

**The First KLASICA International Case Studies Symposium  
on collective behavior change toward sustainable futures  
in Asian and Pacific island and isolated communities  
Taipei, Taiwan November 21-24, 2016**

<p><b>Symposium Purpose</b></p>	<p>The Taiwan KLASICA symposium is the first in a series of events intended to advance understanding of and stimulate action on collective behavior change (CBC) toward just and equitable sustainable futures. In this symposium, the focus will be on case studies of island and isolated communities in Asia and the southern Pacific seeking paths to sustainable futures.</p> <p>Participants will reflect, discuss, and learn from a range of selected cases about what worked and did not work regarding collective behavior change towards sustainable futures, as observed in a variety of projects within the thematic frame of communities in island and isolated societies.</p> <p>The symposium focusses on the following question: What are frames, actors and processes that potentially support or hinder adaptive collective behavior change (CBC) in a community seeking to move to sustainable futures?</p> <p>A portfolio of concepts and methods for the consideration of case studies was developed in the IASS KLASICA workshop in February 2016. The Taiwan KLASICA symposium will lead to new research collaborations, workshops, symposia, and publications in journals and social media and in new approaches to actions to meet the challenges of global change. It will bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers, contributing to the needed exchange and interaction between these different spheres.</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p>A four-day, highly interactive symposium with short, focused presentations and interviews regarding each case study, small group in-depth discussions, posters, interviews, world café.</p>
<p><b>Participants</b></p>	<p>About 75 participants selected from civil society, business, government, NGO practitioners, artists, social scientists, natural scientists, and humanities scholars. A set of 6-9 case studies will be selected and responsible individuals (both practitioners and researchers) invited to present them for in-depth discussion during the symposium.</p>
<p><b>Location</b></p>	<p>The Risk Society and Policy Research Center (RSPRC) located in the new building of the College of Social Sciences of the National Taiwan University, Taipei</p>
<p><b>Hosts</b>  <b>Chair</b>  <b>Moderators</b>  <b>Project Coordinator</b></p>	<p>Professors Jiun-Chuan Lin (National Taiwan University), Shin-Cheng Yeh (National Taiwan Normal University), Kuei-Tien Chou (National Taiwan University)</p> <p>Professor Ilan Chabay (IASS)</p> <p>Professor Ortwin Renn (IASS), Viola Gerlach (IASS)</p> <p>Angela Borowski (IASS)</p>

There have been many calls to address the urgent and critical challenges of global change, as exemplified by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the planetary boundaries discourse, but the motivations for and processes of societal change at different spatial scales and multiple governance levels have not been addressed adequately. In the International Social Science Council 2012 report on Transformative Cornerstones, Hackmann and St. Clair write, "The purpose here is to understand what drives individual and collective processes of change, as well as change in social practices." KLASICA is a new effort using the wide range of intellectual lenses of the natural and social sciences, art, and humanities to understand conditions that enable or obstruct collective behavior change and societal transformation to just and equitable sustainable futures and to use the evolving understanding to foster that change.

The knowledge, learning, and societal change alliance (KLASICA) was formally approved as an international research and action alliance by the International Human Dimensions Programme in Global Environmental Change (IHDP) in 2011. In 2015, a home base for the alliance was established at the IASS. KLASICA is fundamentally aligned with the mission and vision of IASS in that it is uniquely focused on understanding and fostering processes of culturally and contextually- appropriate collective transformative change to just and equitable sustainable futures.

The first KLASICA case study symposium on collective behavior change toward just and equitable futures will be held in Taipei, Taiwan in cooperation with the Taiwan National University and Taiwan National Normal University. The focus of the case studies is on communities in Asia and southern Pacific that are isolated by geography or lack of social or infrastructure connectivity with their surroundings and which are seeking pathways to sustainable futures. The selected cases span a wide range of regions and countries in the Asia-Pacific, such as Vietnam, Polynesia, Taiwan and the Philippines.

The attention to the Asia-Pacific region is a geographic choice that addresses a large and diverse area that is exposed to substantial risks of climate change impacts, as well as significant and rapid changes in demographic, economic, and consumption-production patterns.

Focusing on isolated communities is an effort to facilitate identification of relevant factors in collective behavior change by limiting some of the multiple confounding factors from many overlapping boundaries, whether physical or cultural.

The KLASICA Taiwan symposium on case studies of collective behavioral change is grounded in a strong conceptual and methodological base, including the KLASICA Science Plan [Blackmore, C., et al. (2011), the concept note for the IASS-KLASICA workshop, and the outcomes of the IASS-KLASICA expert workshop (see links below) held under the auspices of the Emerging Technologies and Social Transformations in the Anthropocene (ETST) program of IASS in Potsdam, Germany on February 7-9 2016. The portfolio of concepts, methods, and examples of potential case studies that were identified and discussed in the workshop are the basis for the analysis and discussion in the symposium, the strategy for obtaining long-term funding, and collaboration with Future Earth and other global change research and action programs.

The symposium in Taiwan will focus on learning from empirical evidence for successes or failures of collective behavior change in the context of sustainability. Appropriate to the location of the symposium in Taiwan, KLASICA will select a small set of cases, which will be presented in short talks, panels, and posters and lead to extensive discussions in plenary and small groups on the challenges and responses of mobilizing and guiding collective responses of island and isolated communities to the social, economic, climatic, and ecological risks and stressors they face. The cases are from projects and programs based in Nepal, Philippines, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Taiwan, Micronesia, and India. Participants will seek to identify and draw lessons from the selected cases of apparent success or failure of CBC, including from projects that did not narrowly or intentionally focus on behavior or behavior change. It will also be an opportunity to reflect on and learn from the different approaches to CBC for their effectiveness, inclusivity,

and scalability and to consider how transdisciplinary action research and empirical tests of new approaches can be undertaken.

The cases selected for presentation and discussions in the symposium will determine the specific contexts to be compared and contrasted. Some of the questions and factors to consider include:

- At what spatial and temporal scales and with what demographic compositions have collective behavior changes developed?
- What factors can be identified empirically in initiating, enabling, or impeding sustainability-relevant social movements? How do such movements differ from other types of social movements focused on more obviously personally-relevant issues?
- How do narratives, worldviews, and cultures influence CBC in each of the case studies?
- How have biophysical conditions, political alliances, and historical dependencies influenced the cohesiveness, scale, and longevity of CBC?
- Has the change resulted in unintended consequences and if so, are they viewed by the community as positive or negative outcomes?
- Has gender played a significant role in the process leading to change? Has the change promoted equal benefits for men, women, children, youth and the elderly?
- How are issues of normative intentions or framing discussed and dealt with by the community in the process of change?
- In the face of rising middle-class expectations and consumerism in the Asia-Pacific region, how might CBC guide more sustainable forms of consumption and production in local communities?

The symposium will be a critically important opportunity to examine CBC for sustainable futures. It will also become the basis for expansion of the KLASICA research network and will be reflected in a number of publications written by the KLASICA network in major international journals, books, and online media.

Subsequent KLASICA events will address specific aspects in the relationship between knowledge, learning, and societal change and will include a second symposium in early 2018 at Rhodes University, South Africa with a different thematic and an African and Middle Eastern geographic focus.

### **References:**

Blackmore, C., et al. (2011) "Knowledge, Learning, and Societal Change: Finding paths to a sustainable future" (available at [www.klasica.org](http://www.klasica.org))

Hackmann, H. and St. Clair, A.L. (2012) "Transformative Cornerstones of Social Science Research for Global Change." Report of the international Social Science Council. Paris.

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<http://ea-globalchange.org/index.php/8-news/68-klasica-meeting-in-berling> European Alliance for Future Earth - posted 22 Feb 2016

<http://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/news-media/news/how-can-we-encourage-collective-behaviour-change-towards-sustainable-futures-experts> posted Monday 22 Feb 2016