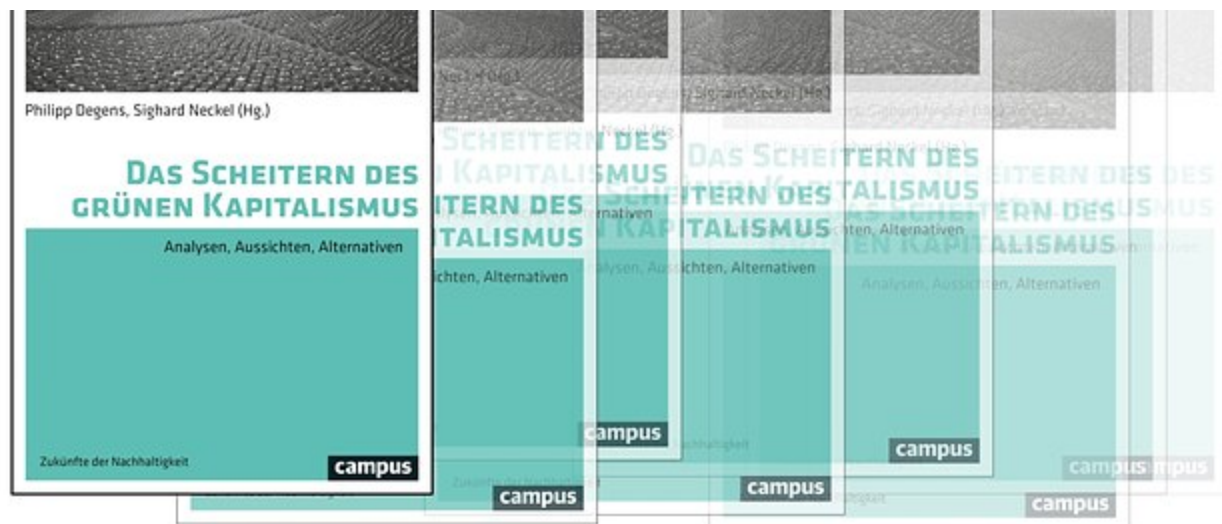


Foto: Campus

Out now! Volume 6 of our Book Series

We are pleased to announce that the 6th volume of our [book series "Futures of Sustainability"](#) has been published by Campus: "[Das Scheitern des grünen Kapitalismus. Analysen, Aussichten, Alternativen](#)", edited by [Philipp Degens](#) and [Sighard Neckel](#). Green capitalism promises to get the ecological crisis under control through technical innovations and market-based instruments. However, the results of this promise so far have been sobering.

[Learn more here](#)

"Perceiving and Reflecting Organized Valuation", 24-25 October 2024

The working group on [Organization and Valuation](#) from the Sociology of Organizations section of the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie](#) convened at our Centre to explore the role of perception in valuation. For this endeavor, the working group (including [Sarah Lenz](#), FoS) invited [Christian Bessy](#) from IDHES ENS Paris-Saclay, to discuss his conceptualization of "prise" referred to as the "sense of things".

[Read the workshop report here](#)

Fellows in 2024

[Get to know our fellows](#) and their work in the weekly [Kolleg-Forum](#) (no registration

needed, every Wednesday during the semester)!

Fellows in the winter term 2024/2025

[Eva von Redecker](#) (Jan-April 25), [Aurea Mota](#) (Dec 24-Jan 25), [Çaglar Yigitogullari](#) (Dec 24-March 25), [Chris Müller](#) (Oct 24-Jan 25), [Renata Campos Motta](#) (Oct-Dec 24), [Katharina Zimmermann](#) (Oct 24-March 25), [Susan Paulson](#) (Oct 24), [Nobuo Yamamura](#) (Sept 24-Aug 25, associated via CSS), [Frédéric Vandenberghe](#) (Oct 24-Oct 25, associated via HIAS), [Tanja Busse](#) (Permanent Writer in Residence)

Fellows in the summer term 2024

[Norbert Ebert](#) (Aug-Sept 24, affiliated via Sigward Neckel's Chair), [Yifei Li](#) (July-Aug 24), [Alexa Höber](#) (April-June 24), [Sara Schurmann](#) (April-July 24), [Vando Borghi](#) (Feb-April 24)

THOUGHTS AND FIELDNOTES

"Will Environmental Destruction Be Punished as a Crime of Ecocide Soon?"

On 9th September 2024, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa submitted a formal proposal to include ecocide as the fifth international crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The proposal defines ecocide as 'unlawful or wanton acts that cause severe and either widespread or long-term environmental damage'. The Democratic Republic of the Congo later joined the three Pacific island nations. If this proposal is accepted by the State Parties to the Rome Statute, the ICC can prosecute and punish mass environmental destruction, considering it to be as grave as genocide, war crimes, the crime of aggression, and crimes against humanity. [Continue reading here](#)

By [Juneseo Hwang](#) (FoS)

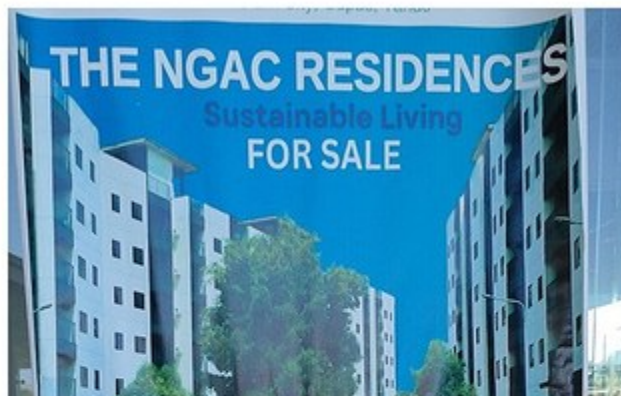




Foto: Macario Lacbawan

"Sustainability for sale: Notes from the Philippines"

The vast expanse of indigenous territory belonging to the Aeta people in Central Philippines now lies at the intersection of competing demands: climate mitigation and the protection of indigenous communities. The Philippine government has appropriated this land to create a smart green city called New Clark City. This is where I conducted my ethnographic fieldwork from October to November this year. For nearly two months, I lived with Aeta communities to understand how the construction of New Clark City on their land generates tensions, relationships, and new forms of indigenous life.

During my fieldwork, I observed a striking feature of this sprawling infrastructural project: a surge of speculation surrounding the construction of New Clark City. Touted as a sustainable city powered by green technology, NCC is positioned to replace Manila, a city grappling with the existential threat of sinking due to climate change. However, NCC's ambition extends beyond sustainability. Apartments and office buildings, designed as safe havens against environmental risks, are marketed as lucrative real estate investments for the wealthy, leaving the Aeta people excluded. Here, a future free from climate peril intertwines with the allure of financial gain—a seductive vision of security and profitability.

By [Macario Lacbawan](#) (FoS)

OUTLOOK FOR 2025





8–10 October 2025

Foto: MolnarSzabolcsErdely via pixabay; Design: Martin Kollmann

Call: Young Scholars' Conference "Time & Justice"

We are delighted to share the Call for Participation for the Young Scholars' Conference: ["Time & Justice. Temporal Interrogations into Social-Ecological Justice"](#), taking place from 8–10 October 2025 at our Centre. Confirmed keynotes: [Michelle Bastian](#) (University of Edinburgh), [David Schlosberg](#) (University of Sydney)



29.01.2025 // 18–20:00 (IN GERMAN)

»TR!1GGERP#UNKT KLIMASCHUTZ?«

Book Presentation: »Triggerpunkte. Konsens und Konflikt in der Gegenwartsgesellschaft«

with Linus Westheuser (Humboldt-Universität Berlin)

Comments:

Katharina Zimmermann (Universität Hamburg)

Anna Fünfgeld (Universität Hamburg)

Chair: Stefan Aykut (»Futures of Sustainability«, Universität Hamburg)

Foto: Martin Kollmann

Book presentation: "Triggerpunkte", 29 January

How polarized have our societies become? Are they really more divided today than during the student protests or in the early 1990s? We discuss the book ["Triggerpunkte. Konsens und Konflikt in der Gegenwartsgesellschaft"](#) together with co-author [Linus Westheuser](#)

(HU Berlin) and ask what the findings of the study mean for current political and societal debates in the face of an escalating climate crisis.

[More here soon](#)



Preview Kolleg-Forum 2025

8 January, 10:30 – 12:00, [Caglar Yigitogullari](#) (actor/performance artist/dancer, Hamburg):
"Critical Zone" (Performance, Work-in-Progress & Conversation)

15 January, 10:30 – 12:00, [Chris Müller](#) (Macquarie University, Sydney):
"Anaesthetic Violence: Technology, Affect and the Politics of Ease"

22 January, 10:30 – 12:00, [Eva von Redecker](#) (Philosopher, Brandenburg countryside):
"Isolated Liberty. On the ecological indifference of liberal freedom"

Get to know our fellows and their work in the weekly [Kolleg-Forum](#) (no registration needed, every Wednesday during the semester)!

OUTPUT IN 2024

Recent Publications (selection)

Adloff, F., Aykut, S. C. and Hentschel, C. (2024): "Zukünfte der Nachhaltigkeit: Zur Aktualisierung eines Forschungsprogramms", in: Journal für Entwicklungspolitik, Vol. 40, 1-2, 210-233, [Link](#)

Adloff, Frank (2024): "Anti-Utilitarismus und die Gaben der Natur", in: Vorgänge : Zeitschrift für Bürgerrechte und Gesellschaftspolitik, Vol. 08/2024, 245/246, 53-62, [Link](#)

Aykut, S. C. ,Wiener, A., Zengerling, C. and Bähring, J. (2024): "Climate Litigation as a Social Driver Towards Deep Decarbonisation I: A Framework and a General Assessment", in: Carbon & Climate Law Review, 17 (3): 181-192, [DOI](#)

Aykut, S. C., Hüppauff, L. , Frerichs, L. , Fünfgeld, A. , Walter, Y. , Aguirre, F. , Mollyk, A. , Ritterbach, L. and Hildebrandt, F. (2024): "Klimawende Ausblick 2024 - gesellschaftliche Treiber der Transformation in Deutschland", in: 116 p., Vol. 1: Klimapolitik, Klimabewegung und Klimaklagen, Hamburg, [DOI](#)

Degens, P. and Neckel, S. (eds.) (2024): "Das Scheitern des grünen Kapitalismus. Analysen, Aussichten, Alternativen", Frankfurt/New York: Campus, [Link](#)

Hentschel, Christine (2024): "Denken in Der Endzeit: Günther Anders Für Unsere Apokalyptischen Zeiten Lesen." Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie 72(4): 593–606. [DOI](#)

Hentschel, C. and Krasmann, S. (2024): "Collapse Awareness in the Face of Climate Breakdown and Urbicide", in: Critical Studies on Security: 1–15. [DOI](#)

Hering, L., Kalff, Y. and Lenz, S. (2024): "Wirtschaft und Nachhaltigkeit", in: Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit (SuN), Glossar Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit, Münster, [Link](#)

Hwang, Juneseo (2024): "The Political Economy of the Mobuoy Illegal Dump in Northern Ireland - A Green Criminology Perspective", in: International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy, [DOI](#)

Hwang, Juneseo (2024): "Implementation of Ecocide Legislation on the Island of Ireland: Current legal framework, challenges, and future directions", EJNI Briefing Paper. Environmental Justice Network Ireland. [Link](#) (pdf)

Neckel, Sighard (2024): "Nachhaltigkeit: Zwischen Individuum und öffentlichem Auftrag",

in: Deutschland & Europa. Herausgegeben von der Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg, 41. Jg. (2024), Heft 88, S. 36-4, [Link](#)

Zengerling, C., Bähring, J., Aykut, S.C., and Wiener, A. (2024): "Climate Litigation as a Social Driver Towards Deep Decarbonisation II: Zooming in on Two Cases", in: Carbon & Climate Law Review, 18 (1): 3-16, [DOI](#)

[All publications of the Centre](#)

The Centre out and about (selection)

02 December, Lecture, Sighard Neckel: [Ecological Crises, Capitalism, and the Future of Sustainability](#), Chung-Ang-University, Department of Sociology

05 November, Panel Discussion with Frank Adloff and others, [„Klima und Freiheit schützen – wie kann das gelingen? Gesellschaftswissenschaftliche Perspektiven im interdisziplinären Dialog“](#), Deutsches Klima Konsortium, Berlin

30 October, Lecture, Sighard Neckel: „The Quandaries of Transformation. On the Socio-Ecological Dilemma of Simultaneity“, Conference [„Temporalities of Climate Change“](#). Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, Cologne

17 October - 02 November, Frank Adloff as Visiting Chair at the [Environment and Climate Research Hub Vienna](#), University of Vienna

13 October, Panel Discussion with Christine Hentschel and others: ["Apocalyptic Imagination"](#). Biennial of Thought, Barcelona

16-18 September, Lecture, Macario Lacbawan: "Sustainability by concealment: Sinking Manila, Loss, and Indigenous Exceptionalism in the Philippines", Workshop on Climate Loss, Conflict and Peace: Relational Responses to Existential Crisis. Toda Peace Institute, Hamburg

12 September, Keynote, Christine Hentschel: „Für eine Soziologie der Endzeit. Günther Anders für post/apokalyptische Zeiten lesen“, [Politische Bildung in der Postapokalypse](#), Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

24 June, Lecture, Sighard Neckel: [„Reichtum in der ökologischen Krise. Kein richtiges Leben im falschen Eigentum“](#). Sonderforschungsbereich 294 „Strukturwandel des Eigentums“ at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

18 June, Opening Keynote, Stefan C. Aykut: "Die Gesellschaft der Klimawende. Soziale

Treiber und Hemmnisse auf dem Weg zur Klimaneutralität", [2. Zukunftsgipfel Klima-n Engagement](#), Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (BBE), Berlin

13 June, Lecture, Macario Lacbawan: "New Clark City, Non-persons, and the 18 000 Indigenous Lives in a Smart City", Austronesian Research Seminar. Department of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Asia-Africa Institute (AAI), University of Hamburg

1 March, Panel Discussion with Stefan C. Aykut and others, "[Klimaneutrale Gesellschaft - Wie gelingt die Transformation und welche Rolle spielt die Wissenschaft?](#)", Finissage of the Exhibition and Digital Story "Pioniere des Wissens | Die Nobelpreisträger*innen der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft", Hamburg

[More here](#)

The Centre in the media (selection)

25 November, Interview with Stefan C. Aykut about COP 29: "[Un accord minimal qui permet de sauver la face](#)", Le Monde

12 November, Sighard Neckel: „[Gibt es grünes Internet? \(Neckels Klima-Fragen#4\)](#)“, in: Hinz&Kunzt. Das Hamburger Straßenmagazin, Nr. 381 (November 2024), S. 56

27 June, Sighard Neckel: „[Säuft Hamburg \(doch\) ab? \(Neckels Klima-Fragen#3\)](#)“, in: Hinz&Kunzt. Das Hamburger Straßenmagazin, Nr. 377 (Juli 2024), S. 56

24 May, Interview with Stefan C. Aykut: „[Wie wichtig ist Klima bei den #Europawahlen?](#)“, arte journal

04 April, Sighard Neckel: „[Kleider machen Klima \(Neckels Klima-Fragen#2\)](#)“, in: Hinz&Kunzt. Das Hamburger Straßenmagazin, Nr. 374 (April 2024), S. 56

11 March, Frank Adloff: "[Wenn die Natur auf Nachhaltigkeit klagt](#)"/"[When the environment sues for sustainability](#)", Guest article, in: Hamburger Abendblatt

[More here](#)

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IMPRESSUM

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