

53rd Minisymposium of the IFF-Centre for Environmental History (ZUG)

Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research (LTSER): How to Study Society – Nature Interactions Across Spatial and Temporal Scales

Book Launch and Panel Discussion with

Axel Borsdorf (Innsbruck)
Eeva Furman (Helsinki)
Helmut Haberl (IFF-Vienna)
Michael Mirtl (UBA, Vienna)
Simron J. Singh (IFF-Vienna and Waterloo, Canada)
Martin Schmid (IFF-Vienna)

Moderation: Verena Winiwarter



Over the last half century, exceptional changes in the environment have placed renewed importance on the study of society-nature interactions. Around the globe, ever increasing human demands on ecosystems not only harm the environment, but also induce great potential for social conflict. In this sense sustainability problems are not only “ecological” but “socio-ecological” since the ways societies interact with the environment affects both ecosystems and social systems.

The emerging interdisciplinary field of Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research (LTSER) is primarily concerned with questions of global environmental change and sustainability. It aims to conceptualise, observe, analyse, and model changes in coupled socio-ecological systems over generations. Tracking these changes over extended periods is accomplished in research traditions that include social and human ecology, industrial ecology, environmental history, human geography and anthropology. LTSER aims to provide a knowledge base that helps reorient socioeconomic trajectories towards more sustainable pathways.

The authors of the just published volume to be presented this evening make a case for LTSER’s potential in providing insights, knowledge and experience necessary for a sustainability transition. Contributions from Europe and North America review the development of LTSER since its inception and assess its current state. Through many case studies, this book gives the reader a greater sense of where we are and what needs to be done to engage in and make meaning from long-term, place-based and cross-disciplinary engagements with socio-ecological systems.

Refreshments and snacks will be served, so RSVP to anna.woegerbauer@aau.at by February 19, 2013.

Ort / Place: IFF, 1070 Wien, Schottenfeldgasse 29
Zeit / Time: Thursday, February 21st, 2013, 18.00 c.t. – 20.00