



Dear colleagues,

most of you have asked Ortrud Leßmann or Felix Rauschmayer to receive news about our project GeNECA ("Fair sustainable development based on the capability approach"). Please visit our [webpage](#) where you can also find our publications. This will be the last newsletter – one year after the project ended officially. As mentioned in the final project report, GeNECA reached its goals of elucidating the relationship between the Capability Approach and Sustainability Research and of stimulating the academic debate. Essentially through our international workshops in Munich, Leipzig, and Hamburg, the [JHDC special issue 14/1](#) with the notable participation of Amartya Sen, the [Maytreeye Bulletin 22](#), and through several publications in Ecological Economics, our and others' knowledge has been shared, which has stimulated further research on this relationship.

Find information on (1) the latest GeNECA publications, (2) the last GeNECA activities, namely the closing workshop, (3) the projects and activities of GeNECA members since GeNECA has finished, and (4) on GeNECA in general.

**(1) Publications:**

The special issue of the [Journal of Human Development and Capabilities](#) on The Capability Approach and sustainability, edited by Felix Rauschmayer and Ortrud Leßmann has been also published as a [book](#) with the one additional contribution:

- Rauschmayer, Felix; Lessmann, Ortrud: Editorial: The Capability Approach and Sustainability, 1–4.
- Sen, Amartya: [The ends and means of sustainability](#) 5–19.
- Watene, Krushil: Nussbaum's Capability Approach and Future Generations, 20–38.
- Crabtree, Andrew; Sustainable Development: Does the Capability Approach have Anything to Offer? Outlining a Legitimate Freedom Approach, 39–56.
- Peeters, Wouter; Dirix, Jo; Sterckx, Sigrid: Putting sustainability into Sustainable Human Development: the case for functioning constraints, 57–75.
- Pelenc, Jérôme; Ballet, Jérôme; Dubois, Jean-Luc: Sustainable Human Development and the Capability Approach: Integrating Environment, Responsibility and Collective Agency, 76–93.
- Lessmann, Ortrud; Rauschmayer, Felix: [Re-conceptualising Sustainable Development on the basis of the Capability Approach: a model and its difficulties](#), 94–113.
- Schultz, Emily; Christen, Marius; Burger, Paul: A Sustainability-fitting interpretation of the Capability Approach: Integrating the natural dimension by employing feedback-loops, 114–132.
- Hirvilammi, Tuuli; Laakso, Senja; Lettenmeier, Michael; Lähteenoja, Satu: Studying well-being and its environmental impacts: a case study of minimum income receivers in Finland, 133–153.
- Eric Neumayer: Human Development and Sustainability, 154-172.

There are further publications from members of the GeNECA-team:

- Rauschmayer, F., Bauler, T., Schöpke, N., in review process. Enriching the conceptualisation of the management of sustainability transitions with individual capabilities and social practices. Ecological Economics.

- Mock, M., Omann, I., Rauschmayer, F., Fuchs, D., in review process. Is it useful to consider community currencies as a form of collective capabilities? *Ecological Economics*.
- Gutwald, R., Leßmann, O., Rauschmayer, F., Masson, T. (2014) A Capability Approach to Intergenerational Justice? Examining the Potential of Amartya Sen's Ethics with Regard to Intergenerational Issues. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, online first: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19452829.2014.899563>.
- Griewald, Y., and F. Rauschmayer (2014) 'Exploring an environmental conflict from a capability perspective', *Ecological Economics*, 100 (0), 30-39, [doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.01.001](http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.01.001)
- Volkert, J. (2014): Der Capability Ansatz als gesellschaftspolitischer Analyserahmen, in: [Was macht ein gutes Leben aus? Der Capability Ansatz im Fortschrittsforum](#), 8-19, herausgegeben von der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, <http://www.fes.de/cgi-bin/gbv.cgi?id=10750&ty=pdf>
- Leßmann, O. (2014): Arbeit und das Gute Leben – Erfassung von Verwirklichungschancen, in: [Was macht ein gutes Leben aus? Der Capability Ansatz im Fortschrittsforum](#), 47-56, herausgegeben von der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, <http://www.fes.de/cgi-bin/gbv.cgi?id=10750&ty=pdf>
- Mock, M., Fuchs, D., Omann, I. (2013): Regionalwährungen - Komplementärwährungen und Nachhaltigkeit: Analyse durch den Capability-Ansatz. SERI-working paper. Regionalwährungen, [http://seri.at/?attachment\\_id=17322](http://seri.at/?attachment_id=17322).
- Leßmann, O. (2013): Collectivity in the Capability Approach. Editorial. [Maitreyee - E-Bulletin of the Human Development and Capability Association 22](#), 2-3, contributions by Solava Ibrahim, John B. Davis, Jürgen Volkert and Dorothea Kleine.
- Volkert, J. (2013): Concepts of Agency, Sustainable Human Development (SHD) and collective abilities, [Maitreyee - E-Bulletin of the Human Development and Capability Association 22](#), 9-12

Some new GeNECA discussion papers have been published:

- Rauschmayer, F., Leßmann, O., Gutwald, R., Krause, P., Masson, T., Mock, M., Omann, I., Volkert, J., 2014. GeNECA: Gerechte Nachhaltige Entwicklung auf Basis des Capability-Ansatzes - Endbericht. Leipzig, UFZ - Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ Discussion Papers, 6/2014 - GeNECA 12 (in German). [GeNECA DP12: Endbericht](#)
- Volkert, J., Strotmann, H., Moczadlo, R., 2014. Sustainable Human Development: Corporate Challenges and Potentials. The Case of Bayer CropScience's Cotton Seed Production in Rural Karnataka (India). Leipzig, UFZ - Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ Discussion Papers, 5/2014 - GeNECA 11. [GeNECA DP11: Volkert et al.](#)
- Rauschmayer, F., Bauler, T., Schöpke, N., 2013. Towards a governance of sustainability transitions: Giving place to individuals. Leipzig, UFZ - Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ Discussion Papers, 17/2013 - GeNECA 10. [GeNECA DP 10: Rauschmayer et al.](#)
- Mock, M., Omann, I., Rauschmayer, F., Fuchs, D., 2013. Do community currencies enhance sustainable quality of life? Leipzig, UFZ - Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ Discussion Papers, 16/2013 - GeNECA 9. [GeNECA DP 9: Mock et al.](#)
- Griewald, Y., Rauschmayer, F., 2013. Exploring a nature-related conflict from a capability perspective. Leipzig, UFZ-Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ Discussion Papers, 7/2013 - GeNECA 8. [GeNECA DP 8: Griewald/Rauschmayer](#)

For a list of GeNECA discussion papers as well as other publications, please refer to our [website](#).

## (2) The last GeNECA activities: The closing workshop of GeNECA

The workshop took place in Hamburg 13-14 May 2013. Members of GeNECA and some colleagues from Humboldt-University Berlin presented the latest findings of our research, in particular first analyses of the data on capabilities, sustainability related behaviour and attitudes gathered as part of the innovation sample of the socio-economic panel (SOEP-IS).

A short report on the closing workshop in English can be found [here](#) and in German [here](#).

The presentations can be found [here](#).

We further presented our latest research findings at several conferences:

- At the [conference](#) of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) in June 2013 in Lille Torsten Masson, Ortrud Lessmann, Felix Rauschmayer, Miriam Mock, Ines Omann and Salina Centgraf participated and presented recent research findings.
- At the [HDCA-conference](#) in September 2013 in Managua (Nicaragua) Ortrud Lessmann took part and presented the joint paper with Torsten Masson.
- Jürgen Volkert and Ortrud Lessmann were invited to present their views on the capability approach as a policy framework and to work and the good life at the [Friedrich Ebert Stiftung](#) in Berlin.

## (3) Activities and projects of GeNECA members after the project has finished:

- **Ortrud Lessmann** and **Torsten Masson** are working in a project on socio-economic reporting ([www.soeb.de](http://www.soeb.de)), elaborating further on sustainable consumption from a capability perspective and relating it to inequality. If you are interested you are welcome to register [here](#) for the newsletter (in German).
- **Felix Rauschmayer**, **Torsten Masson** and **Salina Centgraf** are now working in the German project [EnGeno](#) (2013-2016) about Energy cooperatives, in particular interested why people join energy producing cooperatives and whether their environmental behaviour or quality of life has changed due to their membership.
- **Felix Rauschmayer**, **Torsten Masson**, **Ines Omann** and **Mirijam Mock** collaborate in the EU project [GLAMURS](#) (2014-2016) about the transition to and upscaling of sustainable lifestyles and green economy.
- **Rebecca Gutwald** is working in the project "[ForChange](#)" funded by the Bavarian Ministry for Science, Research and Art on sustainability, competence and social resilience in a capability perspective
- **Jürgen Volkert** has finished a paper together with **Harald Strotmann** on "Poverty dimensions of the Multidimensional Poverty Index and subjective well-being - an empirical analysis for villages in rural India" which will now be submitted for journal publication. Based on representative primary survey data of 2,500 interviewed persons and 1,000 households of 4 Indian villages, enriched by focus group discussion findings, Harald and Jürgen find that results of ophi's objective Multidimensional Poverty Index partially correspond with subjectively reported happiness and that adding results for ophi's missing dimensions of poverty research can further narrow the gap between objective MPI and subjective happiness assessments.

- At the moment, **Raimund Krumm** and **Jürgen** finish a paper which confronts an economic Public Choice analysis on political processes in sustainable human development (SHD) governance with a capability perspective in order to find out how both approaches can and should enrich each other.
- Based on recent SOEP-IS data for Germany, **Jürgen** and **Matthias Seckler** analyze central CA assumptions regarding effective SHD policies together with their empirical evidence. They find that the CA enriches the debate because commitments beyond self-interest can be empirically shown to play a major role in SHD civil society groups; however, they also find that major CA assumptions like the feasibility of informed broad public reasoning are empirically challenged by the data. Finalization of this paper is scheduled for May 2014, an abstract has been submitted for presentation at the next HDCA conference in Athens.
- **Kerstin Anstätt** and **Jürgen Volkert** are preparing a paper on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Human Development that is scheduled for summer 2014. These three papers will also be made available as GeNECA dps.
- Since 2009, **Kerstin** and **Jürgen** have been in charge for the implementation of the UN Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) at Pforzheim University. Their strategy and implementation of integrating SHD issues into the university's teaching, research and stakeholder dialogue has been evaluated as best practice in Germany; recently Pforzheim University has been invited by the United Nations to become a member of the PRME champion group where together with other 30 international universities, Pforzheim University is involved in finding innovative ways to implement SHD issues into study programs in economics and management. Here, Jürgen can build on his experience with various SHD and ethics teaching approaches for which he has received two teaching awards in 2013.
- **Peter Krause** is currently organizing the next [ISQOLS-Conference](#) in Berlin in September 2014.
- Some of us have prepared abstracts for the Athens conference of the Human Development and Capability Association as well as for the Leipzig DeGrowth conference, both running in the first week in September (unfortunately in parallel)

(4) The **project GeNECA** aimed at conceptualizing sustainable development on the basis of the Capability Approach so as to combine the issues of inter- and intragenerational justice drawing on an integrated understanding of social, economic and environmental development. Resuming the spirit of the Brundtland commission, GeNECA put the needs and capabilities of people all over the world, now and in future into its focus.

On the basis of conceptual reflections, a questionnaire was developed as part of the [GSOEP innovation sample](#). We measured items related to (1) quality of life, (2) CA, such as opportunities, freedom, or constraints, (3) self-determination theory, (4) sustainable development, such as (a) agencies, actors and actions, (b) attitudes, expectations and justice, (c) New Ecological Paradigm, (d) Public choice, (5) Alternative currency systems and (6) Sustainable Consumption, where we had Sub-Splits on means of transportation and on buying organic food. The resulting data was analyzed within the project. The concept has further inspired case studies on various areas of governance to prove its usefulness in decision processes.

GeNECA was funded by the "[Economics for sustainability](#)" programme of the German ministry for research and ran from 4/10 to 5/13. The team was composed of 12 researchers from 5 German and 1 Austrian institutes. Find more on GeNECA at [www.geneca.ufz.de](http://www.geneca.ufz.de).

I think that these are the main news that we can give to you at this moment - if you want to know more about our project, don't hesitate contacting us!

Perhaps you would like to sign up for the HDCA thematic group on sustainability? Have a look at [hd-ca.org](http://hd-ca.org)

Best wishes

Ortrud and Felix

<http://www.geneca.ufz.de>