

6th WEEC ABSTRACT

Challenging the Organisation from within - 'next practices' in higher education for sustainability

Matthias Barth^{1,2}, Simon Burandt², Daniel Fischer², Marco Rieckmann²

¹RMIT, Melbourne, Australia matthias.barth@rmit.edu.au

²Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany

Despite the acknowledgment of the need to integrate principles of sustainability in higher education practice – as well in teaching and research as in the organisations management – only few case studies show the potential of whole organisation change processes. Aim of the symposium is to introduce, analyse and discuss 'next practice' approaches towards organisational change on different levels and scales. 'Next practices' according to Wals (2010) go beyond the static idea of best practices and may be understood as "innovative transboundary learning configuration designed to meaningfully contribute to the solution of a jointly shared sustainability challenge".

The potential of next practices for organisational change from within will be discussed alongside four key areas, each introduced in a short presentation:

1. *Implementing sustainability in the curriculum - the logic of curriculum change*
(presenter: Matthias Barth) Based on a comparative case study of implementation processes, patterns of curriculum change as well as drivers and barriers are analysed.
2. *Teaching staff as agents of change – the outcome of a 1year teacher-training*
(presenter: Marco Rieckmann) The study conducted at the Universidad Técnica del Norte (Ibarra, Ecuador) analysed, how organisational change can be facilitated by a further education programme for teaching staff.
3. *Broaden the scope of HE for sustainability – the innovative potential of e-learning*
(presenter: Simon Burandt) How the integration of e-learning and web 2.0 technologies offers a reinvention of common didactical approaches in ESD is analysed upon multiple case studies.
4. *Promoting a »Culture of Sustainable Consumption« in Organizations of Higher Education*
(presenter: Daniel Fischer) The study presents findings of a 3yrs project, concluding how by way of implementing coordinated development measures that systematically align formal and informal learning settings a culture of sustainable consumption can be developed.

Exchange and collaboration on next practices are at the heart of the symposium. Thus, one time slot will be dedicated to interactive discussion between presenters and audience, guided by a set of key questions, to explore and share opportunities of innovative next practices and their mainstreaming.