

**Call for papers & Call for participation at the Social Science & Humanities KDM Strategy Group
Autumn Meeting, 29-30 November, 2023**

Helmholtz-Zentrum HEREON, Max-Planck Str. 1, 21502 Geesthacht

The eco-industrial transformation of the Sea – New social and cultural science research perspectives for marine space

The dynamics of marine use changes is significantly accelerating in Europe since the beginning of the Ukraine war. This has become most visible in the Ostende Declaration of nine North Sea countries in April 2023, when the EU Member States Germany, Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Ireland, and the non-EU members Norway and the UK officially declared the North Sea to become the “Powerhouse of Europe”. By setting a new marine narrative, including potentially changing norms, the declaration aims for a 10-fold increase of offshore wind energy capacities in the North Sea from currently 30 GW to 300 GW by 2050. Reductions in legal requirements for environmental impact assessments and other measures speed up this transformation process in the marine realm. These European developments reflect similar tendencies for marine space usage in most countries and regions around the globe. They illustrate an increasing transformation of marine space into intensively used economic exploitation-areas. The [DNV Spatial Competition Forecast](#) for instance assumes a five-fold increase of ocean area installations for food and energy production worldwide with hotspots in Greater China and Europe. This fundamental eco-industrial transformation calls for multi- and interdisciplinary marine social science inputs. In Germany, marine social and cultural research is prominently involved in the critical reflection and practical enactment, either within our KDM-strategy group, or within the three research missions of the German Marine Alliance (Deutsche Allianz Meeresforschung, DAM). But how do we want to profile a marine social and cultural science agenda on this topic? Within the upcoming KDM Strategy Group Autumn Meeting we would like to assemble expertise around this burning topic of global, as well as local scope to:

- discuss particular cases directly or indirectly affected by these transformations, as well as socio-economic and political impacts of marine use intensification,
- reflect on societal processes such as changing marine narratives, legislation and normative orders, (groups of) actors enacting the (non-) diffusion of narratives and norms, societal perceptions of marine space, and
- reflect broader societal and cultural implications of the current eco-industrial transformation of marine areas, and its impact for sustainable marine futures.

Overarching questions may also relate to what (marine) social sciences and humanities can or should contribute to critically accompany, inform, guide and reflect such transformation processes and how various disciplines may touch upon political and societal dimensions of this transformation. Contributions may reflect analytical, methodological or normative as well as conceptual or theoretical perspectives.

We welcome you to send your abstract (title, 200 words max.+ contact corresponding author in one pdf-file) to annegret.kuhn@ceos.uni-kiel.de and anja.bogusz@uni-hamburg.de not later than October 1st, 2023. Please note that that the conference language is English.

Many thanks – and see you in Geesthacht!

Tanja Bogusz, Annegret Kuhn, Achim Schlüter & Andreas Kannen

Draft Agenda

Day 1

- 13:30: Welcome and Housekeeping (Hereon); Welcome and News from Social Science & Humanities KDM Strategy Group (KDM Group chairs)
- 13:50: Brief introduction of participants (all)
- 14:10: Introductory presentation on industrialization of the sea (Andreas Kannen)
- 14:30: Presentations and discussions
- 15:30: Break
- 16:00: Presentations and discussions
- 17:45: Fishbowl (led by Juergen Schaper): Open Discussion in Fishbowl format about what can and should social sciences and humanities contribute to inform, guide and reflect a societal debate on marine use transformation
- 19:15: Public Bus to Geesthacht
- 19:45: Joint Dinner in Geesthacht

Day 2:

- 09:00: Arrival / Good mornings
- 09:15: Presentations and discussions
- 10:45: Break
- 11:15: Presentations and discussions
- 12:15: Conclusions and Outlook into activities of the Strategy Group in 2024 (KDM Group chairs)
- 13:00 End of Meeting

Location: Helmholtz-Zentrum HEREON, Max-Planck Str. 1, D-21502 Geesthacht

Recommendation where to stay overnight: Overview of hotels in Geesthacht (not claimed to be complete):

Within walking distance to the center and bus connection to Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon (with walking distances of approx. 15 minutes):

- Hotel-Brasserie Lindenhof (*rather inexpensive, close to the center, only limited number of rooms*)
- Fährhaus Ziel (close to Lindenhof)
- Hotel Holsteiner Hof

Outside (arrival ideally by car):

- Hotel Elbblick (within walking distance of the back entrance Hereon)
- Landhaus Tesperhude (within walking distance of the back entrance Hereon)
- Achilleon III (30 minutes' walk to Hereon)

Further options:

- Jugendherberge Geesthacht
- Davids Hostel