



IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International
Science Conference on the
Human Dimensions of
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009
World Conference Center Bonn
UN Campus
Bonn, Germany

The Social
Challenges of
Global Change

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Time: Tuesday 28 April 14:00 - 15:30

FROM "VULNERABILITY-RESILIENCE-ADAPTATION" TO "TRANSFORMATION"

Organised by: Arizona State University

Convenor: Prof. Sander van der Leeuw

Panelists: Dr. Francois Bousquet / Cirad (French International Center for Research in Agriculture and Development), France, Don Nelson / Dr. Donald R. Nelson, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, United Kingdom, Dr. Jochen Hinkel / Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany

Dr. Henny Osbahr / University of Reading, and Dr. Emily Boyd / Oxford University, United Kingdom, Dr. Jörn Birkmann / UNU - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Germany, Dr. Per Olsson / Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden

Venue: TNT Alttestenrat Room

In different disciplines, a series of different concepts have been introduced and elaborated that focus our attention on different aspects of the sudden, and often unexpected, transformations that complex socio-environmental systems may find themselves in.

At earlier workshops, members of our community have focused on the characteristics of each of these approaches, emphasized their complementarity and expressed the need for a better integrated study of such transformations. It seems that the time is right to set the next step: rethink our approaches to transformations from a trans-disciplinary perspective and attempt to develop a unified one that can help us to understand these transformations as multi-dimensional phenomena.

In striving towards this aim, we will need to consider how to frame the issues raised by the vulnerability, resilience and adaptation approaches, and how to introduce in a unified framework a range of things we have not usually considered in this context: new forms of reflexive learning in organizations, how to deal with leadership change and with the co-production of knowledge, as well as with alternative management regimes in ecological systems.

This symposium is part of IHDP's effort to build a more effective conceptual apparatus that is relevant to many of its core and joint projects.