

Vienna, 22nd of May 2017 – Save the Date
5th Viennese Talks on Resilience and Networks
Resilience of Place: Networking in an age of division

The adage of “Think Global, Act Local”, is correct on many levels. First, an eye on the global is needed because, as we know, systems ecology informs us about the interconnectedness of nature–society and that our actions are tied in a complex and intricate hierarchy. Second, all action is, in fact, local and present, unfolding in a specific place at a specific time. Recognition of this latter point gives us hope that if each place is managed sustainably, then the whole system will also exhibit persistent features.

But places differ, due to climate, topology, geology, and ecology, as well as historical events and cultural choices. Local solutions give a better chance to find the right scale, and to know when enough is enough, respecting the local carrying and buffer capacities. Each place is different, and therefore each place is special. In particular, a sharp distinction can be made between the broad-brush categories of rural and urban. With humanity pressing more and more into cities, they must be part of our sustainable solutions, but at the same time they are dependent on the landscape around them to supply resources and regulating services (clean air, water, soils, etc.). The rural communities, as stewards of the land, have the challenge to provide agricultural production while maintaining the productivity of the land. Of course, they want to maintain it; it is both their home and their livelihood.

In spite of this shared larger objective, the disconnect between these two places and two ways of living has grown markedly in the 21st century touching on all aspects of social, political, economic, and ecological relations. We live in a divided world as evidenced by such recent event as Brexit, the U.S. election of Donald Trump, and the close election for the Austrian presidency. In all three instances, a factor with high predictive power for a voter’s likely choice was place, specifically, the urban–rural divide. Furthermore, these polarities are re-created and re-enforced through stories and rituals that feed a mental concept of self and sense. However, the stories are not keeping up with the socio-ecological realities in our world of hybridization: rural people commuting to depend on cities and urbanites implementing farming and gardening, to name a few.

The divide, perceived or real, has real consequences and it puts enormous pressure on our ability to focus on common goals of making a better life for present and future generations.

Through this discussion of resilience of place, we hope to explore the following issues:

- Building diverse, cross-scale community networks within sustainable places
- Recognizing place as resource for experimentation of responsive variety to provide solutions for ecological balance
- Learning and exploring how to overcome the perceived divide

Date: 22nd of May 2017, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Place: Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Campus), “Clubraum” at Building LC; Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Wien

Web: www.fas-research.com/resilience/

Participation is free, but please register until 12th of May: resilience@fas-research.com

Agenda:

The morning session of the day contains talks of our speakers. After a lunch break, we will continue with an interactive participatory impact analysis.

- 09:00 - 09:30 Welcome and Opening
- 09:30 – 12:30 Speaker's Talks
- 12:30 – 13:15 Lunch Break
- 13:15 – 15:00 Interactive participatory Impact Analysis I
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30 – 16:30 Interactive participatory Impact Analysis II
- 16:30 – 17:00 Closing

Speakers:

Ika **Darnhofer**, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna; Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Economics

Brian **Fath**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); Advanced Systems Analysis and Towson University; Department of Biological Science

Harald **Katzmair**, FASresearch

Helga **Kromp-Kolb**, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna; Zentrum für Globalen Wandel und Nachhaltigkeit

Verena **Madner**, Vienna University of Economic and Business; Urban Management and Governance

Felix **Müller**, Christian-Albrechts University Kiel; Institute for Natural Resource Conservation

Organizing Committee:

Brian **Fath**, Towson University & IIASA

Harald **Katzmair**, FASresearch

Fred **Luks**, Vienna University of Economics and Business

We are looking forward to your participation in the conference!