

Workshop Invitation – Empowering Research Methodologies Training

28. – 31. August 2014 in Bonn, Germany

What is my role as a researcher? What is the role of science in society? And is empowerment relevant for science?

We cordially invite you to a training workshop in Empowering Research Methodologies, provided to you by the Youth Future Project e.V. (YFP) and the Right Livelihood College (RLC). The YFP has made it its mission to support young people in creating and promoting practices for the transformation towards a life-sustaining society. Transformative approaches are also springing up in many scientific disciplines today, with empowering aspects taking a central role in the development towards transdisciplinarity.

This training workshop is dedicated to exploring empowering research methods based on **Participatory Action Research** with techniques of visualising knowledge and ideas. It seeks to enable young researchers to work **cooperatively with the communities**, in which they research, and to apply methodologies which support the communities in orienting their own livelihoods towards **sustainable development**.

The workshop will begin Thursday afternoon with a welcoming session for getting to know each other and entering the mindframe of empowering research. On Friday we will introduce the basics of empowerment and **concrete methods** for researching cooperatively with communities. We will also get to know the **code of ethics of researchers** with regard to field research. On Saturday we will go into concrete **project work** to develop a sense of how to apply these methodologies in our research efforts. In conclusion of the workshop, Sunday morning will be dedicated to exploring the needs and potential of the workshop group for applying and spreading the learned approaches to the wider research community.

We hope to establish a **sustained process** for supporting young researchers in using empowering methodologies and are relying on the input, contribution and **engagement of you as participants** to develop a resilient strategy for this endeavor. Such a process could comprise forming a **network** of young researchers for empowering methodologies, authoring **papers** and providing **co-counseling**. It will however fully depend on the desires and resources expressed by the workshop group. Finally, we will summarise our findings and learnings proposing our role as committed researchers to support local communities to defend their rights and to voice their concerns for a better life.

The intention of this workshop is to **launch a cooperation amongst young researchers for furthering empowering methodologies**, and every researcher is welcome, especially if you intend to apply these methodologies and engage in promoting them. Therefore, participation in

the workshop will be for free and there is the possibility to ask for support in covering travel and accommodation costs.

In terms of workshop organisation we would like to foster a culture of cooperativeness and self-determination. Thus we welcome your ideas and suggestions and will support the participants in organising themselves, e.g. for car-sharing.

Please **register as soon as possible** by filling in the attached registration form and sending it to empowering@youthfuture.de

About the trainers and organising institutions:

Dr. Hermann J. Tillmann is an agricultural Anthropologist with a regional specialization in mountain regions and peoples in Latin America and in SE-Asia and SW-China. He has many years of experience in rural communication, amongst others 10 years in the highlands of Peru and 6 years in Yunnan, China. He was co-founder of the Participatory Technology Development (PTD)/ Participatory Innovation Development (PID) St. Ulrich Group (1993).



He is advisor of the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience of Coventry University for the Andean Program on Food Sovereignty since 2007, advisor of Right Livelihood College in Bonn and Penang since 2009, and visiting professor of Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and Passau University (South East Asian Institute), Germany in charge of Participatory Action Research and Indigenous Knowledge. He is a consultant to Burmese NGOs and the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Myanmar for participatory action research methods of Indigenous Knowledge and Natural

Resource Management. His main concern is the empowerment of local mountain people to be able to decide on their future livelihoods in peace.

Ana Adzersen is Facilitator for Sustainable Cooperation. She gives workshops and coaches teams for building a stable basis for long-term cooperation. By facilitating group processes with innovative methods, she initiates a lasting interrelation of the development of each individual with the vision of their team and community. The result is commitment and activism towards sustainable development.



The **Right Livelihood College** (RLC) is the global capacity and networking initiative of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation. It is organized as a global polycentric network with campuses in Bonn (Germany), Lund (Sweden), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Port Harcourt (Nigeria), Valdivia (Chile), Santa Cruz (USA) and Mumbai (India). RLC in Bonn is hosted by the Center for Development Research (ZEF). The Project in organizing the Empowering Research Campus Bonn Methodologies by providing facilities and logistical support.



(Sweden), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), (Chile), Santa Cruz (USA) and hosted by the Center for RLC supports the Youth Future international workshop on Methodologies by providing

The **Youth Future Project** e.V. brings together youth and laureates of the Right Livelihood Award (“Alternative Nobel Prize”), in order to facilitate an exchange between the generations and to foster the societal change to more peace, justice, environmental protection and sustainable development of economy, politics and civil society. The association organizes regularly large youth conferences and supports also the initiation and development of youth projects inside and outside of Germany. This training workshop is part of the "**Visionaries in Action**"-Coaching program initiated and accompanied by the Youth Future Project e.V.

