

Scientific report 2nd ENRI FUTURE Workshop

Shaping a Sustainable World: Interconnecting Sustainability Scenarios, Intergenerational Human Rights, Risks, and Motivation & Governance Issues Graz/Seggau (Austria) (11 September – 14 September 2012)

1. Scientific Summary

The Seggau workshop was the second workshop of the ESF Networking Programme 'Rights to a Green Future' (ENRI-Future) after the kick-off workshop in Bucharest. It was held in Schloss Seggau, a former bishop's residence, around 15 miles south of Graz. The location was perfect to have an intensive workshop meeting, concentrating on the scientific exchange, which due to the remoteness of the location continued during the shared meals and also long into the night. Having the network members and the external experts gathered in one location for three full days shaped an atmosphere that increased the fruitfulness of the interdisciplinary dialogue on the main topics of the network. Based on the results of the Bucharest workshop determining concrete working procedures and plans for output of the working groups the Seggau workshop intensified the scientific exchange and deepened the network activities.

The workshop's aim was to discuss draft papers that directly contribute to key research questions of the networking program focusing on sustainability scenarios, intergenerational human rights, risks, as well as motivation and governance issues. Included in the workshop meeting of the network members was the expert meeting allowing to get feedback by comments from external experts on the draft papers. During three full days papers have been discussed both in the working group sessions and in plenary sessions by more than 45 network members and renowned external experts. All papers have been pre-circulated and were commented by the experts and also by other working group members. The workshop intensified the interdisciplinary approach in the network by examining differing disciplinary understandings of the main research topics of the network. Interdisciplinary dialogue and understanding is necessary for addressing the meaning and significance of the implications of climate change and for integrating descriptive, explanatory and normative approaches.

The special focus of the Seggau workshop was on the 'shaping of a sustainable world' from the perspective of science, especially in terms of economics, uncertainty and risks, political philosophy and ethics. Though we can expect to gain a better understanding of the effects as climate science advances and climate change continues, many important questions concerning possible consequences and outcomes of global warming cannot currently be answered with certainty. Sources of uncertainty include incomplete knowledge, the inherent unpredictability of the Earth system, including socio-economic systems and the ambiguities of human behavior (event uncertainty), as well as incomplete knowledge and disagreement among experts, partly occasioned by the plurality of modeling approaches (such as integrated assessment models vs. bottom-up models with higher sectoral/spatial detail) which seems unavoidable, given the complexity of the problem at hand (epistemic uncertainty). Moreover, we face climate change uncertainties on different levels, with respect to the relations between emissions and temperature rise and other climate variables, between these climate variables and impacts on environmental, social and economic systems, and between such climate change induced

consequences and persons' rights being infringed or violated. Furthermore, it is an open question whether, and if so how, we should conceive of rights of future generations or represent them in present decision-making. Finally, there is the issue on how to devise pathways to sustainability in the world of concrete individuals and institutions. This creates the demand for an interdisciplinary investigation of these different aspects of our future world to gain a better understanding of their implications for our economic and normative analysis. In the workshop special emphasis was given on questions of how to deal with the imposition of risks of (human) rights violations and their moral evaluation from the perspective of different normative theories. The papers of the workshop were also concerned with important psychological and institutional obstacles for dealing adequately with likely or possible human rights violations of future generations and possible strategies to overcome these obstacles. Therefore, the workshop concentrated on the interrelation of existing discourses on uncertainty and risk in the different disciplines involved and discussed morally acceptable and politically realistic pathways towards sustainable policies.

2. Description of the scientific content of and discussion at the event (up to 4 pages)

After having defined the goals of the network more precisely in Bucharest, the focus of the workshop in Seggau was on scientific exchange. The scientific program of the workshop meeting was based on a combination of plenary and working group sessions. As it turned out, it was possible to have more papers in the plenary sessions, which helped all the members of the network as well as the external experts to gain a better view on the work in progress also in other working groups. The external experts commented on all the papers and many times it was possible to have two or even three comments for each paper. The integration of the expert meeting in the workshop helped to increase the scientific output and also fostered the further development of the draft papers.

The contributions of working group 1 ('science and scenarios') focused on the normative presuppositions of economics and the role of economic models in shaping our understanding of climate change as well as the recommendations for the policy level and how they could more explicitly been taken into account when developing new scenarios and deriving policy recommendations. Joachim Spangenberg addressed in his plenary paper '*The World We See Shapes the World We Make*' hidden norms and values in natural and social sciences, and what philosophy, law and politics should be aware of when using scientific input. The paper was commented by the external experts Barbara Muraca, Clive Spash and Annik Magerholm-Fet. As it was presented and discussed, normative assumptions play an important part in economics and the framing of the debate as well as the development of climate change scenarios. In this and other papers also the role of uncertainties of the possible consequences of temperature raise and the change of other climate variables and uncertainties with respect to human and social behavior and the complex interrelation between environmental, social, political and economic systems for economic analysis were discussed. Uncertainty is a challenge on the methodological level for the reason that the applicability of cost-benefit analysis or integrated assessment models (IAMs) to assess the costs of climate change may be questionable.

The papers of working group 2 ('intergenerational human rights') ranged from papers on our duties towards future generations and the applicability of the precautionary principle to the human rights discourse to reproductive rights and the public debate on climate change. Deryck Beyleveld's paper on '*What Duties Do We Have to Future Generations? A Gewirthian Approach*' was commented by Henry Shue and Anja Karnein in one of the plenary sessions. In

his paper Beyleveld outlined the approach to duties towards future generations from the perspective of Alan Gewirth's Principle of Generic Consistency (PGC).

Bernice Bovenkerk gave a paper (co-written by Frans Brom) on *'World Wide Views on Global Warming: Evaluation of a Public Debate'* in one of the working group sessions. In their paper they focus on lessons to be learned for new steps in global citizen participation from the public debates that were held simultaneously in 38 different countries about global warming in 2009 in preparation for the climate negotiations in Copenhagen. The paper was commented by Barbara Muraca and Anja Karnein.

Axel Gosseries' asked in his paper *'Usufructuary Generations?'* – commented by Henry Shue and Barbara Muraca, presented in one of the plenary sessions – whether the idea of usufruct as a metaphorical way of characterizing the content of our intergenerational obligations is a fruitful idea.

Tim Meijers presented on *'The Scope of Reproductive Rights: A Sketch'*, in a plenary session. The expert commentators for his paper were Henry Shue and Alexandra Sauer. In the paper Meijers looks at different reproductive rights and their context and concludes that although reproduction is important to many people, it is not that different from other choices in life.

Unfortunately and on short notice, Konrad Ott was not able to attend the working group meeting and present his paper: *'Rights to Policies for a Sustainable Future'*. His general claim in the submitted paper is that future persons are not directly entitled to very specific items and features in future nature but are entitled to specific policies we ought (are obliged) to perform with respect to protection, conservation, wise use and restoration of natural environments.

Jos Philips introduced his essay with the title *'Future Disasters and Cost to Oneself: A Concretization of Henry Shue's Precautionary Principle'* in presence of Henry Shue (together with Clive Spash also one of the commentators). The aim of his essay is to critically develop further Henry Shue's proposal for a precautionary principle.

Elina Pirjatanniemi's paper was also on the precautionary principle, entitled: *'Towards a Precautionary Approach: On the Limits of Human Rights'*. The commentators for her paper were Barbara Muraca and Axel Gosseries. The aim of her paper is to analyze to what extent, if any, a human rights regime is capable of strengthening the principles of prevention and precaution.

Working Group 3 ('risk and precaution') focused on the normative evaluation of risks, responsibilities and representation of future generations.

Tine Bech Flanagan and Karsten Klint Jensen presented in one of the plenary sessions parts of their paper *'Climate Change and Compensation'*. The paper – commented by Anja Karnein, Alexandra Sauer and Alexa Zellentin – presents a case for compensation for losses and damages related to anthropogenic climate change, arguing that the wealthy countries based on certain widely held premises have to accept liability and compensation for climate change induced losses and damages in the vulnerable poor countries and that the case of compensation should be included in the UNFCCC official international climate policy.

In one of the plenary sessions Nando Hamker outlined main parts of his proposal for his PhD thesis *'Ceilings for Wealth and Natural Resource Usage: A Sound Path towards Global Justice?'*, addressing the problem of natural resource over-usage connected to the issue of excessive consumption. His thoughts were commented by Barbara Muraca and Fabian Schuppert.

Anja Karnein gave a presentation as an external expert on *'Representing Future Generations: Promise or Peril for Sustainable Development?'*. Her paper as part of a plenary session explored three main questions: First, to what extent is it at all possible to "represent" future generations or to act as advocates for their interests? Second, what advantages and disadvantages do the different institutional proposals display? And third, insofar as future generations can be represented, to what extent is the inclusion of this particular longer-term perspective a contribution to sustainable development? Commentators for her paper were Henry Shue, Annik Magerholm-Fet and Alexandra Sauer.

Lukas Meyer and Pranay Sanklecha presented the outline of their arguments of their paper *'Individuals' Expectations and Climate Justice'*. The paper was commented by Henry Shue and Anja Karnein. In their paper they put forward the question: What, if anything, are individuals

living in highly industrialized countries required to do about climate change?. They discuss different premises and qualifiers under ideal as well as under non-ideal circumstances.

Martin Peterson presented a chapter from his new book '*The Dimensions of Consequentialism*', focusing on the dimension of risk from the perspective of a multi-dimensional consequentialism. Clive Spash and Franck Meijboom commented on his paper.

Christian Seidel presented on '*Imposing (Un)acceptable Risks*'. His paper was commented by Alexandra Sauer and Karsten Klint Jensen. In his paper Seidel assess whether the chain of obligation argument is able to deal with uncertainty in the case of intergenerational relations. Harald Stelzer's paper '*The Imposition of Risks by Stratospheric Aerosol Injection*' was commented by Barbara Muraca, Annik Magerholm-Fet and Christian Seidel. In his paper Stelzer applies the perspective of intergenerational sufficientarianism towards risks of rights violations of future living people imposed by stratospheric aerosol injection.

Amelie Stuart outlined the main research questions of a project proposal developed in Graz with the title: '*The Imposition of Risks of Rights Violations*' in one of the plenary sessions. Expert commentators on this project proposal were Alexandra Sauer and Annik Magerholm-Fet. The main aim of the project is to find out, how to evaluate the normative relevance of the imposition of risks of rights violation of future living people in the context of climate change. The project sets out to develop a theoretical interpretation of risk imposition, namely a rights-based account of intergenerational justice, and, on a second level, to investigate its practical relevance for some important policy dimensions of responding to climate change.

Alexa Zellentin discussed her paper: '*Risk and Rectification in the Context of Historical Emissions*', suggesting that objections to the intuition "you break it, you fix it" can be overcome and that this intuition can be meaningfully applied to show that the industrialized states of the global north have remedial duties regarding the damages they caused through anthropogenic climate change. The paper was commented by Clive Spash, Anja Karnein and Fabian Schuppert.

Working group 4 ('motivation and governance') was concerned with an identification of obstacles, institutional and psychological towards sustainable solutions towards the problem of climate change.

Dieter Birnbacher's paper '*The Moral Pragmatics of Climate Politics*' was commented by Alexandra Sauer, Annik Magerholm-Fet and Clive Spash in one of the plenary sessions. Birnbacher outlined his approach of moral pragmatics as an ethical sub-discipline concerned with means-ends-relations.

May Thorseth presented on '*Institutional Obstacles to Sustainable Governance of Natural Resources: A Deliberative Approach*'. Alexandra Sauer, Annik Magerholm-Fet and Barbara Muraca commented on her paper. The aim of the paper is to identify some institutional obstacles to sustainability, partly in view of deliberative models.

Ileana Dascalu presented lessons learned from a case study under the title '*From Gold to Trust: A Case Study of the Rosia Montana Project*'. In her paper – commented by Annik Magerholm-Fet and Alexandra Sauer – Dascalu argued that the Rosia Montana case can be read as an example of mistrust in public institutions, and in their capacity to represent and protect citizens' interests. In order to explore the various sources and facets of this mistrust, the paper suggested a connection between risk affordability and trustworthiness of institutions in the context of post-communist Romania.

Adrian-Paul Iliescu, introduced his paper '*Developing Countries, Entrapment and Obstacles to Sustainability*', commented by Annik Magerholm-Feta and Alexandra Sauer. In the paper Iliescu defends the idea that the problems created by sustainability ideals and policies should be divided in two different categories: problems of reconciliation and adjustment, and problems of growth or development. While the former are usually common to both rich and poor countries, the latter are characteristic for some developing countries.

Dominic Roser outlined basic arguments of his paper '*How to Think About the Ethics of Border Carbon Adjustments*'. His paper was commented by Clive Spash and Henry Shue. Based on the current lack of global institutions to address climate change Roser's paper deals with "bottom

up" solutions in the form of unilateral climate policies and their effectiveness and fairness, focusing on the case of border carbon adjustments.

3. Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future direction of the field

As the foci of the working groups are increasingly specified, their integration gained shape and precision at the Seggau workshop meeting. The working groups will continue to focus on linking existing discourses that make vital contributions to articulating morally acceptable and politically realistic pathways towards sustainable policies. As such, the interconnections between the working groups and the integration of research results are essential to the network's theme. To arrive at an integrated idea of moral-political responsibility, we need to draw in scientific models and have to have a clear idea of the presuppositions that they make; we need to reflect on uncertainty, precaution and responsibility in situations of non-compliance; and we need to explicate and develop how to relate to the practice of human rights, which is so dominant in many contexts; and reflection is needed on (psychological-institutional) obstacles for implementation. The many plenary sessions of the Seggau workshop fostered the interconnections between the working groups and showed the great advantage of an interdisciplinary environment provided by the network.

During the workshop, in a plenary session, it was decided to focus for 2013 on finalizing scientific publications – and focus a later moment on publications for a broader public. The working groups determined their publication ambitions

Working group 1 reformulated its aims, and will now contribute papers on scientific models in support of the publication lines of the different working groups.

Working group 2 decided to have two publication ambitions: (i) a special issue on the representation of future generations, and (ii) a book on the human rights framework seen in an intergenerational perspective.

Working Group 3 agreed that the focus on 'avoiding unacceptable risks and on individual and collective responsibilities in the face of climate change' will be continued. Draft papers and projects pursued in this direction promise fruitful contributions to the aims of the network.

Working group 4 is dealing with the institutional and psychological obstacles for a sustainable politics. There are various papers in preparation and during the meeting in Seggau several new questions in this context have been discussed. On the basis of these discussions the future work will be continued in two workshops (co-sponsored by MTU) that will discuss several papers that are prepared for a bigger book project "Roads to sustainability". The questions will focus on 3 topics: 1. Problems about the psychological motivations have to be discussed that particularly arise if long-term responsibility is affected. In that context the debate about nudging have to be taken into account and all discussions that deal with the possibility to support individual motivations by institutional settings. 2. Visions of the future will be taken into account. In this contexts it seems important to discuss more in depths how various worldviews transport visions of the future (utopian, apocalyptic, linear progress models etc.). It has to be discussed how these views on the future are influencing attitudes with regard to sustainability. 3. The institutional setting for a sustainable politics has to be discussed. On the one hand it seems necessary to establish global institutions for the coordination of sustainable politics. On the other hand these institutions are forming a serious challenge because it is not obvious how they can be arranged in a way that is compatible with democratic standards and other established moral standards.

In addition to these publication ambitions of the working groups, there is a cross-working group ambition to publish a special issue on sustainability and developing countries. Although each of the working groups is committed to a publication line, some working groups are committed to more than one, and there is a publication line that belongs to members from different working groups.

The working group and the plenary planning sessions the network members discussed different possibilities of dissemination of research results of the work associated with the network. Many of the presented draft papers promise to qualify, when finalized, for publication in high-profile international peer-reviewed journals. Also the possibility of special issues of journals and anthologies with papers of the different working groups was discussed and will be pursued.

Hence we have five publication lines:

- 1) 'Representation of future generations' (WG 2, coordinated by Axel Gosseries - special issue journal)
- 2) 'Conceptual problems with Human Rights framework from an intergenerational perspective' (WG 2, coordinated by Marcus Duwell, Gerhard Bos - Book)
- 3) 'Climate change: risks & rights' (WG3, coordinated by Lukas Meyer, Harald Stelzer - Series of papers, possibly Special issue)
- 4) 'Roads to sustainability' (WG 4, coordinated by May Thorseth, Dieter Birnbacher – Book)
- 5) 'Developing countries and sustainable developments' (members from different working groups, coordinated by Adrian-Paul Illiescu, Thierry Ngosso, assistance Axel Gosseries - special issue)

Given this approach, it was agreed that there is need for five smaller workshops (each of which organized around one of these five themes), rather than for a bigger workshop with plenary sessions.

The participants agreed that the pre-circulation of the draft papers and the short introduction of the papers by the author(s) as well as prepared comments had been very helpful and contributed to the fruitfulness of the workshop. This will be continued also for the upcoming events of the network.

Like with the presentation of the Bucharest workshop also the draft papers of the Seggau workshop are accessible to all network members as an internal part of the Network's website.

The members have also agreed to collaborate closely on papers and future research projects. One way to enhance collaboration is to update the draft papers regularly and to ask other network members for comments. Another way is to continue and extend the exchange visits and to focus in these exchange visits on joint publication projects, especially on co-authoring papers. A call for proposals has been made.

In addition, it was agreed to suspend publications for the broader public to the point where the above-mentioned intended publications are available. For, given the complexity and multidimensional character of the research subject, such suspension is necessary if there is to be a focused, coherent and accessible publication for the broader public. The existing network blog <http://greenfutureethics.wordpress.com> was presented by Ileana Dascalu and Domic Roser. It was highly appreciated by the network members and will also be actively supported in the future. Several other ways to reach out to a broader public have been proposed, and are under consideration. Here we think of a YouTube mini-college series, involvement of journalists from main newspapers in different countries, involvement of institutes such as Rathenau in the Netherlands that aim to promote public deliberation, meetings with members of the European commission etc.

Friday 14 September 2012

09:00-11:00 Working groups: last papers & planning session

09:00-9:45 wg3, **Nando Hamker**: 'Ceilings for Wealth and Natural Resource Usage: A Sound Path towards Global Justice?' [e.c. Barbara Muraca, Gertrude Hirsch-Hadorn; wg.c. Fabian Schuppert] (chair: Fabian Schuppert)

9:45-10:30 wg2, **Tim Meijers**, '*The Scope of Reproductive Rights: A Sketch*' [15][e.c.: Henry Shue, Alexandra Sauer],(chair: Bernice Bovenkerk)

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-13.00 **Plenary: Planning session**

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 **Plenary:**

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.45 **Steering Committee, if needed**

18.00 Buschenschank visit

14 or 15 September 2012: Departure

ORGANIZATION:

DEPARTMENT FOR PHILOSOPHY

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

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AND JOS PHILIPS (UTRECHT UNIVERSITY)

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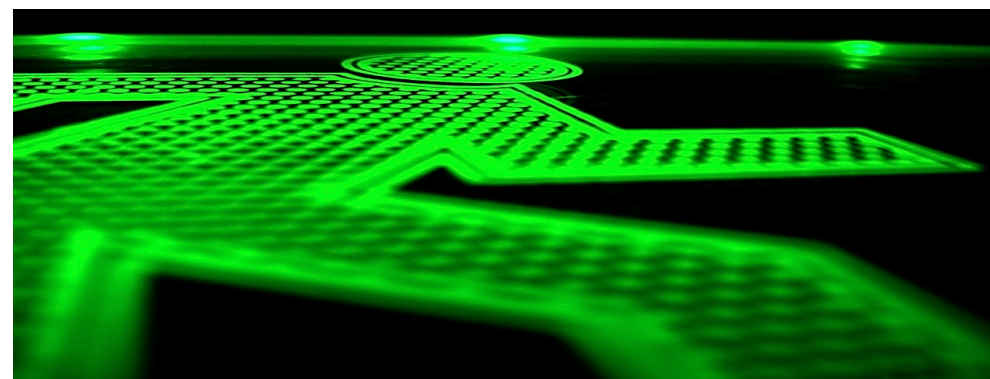
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Abteilung 14 Wasserwirtschaft,
Ressourcen und Nachhaltigkeit

Workshop Programme

ESF Research Networking Programme 'Rights to a Green Future' (ENRI-Future)

Shaping a Sustainable World: Interconnecting Sustainability Scenarios, Intergenerational Human Rights, Risks, and Motivation & Governance Issues



12 – 14 September 2012



Schloss Seggau
Seggau (Austria)
University of Graz

Tuesday 11 September 2012: arrival

Wednesday 12 September 2012

09.00–10.30 Plenary (chair: Marcus Düwell)

Welcome

Joachim Spangenberg (wg1), *'The World We See Shapes the World We Make'* [expert commentators: Barbara Muraca, Clive Spash, Annik Magerholm-Fet]

10.30–11.00 Coffee break

11.00–12.30 Plenary (chair: Axel Gosseries)

Lukas Meyer & Pranay Sanklecha (wg3), *'Individuals' Contributions to Climate Justice'* [e.c. Henry Shue, Anja Karnein]

Anja Karnein (wg3), *'Representing Future Generations: Promise or Peril for Sustainable Development?'* [e.c.: Henry Shue, Annik Magerholm-Fet, Alexandra Sauer]

12.30–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Working groups

14.00–14.45 Introduction

14.45–15.30 wg3: **Team Graz**, Project *'The Imposition of Risks of Rights Violations'* [expert commentators: Alexandra Sauer, Annik Magerholm-Fet] (chair: Karsten Klint Jensen)

14.45–15.30 wg4: **Dominic Roser**, 'How to Think About the Ethics of Border Carbon Adjustments' [e.c.: Clive Spash, Henry Shue] (chair: Adrian-Paul Iliescu)

15.30–16.00 Coffee break

16.00–17.30 Working groups

16.00–16.45 wg3: **Tine Bech Flanagan & Karsten Klint Jensen**, *'Climate Change and Compensation'* [e.c.: Anja Karnein, Alexandra Sauer; work group commentator: Alexa Zellentin] (chair: Franck Meijboom)

16.45–17.30 wg2: **Bernice Bovenkerk & Frans Brom**, *'World Wide Views on Global Warming: Evaluation of a Public Debate'* [e.c.: Barbara Muraca, Anja Karnein] (chair: Jos Philips)

16.45–17.30 wg4: **Ileana Dascalu**, *'From Gold to Trust: A Case Study of the Roşia Montană Project'* [e.c. Annik Magerholm-Fet, Alexandra Sauer] (chair: May Thorseth)

17.30–18.15 Working groups: planning session

18.30 Dinner

Thursday 13 September 2012

09.00–10.30 Plenary (chair: Dieter Birnbacher):

Deryck Beyleveld (wg2), *'What Duties Do We Have to Future Generations? A Gewirthian Approach'* [e.c.: Henry Shue, Anja Karnein, Gertrude Hirsch-Hadorn]

Axel Gosseries (wg2), *'Usufructuary Generations?'* [e.c.: Henry Shue, Barbara Muraca]

10.30–11.00 Coffee break

11.00–12.30 Plenary (chair: Lukas Meyer):

Dieter Birnbacher (wg4), *'The Moral Pragmatics of Climate Politics'* [e.c.: Alexandra Sauer, Annik Magerholm-Fet, Clive Spash]

May Thorseth (wg4), *'Institutional Obstacles to Sustainable Governance of Natural Resources: A Deliberative Approach'* [e.c.: Alexandra Sauer, Annik Magerholm-Fet, Barbara Muraca]

12.30 –14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Working groups

14.00–14.45 wg3, **Alexa Zellentin**, *'Risk and Rectification in the Context of Historical Emissions'* [e.c.: Clive Spash, Anja Karnein; wg.c. Fabian Schuppert] (chair: Lukas Meyer)

14.00–14.45 wg4, **Adrian-Paul Iliescu**, *'Developing Countries, Entrapment and Obstacles to Sustainability'* [e.c.: Annik Magerholm-Fet, Alexandra Sauer] (chair: Dominic Roser)

14.45–15.30 wg 3, **Martin Peterson**, *'The Dimensions of Consequentialism'* [e.c.: Clive Spash; wg.c. Franck Meijboom] (chair: Harald Stelzer)

15.30–16.00 Coffee break

16.00–17.30 Working groups

16.00–16.45 wg2, **Jos Philips**, *'Future Disasters and Cost to Oneself: A Concretization of Henry Shue's Precautionary Principle'* [e.c.: Henry Shue, Clive Spash] (chair: Elina Pirjatanniemi)

16.00–16.45 wg3, **Harald Stelzer**, *'The Imposition of Risks by Stratospheric Aerosol Injection'* [e.c. Barbara Muraca, Annik Magerholm-Fet; wg.c. Christian Seidel] (chair: Martin Peterson)

16.45–17.30 wg2, **Elina Pirjatanniemi**, *'Towards a Precautionary Approach: On the Limits of Human Rights'* [e.c.: Barbara Muraca, Gertrude Hirsch-Hadorn] (chair: Gerhard Bos)

16.45–17.30 wg3, **Christian Seidel**, *'Imposing (Un)acceptable Risks'* [e.c.: Alexandra Sauer; wg.c. Karsten Kling Jensen] (chair: Franck Meijboom)

17.30–18.15 Steering Committee

18.15–19.00 Working groups: planning session

20.30 Wine tasting in the Schlosskeller