

Globally, the use of resources is facing tremendous challenges. Climate change and global warming demand that we leave CO₂-intense fossil fuels in the ground. At the same time, the demand for rare-earth elements increases the excavation of resources buried in the ground and makes it economically viable to mine ever vaster territories. In many cases these mined resources become nodal points for economic, political and socio-cultural ties. They account for direct employment in extraction as well as indirect employment for supplier and vendors; they bring about a material and political infrastructure and redefine social networks and regional identities. If such a nodal point dissolves or develops with a medium-term perspective in a particular area, we talk not only of a transition, but of a form of structural change that the German word 'Strukturwandel' grasp more adequately than the English expression.

If these transformations are induced by socio-political rather than techno-economical demands, we need to ask how extractive and consuming norms of the Anthropocene relate to them. In as much does a spatial practice such as mining and the sufficient availability of a resource determine the threshold of consciously abandoning the trade of a resource (as in decommodifying it), and its extraction and use? What arguments and practical strategies do relevant stakeholders, such as political actors, legislators, civil society and industry representatives bring about in order to transform a resource into a stranded asset or to start its extraction in the first place, when it is clear that its introduction or removal will result in not only minor transitions, but in a fully-fledged structural change for (at least) a whole region?

The workshop "Resources and Strukturwandel" will discuss these questions not as isolated phenomena occurring at various times and places, but understands the use of resources as a global phenomenon of by now internationally entangled and traded commodities. Introduction or abandonment of those commodities result in locally experienced Strukturwandel. We will debate contemporary cases of socio-politically induced Strukturwandel, focussing on resource use as a nodal point. To understand the complex entanglement of different actors and agendas forcing transition to come about, we will use case studies that help understanding the universalism of Strukturwandel as well as its particularities, taking the involved stakeholders' different viewpoints of the global – e.g. concepts of global warming and global trade – into account.

5. - 6. March
2020

RESOURCES STRUKTURW

ANDELRESO

URCESSTRU

KTURW

EL

ES

venue:

Center for Interdisciplinary Area Studies (ZIRS)
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workshop
Resources and
Strukturwandel



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT
HALLE-WITTENBERG

Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien

Thursday, 5.3.2020

10:30 Arrival

11:00 PANEL 1A

John Eidson, Max-Planck-Institute for Social Anthropology
Folding with a winning hand? Or: How do you sell Strukturwandel in a coal-mining region?

Arne Harms, Leipzig University
A provisional 'Strukturwandel'? On shifting forest policies in India

11:45 INTERVENTION
Mapping Places and Resources

12:15 Lunch Break (Catering)

13:15 PANEL 2A

Ludger Gailing, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space
The spatialities of "Strukturwandel": Territories, Places, Networks and Scales of energy transitions in a coal-mining area

Simon Runkel, Friedrich Schiller University Jena
Shrinking places and degrowth: socio-affective geographies of future-making amidst demographic change

14:00 THEMATIC DISCUSSION
Regions and space
Chair: Jonathan Everts

14:45 PANEL 3

Zeray Yihdego, University of Aberdeen
The law, nexus and goals [LNG] approach to water governance

Dirk Hanschel, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Resources and Environmental Rights in the Anthropocene

16:30 THEMATIC DISCUSSION
Practices and processes of resource-centered transitions
Chair: Katja Müller

17:15 Break

18:00 Dinner at Nexus

Friday, 6.3.2020

09:00 INTERVENTION
Methods

9:30 PANEL 1B

Timon Wehnert, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy
Strukturwandel in German Coal Mining Regions - Beyond the Growth Paradigm

Katja Müller, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Decarbonising Electricity & Strukturwandel in India, Australia and Germany

10:15 THEMATIC DISCUSSION
Strategies and governance
Chair: Asta Vonderau, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

11:00 PANEL 2B

Jonathan Everts, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Conceptualising Strukturwandel

11:30 FINAL ROUND / FUTURE PLANNING

12:00 End of workshop