

Propositions accompanying the thesis

Transition management, action research and actor roles:

Understanding local sustainability transitions

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1. In order to understand transition processes, we need to study existing role constellations and how these change (this thesis).
2. It is at the local scale, where global trends interact with local dynamics and constellations and it is there where transitions can be most effectively addressed (this thesis).
3. Transition management can help to generate alternative ideas, practices and social relations – all three can be taken as an entry point for a transition process (this thesis).
4. Researchers should consider not only reflection but also action as source of knowledge, insights and understanding (this thesis).
5. Local Agenda 21 prepared the ground for transition management on the local scale by introducing the need for more participation in environmental policy and a broader understanding of sustainability (this thesis).
6. The concept of ‘roles in transition’ provides both an analytical perspective for researchers as well as a reflexive angle for practitioners, and is therefore a suitable transdisciplinary tool for transition research.
7. Science is always normative. However, action researchers who are openly attesting to their normativity get fiercely criticised, while ‘mainstream’ researchers get away with a claim that they ‘try’ to be as objective as possible.
8. For a transition effort to succeed we need both inspirational claims to uniqueness as well as their systematic embedding.
9. Research always has social impacts – some more explicit and intended than others; which increases the need for better transdisciplinary methodologies.
10. A transition does not happen over the course of a transition management intervention. This is too often forgotten, even by transition researchers.
11. There is no self without the other.