

GAIIA

ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR
SCIENCE AND SOCIETY
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FOCUS: COMMUNICATION AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Western Germany's "flood of the century", in July 2021, has made us aware that the climate crisis is here, and it affects us all. Following the Bundestag elections, politicians in Germany are now negotiating measures to mitigate climate change. But politicians alone will not be able (or willing) to set the course for the necessary socio-ecological transformation. Together with science, business and society, they must design a climate and sustainability communication plan that motivates action and becomes politically effective. The contributions in this special focus of *GAIIA* aim to add a fresh perspective.

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COVER PICTURE

A snowman in the refrigerator? With their installation, *Snowman*, the Swiss artist duo Fischli/Weiss demonstrate that, due to global warming, we could soon be dependent on technical aids if we don't want to miss out on "winter as usual" and the traditional winter mascot. Using the means of art, Fischli and Weiss reveal that, in order to motivate people to protect the climate, we need more than the findings of science. We also need other bodies of knowledge and established approaches from art and culture.

© Fischli/Weiss, *Snowman*, 2016, copper, aluminium, glass, water, cooling system, 218 x 128 x 165 cm, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel; photograph: Pati Grabowicz

Lukas P. Fesenfeld

A GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL IS FEASIBLE

Considering the limited international climate policy efforts, many are pessimistic about effective climate mitigation. However, there is still a chance for a global *Green New Deal*: rather than resting upon a radical de-growth paradigm, a successful agreement should focus on a green growth paradigm.



Judith Feichtinger et al.

SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS IN RURAL AUSTRIA

In the transition towards sustainability, high hopes rest on municipalities playing key roles. However, an analysis in Austria has come to a sobering conclusion: although measures regarding sustainability and climate change mitigation have been implemented, structural problems remain.



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BEILAGENHINWEIS

Wir bitten um freundliche Beachtung der beigelegten Broschüre des Projekts *Universitäten und Nachhaltige Entwicklungsziele (UniNEtZ)*.