

## **Promising practice**

**University:** University of Vechta

**Academic discipline:** Special Profile Module/Key Competence Module  
Bachelor and Master Programme (open for all study programmes)  
Summer Term 2016

### **Course title:**

Über den Tellerrand – Partizipative Forschung mit Menschen aus der Region  
Outside the Box - Participatory research with people from the region

### **Course description:**

The seminar engages students with essential approaches and concepts of transdisciplinarity, "Responsible Research and Innovation" and participatory research and action fields (science shops, community-based research etc.). Topics such as participation and citizen science are discussed, and their practical relevance is established. The practical application of the acquired theoretical knowledge in terms of research processes to sustainable development takes place in student research projects in cooperation with regional partners (e.g. CSOs, social businesses, community partners).

### **Learning outcomes:**

The students gain...

- basic knowledge of transdisciplinary research approaches.
- basic knowledge of community-based research, participatory research methods and science shop work.
- basic understanding of the concept "Responsible Research and Innovation".
- understanding of "experts" and the role of researchers in participatory/ collaborative research processes.
- understanding of the relevance of research in society and the potential impact of research on individuals, groups and society as a whole.
- skills to develop their own research projects, together with civil society and other industry partners (scientific and practical research questions, research design, data collection and analysis).
- understanding and ability to reflect on the role of university in society and the integration of practice partners (civil society, associations, etc.) in research.

Students will be able to ...

- describe the concept Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).
- describe transdisciplinary research approaches.
- develop complex real-world issues and be able to recognize and understand relationships and deal with contradictions and uncertainty.
- work with practice partners and students of different subjects and disciplinary perspectives, and relate to each other.
- apply acquired theoretical knowledge in scientific and practical contexts in projects.

- reflect, analyse and solve problems.
- coordinate a team with external partners.
- be responsible for subtasks and merge them to a complete task.
- structure results of their work and present them.
- take part in discussions about values and social responsibility.
- reflect critically on theories, opinions and practice.
- Reflect critically on their own values, perceptions and actions.

### **How students learn with civil society organisations through this course:**

Students will work on questions which external partners (CSOs, social businesses, community actors, municipality, schools etc.) have identified on regional sustainable development. The students will work with these partners in research project on solving the identified issue.

### **How students learn about dimensions of RRI through this course**

- **Sustainability:** The seminar concentrates on key approaches in sustainable development. Furthermore it engages students in answering questions on regional sustainable development (social, ecological and economical aspects).
- **Public/Societal Engagement:** Students are confronted with a question of regional importance and need to develop a research design – together with regional project partners – to get answers to these questions.
- **Gender Equality/Inclusion:** Students will work with different people from different backgrounds (other students as well as external partners). Students need to take into account the different points of view regarding a focal issues/problem/question.
- **Reflexivity:** Students reflect on their learning outcomes and understanding of approaches, both individually and in groups.
- **Open Access:** The results of the seminar will be made available for the public via the internet.
- **Ethics:** Reflecting on own norms and values and those of other people to work with. Considering research ethics as an essential part of the research process

### **RRI keys integrated in the course**

- All RRI keys, especially public engagement and sustainability

### **RRI process requirements integrated in the course:**

- Openness&Transparency
- Reflexivity
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Responsiveness

**Contact information:**

Prof. Dr. Marco Rieckmann, University of Vechta  
[marco.rieckmann@uni-vecha.de](mailto:marco.rieckmann@uni-vecha.de)

Christine Gröneweg, University of Vechta  
[Christine.groeneweg@uni-vechta.de](mailto:Christine.groeneweg@uni-vechta.de)

**Web information:**

<http://www.uni-vechta.de/erziehungswissenschaften/hochschuldidaktik/prof-dr-marco-rieckmann/>  
[www.wissen-teilen.eu](http://www.wissen-teilen.eu)