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COLLEGE FOR  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND HUMANITIES



Centre for  
**Global  
Cooperation  
Research**

UNIVERSITÄT  
DUISBURG  
ESSEN

*Offen im Denken*

# The Politics of Limits: Sustainability and Democracy in Times of Changing Climates

## **The Politics of Limits: Sustainability and Democracy in Times of Changing Climates**

Monday, 8 December to Tuesday, 9 December

**Venue:** College for Social Sciences and Humanities

Lindenallee 39-41

45127 Essen, Germany

Recent years have seen a move away from both sustainability commitments and democratic governing. However, while democratic backsliding and ecological crisis often appear intertwined, they are not always mutually reinforcing. Nor are democracy and sustainability natural allies. After all, democracies' promise of general freedom and equality itself may be at odds with proposals that current societies need to politically restrict economic growth (if and insofar as growth equals resource consumption). To engage with this possibly intrinsic tension, this interdisciplinary conference focuses on a political concept that potentially offers a framework to conceptualise necessary limitations: the idea of republican freedom, where individual freedom is limited by 'the freedom of others', as well as the rules and policies upon which the political community as a whole has agreed. Participants explore the relationship between republican restrictions of individual freedom and possible economic limitations, and the relationship between democratic justice and economic growth (at the level of both ideas and practices).

Admission free, please register via email to [sustainability-democracy@uni-due.de](mailto:sustainability-democracy@uni-due.de)





**Monday, 8 December**

## **Registration**

12:30–13:00

## **Welcome and Introduction**

13:00 – 13:15 | Britta Acksel (Wuppertal), Matthias Kranke (Duisburg-Essen/UA Ruhr), Christian Scheper (Duisburg-Essen) & Eva Weiler (Duisburg-Essen)

## **Theories of Limits**

13:15 – 14:45 | Chair: Eva Weiler (Duisburg-Essen)

### **Can Republican Freedom Address the Barriers to Implementing Politics of Limits in Western Democracies?**

Karoline Kalke & Daniel Hausknost (Vienna)

### **Democracy and Sustainability in Times of Climate Crisis: Limiting Distributive Inequality to Enable Relational Equality**

Tobias Vogel (Bochum) & Jan-Christoph Heilingner (Witten/Herdecke)

### **Planetary Boundaries and Democracy: Exploring Challenges and Potentials for Innovation**

Basil Bornemann (Zurich)

## **What to Limit and How?**

15:00 – 16:30 | Chair: Britta Acksel (Wuppertal)

### **Pursuing the Transformation Towards 1.5° Societies in Times of Polarization**

Lea Becker, Lars Berker & Doris Fuchs (Potsdam)

### **Limits of Nature and Limits of Society**

Rose Troll (Bremen)

### **Too Much of a Good Thing? A Political Limitarian Perspective on the Development of (Digital) Technology**

Lorina Buhr (Göttingen)

## Structural Obstacles to Limitations? The Role of Economic Policy

16:45 – 18:15 | Chair: Sebastian Meurer (Duisburg-Essen)

### Limits to Welfare?

#### The Translation of Boundary Concepts in Global Eco-Social Policy

John Berten, Robin Schulze Waltrup & Alexandra Kaasch (Bielefeld)

### Reappraising Consumption Nudging – on Liberty in the Age of Climate Catastrophe

Oliver Braganza (Bonn) & Jakob Kapeller (Duisburg-Essen)

### Too Rich to Regulate?

#### Perceptions of the Wealthy and the Feasibility of Climate Policy for High Emitters

Kajsa Emilsson, Jayeon Lee & Max Koch (Lund)

## Information on the Launch of the Network 'Sustainability and Democracy'

18:15 - 18:45 | Franziska Martinsen & Andreas Niederberger (Duisburg-Essen)

## Conference Dinner

19:15 | Restaurant tablo, Huyssenallee 5



**Tuesday, 9 December**

## **Theories of Limits**

9:00 – 10:30 | Chair: Matthias Kranke (Duisburg-Essen/UA Ruhr)

### **True Cost Accounting – an Idea Whose Time Has Come? Investigating the Incorporation of TCA Related Policy in the German Coalition Agreement 2021**

Paul Glöckner (Nuremberg)

### **Carbon Offsets Without End: The CDM, Article 6.4, and the Politics of Not-Quite-Limiting**

Rosalie Arendt & Felice Diekel (Twente)

### **Youth Climate Activism and Republican Freedom in Peshawar, Pakistan: Negotiating Sustainability Limits Amid Democratic Distrust**

Sayed Attaullah Shah (Peshawar) & Rahat Shah (Frankfurt)

## **(Un)successful Politization of Climate Issues**

10:45 – 12:15 | Chair: Petra Dobner (Halle)

### **The Structures and Limits of the Emerging German Sustainability State**

Michael Rose & Okka Lou Mathis (Lüneburg)

### **Advocacy Coalitions and Discourses of Freedom in Social-Ecological Transformation Conflicts**

Anna Geyer (Frankfurt)

### **What Could 'Transclassing' Mean for Sustainable Democracies?**

Alexander Schindler (Potsdam)

## How to Organize Sustainable Practices I

13:30 – 15:00 | Chair: Markus Ciesielski (Saarbrücken)

### **Principles of Justice for a Sustainable Economy**

Thomas Rixen & Peter Dietsch (Berlin)

### **Between Commoning and Commodification: Renewable Energy Communities as Hybrid Spaces in Green Accumulation**

Georgios Anagnostopoulos (Athens)

### **Climate Change, Energy Security, and the Rise of Populist Politics in Bangladesh: Implications for Sustainable Democracy**

Ala Uddin (Chittagong)

## How to Organize Sustainable Practices II

15:30 – 17:00 | Chair: Christian Scheper (Duisburg-Essen)

### **Environmental Injustice and the Limits of Democracy: The Case of Resource Governance in Balochistan, Pakistan**

Arsh Afroz (Islamabad), Umer Khayyam (Osnabrück) & Mariam Mansuri (Berlin)

### **Resourcing for Interdependence: How Social Ventures Balance Freedom and Limits for Sustainable Communities.**

Lauren Goetze

### **Nothing About Us Without Us: Inclusive Transdisciplinary Approaches for Equitable Climate and Sustainability Governance**

Victoria Herbig (Zurich)

## Wrap-up

17:00

## End of the Conference

17:30

### Contact

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### Venue

College for Social Sciences and Humanities  
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