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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

**Berner
Humangeographisches
Kolloquium**

BHK

15. März 2022

Dr. Norman Kearney (*CDE, University of Bern*)

Uncovering context-specific strategies for sustainability transformations: A new methodological approach

10. Mai 2022

**Dr. Martina Hülz (*ARL*) &
Damian Jerjen (*EspaceSuisse*)**

**Postwachstum und Raumentwicklung: Perspektiven aus
Deutschland und der Schweiz**

17. Mai 2022

Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt (*University of Zurich*)

**Global pesticide assemblage: Approaching the
agrochemical complex from its margins**

Organized by the Research Units Social and Cultural Geography, Economic Geography, Critical Sustainability Studies and Political Urbanism and Sustainable Spatial Development in cooperation with the mLAB of the Institute of Geography, University of Bern.

www.geography.unibe.ch

In Person und online

12:15h – 13.45h

GIUB, Hallerstr. 12, Raum 002

Zoom <https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/65818493290>



15. März 2022

Dr. Norman Kearney | Uncovering context-specific strategies for sustainability transformations: A new methodological approach

Dynamic system models are simplified representations of the world, used to understand how a set of interacting elements (a system) might change over time. When carefully designed, such models can support decision making (e.g., by assessing the implications of different policy options). In the sustainability sciences, dynamic system models have tended to omit elements that are difficult to quantify, such as culture (e.g., values, beliefs, and institutions). Without such qualitative elements, models can misrepresent system dynamics, leading to poor decision support. In this talk, I will demonstrate an approach to incorporating qualitative elements into dynamic system models using the Cross-Impact Balances (CIB) method. Through this approach, it is possible to assess combinations of system elements (scenarios) for their compatibility with one another; project how scenarios might change over time (pathways); and uncover context-specific strategies for transforming a system from one scenario to another (levers).

10. Mai 2022

Dr. Martina Hülz & Damian Jerjen | Postwachstum und Raumentwicklung: Perspektiven aus Deutschland und der Schweiz

Uferloses wirtschaftliches Wachstum wurde in den vergangenen Jahren immer mehr in Frage gestellt. Auch die Raumplanung und -entwicklung greift die Debatte über Wachstum auf. Die in Deutschland angesiedelte Akademie für Raumentwicklung (ARL) lancierte hierzu diverse Diskussionen und Publikationen. Auch in der Schweiz befassen sich Praktiker*innen und Wissenschaftler*innen mit dem Thema. Martina Hülz (ARL) und Damian Jerjen (EspaceSuisse) werden im Kolloquium diese Diskussionen vorstellen und debattieren. Es soll darüber hinaus kritisch hinterfragt werden, inwiefern die Forschung und Praxis der Raumplanung und -entwicklung in den beiden Ländern auf die Postwachstumsdebatte eingehen und welche Handlungsfelder bestehen. Das Kolloquium wird auf Deutsch gehalten werden.

17. Mai 2022

Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt | Global pesticide assemblage: Approaching the agrochemical complex from its margins

Global pesticide use has almost doubled since 2000, increasing almost twice as fast as global food production and making agrochemicals ubiquitous in soil, the human body, food, and water. Leaving aside countries such as the U.S., most of this growth is occurring in the global South. Despite the enormous implications of these developments, however, the pesticide industry has so far received little attention in an academic literature that is largely concerned with alternatives to industrial agriculture and food production. In this talk I address the ongoing restructuring of the global pesticide industry with the explicit aim to demystify the sector. This concerns optimistic narratives of an industry that is «in control», being able to provide biochemical fixes with the help of crop and weed science. But it also includes critical voices that represent the industry as a monstrous behemoth, inadvertently magnifying what they seek to overcome. Against this, the pesticide complex is conceptualized as an instable sociotechnical assemblage that connects the spheres of production, distribution and use. I argue that corporate decisions are often hardly strategic at all, being performed instead as short-term fixes against unwanted transgressions of carefully drawn boundaries «at the margins» of the pesticide assemblage: (1) the limits of appropriating nature as if nature were not there (nature-economy); (2) human struggles against alienation and dispossession (re-production); and (3) contradictory regulatory interventions at different spatial scales (state-economy).