

Global Conference on Economic Geography (GCEG) in Dublin, 2022

The construct of ‘understanding’ of the agriculturally shaped environment as an indicator for sustainable development

Judith-Maria Maruschke, Franz Wortha, Daniel Schiller

The necessity for a social-ecological transformation is becoming increasingly urgent to sustain environments worth living in for future generations. Currently, the resource ‘land’ is exposed as an important field of transformation, for example in the flagship report of the German Advisory Council on Global Change 2020. Sustainable development of the resource ‘land’ is increasingly discussed with a focus on rural areas. Land use is characterized by different kinds of land-use conflicts, and trade-offs (e.g. between agriculture and nature conservation, tourism and energy production, the spread of settlement areas, and preservation of space for recreation). From conflict research, it is already known that finding common solutions is essentially promoted through understanding the point of view of others and the creation of mutual understanding. Based on this motivation, it is the aim of this study to create the construct of ‘understanding’ conceptually, to validate it empirically with structural equation modeling, and to demonstrate that understanding has a positive impact on the potential for sustainable development. In this case, the focus is not on a general kind of understanding, but rather on specific aspects of understanding agriculturally shaped environments in rural areas.

The empirical data for the paper has been collected by a large-scale population survey in Western Pomerania, Germany. In this presentation, the particular focus will be on regional and socioeconomic differences in the ‘understanding’ of the agricultural shaped environment in Western Pomerania.

GEFÖRDERT VOM