What is WINS?
The Berlin Workshop in Institutional Analysis of Social-Ecological Systems (WINS) is an academic forum dedicated to the mission of identifying, decoding and designing institutional structures which shape and regularize social-ecological interactions towards a more sustainable outcome. In doing so, the prime modus operandi of WINS is to function as an interdisciplinary research and communication center for the various extant analytical frameworks involved in the institutional analysis of social-ecological systems (SES).

WINS is situated as a permanent workshop in IRI-THESys, the Integrative Research Institute at Humboldt University devoted to the study of “Transformations of Human-Environment Systems” - an avant-garde scheme of Humboldt University as part of the German Excellence Initiative. WINS is not only guided by the in-house research staff at Humboldt University Berlin but also collaborates with high profile partners across the world.

Mission
The mission of WINS is to advance communication between academic communities (economists, political scientists, geographers, sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists, and others) that study the role of institutions and governance structures in social-ecological systems and their transformation.

It is an open platform for both advanced and young scholars to work symbiotically.

The overarching scholarly aim is to facilitate the accumulation of knowledge and the development of new, interdisciplinary and problem-oriented analytical theories and methods, bridging the multiplicity of approaches that have been established over time. Integrative discourses, interdisciplinary research and an advanced studies program serve as conduits towards this goal. The ultimate purpose is to strengthen policy making through enhanced dialogue with practitioners and stakeholders.

Affiliated Faculty
The Affiliated Faculty forms the core strength of WINS and is consistent with its strategy for engaging best minds in the institutional analysis of social-ecological systems. A WINS Affiliated Faculty member typically possesses a strong and active research interest in the study of institutions and institutional change, human behavior and social-ecological systems and comes from related disciplines like economics, ecology, sociology, political science, geography, anthropology, physical sciences, law or any other relevant stream. They are members in good standing of university departments and research institutes from Berlin and across the world.

An Affiliated Faculty member participates and contributes to the regular activities of the workshop, like making presentations and participating in research projects, as well as is involved in the organization and development of WINS. WINS invites rolling applications from scholars worldwide to become its Affiliated Faculty and interested applicants can visit the following web-link: www.wins.hu-berlin.de/people

Research and Teaching
An important objective of WINS is to impart theoretical and methodological knowledge about the institutional study of SES. In both the academic semesters there are semester-long courses which expose the participants to the key concepts of institutional analysis as especially relevant to the study of SES. Qualified course instructors hold a weekly session and introduce various important frameworks prevalent in the institutional analysis of SES.

The aim is to put into practice a research process that goes beyond conventional thinking and is able to integrate most of the state-of-the art methods and tools. Additionally, WINS also serves as a host institute for research groups and young researchers interested in the study of SES. Interested groups or researchers may contact the WINS administrator for possibilities to collaborate.
Visiting Scholars Program
The visiting scholar program is one of the key components of WINS given that it is designed as a workshop of ideas. Our visiting scholars from around the world bring with themselves knowledge and expertise about variegated institutional and social-ecological environments. During their stay at WINS, they develop and sharpen their knowledge base on institutional analysis and contribute to the SES community by participating in colloquia, giving presentations, engaging in scientific discussions and attending and delivering lectures.

The visiting scholar program is open to both early researchers like Ph.D. students and post-docs as well as senior researchers. The visiting scholars have the opportunity to interact with WINS Affiliated Faculty and researchers but also the broader academic community at Humboldt University Berlin. They will be provided with office space, library access to HUB and internet access. For further details and application as a visiting scholar please visit the following web-link: www.wins.hu-berlin.de/visiting-scholars-program

WINS Seminar
Sustainability of interlinked social, ecological and technical systems crucially depends on whether they are regularized by appropriate institutions and governance structures. It is, therefore, important to shed light on the complexity and diversity which characterize such interlinked systems. This is urgent in view of persistent global food problems, increasing scarcity of natural resources, growing degradation of the environment and the future challenges societies face due to climate change and energy insecurity.

However, such a study of sustainable social-ecological systems will not gain momentum unless there is an intense exchange and mutual learning between scholars of different disciplines. This purpose is fulfilled by a regular seminar series where, both established as well as young, scholars from Berlin and around the world come together for enlightening presentations and lively discussions. Please visit our website for further details about our Seminar: www.wins.hu-berlin.de/wins-seminar

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