

# Dilemmas of Sustainability

International Workshop  
15-16 May 2014, NTNU

Thursday, 15 May

10.00-10.15 Introduction

10.15-11.15 Sustainability - the psychological Dilemma **Dieter Birnbacher**

11.15-11.30 coffee break

11.30-12.30 Democratic Governance - An Obstacle to Sustainable Development? **May Thorseth**

12.30-13.30 lunch break

13.30-14.30 Sustainability in the Anthropocene – Dilemmas of Knowledge and Possibilities of Art **Timo Skrandies**

14.30-15.30 Imagined Sustainability: Statoil's Arctic Petro-narratives **Synnøve Marie Vik**

15.30-16.00 coffee + summary of the first day

Friday, 16 May

10.00-10.15 Introduction

10.15-11.15 The human Limits to Growth **Davide Brocchi**

11.15-11.30 coffee break

11.30-12.30 Architecture and the aesthetic Dimension of Science **Luca Finocchiaro**

12.30-13.00 coffee + summary and perspectives

**Place:** Dragvoll Låven Room DL 145

## Organization and funding:

Prof. May Thorseth, NTNU  
Globalization Programme  
Programme for Applied Ethics  
Prof. Timo Skrandies, HHU Düsseldorf  
Institute for Art History



<http://bit.ly/1jueem1>



Register to join

During the last years “sustainability” has become a key concept within the debates on climate change and the anthropocene. For the interest in a green future the concept of sustainability plays a role as fundamental as „globalization“ is for the social, political and cultural changes of our world and as „digitalization“ is for the new media realities. Nevertheless “sustainability” is not a new or even just trendy labeling since its global emergence during the UNCED 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. Historically seen sustainable practice has a quite long tradition – not least in agriculture and forestry of the 19th century sustainability meant the equivalence of breeding and use.

In early 2014 NTNU launched its new research area “Sustainable Development”. In this context our workshop will explore and discuss some dilemmas or antinomies going along with the interest in a sustainable development. For the interrelations of human culture, biosphere, noosphere and technosphere seem to be far too complex for simple descriptions. Thus to claim the necessity of a sustainable development (like in the discourse on climate change) is not the answer to, but just a starting point of the circumstances we live in.

The dilemmas/antinomies we think of are touching ethical questions as well as aesthetic conditions and dispositives of knowledge: how to relate the necessity to act now with the lack of knowledge about future consequences of our today’s decisions; what is it to act responsible in today’s circumstances as well as with regard to future generations; how can we realize justice in the asymmetry of local and global/intercultural environments; which impact does the visualization and medialisation of the biosphere and nature have to our “Weltbild”; how can we anyway visualize the complexity of and our knowledge on sustainable developments. Included in this is also discourses on sustainability (cf. Promethean and Survivalist views).

Ethics - Aesthetics - Knowledge



Research Network

