

**LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER  
UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME  
DR. SOFIA PAGLIARIN**



**Education Program SS 2019**

**Seminar: Governance of Technological Systems -  
Politics and Policies of Sustainability**

**Room:** FMA/00.08

**Time:** Wednesday, 14-16 h – Group 2

**Start:** April 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Short Description:**

*Please note that course overview is preliminary.*

Nowadays, sustainability has entered our everyday lives. As individuals, we are offered with organic food in supermarkets, with electric vehicles rather than oil-propelled cars, and regulations and labels on energy efficiency of buildings and appliances orient our choices as consumers. In parallel, since decades international institutions have worked on how to conceptualise, measure and mitigate the impact of human activities on our planet. The Club of Rome, the United Nations and, more recently, the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015 by most countries in the world have contributed to raise global awareness on sustainability issues, such as climate change. But do all these attempts to reach sustainability actually work? And what does “sustainability” really mean, and how does it relate to sustainable development, resilience and adaptability?

This course will introduce students to the most important debates on sustainability as a concept and as a powerful value-oriented perspective that, in the last decades, has increasingly affected politics and policies, especially in Europe. In this course, sustainability is conceived as part of the broader debate on human-environment relationships, which we will approach from a complexity-informed perspective. At the end of the course, students will have appropriate conceptual tools to examine the interconnectedness of the global challenges we are facing today. Besides conceptualizing sustainability along the conventional 3 dimensions (environment, economy, society), we will illustratively approach some concrete sustainable policies through the traditional 5 elements: earth (land use, food production), air (air pollution), water (water management and pollution), wood (waste management and circular economy, forest management) and metal (cities and urban environments).

Evaluation of the course: charring, supporting discussion in class and term paper.

**Notes:**

The seminar will be taught in English.

**Registration:**

Via FlexNow! From April 1<sup>st</sup> until May 10<sup>st</sup>, 2019

**Speaking hours:**

Wednesday, 14-16 h, room: F21/03.69

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