

The Stockholm Resilience Centre in collaboration with the Social Innovation Generation (University of Waterloo) and the Innovation in Governance Research Group (Technische Universität Berlin).

Innovation and transformations in social-ecological systems

Workshop / PhD-course (3 credits)
April 21-27, 2010, Stockholm, Sweden.
Deadline for application: Feb 21, 2010

Preference will be given to researchers and PhD-students of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Social Innovation Generation, and the Innovation in Governance Research Group

Sustainability transitions have gained a wide interest from the international research community. Research in complexity has generated some important insights about the pattern of such transitions. This literature recognizes transformations as multi-level, multi-phase processes that move along in fits and starts. An emerging topic within the sustainability transitions discourse is a more in-depth concern with the conditions and dynamics of social and political innovation and their role for a broader transformation of patterns in social organization and collective decision-making in line with conditions of social-ecological resilience. Incipient studies in this perspective build on a wide interdisciplinary range of studies on social and organizational change. Important features of social innovation and transformation appear to be

- long-term gestation and extended development processes linked to the innovation of social practices and institutions,
- contingent and highly context dependent dynamics of social innovation including windows-of-opportunity, tipping points, critical junctures, crisis as triggers, as well as
- a central role of experimentation in constructing and translating new forms of organization and governance between different contexts.

An ongoing challenge is to integrate insights from different disciplines to increase the understanding of innovation and transformations in the context of social-ecological systems. This course focuses on the role of social innovation in changing social-ecological system trajectories. It introduces and combines theories and methods to study dynamics and pathways of social innovation in the context of social-ecological systems and with a view to better understand and engage in transformation towards sustainable development. It draws on studies of social innovation, innovation in governance, and resilience in interconnected social-ecological systems.

Conveners: Dr. Per Olsson, Stockholm Resilience Centre (Stockholm University), Prof. Frances Westley, Social Innovation Generation, University of Waterloo, Dr. Jan-Peter Voß, Innovation in Governance Research Group (Technische Universität Berlin).

If you are interested, please send a couple of lines to per.olsson@stockholmresilience.su.se that states what your PhD project is called, at which stage of the PhD process you are, and why you want to participate in the course.