

# Structure of the Brainstorming on 31 May 2017

## **‘Politik’ in and for the Anthropocene: Obstacles, Challenges, Opportunities and Tasks for the Social Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 9.00-9.15: Getting to know each other: Area of work and interest in this theme**

**Obstacles, Challenges, Opportunities and Tasks for the Social Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Wednesday, 9.00-9.15: Presentation: Area of work and interest in this theme**

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 9.15-10.45: Transition from Holocene to Anthro-pocene: Impacts for ‘Politik’: Obstacles, Challenges, Opportunities, Tasks**

- 9:15: PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch: Historical Times, Phases and Episodes in Earth and Human History: Technological Innovation and Economic Change Triggering the Silent Transition to the Anthropocene: Impacts for ‘Politik’ as Politics (Process), Policy (Field) and Polity (Institution and Norms)
- 9:45: Dr. Fredrik Arends, Leiden, The Netherlands: Conceptual Origins: ‘Anthropos’ and ‘Politik’ as seen by the Greeks
- 10:15: Prof. Dr. Lourdes Arizpe, Cuernavaca (UNAM/CRIM, Mexico): The Anthropocene: Perspective from Anthropology and Culture

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 11.00-12.30: Relevance of the Anthropocene Concept for the Social Sciences: Political Science, Geography and Economics/Management**

- 11:00: Prof. Dr. John Grin, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Systems Innovation and Sustainability Transitions in the Anthropocene
- 11:30: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, Hamburg University: Governing the Anthropocene: Complex Crises and Transitions to Sustainable Peace
- 12:00: Prof. Dr. Czeslaw Mesjasz, Cracow University of Economy, Cracow, Poland: Rethinking Economics and Management for the Anthropocene

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 12.30-14.15: Lunch**

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 14:15-14.45: The Anthropocene in International Relations: Conflicts, Integration and Emerging National Debates**

- 14:15: Prof. Dr. Úrsula Oswald Spring (UNAM/CRIM, Mexico): The Anthropocene and Patriarchy: A Perspective from Gender Studies

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017: 15:00-15:15: Prof. Crutzen to sign the Golden Book of the Town of Mosbach**

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017: 15:15-15:45: Coffee Break**

**Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 15:45-17.00: The Anthropocene: Perspectives from Gender Studies and Social Representation Theory**

- 15:45: Mr. Rainer Fischbach (Berlin): Prudence vs. smartness: reconsidering the invasive digitization and electrification of man-made environment as a putative path to a sustainable society
- 16:15: Dr. Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald (UNAM/CRIM, Mexico): The Anthropocene: A Perspective from the Theory of Social Representation
- 16:45-17:00: PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch: Concluding Remark: ‘Politik’ in and for the Anthropocene: Obstacles, Challenges, Opportunities and Tasks for the Social Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### **Guests**

- Prof. Dr. Paul J. Crutzen, The Netherlands, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry
- Prof. Dr. Jörg Hübner, Em. in theoretical physics, University of Heidelberg
- Dr. Lidia Mesjasz, Cracow University of Economy, Cracow, Poland
- Mr. Michael Headon, North Wales (UK), long term language editor
- Mr. Mea Mostafiz, Bangladesh, PhD candidate, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, media specialist taping, filming and photographing

# From the Brainstorming to the Book

When Nobel laureate Paul Crutzen argued first during a workshop of the International Geophysical and Biological Research Programme (IGBP) in late February 2000 in Cuernavaca (Mexico): “We are now in the Anthropocene!” he provoked a controversial debate first among the Geologists, later among the natural sciences and with some delay also in the social sciences, humanities and even in different religions.

My proposal for this workshop was that as an outcome of an intensive one day brainstorming we should reflect on the origins of this concept and its meaning as a new concept for framing and structuring scientific debate in our respective scientific disciplines and research programmes and for multi-, interdisciplinary and transformative research in the natural and social sciences (conceptual analysis, methodological debate).

By narrowing the focus on ‘Politik’ in its triple meaning of politics, policy and polity the brainstorming addressed new insights and areas of knowledge by employing this concept in political history and theory, in policy analysis and in international relations focusing on peace, security, development and the environment.

Therefor my proposal is that all those interested to contribute to a volume should prepare background or concept papers of up to 3-5 pages or 1000-1500 words as kind of thesis papers or extended scientific abstracts. These papers may reflect on or address the following questions:

- a) *Why is my discipline using this concept and interested to develop it further* (scientific interest guiding its cognition process) in its scientific work (motivation)?
- b) *How do we understand* the concept of the ‘Anthropocene’ from a disciplinary and research back-ground (conceptual analysis and working definition)?
- c) *What is my prospective research question* I would like to address in my planned chapter and what is the scientific context (research programme, theoretical context)?
- d) *What is my (hypo)thesis I would like to explore and develop in my planned chapter?*
- e) Will this concept help me to conceptually frame my theoretical and empirical work addressing key anthropogenic challenges for nature (Earth System) posed by us as human beings and humankind?
- f) *How may this concept be employed and applied in analysing ‘Politik’* as processes, fields, institutions and norms?
- g) *What is the potential of the concept of the Anthropocene* as a political concept *inspiring and guiding political actions* in a new era of earth history where humankind has for the first time intervened into nature and may undermine and threaten the very survival of our species due to the impacts of anthropogenic global environmental and climate change?
- h) *What is the potential added value of the Anthropocene concept as a framework of analysis* in the social sciences *and as a tool or guideline for actions* in the political arenas or in practice?

We taped the brainstorming session and will make these tapes electronically available in a password protected website of AFES-PRESS to allow all participants to listen later to the discussions when you are writing the first draft of your chapter. We may have one or two rounds of reviews: a) among ourselves only (first round) and b) including external reviewers or discussants you may suggest as most competent experts in your respective field. The goal of this review process is to help us collectively and individually to develop our own ideas further and to sharpen our argument to provoke a debate in the social sciences as well, what Paul Crutzen has achieved with his hypothesis: “We are now in the Anthropocene” in February 2000 in Mexico.

# Structure and Outline of the Planned Book

## **‘Politik’ in and for the Anthropocene: Obstacles, Challenges, Opportunities and Tasks For the Social Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

### **Forewords (1 page only)**

Prof. Dr. Paul J. Crutzen (Netherlands), Nobel Laureate, 1995: We are now in the Anthropocene! **(invited)**

Prof. Dr. Pablo Gonzalez Casanova (Mexico), former Rector of UNAM 1970-1972): Facing the impacts of anthropogenic global environmental change in the Anthropocene in Latin America **(invited)**

Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker (Germany): Co-President of the Club of Rome since 2012: Addressing sustainable development in the Anthropocene **(invited)**

### **Introduction**

1. PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch (Germany): Introduction: Concept History and Mapping: Emergence and Use of the Anthropocene Concept in Science and Politics (2000-2017)

### **Part I: The Silent Transition from the Holocene to the Anthropocene**

2. PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch (Germany): Historical Times, Turning Points, Phases in Earth and Human History and Political Episodes: Technological Innovation and Economic Change Triggering the Transition from the Holocene to the Anthropocene
3. Prof. Dr. Úrsula Oswald Spring (Mexico): The Anthropocene and Patriarchy

### **Part II: New Obstacles Due to the Emerging Conflict Between Scientific Evidence and Political Ideology or Unscientific Belief Systems**

4. Prof. Dr. Simon Dalby (Canada): Scientific Knowledge in Conflict with Belief Systems: A Case Study on the Administration of Donald J. Trump (to be invited)
5. Prof. Dr. Nils-Petter Gleditsch (PRIO, Oslo): Conflicts in the Anthropocene

### **Part III: Rethinking ‘Politik’ (as Policy, Politics and Polity) in the Anthropocene in the Humanities and Social Sciences**

6. Dr. Fredrik Arends (Netherlands): ‘Anthropos’ and ‘Politeia’ as seen by the Greeks
7. Prof. Dr. Enno Rudolph: A philosophical Perspective: The Anthropological Turn
8. Prof. Dr. Czeslaw Mesjasz (Poland): Rethinking Economics and Management for the Anthropocene

### **Part IV: Challenges Facing International and Supranational Organizations in the Anthropocene**

9. Prof. Dr. Tanja Brühl (Vice President, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt/Main): The United Nations and the Anthropocene
10. Prof. Dr. Andreas Maurer (University of Innsbruck): The European Union in the Anthropocene
11. Prof Dr. Rashila Ramli (UKM): ASEAN facing the Challenges of the Anthropocene **[suggested theme]**

### **Part V: Challenges Facing States, Society, Economy and Science in the Anthropocene**

12. Prof. Dr. Richard Ned Lebow (London, US/Germany): The Anthropocene: A Challenge for the US Political Process? **[suggested theme]**
13. Dr. Omar Serrano Oswald (Lucerne, Geneva): The Anthropocene as seen by China and India
14. Prof. Dr. Kurt Radtke (Leiden): The Anthropocene as seen by Japan and South Korea **[invited]**
15. Prof Dr. Surichai Wun’Gao (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand): The Anthropocene: An Emerging Debate in Thailand **[invited theme]**

## Part VI: Sustainability Transition in the Anthropocene

16. Prof Dr. John Grin (Netherlands): Transition from the Holocene to the Anthropocene: Impact for Systems Innovation and Sustainability Transitions
17. Jürgen Scheffran (Germany): Geography Facing Politik: Avoiding Climate Wars in the Anthropocene by Moving towards a Sustainability Transition and Transformation
18. Prof Dr. Miranda Schreurs (USA): Responding to the Anthropocene: Energy Transition in Selected European Countries
19. Prof Dr. Chantana Wun’Gao (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand): Thailand’s Sustainability Transition [in the Anthropocene ]: Dilemmas and Challenges
20. Mr. Rainer Fischbach (Berlin): Prudence vs. smartness: reconsidering the invasive digitization and electrification of the man-made environment as a putative path to a sustainable society

## Part VII: Anthropology and Theory of Social Representations Facing the Anthropocene

21. Prof. Dr. Lourdes Arizpe (Mexico): The Anthropocene: An Emerging Concept in Anthropology and Culture
22. Dr. Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald (UNAM/CRIM. Mexico): The Anthropocene: A Perspective from the Theory of Social Representation

## Part VII: Conclusions and Outlook

23. Hans Günter Brauch: ‘Politik’ in and for the Anthropocene: Conclusions on Obstacles, Challenges, Opportunities and Tasks for the Social Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Other chapters by authors, editors, colleagues and friends who were unable to come may be added later.

## Process, Structure, Deadline and Schedule

The goal is to publish in autumn of 2018 a peer reviewed book on this theme as volume 30 in the Book Series: [The Anthropocene: Politik – Economics – Society – Science \(APESS\)](#).

### Suggested Book Schedule (to be discussed)

- 31 October 2017: deadline for submission of first drafts of chapters (of about 3.000-7.000 words in English) for the peer review process
- November 2017: Commenting period among authors on the other texts of co-authors
- 1 December – 20 January 2018: External discussion of peer review process
- 20 January - 15 March 2018: Submission of the final revised book chapters
- 16 March – 30 April 2018: Copyediting of the whole book
- 15 April – 30 May 2018: Language editing of the whole book
- 1 June -30 September 2018: Book production
- November-December 2018: Publication as a book and Ebook (**Publication date 2019**).

We may consider to launch this book during the **International Studies Association (ISA) Conference in 26-29 March 2019 in Toronto, Canada** and to have a roundtable a year later during the **ISA Conference 26-28 March 2020 in Honolulu (Hawaii)**. These two events were approved by the AFES-PRESS Board on 2 June 2017 during our board meeting in Mosbach.