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Bioeconomy Conference

Bioeconomy Policies, Actors, and Transformations:

Achievements, Challenges, and Recommendations

The conference

We are writing to invite you to participate in the international conference *Bioeconomy Policy, Actors, and Transformations: Achievements, Challenges, and Recommendations*, hosted by the Agricultural and Food Policy Group at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The conference will take place in the beautiful historical ballroom at Luisenstraße 56 in Berlin's city center from 22nd February 2023 lunchtime until 23rd February 2023 afternoon.

The conference marks the completion of the research project PolDeRBio (Policy Designs for Resilient Bioeconomies), which has been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education under the program "Bioeconomy as societal change".

The conference aims to provide an interactive space for researchers, policy experts and representatives of public administration, private sector and civil society organizations to discuss research results, ideas, experiences and ways forward in the area of bioeconomy policy. The conference will consist of different formats, including paper presentations, roundtables and interactive workshop formats. We invite presentations and other contributions that cover a wide range of critical questions in the field of bioeconomy governance and policy.

The topic

Governing bioeconomy towards sustainability and resilience is a challenging task. Over 50 countries across the globe have designed and published policies intended to address bioeconomy challenges. The PolDeRBio project has analyzed how these policies problematize various issues that range from the development of domestic markets and food security to climate change and regional development. They embody different and sometimes conflicting visions, are implemented in different and often uneven ways and have multiple effects on the development path of national bioeconomies and economies in general, on nature, politics and people's lives.

Bioeconomy is a transformative project that aims to move the resource base of the broader economy away from fossil-based to renewable, bio-based resources. The development of the bioeconomy is in turn entangled with other transformations such as digitalization, climate change, pandemic repercussions, dietary change, and geo-political shifts. As a result, the landscapes of actors involved in the bioeconomy and its transformations vary across places, scales and times. Political and

administrative institutionalization is often fragile and uneven, and the balance between emphasis on economic growth and novel technologies or social innovations and stakeholder inclusiveness is delicate.

Contributions sought

We invite you to propose either a presentation or a topic that you would like to discuss at a roundtable or small workshop with up to 15 participants. We welcome presentations and roundtable or workshop topic suggestions with an international, national, and regional focus that address at least one of the following questions:

- Bioeconomy policies include problematizations, visions and instruments. How do bioeconomy policies address sustainability and resilience and how can this be explained?
- To what degree are bioeconomy policies designed or evolved? What are the strengths and weaknesses, contradictions and conflicts in bioeconomy policy design? How coherent, consistent and congruent are bioeconomy policies and how can this be improved?
- How is bioeconomy policy implemented? What are successful and less successful implementation stories?
- Who are the actors involved in bioeconomy policy and how do their interests affect bioeconomy transformations?
- To what extent do bioeconomy transformations constitute inclusive societal projects or exclusive elitist ventures?
- What is the role of the state in governing the bioeconomy? How does the state enhance the sustainability and fairness of the bioeconomy?
- What are the opportunities of and challenges for bioeconomies in times of multiple crises?
- What are achievements, challenges, lessons learned, solutions, and recommendations towards sustainable and resilient bioeconomies?

How to participate

Should you be interested in giving a presentation of about 15 minutes, please send us an abstract of about 300 words by 25th November, 2022. If you want to initiate a roundtable or workshop topic, please send us a short note that explains the suggested topic and, if possible, potential participants. Please send your contributions to jonas.pfister.1@hu-berlin.de.

We will send notification of acceptance of your suggestion in early December 2022. Should you be interested in participating in the conference without presenting, please register by sending an email to narimeh.paepflow1@hu-berlin.de (kindly note that there might be a limit to the number of non-presenting participants).

The conference raises no fees for participation. Lunch, drinks, and snacks will be offered on both days and during the conference breaks. Do not miss this unique opportunity for bioeconomy scholars and experts to share their insights and perspectives.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The PolDeRBio Team

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