

# Science, Sustainability & ART

EXPLORING TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATION

# ART



Spring edition 29 June - 12 July, Freiburg

Autumn edition 26 Oct - 1 November, Freiburg

Driven by a spirit of innovation and provocation, the Science, Sustainability and Art - Exploring Tools for Transformation series uncovers the use of art in the field of sustainability science.

The broad field of sustainability science has become a strong driver for solution-oriented research, triggering the development of new research frameworks in many different fields. Transdisciplinary approaches, which bring together qualitative and quantitative research, as well as theory and praxis have become an essential element to any sustainability study. **But, what is the role of art in the emerging field of sustainability science?**

Although art and science have met in the past, the focus was usually on assessing the aesthetic value of science. In this lecture series we explore this relationship from the opposite angle: **How does art contribute to science, in particular sustainability science?** Can it be a useful tool to trigger transformation processes within our society? And even, can art be considered quintessential to a research process aimed at social change? How does this type of research in turn affect policy making and our understanding of sustainability?

In a series of lectures, workshops and exhibits, we will explore aspects of sustainability, such as sensory and emotional experiences, which are strengths of aesthetic enquiry but often neglected by traditional research frameworks. It will open the floor for discussions concerning the boundaries of science and art – is it possible to instrumentalise art for research without losing its critical value? Do aesthetics play a role in personal transformation? Can storytelling, rather than scientific enquiry, bring us closer subjective truth? What is the role of empathy in sustainability science, and can artistic methods provide the right framework to work with it?

**In a combination of experience and innovation,** the lecture-series will bring together sustainability scientists and practitioners from a wide breadth of disciplines who in some way or another have used art as a tool for their research: from theatre in participatory methods, to photography to overcome communication barriers, and comic and art therapy for behavioural change. In addition to the lectures, a series of workshops will give participants the opportunity to experience these new methodologies first-hand, thus enabling them to form their own opinion on this provocative approach.

The series will be held as a **two-part programme** over the summer and winter semesters of 2015, each part including a public performance by the Freiburg Scientific Theatre.

The Science, Sustainability and Art – Exploring Tools for Transformation series is organised by the **Freiburg Scientific Theatre e.V.** and hosted by the **Chair of Environmental Governance** at the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Freiburg. It is funded by an Innovation Fund grant designed to encourage inventive and original teaching methods.

# Science, Sustainability

EXPLORING TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATION

# & ART

A series of lectures, workshops & performances,  
exploring the use of art as a tool for  
sustainability research & education.

29. June - 12. July 2015

## Lectures

Monday 29th June, 17:30h

- **Artful Sustainability Studies: Of aesthetics of complexity and radical open citizenship**  
Dr. Sacha Kagan, Leuphana University of Lüneburg

Tuesday 30th June, 17:30h

- **Working “Predisciplinarily”. Towards Sources of Sustainability**  
Dr. phil. Hildegard Kurt, Institute for Art, Culture and Sustainability, Berlin

Friday 3rd July, 17:30h

- **Science Education Indisciplined**  
Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar, Center for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore

## Theatre Performance

Thursday 2nd July, 20h

- **Paradise Vetoed - Stories of Climate Change**  
Theatre Performance by the **Freiburg Scientific Theatre e.V.**, Freiburg

## Workshops

Saturday 4th July, 10h-18h

- **The Art of Scientific Observation**  
Workshop by **Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar**, Center for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore

Sunday 5th July, 10h-18h

- **Art therapy for frustrated environmentalists - and comic drawing for latent activists**  
**Brendan Dobbie**, University of Freiburg

11th -12th July, 10h-18h

- **Scientific Theatre Workshop - Using theatre to communicate sustainability**  
Workshop by **Torben Flörkemeier** and **Sadhbh Juárez Bourke**,  
**Freiburg Scientific Theatre e.V.**

### VENUE:

Lectures and Workshops will be held in Room 400  
at the Herderbau, Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources,  
Tennenbacherstr. 4, 79106, Freiburg.

The Theatre Performance will take place at  
Theater Nuage Fou (Lutherkirchstraße 1, Stühlinger-Freiburg)

