

Call for Papers: Chameleon Research Workshop on Barriers to Adaptation to Climate Change September 18th – 21st, 2012, Berlin

Barriers, limits and constraints to adaptation are increasingly discussed within the scientific community on adaptation to climate change. Empirical and theoretical research is currently being undertaken in multiple studies and disciplines. Current research focuses on regions, sectors or organizations in both developing and developed countries. Since institutional, political and economic settings are diverse, the problems encountered in adaptation to climate change also differ greatly.

The Chameleon Research Group, led by Klaus Eisenack¹ and Esther Hoffmann², investigates economic and political conditions for adapting the energy and transport sectors in Germany. The group analyzes organizational, economic and institutional barriers to adaptation in the two sectors, as well as enabling settings to bypass or overcome them.

At present, a synthesis of different research perspectives and findings on barriers is timely and promises to strengthen a systematic and sufficient understanding of barriers. We therefore invite researchers (Postdocs and PhDs) worldwide to participate in a workshop to be held in Berlin to discuss barriers to adaptation to climate change from different disciplinary perspectives. The specific focus is on barriers in developed countries and/or in infrastructural adaptation.

Objectives

The aim of the workshop is to enhance conceptual and empirical insights into barriers to adaptation by synthesizing current knowledge from diverse disciplinary research streams. Key similarities and differences between barriers are to be identified. A fruitful exchange and synthesis of perspectives helps to generate practical knowledge, interdisciplinary as well as disciplinary sharpness, and

to promote the research agenda both on an individual and a broader scale.

The workshop aims at adding to the understanding of barriers to adaptation by especially addressing the following questions:

- How can barriers to adaptation be conceptualized and analyzed?
- How do barriers differ between different actors (political, economic, and societal) and scales?
- What political, institutional and organizational strategies are suitable for overcoming these barriers?

Specific research themes

We invite theoretical and conceptual contributions from current research, not restricted to, but particularly on, the following issues:

- Economic, financial and technical barriers to climate change adaptation
- Institutional, governance and organizational barriers to climate change adaptation
- Cognitive, social and cultural barriers to climate change adaptation
- Barriers to processes of decision making in long-term (environmental and societal) changes
- Societal challenges in adaptation processes on different scales
- Approaches to conceptualizing, diagnosing and generalizing barriers
- Strategies, policies and measures to overcome identified barriers.

For empirical findings on adaptation challenges, we welcome case studies on barriers to adaptation. Adaptation case studies are particularly welcome on, but not restricted to, the following issues:

- Utilities and supply sectors such as energy, water, transport, waste, etc.
- Sectors or areas that rely on or deal with long-living infrastructure.

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² Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), Berlin, Germany

Outline and Contributors

The workshop includes keynotes and paper presentations, followed by both focused discussion of individual inputs as well as working groups and discussion of synthesis work. We envision joint publications and emerging synthesis as results from the workshop.

Confirmed contributors to the workshop are:

- Frans Berkhout
- Stéphane Hallegatte
- Richard J. T. Klein
- Susanne Moser
- Matthias Ruth
- Katrien Termeer

Target audience and benefits of participation

The workshop is open to scholars from interdisciplinary climate change and adaptation research worldwide (Postdocs and PhDs).

Benefits of participation:

- Presenting and discussing current research and findings in a collaborative atmosphere
- Advancing one's own research perspective by theoretical and empirical input from other participants and disciplines
- Exchange with leading experts and young researchers
- Collaborative comparison and synthesis of key concepts and case studies of barriers to adaptation
- Participating in joint synthesis publication activities if interested.

Application Procedure

Applications for the workshop should be sent to chameleon@uni-oldenburg.de and include (as an attachment) an anonymous extended abstract of 500 to 750 words excluding references. The deadline for application is March 10th, 2012. All abstracts will be reviewed. The papers will be selected based on their scientific quality, originality, and how closely they relate to the main workshop themes. However, a balanced mix of senior and junior researchers, and a mix of theoretical and empirical studies is intended. Notification of acceptance will be given by May 15th, 2012. Deadline for obligatory full papers is August 15th, 2012. The workshop language is English. The registration fee is €150 and includes accommodation, full board for the entire time, and social events.

Chameleon Research Group

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Members of the Chameleon Research Group:

Klaus Eisenack, Esther Hoffmann, Anna Pechan, Maja Rotter, Rebecca Stecker, Micha Steinhäuser, Julia Glahe, Nils Marscheider and Maren Petersen

The research group is funded by the German Ministry for Education and Research. Scientific partners are the University of Oldenburg and the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), Berlin. Major German utilities from the energy and transport sectors and partners from public administration participate.

Key Dates

Location: Evangelische Bildungsstätte auf Schwanenwerder, Berlin, Germany

Date and Duration: September 18th (evening) – 21st, 2012

Language: English

Participants: 35 researchers (both Postdocs and PhDs)

Deadline for Application: March 10th, 2012 (extended abstract)

Deadline for Registration: June 15th, 2012

Deadline for Full Paper: August 15th, 2012

Workshop fee: €150 (includes accommodation, full board, and social event)

Further Information: www.climate-chameleon.de