

Dr. Karl Bruckmeier: "Sustainable Coastal Zone Management from a Transdisciplinary Human Ecology Perspective"

Abstract

The presentation includes four parts: (1) A policy framework - Integrated Management of Coastal Zones (ICZM) in Europe, (2) An example of interdisciplinary research - the Swedish programme "Sustainable Coastal Zone Management", (3) The problem to be discussed - from interdisciplinarity to transdisciplinarity in resource management, (4) Tentative conclusions – what transdisciplinarity approaches can contribute to integrated resource management.

Integrated management of natural resources has become a key concept in public policies since the 1990s, when approaches such as "Integrated Coastal Zone Management" (ICZM) have spread in Europe, ICZM especially with the EUs Demonstration Programme for ICZM (until 1999) and the subsequent Recommendation on ICZM by the European Council and Parliament (2002/413/EC). "Integrated management" in ICZM includes management of water and land based natural resources in the coastal zone. ICZM can be understood as the link between the integrated management of water resources on land (for which the EU Water Framework Directive and its ecosystem approach provide a frame, also for river basin management) and the management of the open ocean waters (for which effective international programmes of management still need to be formulated). ICZM requires interdisciplinary approaches, although the concept of interdisciplinarity is not specified in the present programmes and in management practice beyond the basic argument that natural and social-scientific knowledge is required. Also the requirements of "integration" are not specified clearly in the present ICZM-debate. The forms of interdisciplinarity and of integrated resource management can be elaborated better when the ICZM concept is linked with the sustainability discourse as has been done in the Swedish research programme "Sustainable Coastal Zone Management" (SUCOZOMA, 1997-2004). In this programme knowledge transfer and knowledge use have become key issues for resource management that can be discussed with the concept of transdisciplinarity (as specific form of interdisciplinarity for application of scientific knowledge and cooperation between researchers and other stakeholders). This concept is not yet sufficiently developed to allow for a detailed assessment of its strengths in supporting integrated management approaches - and it is a contested concept. To identify major strengths and weaknesses of transdisciplinary approaches requires a discussion at several levels: a general epistemological discussion of the concept and its variants (where its scientific and methodological implications are cleared); a discussion of transdisciplinarity as a guiding idea in integrated resource management and environmental policy (where its political-managerial implications need to be cleared); and a discussion of examples of successful cooperation

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between scientists, resource managers and resource user groups (where it can be estimated how the concept works in practice). In spite of lacking practical experience some conditions and limits for the realisation of transdisciplinary approaches in programmes of integrated resource management can be identified, for example: a new culture of cooperation between researchers, managers and resource users needs to be built; most public agencies are badly prepared for transdisciplinary cooperation and do not have sufficient resources and the data about natural resources required for integrated management; management of resource use conflicts and integration of local knowledge are weak points in the present practice of ICZM.

Curriculum Vitae

Karl Bruckmeier, born 1952 in Germany, has graduated in sociology at the Free University of Berlin in 1977 after studies in sociology, economics, philosophy (Dr. rer. pol 1986). He has worked mainly in environmental research in Berlin (Science Center Berlin and Free University of Berlin) until 1997, then as senior lecturer and researcher in human ecology at Gothenburg University, Sweden and the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. His research is about rural and coastal development in an interdisciplinary setting, sustainable agriculture and fishery, natural resource use conflicts. His publications include different topics of environmental sociology, policy analysis, rural and agricultural development, natural resource management, human ecology.

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