

Creative Transition towards Sustainability

3-day Interdisciplinary PhD Workshop from 3rd – 5th of November 2014

Design - Architecture – Engineering - Natural, Social and Cultural Sciences

A course of the International Sustainable Summer School for PhD students from different disciplines and European countries

About the Sustainable Summer School

Since 2009 the Sustainable Summer School combines the discourses of sustainability and design, which are both posing the crucial questions of ‚What is a good life?‘ and ‚What do we have to do in order to achieve it?‘. Every year the event has attracted students from different fields as well as graduates, young professionals and experts from all over the world to come and experience the true meaning of sustainability while enhancing their international commitment. The first four Sustainable Summer Schools took place at the 600-year-old Nikolaus Monastery in Jüchen, Germany, and the fifth was held at Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland. For the 2014 event, the members of the organising committee (from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · Barcelona Tech (UPC), Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Folkwang University of Arts, Ecosign, Aalto University, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology UMSICHT, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Lucerne University of Applied sciences and Arts) chose Barcelona as new location of the event – and this not only because of its pleasant weather conditions in autumn/early winter. Therefore, in November this year, the Sustainable Summer School will be hosted by UPC-Barcelona Tech and takes place at its Living Lab LOW3 - Solar House (ETSAV). It will be organised as an interdisciplinary workshop for PhD-students.

This year's topic

Sustainability is the main challenge of this century. How to deal with global crises like climate change, energy- and resource scarcity or related social conflicts? How is a good life possible for all people on a finite planet? Technological/industrial innovations or economic growth are not by themselves sufficient answers to such questions. What we need is a holistic and systemic approach in combination with a fundamental change of our production/consumption structures and behavioural patterns.

6th SUSTAINABLE SUMMER SCHOOL

In a three day workshop, experts and PhD students from different European countries and disciplines will come together for an intensive exchange about strategies and specific possibilities of societal transformation towards more sustainable lifestyles. Through a dialogue between observers and analysts of the transformation on the one hand, and designers of the transformation on the other hand, the workshop promotes an intensive relationship between theory and praxis. The PhD Workshop therefore addresses different disciplines e.g. social, economic and cultural scientists, architects, product-designers, engineers. Best practice projects (e.g. living labs in Barcelona) will be presented and examined from an interdisciplinary perspective.

As the behaviour of individuals is strongly influenced by the design of the world we live in, the transformation of lifestyles needs a corresponding transformation of design, architecture and engineering together with a comprehensive re-definition of the concepts of ‚service‘ and of the production and ‚consumption system‘. Modern design is often object-oriented and underestimates the ecological, social and cultural environment. In contrast, this workshop looks for the complex interconnections between designed objects, products and services and their contribution to a creative transformation towards sustainability.

Call for abstracts:

We invite PhD students (and possibly some advanced Master students) from all disciplines conducting research related to the workshop theme „Creative transition towards sustainability“ and with a strong interest in scientific work, to submit an abstract in order to be selected for participation in this transdisciplinary event. As the goal is to hand in the final paper to a scientific peer-reviewed journal, the applicants are expected to have informed themselves about possibilities for publishing their paper drafts.

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Organisation & Details

Venue

UPC- Barcelona Tech is the second biggest university in Spain. The ETSAV School of Architecture at Sant Cugat del Vallés (www.etsav.upc.edu) is a well recognized centre in the field of sustainable architecture and urbanism with a wide range of initiatives. This includes for example its Living Lab for Sustainable Architecture and Lifestyle (www.livinglab-low3.blogspot.com), which will also be the main venue of the workshop.

Applications:

Applicants should send an abstract (max. 500 characters) about their on-going research work together with a letter of application/motivation and a short CV. An expert committee will select the most suitable contributions according to their quality in relation to the workshop topic.

A general explanation of the abstract and paper are included as an annex.

Methodology:

The workshop will combine theoretical sessions (presentations of research work, experts input, round table sessions) with practical work (living lab exploration, co-creation activities, group work) in order to create a lively atmosphere for a productive interdisciplinary exchange.

Expected outcomes:

Experts will assess participants in their research work to enable discussing specific aspects in small groups. The publication of papers will be prepared.

Recognition:

The Summer School committee will issue a certificate of successful attendance.

Deadlines:

- Submission of abstracts and application letter: 15th of September 2014
- Notice of acceptance: 30th of September 2014.
- Submission of full paper (draft) or presentation: 1st of October 2014
(see also template for paper and abstract).

6th SUSTAINABLE SUMMER SCHOOL

Organisation & Details

Fee:

280€ Euro (includes 3-day workshop, 3 coffee breaks, 3 lunches and 3 dinners).

Not included are: Flight, accommodation, breakfast and further travel costs.

Accommodation:

Accommodation in Barcelona centre can be found individually e.g. through the following websites:

www.booking.com, www.apartmentbarcelona.com, www.bcn-stay.com or similar.

Student apartments might be available on short notice at the campus for 35€ night in a double room. Please contact us for further information.

Contact:

For all applications and contacts please write to:

sustainablesummerschoolbcn@gmail.com

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Organization of the 6th Sustainable Summer School

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Workshop team:

Dr. Carolin Baedecker, Wuppertal Institute, Sustainable Living Lab
Prof. Anke Bernotat, Folkwang University for Arts, Essen
Jürgen Bertling, Fraunhofer UMSICHT, Oberhausen
Davide Brocchi, ECOSIGN Cologne
Bernd Draser, ECOSIGN Cologne
Prof. Dr. Christa Liedtke, Director Research Group Sustainable Production and Consumption, Wuppertal Institute; Visiting Professor for Sustainability Research in Design/Industrial Design at Folkwang University of Arts
Torsten Masseck, Director Living Lab LOW3, UPC-Barcelona Tech
Prof. Dr. Brigitte Wolf, Industrial Design, BUW, Wuppertal
Aalto School of Arts, Design and Architecture
Dr. Susu Nousala
Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Prof. Nina Gellersen and Luzius Schnellmann (to be confirmed)

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Invited experts

Flora Bowden,

Sustain RCA Research Associate, architectural and environmental design

Prof. Dani Calatayud,

Architect and Urbanist, Expert for Sustainable Development, UPC-Barcelona Tech

Prof. Dr. Albert Cuchí,

Expert on Greenhouse Gas Emissions related to the Spanish Building Sector,
UPC-Barcelona Tech

Michael Kuhndt,

Director of the Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Wuppertal), Expert on
Sustainable Consumption and Production

Dr. Dan Lockton,

Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, RCA, Designer and researcher in Design for Behaviour Change

Prof. Joan Rieradevall,

Director SOSTENIPRA Research Group, ICTA, UAB University, Barcelona, Expert for Ecodesign and Urban
Metabolism

Creative Transition towards Sustainability

PROGRAMME

3rd – 5th of November 2014 at ETSAV / UPC – Barcelona Tech, Barcelona

FIRST DAY

Monday 3th of November, 10.00-19.00

10:00 Welcome

Introduction – tutors, programme, campus

10.30 Introduction of participants

Background

Expectations from the workshop

11.00 LivingLabLOW3 Barcelona – Torsten Masseck

History and research profile

Living Lab and campus exploration – warm up

12:00 Narrative scenario telling – subject puzzle and overview

Introduction of the PhD subjects/papers

Subject oriented abstract collection/cluster building – structural suggestion by the teachers

13.00 Reflection and discussion/ cluster and team creation

13.30 Lunch break

14.30 Working Group Session

Introduction tutors

15.30 EXPERTS SESSION I

Main lecture hall (open to public)

Michael Kuhndt – “Up-scaling sustainable business models: Towards sustainable consumption and production systems”

Dani Calatayud – “Energy, Economy and Society – A holistic approach to sustainability “

Discussion 30 min

Moderation: Christa Liedtke and Bernd Draser

17.00 1st Speed Dating – Groups

Students can discuss their subjects with the 2 experts

18.30 Overview session day 1

20.00 Joined dinner at the Living Lab (finger food)

22.00 Come together – Evening event

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PROGRAMME

3rd – 5th of November 2014 at ETSAV / UPC – Barcelona Tech, Barcelona

Collective brainstorming: what have we learned?

SECOND DAY

Tuesday 4th of November 9.30-18.30

9:30 Morning reflection (Bernd Draser)

Overview of subjects

10.00 Introduction of experts

10.30 EXPERTS SESSION II

Main lecture hall (open to public)

Dan Lockton/Flora Bowden

“Revealing Complexity: People, Systems and Design“

Joan Rieradevall

“Ecodesign and urban metabolism“

Discussion 30 min

Moderation: Torsten Masseck & Prof. Albert Cuchi

12:00 2nd Speed Dating – Groups

Students can discuss their subjects with the 3 experts

13.30 Lunch break

14.30 Presentation sessions (groups)

deeper insight viewing of the PhD-projects/papers - 15 min

per paper/PhD Student and 15 min discussion

17.30 Workshops reflections

18.00 Overview session day 2

20.00 Joined dinner at Barcelona

22.00 Come together in the city

THIRD DAY

Wednesday 5th of November 10.00-19.00

10.00 Working group session

Further development of subjects and papers, ideas - co-creation

13.30 Lunch break

14.30 Working groups – individual short

presentation (including results for their subjects, papers and optional time table for the journal process)

17.30 Final joined presentations of working groups outcomes

18.30 Final workshop reflections

20.00 Joined dinner at Sant Cugat

22.00 Final fair well at Sant Cugat/ Barcelona venue