

Wednesday, 02.06.2010 | 20:15 – 22:00

Open Forum (Wed 9.1): Risks, Culture, Ethics and Behavioural Change

Risk based decisions are mainly designed and taken in technical systems to ensure that the "right" decisions are made. "Right" in this context often means measures to be taken according to cost-effectiveness, willingness to pay, probabilities, protection goals, etc. However, a risk approach does not necessarily provide answers on what is a good or right decision—risk as a mental construct just describes the possible consequences and associated probabilities resp. uncertainties. Clearly, there are dimensions of the decision making that goes beyond risk, for example ethical and political issues.

On the other hand culture shapes the collective and individual reaction to threats, risks and impacts. Culture is paramount in decision-making as whether to mitigate a risk or ignore it. Often the decision is not based on how high the risk is but rather on how it is perceived. Decision-making under uncertainty poses challenges and questions to societies. What are the future consequences and associated uncertainties of an action? What is a good decision or action? Risk perception on the other hand is rooted in cultural behaviour. What happens when globalisation is merging and transforming cultures worldwide? Is cultural change implying a behavioural change in risk management?

Brief introductory statements by the panellists will provide a foundation for discussion amongst conference participants and the broader public by giving an overview of various ethical and cultural theories with a special focus on uncertainty based decision making.

Moderator:

Haller, Matthias



Professor University of St. Gallen and President Foundation Risk-Dialogue, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Born in 1941, business administration studies at the University of St. Gallen, a Ph.D. in Economics in 1972 with Prof. WA Jöhr on the issue of economic trade-offs. 1976 election as Director of the Institute of Insurance Economics (I.VW, HSG). 1980 Acquisition of the Chair of Risk Management and Insurance at the University of St. Gallen. 1987 Foundation and regular implementation of the nine-week-IMEA Top management courses for junior high squad Intl insurance industry. 1987 - 2007 Chairman of the Managing Committee of the I.VW-HSG. 1989 Establishment of the Risk Dialogue Foundation, which focuses on an integrated recording of risk problems and the improvement of the dialogue in the field of society, industry and financial services. 1998 co-founder of the MBA Financial Services and Insurance "(currently the 5th Time in Europe, China and the USA) in conjunction with colleagues at the Vlerick Management School, Gent (B). Involvement in establishing a scientific postgraduate courses "risk and safety" as a cooperation ETH / HSG. 2002 Invitation to the World Economic Forum, New York, on "September 11th - rethinking business risk in a social context". 2004 Key Note Presentation at ISC Congress of the HSG to "Insecurity - an epidemic?". Transition lecture at the University of St. Gallen.

Currently:

Member of several scientific advisory boards in public and private institutions, focusing in management training, facilitation of

interdisciplinary events and the linking of risk insurance as part of a dialogue and socially integrated risk management (eg nano / Social / Financial dialogue); further development of integrated RM concepts. 2008-09 participation in numerous events to Subprime-/Finanz crisis.

Panellists:

Fust, Walter



Ambassador, Geneva, Switzerland

Ambassador Walter Fust led the Global Humanitarian Forum from May 2008 until end of March 2010, following 15 years as the Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). Fust is President of Globethics.net/Geneva. He serves as a board member of the International Forum of Federations (Ottawa), a global network on federalism and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina/Egypt. He also serves as a member of the boards of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA), the International Risk Governance Council Geneva (IRGC) and philanthropic foundations. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Agenda Council of Humanitarian Assistance and a member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA 2010 - 2014).

Fust worked in banking and public administration before entering the Swiss Diplomatic service in 1975 with Geneva as a first assignment, followed by Baghdad and Tokyo. From September 1983 until the end of 1984 he served in the European Integration Office (EFTA/EU). From 1985 and 1986 he served as personal advisor to Federal Councilor Dr Kurt Furgler, Minister of Public Economy and President of the Swiss Confederation (1985). In 1986 he was appointed as Managing Director of the Swiss Office for Trade Promotion (OSEC) and from 1990 to 1993 he served as Secretary General of the Ministry for the Interior with national responsibility for science and research, environment, culture, social affairs and public health, among other portfolios. Born in 1945, Fust studied at St. Gallen University, graduating with a Masters in political science.

Jaeger, Carlo



Professor for Economy, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research PIK, Potsdam, Germany

Carlo Jaeger, born 1947 in Switzerland is a professor for economy at the University of Potsdam, Germany. At the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research PIK, he is head of the department on „Transdisciplinary Concepts and methods“. Carlo studied sociology and economy in Berne, Switzerland and Frankfurt, D. He was a professor at the ETH in Zurich, at the Universities of Zurich, Frankfurt and the TU Darmstadt. Carlo Jaeger is the Chairman of the European Climate Forum, which has been initiated by the PIK and which is an association with members from universities, NGOs and the private sector, and which concentrates on solutions for global environmental problems. Together with Shi Peijun, Carlo is Co-Chair of the Integrated Risk Governance Projects (www.irg-project.org). His current interest in research is focused on climate change and financial markets.

Mutagamba, Maria



Minister of Water and Environment, Kampala, Uganda

Hon. Maria Emily Lubega Mutagamba (MP) is the Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda and the Woman Member of Parliament, Rakai District, Uganda. She is a member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) and also the Chairperson of Lake Victoria Environmental Management Program (LVEMP).

Formerly she was the President of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW 2005 - 2007), the Minister of State for Water (November 2002 -2006) and the Chairperson of the Nile-Com.

In the Water Sector, she is a strong advocate of Water for Humanity, Water for Production, Water for Eco system, and "WASH" – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Messages. She is also a co-coordinator of the Global Women Leaders' Initiative for WASH and has supervised the Water Sector Reforms to the present admirable performance of the National Water Utility.

In the Environmental Sector, She is a strong advocate for the preservation of the Environment. She is promoting tree planting in Uganda. The general public has been guided on the benefit of tree planting and afforestation in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change. She believes that environment conservation development and avoidance of degradation of the soil and improving soil nutrients will be achieved through tree planting. Forest cover has been increased by engaging commercial/private tree planters and communities.

In the wetland Sector, she is an advocate of the RAMSAR principals of sustainable use and conservation of wetlands and eco systems

Nida-Ruemelin Julian



Professor and President of the German Society for Philosophy, Munich, Germany

Julian Nida-Rümelin was born on 28 November 1954, and is descended from a family of artists in Munich. He studied from 1975 to 1980 Philosophy, Physics, Mathematics and Political Science in Munich and Tübingen. He was then a research assistant in Munich and became a professor there in 1989. After being a guest professor in the USA, Nida-Rümelin took over (1991-1993) a chair of ethics in the bio-sciences at the University of Tuebingen and then (1993-2003) became a professor of philosophy at the University of Göttingen. For the summer he was appointed to the chair of philosophy and political theory at the "Geschwister-Scholl-Institute" for Political Science in Munich, whose director he was in the years 2004 to 2007. For summer 2009, he took over a chair of philosophy at the Department of Philosophy of the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. In the years 1998 to 2000, Nida-Rümelin was Cultural Officer of the City of Munich and in the years 2001 and 2002 he was a member of the Federal Government, as Minister of State.

Nida-Rümelin is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and the European Academy of Science, he is an honorary

professor at Humboldt University in Berlin (Department of Philosophy) and Board of Trustees Chairman of the German Studies Award. In September 2008 he was elected President of the German Society for Philosophy (2009-2011).

Schwarz, Franziska

Vice Director Swiss Federal Agency for Education and Technology, Bern, Switzerland



Franziska Schwarz is Director and Head of International Relations at the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) which is the federal competence centre for upper-secondary level vocational education and training, tertiary-level professional education and training, universities of applied sciences and innovation promotion. Prior to this position, she gained five years of experience at the innovation promotion agency CTI as a Head of Department. Her areas of expertise are all of OPET's fields of activity regarding the Swiss international integration as a cross-cutting theme.

Franziska Schwarz holds a PhD of Engineering Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH).

Taylor, Bron

Professor The University of Florida, Gainesville, USA



Bron Taylor is Professor of Religion and Environmental Ethics at the University of Florida. His research focuses on the emotional and spiritual dimensions of environmental movements, and he has led and participated in a variety of international initiatives promoting the conservation of biological and cultural diversity. His books include *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future* (2010) and *Ecological Resistance Movements* (1995). He edited the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* (2005), founded the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, and serves as editor of its journal. For more information see www.brontaylor.com.



International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2010
Risk, Disasters, Crisis and Global Change - From Threats to Sustainable Opportunities
3rd International Disaster and Risk Conference
30 May - 3 June 2010 | Davos, Switzerland



“From Thoughts to Action”
