

Invitation to virtual DK Guest Lecture

The Metabolism of Islands: Risk and Resilience in a Climate Challenged World

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12:00 - 13:30

<https://unimeet.uni-graz.at/b/sch-rap-ka3>

Abstract

The talk will introduce the concept of “social metabolism” (and by extension socio-metabolic research), that allows researchers to systematically analyze the biophysical stocks and flows of material and energy associated with societal production and consumption. The power of socio-metabolic research will be illustrated using islands as case studies to understand system vulnerability and risk in the context of climate change. Islands are whole systems with clearly delineated boundaries, and therefore excellent geographies for socio-metabolic research. There is also the aspect of urgency; impact of global environmental change on small islands is disproportionate that has gripped them in a spiral of increasing metabolic risk. I argue that restructuring patterns of resource-use will allow island governments to build system resilience and adapt to the challenges of climate change.