

General Information

Date

Monday 21 to Friday 25 September 2015

Location

Schweizer Jugend- und Bildungszentrum (SJBZ), Hotel Allegro
Lincolnweg 23, CH-8840 Einsiedeln
www.hotel-allegro.ch

Accommodation

Shared rooms (3 to 4 persons) with shared bathrooms. Rooms will be attributed by the organisers. Full board from Monday evening to Friday lunch, coffee breaks.

Fee

For all PhD students with an IDP BRIDGES fellowship: all costs are covered.
Students enrolled in the PSC PhD Program in Science and Policy or PSC PhD Program in Plant Sciences: a reduced registration fee of CHF 100 applies.
All other participants: CHF 300. Registration fee includes board and lodging but no travel costs.

Credits

2 ECTS



The Sihlsee and the summer school venue in Einsiedeln. Photos: Hotel Allegro

Scientific Organisers

- Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center, Universities of Zurich and Basel, ETH Zurich, Dr. Andrea Pfisterer, Dr. Melanie Paschke
- TdLab of the Dept. of Environmental Systems Science, ETHZ, Dr. Christian Pohl
- Collegium Helveticum, ETHZ and University of Zurich, Prof. Gerd Folkers

Funding

This summer school is funded as part of the IDP BRIDGES Innovative Doctoral Program by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no PITN-GA-2013-608422 – IDP BRIDGES.



Questions about this summer school?

Please contact

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Summer school website

www.plantsciences.ch/teaching/summerschool.html



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

ETH zürich



Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

IDP BRIDGES Summer School
September 21 – 25, 2015
Einsiedeln



Tackling Wicked Problems

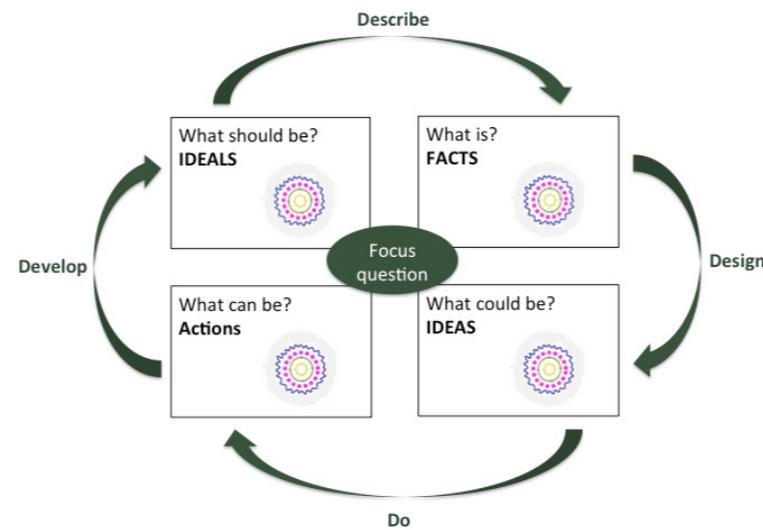
Tackling Wicked Problems

Many of the global grand challenges that our societies are increasingly facing are complex interconnected social and environmental problems, such as adaptation and mitigation to climate change or sustainable growth and future food security for a growing population. Some of these issues are so complex they have been called 'wicked' problems. The traditional reductionist approach no longer seems to work for solving them. They can only be dealt with when emphasizing contextual understanding, collaborative frameworks that include concerted perspectives of many societal actors and aim at system transformation.

Using real-world case studies, you will learn to identify inherent properties of wicked problems and experience the learning cycle of open inquiry for dealing with wicked problems. You will apply commonly defined transdisciplinary and systems thinking approaches, and will be introduced to exploring stakeholders worldviews, dealing with conflicts, reframing complex interconnected situations, visualize options, apply decision frameworks for comparing and defining resulting actions for society and policy.

"We live in an age where the search for clear-cut answers, causalities and strict boundaries is being replaced by recognition of the inevitability of uncertainty, ambiguity and interconnectedness. Traditional forms of decision-making based on seeking one right answer, achieving consensus and averaging out diverse data have a very poor track record in times of social change."

Valerie A. Brown, Tackling Wicked Problems



The process of conducting the collective social learning spiral. Adapted from Brown V.A. 2010

Objectives

By the end of the summer school participants will:

- Understand the key features of wicked problems and the implications for practice of defining a problem as wicked
- Understand the interconnected nature of organisations and environments, e.g. emergence, feedback, chaos and self-organisation and how understanding these properties help us shape responses in wicked problem situations
- Apply systems thinking and practice, i.e. learn to think more holistically and work more collaboratively to avoid systemic failures
- Develop a common language, common understanding and an agreed way to manage complex systems in a participatory approach
- Apply decision making tools for choosing between different options for action, and
- Understand approaches for transformation of society and policy.

"There are no separate systems. The world is a continuum. Where to draw a boundary around a system depends on the purpose of the discussion."

Donella H. Meadows, Thinking in Systems: A Primer

Program

Invited speakers will make presentations, take part in plenary discussions, and act as mentors in interactive workshops. The program includes:

- The Grand Challenges (Gerd Folkers)
- Wicked Problem Framework (Melanie Paschke)
- Complexity Games (Robin de Carteret)
- Problem-Framing: Feedback, Perspectives, and Boundaries (Christian Pohl)
- Applied systems thinking for inquiry into complexity (Martin Reynolds)
- Applied ethics for decision making (Ivo Wallimann-Helmer)
- Approaches for system transformation (tbc)
- Tentative governances: managing scenario approaches in policy (STePS, tbc)

See the final program on our website (available as of end of May):

www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/teaching/summerschool.html

Eligibility

PhD students from Swiss and international universities.

Postdocs or advanced Master's students: if places are available.

Application

Registration is possible via this link:

<https://www.registration.ethz.ch/spsw/>

Please submit in a merged pdf your CV and a letter of motivation (5-10 sentences).

Applications will only be accepted via the official registration site. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Deadline for applications: May 31, 2015

Confirmation of participation will be made by June 17, 2015 together with more detailed information.

