

The Second «Rencontres de Reims» on Sustainability Studies

Which Systems of Governance for Which Sustainability after Rio+20? When Planning Becomes a Democratic Exercise

Program

at Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne
Amphitheater of Research building

**26 & 27
september | 2012**



The Second «Rencontres de Reims» on *Sustainability Studies* Which Systems of Governance for Which Sustainability after Rio+20? When Planning Becomes a Democratic Exercise

September 26-27, 2012 at Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne

This year's Rio Conference on Sustainable Development echoes the summit that took place in 1992. It is entitled "Rio+20", as if a simple and direct line connected 1992 to 2012. In twenty years, however, the world has changed a lot. It became globalized and the centers of production of wealth have shifted. Today, the economic and political rise of emerging countries takes place against the backdrop of a four-fold environmental, social, financial and political crisis among old industrial countries. This phenomenon goes hand in hand with a growing gap in wealth and increasing asymmetries between the capability of actors and populations from local communities to the whole planet. On the other hand, the sustainable development that was put into action at the 1992 conference has largely spread within society, sometimes in an invasive manner, and its content is not anymore the exact same. At last, in the past twenty years, the conscience of the environmental, economic and social challenges of our planet and its inhabitants has greatly evolved. In fact, in August 2012, the International Commission on Stratigraphy recognized that we have entered, since the 19th century, a new era of the Earth's history: the anthropocene. Human activity has become the main determining factor of the state of the planet, from its biosphere to its land, from its climate to its seas. This has a huge symbolic import. How to better highlight, in a globalized world, the responsibility of human societies vis-à-vis the future of "spaceship Earth" (to use the expression of the ecologist Howard T. Odum)? The two great themes of the new Rio Conference refer to these new realities:

- The "green" economy as an instrument to reduce poverty;
- The institutional and organizational framework of sustainable development.

It is clear that the current institutional framework of sustainable development is not properly defined. It is also particularly ineffective at whatever scale. The required tools are missing. The recurring issue of coordination mechanisms—at the local, regional, national or international level—is far from being solved. The second "Rencontres Internationales de Reims" in Sustainability Studies** tries to contribute to this debate. Four months after Rio+20, the aim is more to discuss the consequences of Rio than to understand what happened. This will be done starting from the following

questions: which governances to combine social justice and the transition to sustainability? Engaging which parties? Thus—and it is a tip of the hat to Jean-Jacques Rousseau this year's celebration of its birth—the objective here is to reconsider the social contract.

Thinking about these governances clearly reaffirms the need for planning, conceived as the construction of a long term democratic project, taking place simultaneously in its social, environmental and spatial dimension. This is not the normative, prescriptive, mostly technical planning that failed in the past, but of a planning where the populations concerned are the main actors and that has the following elements at its heart:

- Coupled human-environmental systems (HES);
- Participative processes to construct political decisions;
- New information models integrating uncertainty.

This kind of planning is therefore and first of all a political process corresponding to the following questions, which are crucial for the implementation of sustainable development: which kind of society do we want to live in? Which compromises between the goals and interests of the different groups? Which articulation between one decision-making level and the other? The second "Rencontres Internationales de Reims" in Sustainability Studies will try to address these questions.

François Mancebo

Footnote:

** Sustainability Science is an emerging discipline. Its formal birth dates back to the 2001 Amsterdam Conference "Challenges of a Changing Earth". Sustainability science addresses action for sustainable development. This presupposes a multiscale approach—temporal, spatial, and functional—, as well the inclusion of dynamic equilibria, not only of an economic, physical-chemical or biological kind, but also between actors and societies whose interests may be divergent. It corresponds to use-inspired research, which is based on the postulate that the greatest scientific achievements in whatever domain take place in the framework of research applied to concrete needs of human societies. This research is, therefore, at the same time "basic" and "applied".

Wednesday, September 26

8h00 AM: Welcome around a coffee pot.

8h30 AM: Welcoming speech, Gilles Baillat, President of Rheims University.

8h50 AM: Opening

François Mancebo, Rheims University, Head of the IRCS (International Research Center on Sustainability)

Inaugural speech:

9h00 AM: Scientific Assessment of Climate Change and Policy Options

Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of IPCC, General Director of the TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute - India)

10h00 AM: We Need to Go Back to the Visible Hand: Shared Responsibility in Action on the Verge of the Anthropocene

Ignacy Sachs, Honorary Professor (EHESS)

11h00 AM: Synthesis : Planning Development: Conditions to Enhance Public Participation

Christian Comeliau (Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies of Geneva, Honorary Professor)

12h00 AM: Lunch break

First session:

2h30 PM: Sustainable Development: the End of the Age of Innocence

Jean-Charles Hourcade, Director of the CIRED

3h15 PM: 20 Years After, «Noble Lies» in Action for an Inclusive Green Economy?

Rathana Peou Van der Heuvel, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB

4h00 PM: Increasing Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change: the Co-construction of Collective Intervention

Christopher Bryant, *Université de Montréal*, Director of the *Laboratoire de Développement Durable et Dynamique Territoriale*

Thursday, September 27

9h00 AM: Welcome around a coffee pot

Keynote speeches:

9h30 AM: Defining A New Social Contract for the Interconnected Knowledge Societies

Elena Proden, Research Associate, Office of the Executive Director, UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training & Research)

10h20 AM: Rio+20 and Local Governments: the Importance of Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Alex Mejia, Manager of the Local Development Programme, UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training & Research)

11h10 AM: Brazil's New Governances: Integrating Sustainability into Public Policy

Ladislau Dowbor, Professor of Economics, Pontifical University of Sao Paulo

12h15 AM: Lunch break

Second session:

2h30 PM: A brief sketch from Deepak Nayyar, Past Rector at Nehru University (Delhi), Honorary Fellow at Balliol College, (Oxford University): Crisis and Recovery in the World Economy: Towards a Sustainable Macroeconomics

2h45 PM: International Institutions for Sustainable Planning at the Regional Scale: Challenges and Perspectives

Jon-Marco Church (Rheims University, ex Ruffolo Fellow at Harvard University)

3h30 PM: How Metropolitan Governance Dynamics Meet Sustainability's Requirements

Sharam Alijani, RMS (Rheims Management School)

4h15 PM: Combining Social Justice and Sustainability in Environmental Services and Industrial Business: Suez Environnement

Thomas Perianu (Vice-President Sustainable Development at Suez-Environnement)

Closure:

5h00 PM: Transition to Sustainability and Governance: Addressing the Social Process of Decision Making

François Mancebo, Rheims University, Head of the IRCS (International Research Center on Sustainability)

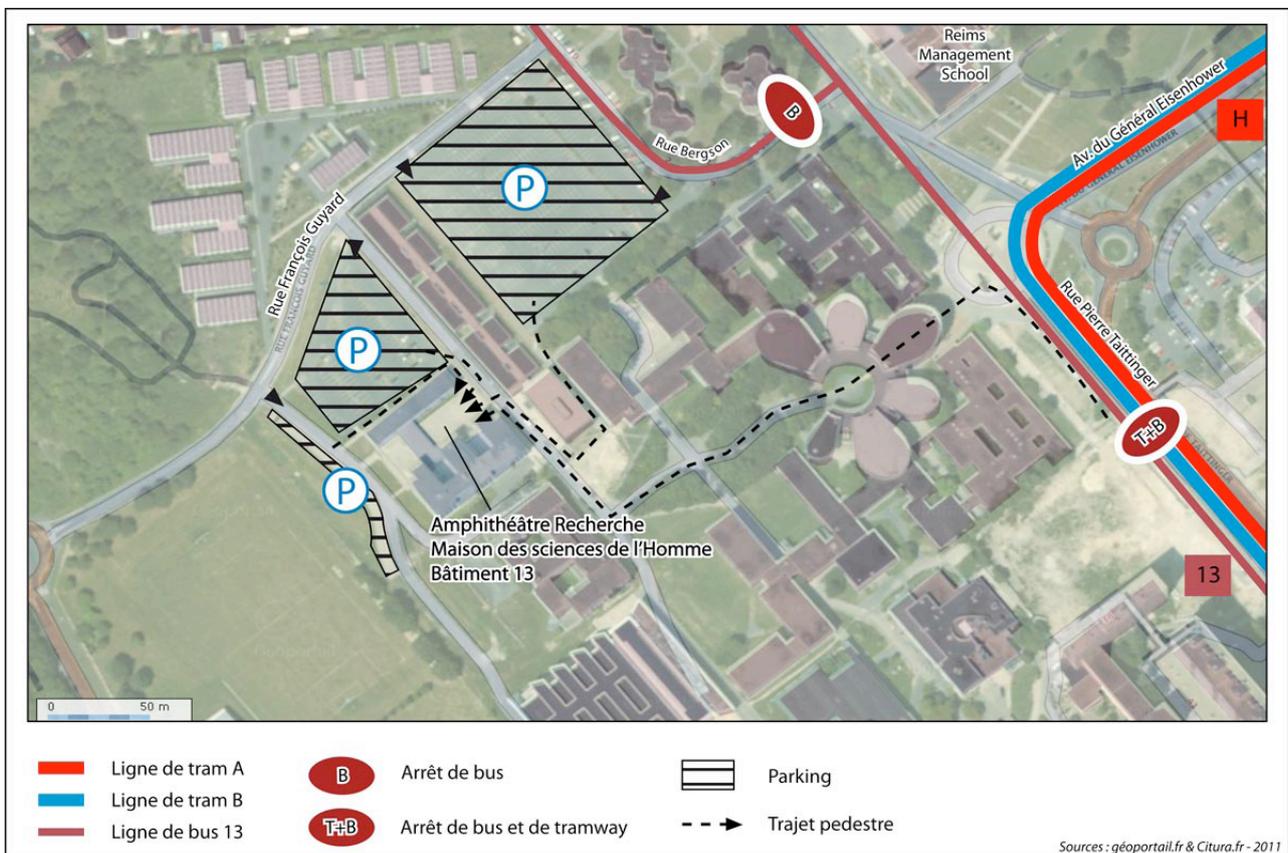
General Information:

Free registration: <http://www.univ-reims.fr/habiter>

Contact : Sébastien Piantoni, labo-habiter@univ-reims.fr

The Conference will take place at:
Amphithéâtre Recherche (bâtiment 13)
UFR Lettres et Sciences-Humaines
57 rue Pierre Taittinger
51100 Reims

How to get there?



From the train station *Champagne-Ardenne TGV*: Tram B – Station *Campus Croix-Rouge*
From the train station *Reims-Centre*: Tram A or Tram B – Station *Campus Croix-Rouge*