

New interdisciplinary courses



Fall semester 2021

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UNIVERSITY
OF BERN

Where and when?

Climate Change Mitigation

Date: Start date 28/9/2021
Time: Tuesday, 10:15 – 12h (Every week)
ECTS: 6
Registrations via ILIAS
Registration opens: 15/8/2021

Sport and Diversity: Challenges and opportunities in theory and practice

Date: Start Date 21/09/2021 (Every week)
Time: Tuesday, 14:15h-16:00h
ECTS: 5
Registrations via KSL
Registration opens: 2/8/2021

Sustainability transitions and social justice: critical perspectives

Date: Start date: 23/9/2021
Time: Tuesday, 16:15-18h (Every week)
ECTS: 5
Registrations via KSL
Deadline: 31/8/2021

Climate Change Mitigation (KSL Number 472496)

Lecturer: Sebastian Mader, Institute of Sociology

Anthropogenic climate change (ACC) probably is the most demanding challenge humanity has to face. To prevent climate change fast and forceful measures of mitigation are inevitable. However, limiting carbon emissions seems a tremendous challenge.

This seminar deals with the description and explanation of ACC, its impacts on societies, and various aspects of its mitigation. The seminar starts with an overview of the biogeochemical and -physical foundations, as well as the causes, the development and the extent of ACC on a global scale and on country-level. Next, the seminar is concerned with modelling the underlying cooperation problem of climate change mitigation (CCM) as a collective risk social dilemma from a game-theoretic perspective as well as potential solutions to it. Furthermore, the social, economic and health-related consequences of ACC are discussed. In addition, the seminar examines the efficacy and public acceptance of policy instruments for CCM as well as the potential of negative emission technologies incl. nature-based solutions like large-scale afforestation.

Sport and Diversity: Challenges and opportunities in theory and practice (KSL Number 472371)

Lecturer: Marianne Meier, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies

Why should sportswomen be allowed in four-man bobsleigh? Who cares about male participation in synchronized swimming at Olympic Games? Under what conditions will gay soccer players come out during their active career in a major men's league? The world of sport reflects the binary construct of sex and gender in a particular way, featuring societal hierarchy, patriarchal structures and heteronormativity. Thereby, mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion represent a superior concept: On the one hand, the global UN Agenda 2030 does acknowledge sport as a tool to promote diversity, empowerment, and gender equity. On the other hand, social phenomena such as sexism, homophobia, transphobia or racism in sport exclude athletes who do not correspond to the normative ideals. Sport media and marketing discriminate against 'deviant athletes' and construct 'ideal' sporting role models. This course features a diversity perspective linked to socio-historic, economic, and political aspects of sport.

Sustainability transitions and social justice: critical perspectives (KSL Number 472492)

Lecturer: Sébastien Boillat; Patrick Bottazzi, Institute of Geography

Sustainability transitions (ST) are long-term, multi-dimensional and fundamental transformation processes towards sustainable modes of production and consumption. Public and civil society actors increasingly push these transitions forward to meet global and systemic environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and other issues. However, these transitions have strong socio-economic impacts. They produce winners and losers and their consequences are deeply politicized. In particular, the question of social justice is at the core of the sustainability transition debate. This interdisciplinary course has the objectives to explore the relationships between ST and social justice, to analyze the mechanisms that sustain these relationships and to develop critical thinking on sustainability framings. To do this, we will explore different ST settings, such as agri-food systems, energy and climate change, land systems and biodiversity conservation, and environmental pollution.