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# CONFERENCE ÜBER LEBENSKUNST

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## CONFERENCE ÜBER LEBENSKUNST

with **Arjun Appadurai, Nnimmo Bassey, Vandana Shiva, Juliet Schor, Jerome Ringo, Chandran Nair, Wilhelm Schmid, Tim Jackson, Harald Welzer, Elmar Altvater** and many others

Our planet's environmental crisis is already changing living conditions in many regions of the world. Whether the idea of a new art of living can create global perspectives for survival in the crisis and, if so, how, was the focus of the international conference **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** which took place from 18 to 21 August 2011 in the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. It brought together experts, innovators, artists and pragmatists in a global discourse on-site in Berlin and via live stream from New Delhi, St. Petersburg, Nairobi and São Paulo. The installation of three screens in the auditorium of the HKW and similar satellite installations at four places around the world made it possible to experience performances and discussions elsewhere in the world live as they happen. In a variety of different platforms including lectures and discussions, workshops and commentary, well-known thinkers shared their ideas about the issues surrounding sustainable development and how we can stimulate global action politically, socially and individually in light of our many differences and problems.

While the highly industrialised part of the world currently views the environmental crisis as calling into question an ideal lifestyle based on consumption and continuous growth, the climate change arising from advanced industrialisation in the western world poses an extreme threat to further social and economic as well as environmental development in the "Global South".

What western efforts to establish a sustainable model for living and doing business mean for the countries of the South, which new kind of "art of living" the post-fossil era promises and how each individual can already contribute now to the future through their own personal action – international experts, Festival artists, politicians from Berlin as well as from the federal level discussed these issues with the public on the third day of the Festival, Saturday, 20 August, among others, **Daniel Buchholz, Gregor Gysi, Katrin Lompscher** and **Michael Schäfer**. How will Germany and Berlin have to develop? How will we achieve energy reform and at

what price? When and how can Berlin become a climate-neutral city? What do politicians and citizens have to do to reach this goal? What forms of transportation will we use? How can initiatives and creativity be encouraged more effectively among individuals and groups in civil society? How can our children be better prepared at school for the challenges of the environmental crisis?



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**CURATOR IN NEW DELHI: RAVI AGARWAL**

**CURATOR IN ST. PETERSBURG: ANGELINA DAVYDOVA**

**CURATOR IN SAO PAULO: LAYMERT GARCÍA DOS SANTOS**

**CURATOR IN NAIROBI: SAM HOPKINS**

In cooperation with Goethe-Institut and Deutsch-Russischer Austausch e.V.



Kindly supported by



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# CONFERENCE ÜBER LEBENSKUNST PROGRAMME

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THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2011

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## ON THE LINK BETWEEN ART AND TECHNOLOGY – AND HOW IT CAN HELP US CONFRONT THE CRISIS.

12 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Conference opening by Bernd M. Scherer

**Lecture:** Arjun Appadurai, Goddard Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University (USA)

**Talk:** Man and machine

**Kris Verdonck**, artist (Belgium)

Discussion with Arjun Appadurai and Kris Verdonck

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## ON THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF AND NECESSITY FOR GLOBAL ACTION INPUT

2 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**Jennifer Morgan**, director of the Climate and Energy Program, World Resources Institute (USA)

**Discussion:** Jennifer Morgan

**Nnimmo Bassey**, chairman of Friends of the Earth International (Nigeria)

**Daniel Klingefeld**, advisor to the Advisory Council to the Federal Government on Global Change (WBGU), Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (D)

**Facilitation:** Lili Fuhr, advisor on international environmental policy, Heinrich Böll Foundation (D)

A video of this debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## ON ALLIANCES

4 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.



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**Input:** Jerome Ringo, managing director of Synergy Global Development Group (USA)

Commentary

**Antonella Battaglini**, programme director of the Smart Energy for Europe Platform (SEFEP) and director of the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) (D)

**Discussion:** Antonella Battaglini, Jerome Ringo, Cornelia Coenen-Marx, member of the Church Council, Evangelical Church in Germany (D)

**Tadzio Müller**, gegenstromberlin (D)

**Facilitation:** Martina Taubenberger, Culture Manager (D)

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## POST-CONSUMPTION LIFESTYLES

6 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

**Lecture:** Juliet Schor, sociologist, Boston College and author of "Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth" (USA)

Followed by a discussion with Juliet Schor and Tina Gadow, head of the office "Vielfalt gestalten" (D)

A video of Juliet Schor's lecture is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## PERFORMANCE

7.30 P.M. – 8.30 P.M. IN THE THEATRE AUDITORIUM

Exit

**Kris Verdonck**, artist (Belgium)

Exit - Sleep as a way out. The importance of physical regeneration for creativity and innovative thinking.

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## PROGRAMME

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### ON ENERGY AND LIFE

8 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

**Intro:** Rikke Luther, artist (Denmark)

**Input:** Fritz Reusswig, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, research field transdisciplinary concepts and methods (D)

**Discussion:** Philipp Oswalt, director of the Bauhaus Foundation Dessau (D), Stefan Rammler, Institute for Transportation Design, Braunschweig University of Art (D), Fritz Reusswig

**Facilitation:** Andrea Thilo, journalist (D)

A video of this debate is available in our [media archive](#)

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### FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST 2011

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#### FOSSILISING THE FOSSIL CIVILISATION

12 P.M. – 1 P.M.

**Lecture:** Nnimmo Bassey, chairman of Friends of the Earth International (Nigeria)

**Facilitation:** Silvia Fehrmann, Head of Communications, Haus der Kulturen der Welt

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#### SUSTAINABILITY A CONCEPT TO BELIEVE IN, A WORD NOT TO TRUST

1 P.M. – 2 P.M.

**Performance:** Sam Hopkins, artist and activist (Kenya)  
via live stream from Nairobi

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#### MEGA-DELHI SUBLIME

2 P.M. – 3 P.M.

**performance:** Chris Green, artist (USA)  
via live stream from New Delhi

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### ON MEGACITIES

3 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

**Introduction:** Significance of the problem of urbanisation and megacities

**Paola Alfaro d'Alençon**, Habitat Unit, Technische Universität Berlin (D)

Film clips from Slum TV – **Sam Hopkins**

**Discussion:** **Sam Hopkins**, artist, Nairobi (Kenya), via live stream from Nairobi, **Arthur Adeya**, **Jomo Kenyatta** University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi; Initiator of the "Kibera Public Space Project" (Kenya), via live stream from Nairobi, **K.T. Ravindran**, head of Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi (India), via live stream from New Delhi

**Input:** **Marussia Whately**, coordinator of the Programa Mananciais, Instituto SocioAmbiental, São Paulo (Brazil), via live stream from São Paulo

**Facilitation:** Rahul Srivastava, PUKAR (Partners for Urban Knowledge Action and Research) and co-founder of URBZ (India), via live stream from New Delhi

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### BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

**Discussion with:** **Serah Munguti**, Communication and Advocacy Manager, Nature Kenya (Kenya), via live stream from Nairobi

**Mauricio Torres**, professor of geography, Universidade de São Paulo, author of "Amazônia revelada: Os descaminhos ao longo da BR-163" (Brazil), via live stream from São Paulo

**Conclusion:** What does this mean for us? **Christoph Bals**, managing director of policy, Germanwatch (D)

**Facilitation:** **Laymert García dos Santos**, professor of philosophy and sociology, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, São Paulo (Brazil), via live stream from São Paulo

A video of this debate is available in our [media archive](#)

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## ON SUSTAINABLE ACTION

8 P.M. – 9:45 P.M.



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**Input:** **Robert Gifford**, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Environmental Psychology (Canada), via live stream from Vancouver

**Discussion:** **Robert Gifford**, **Harald Welzer**, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Memory Research (CMR), Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Essen (D)

**Conclusion:** Laymert García dos Santos, professor of philosophy and sociology, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, São Paulo (Brazil), via live stream from São Paulo

**Facilitation:** **Andrea Thilo**, journalist (D)

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**SATURDAY, 20 AUGUST 2011**

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## ON PROSPERITY THAT GROWS WITHOUT GROWTH

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

**Lecture:** **Tim Jackson**, head of the Research group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment (RESOLVE), Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey; author of "Prosperity without Growth - economics for a finite planet (Earthscan, London)"

**Debate:** **Elmar Altvater**, Prof. em. for political science, Otto-Suhr-Institut, Free University of Berlin and author of "Der große Krach oder die Jahrhundertkrise von Wirtschaft und Finanzen, von Politik und Natur" (D), **Ralf Krämer**, ver.di trade union secretary, economic policy department; member of the programme committee of the LINKE party (D)

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**Facilitation:** **Hanna Gersmann**, die tageszeitung

A video of **Tim Jackson's** lecture and the following debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## ON THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

2 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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## ON THE ECOLOGICAL ART OF LIVING

2 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.

**Lecture:** **Wilhelm Schmid**, free philosopher and author of "Ökologische Lebenskunst" (D)

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## ON THE LIMITS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTION

**Debate:** **Wilhelm Schmid**, **Martin Unfried**, expert for European environmental policy, European Institute of Public Administration and columnist for the taz newspaper ("Ökosex") (D)

**Facilitation:** **Tilman Santarius**, head of International Climate and Energy Policy, Heinrich Böll Foundation (D)

A video of **Wilhelm Schmid's** lecture and the following debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## ON BOTTOM-UP APPROACHES

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

**Discussion:** **Sebastian Sladek**, managing director of the Elektrizitätswerke Schönau (Schönau municipal power works) (D), **Tatjana Kargina**, Development Director, EcoWiki Project (Russia), via live stream from St. Petersburg, **Sergio Prado**, founder of Curadores da Terra (Brazil), via live stream from São Paulo

**Facilitation:** **Tilman Santarius**, head of International Climate and Energy Policy, Heinrich Böll Foundation (D)

A video of this debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## SALTO MORTALE

5 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.



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With **Sunita Narain**, director of the Centre for Science and Environment (India), via live stream from New Delhi

**Chandran Nair**, founder and CEO of the Global Institute For Tomorrow; author of "Consumptionomics. Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism and Saving the Planet" (Hong Kong), **Sergej Bobylev**, economics department, Moscow State University (Russia), via live stream from St. Petersburg

**Facilitation:** **Angelina Davydova**, environmental journalist, expert with the Russian-German Environmental Information Centre (Russia), via live stream from St. Petersburg

A video of this debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## PERFORMANCE

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

**Inder Salim**, artist (India)  
via live stream from New Delhi

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## ON THE GOOD LIFE

8 P.M. – 10:15 P.M.

**Intro:** **Benjamin Verdonck**, artist (Belgium)

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## WHAT MAKES US HAPPY?

**Discussion:** **Charles Seaford**, director of the centre for well-being, new economics foundation (Great Britain), **Christoph Hochhäusler**, film director ("Unter dir die Stadt") (D), **Stefan Klein**, scientific author ("Die Glücksformel") (D)

**Facilitation:** **Andrea Thilo**, journalist (D)

A video of this debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS FOR PROSPERITY | COMMONS, SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND BUEN VIVIR.



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**Discussion:** **Candido Grzybowski**, Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas (Ibase) (Brazil), via live stream from São Paulo, **Silke Helfrich**, publicist and author ("Wem gehört die Welt? Zur Wiederentdeckung der Gemeingüter") (D), **Werner Landwehr**, director of the GLS Bank Berlin (D)

**Facilitation:** **Andrea Thilo**, journalist (D)

A video of this debate is available in our [>media archive](#)

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## PERFORMANCE

10:30 P.M.

Teatro de Narradores  
via live stream from São Paulo

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SUNDAY, 21 AUGUST 2011

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## PERFORMANCE

1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Iguan Dance: Love in the supermarket  
via live stream from St. Petersburg

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## EARTH DEMOCRACY

4 P.M. – 5 P.M.



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**Lecture:** Vandana Shiva, human rights and environmental activist (India)

**Facilitation:** Bernward Geier, agronomist and journalist (D)

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## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS?

7 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

**Lecture:** Chandran Nair, founder and CEO of the Global Institute For Tomorrow; author of "Consumptionomics. Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism and Saving the Planet" (Hong Kong)

A video of Chandran Nair's lecture is available in our [media archive](#)