

Course “Out of the box - participatory research project”

Format:	participatory research project
Length:	one semester
Extra requirements:	not required; financial support for excursion is desirable

Contents

The course addresses key approaches and concepts of transdisciplinarity and “Responsible Research and Innovation” within the field of participatory research (in scientific organizations, community based research, etc.). Based on the theoretical concepts, student projects are applied practically in research processes on regional sustainable development. Topics such as *Participation* and *Citizen Science* will be worked on in practice. Together with two regional cooperation partners (one from the food sector and a one from a service business for senior citizen care) students develop and realize participatory research projects on sustainable development.

Expected learning outcomes

The students...

- ...have a basic knowledge about transdisciplinary research approaches.
- ...have a basic knowledge about community-based research, participatory research methods and science shop work.
- ...can access complex practical topics and recognize and understand connections and deal with contradictions and uncertainties.
- ...can work together with civil society and professionals to develop their own research project (research question, research design, data collection and evaluation).
- ...can work together with students from different disciplines and cooperation partners, and can relate different disciplinary perspectives to one another.
- can apply the theoretical knowledge learned in scientific or practical contexts in projects.
- can resolve, analyze, and solve possible problems.

Methods

- Inputs of the lecturers
- Text work
- Group work (with participatory methods, like “World Café”, “Future Workshop” or similar)
- Discussions in the plenum
- Project work in cooperation with professionals

Learning assessment

- In-class presentation (incl. written assignment on the theme of the presentation in groups)
- Written assignment



Course plan

Unit	Contents
1	Introduction: responsible research and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting to know each other - Content, course objectives and course structure - Literature - Thematic introduction into: <i>Responsible Research and Innovation</i> as well as <i>Science Shops</i> - Starting points for this type of debate - Milestone in participatory research - Transdisciplinarity - Sustainable Development
2	Responsible research and innovation (RRI) in the university <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the concept of RRI - Main dimensions and process dimensions - What does it mean for the research process? Ethical aspects of research - Sustainability as one element of RRI
3	Participatory research: science shops and citizen science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science Shop Vechta/Cloppenburg - Examples of participatory research
4	Readings on participatory research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of diverse articles on the topic - Discussion of participatory research projects
5	Excursion: Science Shop/University of Groningen
6	Out of the box: practical challenges and questions from our professional partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of cooperation partners; questions and exchange - Presentations of each cooperation partner - Discussion, question and forming of research teams
7	Introduction to research process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing the research designSpezifizierung des Forschungsprozesses - First group work - Projektmanagement and reflection - Developing a research question - Deepening knowledge about research methods
8	Project work: autonomous work in groups with lecturers' guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autonomous work in group - Guidance by lecturers
9	Project work: autonomous work in groups with lecturers' guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autonomous work in group - Guidance by lecturers
10	Project work: autonomous work in groups with lecturers' guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autonomous work in group - Guidance by lecturers
11	Guest lecture

12 Project work: Tutoring with guest lecturer

13 Project work: autonomous work in groups with lecturers' guidance

- Autonomous work in group
- Guidance by lecturers

14 Presentation of project results (in groups)

15 Final class: discussion and evaluation of the course
