Information for participants

Participation in the workshop is free of charge and limited to 50 persons.

Registration and further information:

Wiebke Thomas
Boltzmannstraße 1
14195 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)30-83853090
E-Mail: fair-fuels@lai.fu-berlin.de

Please submit your registration only via e-mail until the 15th of September at the latest. It will not be possible to participate without registration.

Venue and access:

The workshop will be held at the Institute for Latin American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin Rüdesheimer Straße 54-56 14197 Berlin, Germany Room 201

How to get there:

You get to the Institute via metro with line U3 (direction to Krumme Lanke) and then get off at the station Breitenbachplatz. Take the exit towards Südwestkorso.

Speakers

Alina Brad, University of Vienna, alina.brad@gmx.net
Wendell Ficher, University of Rio de Janeiro, wwficher@yahoo.com.br
Carol Hunsberger, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague cahunsberger@gmail.com
Aaron Leopold, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), aaron@iisd.org
Victoria Marin, University of Twente, v.e.marinburgos@utwente.nl
Christina Plank, University of Vienna, christina.plank@univie.ac.at
Oliver Pye, University of Bonn, Oliver.pye@uni-bonn.de
Anke Schaffartzik, Alpen-Adria-Universität, anke.schaffartzik@aau.at
Markus Wissen, University of Vienna, markus.wissen@univie.ac.at

Organizers and chairing

Maria Backhouse, Freie Universität Berlin, Institute for Latin American Studies, maria.backhouse@fu-berlin.de
Kristina Dietz, Freie Universität Berlin, Institute for Latin American Studies, kristina.dietz@fu-berlin.de

The Political Ecology of Agrofuels

11th – 12th of October, 2012
Rüdesheimer Straße 54-56
14197 Berlin

Workshop of the BMBF Project Fair Fuels?
Between dead end and energy transition: A social-ecological multilevel analysis of transnational biofuel policy
About the workshop

Agro- or biofuels are advocated by many as an opportunity to transform energy-use patterns, reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, alleviating dependency on fossil resources and at the same time “developing” rural regions. Since the adoption of mandatory biofuels blending quotas in Europe, the USA and several non-OECD-countries, vast increases in crop production for agrofuels have been observed.

In recent years the rapid growing of the sector has given rise to intense international debate. At issue are not only conflicts over land and agricultural practices, and new (trans-) national power constellations but also more fundamental issues surrounding underlying political-economic, social, and socio-ecological dynamics. Especially the Political Ecology addresses questions relating to the complex reciprocal relationships between society and nature, including social power relations at and between different scales.

The aim of our workshop is twofold: First we want to work on conceptual and theoretical challenges to using Political Ecology as a meaningful approach to analyzing multiples dynamics related to agrofuels expansion. Second the workshop aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences and empirical insights related to the agrofuels dynamics in and across different countries and regions.

Program

Thursday: October 11, 2012

5:00 – 5:30 pm
Welcome and introduction
Kristina Dietz, Maria Backhouse, FU Berlin (LAI)

5:30 – 7:00 pm
Keynote:
The political ecology of agrofuels – a conceptual introduction
Markus Wissen, University of Vienna

7:00 pm: Dinner

Friday: October 12, 2012

9.15 – 9:30 am
Welcome

9:30 – 10:30 am
Causing Ignition: Biofuels and social-ecological conflicts
Alina Brad, Christina Plank, University of Vienna
and Anke Schaffartzik, Alpen-Adria-Universität

10:30 – 11:30 am
Social-ecological conflicts and biofuel crops: The case of oil palm expansion in Colombia
Victoria Marin, University of Twente

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 am – 12:45 pm
A political ecology of Jatropha in Kenya
Carol Hunsberger, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague

About the research project “Fair Fuels?”

The project “Fair Fuels?” addresses socio-ecological conflicts, potentials and risks related to the agrofuels production from a transnational and interdisciplinary perspective. Case studies are being conducted in three world regions: Africa, Latin America and Europe. The results are being linked to crosscutting issues like shifting global orders, emergence of new transnational spaces and questions of regulation and governance. The project is part of the Social-Ecological Research program (SOF) of the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). For further information, see www.fair-fuels.de/en.