



## Beyond the classroom: Lecture series on sustainable development, food security & humanitarian assistance



The Ringvorlesung is an ongoing lecture series held at the University of Kassel-Witzenhausen Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences. This lectures series is organized in the same format as the model-United Nations. The Ringvorlesung was inspired by the goal of advancing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda of the UN. The three fundamental elements of this UN agenda are economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. In terms of goals related to food, the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

In order to address these UN goals, the three main pillars of our Ringvorlesung are sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, and food security. Guided by Prof. Dr. Angelika Ploeger (Project Director), the organizational team consists of 10 graduate students from 8 different countries who have selected the lecture topics, invited the guest speakers, and orchestrate the discussion every week at a high technical level. Following the model-UN system, each session is guided by a chairperson and ends with a debate and discussion between speakers and participants. The participants can receive university credits in addition to a certificate from the UN. It is also possible for any interested individuals from around the world to attend via online live broadcast of the lectures. Speakers from different levels are invited to join with us, including professors, PhD students, NGO representatives, activists,



and practitioners. More than 38 highly-qualified experts from all over the world (including the USA, India, Egypt, Italy, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Lebanon, Ghana, and Turkey, just to name a few) present in the lecture series, either in person or via skype. The 10 specific topics of the Ringvorlesung include: (1) Humanitarian Crisis in the Modern Day, (2) Malnutrition & Hunger, (3) Agricultural Practices & Food Security, (4) Water for Food, Water for Life, (5) Biodiversity & Natural Resource Management, (6) Food Sovereignty, (7) Food Culture, Food Sharing & Combatting for Food Waste, (8) Health & Nutrition Security, (9) Peace & conflict resolution (Food & War), (10) Climate Change.

The goal of our sessions, which are held on Tuesday nights from November 2016-January 2017, is that participants come away with a critical perspective on these issues. In addition to attending the lecture series, participants can join in the drafting process of the "Witzenhausen UN Charter," which will be officially presented to the UN Secretary General in March 2017. This charter will present our community's collaborative ideas for achieving sustainable development and food security in the future.

For more information about the Ringvorlesung and to participate in the development of the "Witzenhausen Charter," please visit our website: <http://ringvorlesung-witzenhausen.de/>



## Critical Agrarian Studies Colloquium on "the future of food and challenges for agriculture in the 21st century"

The international colloquium organized by the Initiative in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS), La Via Campesina (LVC) and the Transnational Institute (TNI) seeks to analyze the practices and economic, ecological and social crises of the current food system and how they can be overcome. 10 years after the declaration of Nyéléni, important questions remain on how to transform the current food system towards food sovereignty. The colloquium therefore aims to operationalize food sovereignty as the "the most developed proposal for an alternative food system to date" and encourages research and activism according to the following six pillars:



- Capitalism, class, agriculture, livestock and fisheries
- Climate Change and convergences
- Models of development in the context of flows of capital, goods and people
- Access and control over the means of production
- Consumption, health, nutrition and the Right to Food
- Movements for Food Sovereignty

Interested persons are welcomed to participate as presenters (abstract deadline 30.01.17), workshop organizers (proposal deadline 15.02.17) or participants interested in constructing food sovereignty. Confirmed speakers include leading scholars and activists such as Jun Borras, Henry Bernstein, Raj Patel, Ian Scoones, Sofía Monsalve, Peter Rosset, Susan George and many others. For further information, see: <https://goo.gl/5rWyLM>

## Organic retreat at Navdanya Biodiversity Sanctuary 8-13th March, 2017



Navdanya, a network of seed keepers and organic producers spread across 18 states in India, is inviting participants to their organic retreat to learn about the gifts of biodiversity and the knowledge, power and resilience of women. The program is organized to provide a meaningful celebration of Holi, a festival to enjoy and learn about natural colors and natural foods. The 6 day program also aligns with the celebration of International Women's Day on the March 8th, 2017. For further information, please email [earthuniversity@navdanya.net](mailto:earthuniversity@navdanya.net) or call +911-135269302.

## Healthy Ageing Conference 2017 - March 16-17, 2017

Hochschule Fulda  
University of Applied Sciences

**Healthy Ageing  
Conference 2017**

16. – 17. März 2017  
Ernährung • Bewegung • Lebenswelten

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This conference will take place for the first time at Fulda University on March 16th and 17th, 2017. The conference deals with a wide range of research results from science and industry, focusing on the following three categories: Food, Exercise and Living Environment. Abstracts can be submitted until January 19th, 2017. There will be prizes for the 3 best posters in the conference. For further information and registration, please visit <http://healthy-ageing-2017.de/Startseite/index.php/>