



Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences



Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations:
Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy

The Research Colloquium of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences:
CURRENT RESEARCH ON “WICKED (POLICY) PROBLEMS”

**“How to cope with complex risks: New approaches to
Risk Governance”**

Venue: University of Potsdam, Campus Griebnitzsee
House 7, Room 227

Date: 25 May 2016

Time: 12 – 14 c.t.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ortwin Renn
Institute for Advances Sustainability Studies
Potsdam & University of Stuttgart /Germany



“How to cope with complex risks: New approaches to Risk Governance”

Over the last few decades, the World largely moved beyond bounded risks with immediate and obvious negative physical impacts towards globally interconnected, nonlinear risks like climate change or financial crises. Conventional risk management proves inadequate to deal with these problems characterized by complexity, uncertainty and political ambiguity, and managers need different decision-making tools.

“We need a form of risk management that demonstrably mitigates risk, is economical with the scarce resources available, helps to overcome unlikely but possible setbacks, and enables the resultant benefits and risks to be evenly shared.”



Ortwin Renn is Scientific Director at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam (Germany). He remains affiliated to his former institute, the Stuttgart Research Center for Interdisciplinary Risk and Innovation Studies, and continues to co-direct the non-profit company DIALOGIK, a research institute for the investigation of communication and participation processes. Prof. Renn’s research focuses on risk governance, political participation and technology assessment. He held teaching and research positions in different institutions in Europe, China and the US and was appointed on various scientific advisory boards, including the German Federal Government’s Commission on Energy Ethics after Fukushima. In 2013 he was awarded the German National Cross of Merit in recognition of his outstanding academic performance.