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Forty Years after the “Imperative of Responsibility”

Ethics of Technology Choice in Times of
Eroding Planetary Boundaries

bonnalliance^{ICB} lecture series

organized by the German Development
Institute / Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

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Invitation to the bonnalliance^{ICB} lecture series

Forty Years after the “Imperative of Responsibility” – Ethics of Technology Choice in Times of Eroding Planetary Boundaries

Forty years ago, Hans Jonas’ main work “The Imperative of Responsibility” (German original: “Das Prinzip Verantwortung”) was first published. Starting from the perspective of moral theory, he develops fundamental thought on a responsible approach to deal with new technologies, and especially “disruptive innovations”, as one would put it today. His work is driven technological progress which has amplified the reach of human action to a degree that calls for a new philosophy of responsibility. With technological progress, actions brought about at a singular point in space and time may have far-reaching or even global consequences.

40 years have passed. Since 1979, the number of people living on the globe has increased by 3 billion and the percentage of absolutely poor people decreased from 40% to 10%. Planetary boundaries are being transgressed not (only) by single catastrophic events in a novel technological system, but (also) by the progressive erosion of ecosystems - in order to satisfy the needs of a growing and increasingly well-off world population. Technologies and innovations play a crucial role in this new global setup. Do we need a new “ethics of responsibility”, new approaches to radical innovations, maybe combined with novel modes of technological impact assessment and foresights?

You are cordially invited to discuss with us!

Lecture Sequence | April to December 2019 | 4-6 pm

25 April	The “Imperative of Responsibility”: Understanding Hans Jonas’ main philosophical work
22 May	Gene editing – A responsible means to assure food security of a growing world population on limited farmland and under changing climate conditions?
19 June	Carbon Capture and Storage – A responsible bridge to a low-carbon future?
16 October	Digital revolution – Towards a bright future or mass unemployment and Orwellian societies?
30 October	Climate Engineering: Buying time to contain global warming?
6 November	New societal models as a response to global challenges?
20 November	Technology Assessment: German and international approaches
11 December	Stocktaking and lessons learned: 40 years after - What does Hans Jonas teach us today?

Our panelists: <https://bit.ly/2xRnmiK>

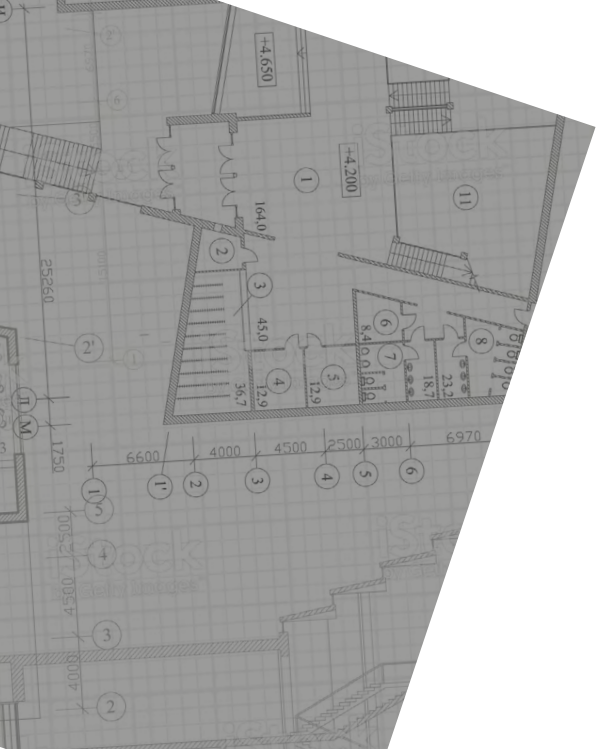
Organized by: Dr. Andreas Stamm, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

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Sustainability research should take place in a **direct exchange and dialogue with politics, society and economy** from the local to the global level.²⁾ This is the guiding principle connecting the six partner institutions of the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research.

www.bonn-alliance.uni-bonn.de/en

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Contact

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Registration is not mandatory.

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