

Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities

Spring 2018

Group Assignment ‘Actors in Action’

« Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. »

– Margaret Mead

This assignment is particularly connected to the following course goals:

- have an up-to-date, interdisciplinary understanding of the issues of sustainable development;
- give an account of, and be able to evaluate, the strategies, room to manoeuvre and limitations of different societal actors in striving toward a sustainable society;
- have reflected on his/her own role in the causes and solutions of issues of sustainable development.

After submitting the first part of your individual assignment it's time to dive into this case-based group assignment, which will deepen your understanding of opportunities and limitations for creating change from a particular actor's perspective. The assignment consists of two main parts to be completed in a group, whereas the final part in form of an individual reflection feeds into the second part of the individual assignment.

Instructions

Part 1: Actors in Action Group Report,

due Sunday, May 13th, 23.59

The course coordinators have decided on eight different real-life cases relating to the 'Actors and Strategies' theme of the course. Often, they represent aspects that haven't been represented in the course and thus give you an opportunity to engage with new topics. You will have the opportunity to sign up for a case of your choice and will find a diversity of study backgrounds and home countries in each group. This will help you to further practise interdisciplinary learning and problem solving so make sure to bring out these different aspects in your discussions and utilise them in order to reach well-founded results. You can find the overview of scenarios at the end of this document.



This first part of the assignment constitutes a group report, that forms the analytical base for the second part of the assignment. In your group report we're asking you to:

1. Briefly introduce your case. Think in terms of the journalistic questions who-where-when-why-what-how to give the reader a brief yet coherent overview. Explain how the case is relevant in terms of actors and strategies for change.
2. We have identified a set of relevant actors for each case. In your group, decide on who would like to represent which actor (if you are less than six people in your group omit the last actor on the list). Describe those actors' standpoints and underlying motivations in regards to this particular case. For some actors this will be easier, for others you will have to be a bit more creative when it comes to imagining a realistic backstory. From a systems perspective make sure to analyse their positions towards each other, taking into account aspects of power. This should be a key element of the report.
3. Then, pick two of the different readings on change provided throughout the course and use them to contrast which actors have the most potential to bring about (positive or negative) change in this case, considering challenges and opportunities all actors are facing.
4. In your group, decide on what would constitute a best and a worst-case scenario and argue for which actor's strategies would influence either outcome. Ultimately, which outcome do you perceive as most realistic?

The goal of the group report is for you as a group to analyze the situation and showcase the complexity in decision-making when it comes to including several stakeholders. Differences in opinion and strategy should be visible. In order to achieve this, extensive research on the case and each actor will be necessary.

Your report will be made available to your peer group, see more information on that below.

Part 2: Actors in Action Roleplay,

Monday, May 21st

On Monday, May 21st, you will display your case in the form of a roleplay in class. In this exercise, you will present the findings of your group report in an active way. Each group will present their case in about 15 minutes. Points to note for this role play:

- Decide on a person to briefly introduce the case and the different actors involved to the audience. Each actor should also have a nametag, so they can be easily identified throughout the role play. In addition, you are invited to adopt a name for your actor (if they are undefined in the instructions) and dress up as they would to increase the dramatic effect.
- The point in time is a meeting all actors have decided on to discuss how to proceed in this particular case. Everyone is striving to find a solution that represents their interests, but also takes into account the other actors' interests – but clearly aspects of power play an important role here. Thus, each of you will need to apply different strategies in order to coerce your peers into following your ideas. In order to achieve this, you should have individually prepared plans that are not communicated to your peers previously.

- Make sure that your motivations and goals become clear to your peers throughout the discussion, while also allocating an equivalent speaking time to everybody in the group.
- When the time is up, there are three possible outcomes:
 - You unilaterally agree on a solution to move forward with
 - You agree on a few points and postpone further discussion to a point in the future
 - You cannot reach an agreement and the discussion breaks down

While we encourage you to talk about certain points to bring up during the preparation, we don't want you to hold a scripted role-play. This should feel organic, so you are not allowed to read from a script or hold a pre-written speech and follow a previously determined order of speech (unless it is when you're introducing your actor).

Each group is assigned a peer group, that will particularly focus on your group and note down questions, but mostly points in time where the discussion reached important turning points. What would happen if one actor would've been more cooperative at one stage – how could the outcome have been different? Where did two different strategies conflict etc.?

The roleplay in class will be filmed and in parts screened on the Sustainability Festival a few days later on Thursday, May 24th. On this day, your peer group will be in charge of showing 2-3 different key points in the video and presenting their analysis on why those were important points in the discussion, engaging with the role play group, the whole class and other attendees. The video will be made available to you by Tuesday morning, so you can prepare for this adequately. The point here is to critically analyse the roleplay and showcase how often small statements can lead to a discussion taking a different turn, playing 'what if'. Each peer group will have 20 minutes for this part, out of which only a third (maximum) should be devoted to screening the particular parts of the roleplay.

Part 3: See Instructions for Individual Assignment 1,
due Sunday, June 3rd, 23.59

Requirements

- Follow the instructions above and make sure to respond to all questions
- use the required amount of references (see below) in Harvard Referencing Style
- Word limit:
 - Part 1: 4000 words (+/- 400 words), excluding references
- Size: 12. Spacing: 1.5. Margins: 25mm, any readable font
- Include a cover page with an interesting title and picture for your case, and a list of your names.
- Name the file in the following way: *scenariotitle_groupreport* (ex.: EndeGelaende_GroupReport)
- Upload the files on Studentportalen under the Assignment Hand in Section
- **Deadline Report: Sunday, May 13th, 23.59**, each group has then a week to read through their peer groups report in preparation for the roleplay

References

Part 1: For your group report you are asked to do extensive background research on the case and your actor and indicate external references clearly. Reference

- ... at least three sources relating to each actor (course literature or external)
- ... at least two theories of change from the course literature (regarding point 3 in the report outline)
- ... at least two references to *Ways of Social Change*

Note that this is a minimum and you will additionally need to reference all other sources you are using. In this assignment, you will be including your own ideas and opinions, and referencing ideas, opinions and research published by other people. Be sure to make very clear to the when you refer to other people's opinions and/or research or voicing your own.

You can find the grading criteria on the course website. This assignment is not graded, but you need to pass it in order to pass the course.

Scenario Overview

In case you do not have 6 participants in your group, omit the final actor/stakeholder in each list.

1. **Ende Gelände, Germany:** This is the largest civil disobedience movement in Europe to enforce a fossil fuel phase-out. Based on the recent protest in Germany during the COP in Bonn, a meeting has been called with the following stakeholders with a new protest in 2018 looming.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Dr. Rolf Martin Schmitz, CEO of owning company RWE
- Svenja Schulze, Environmental Minister of Germany
- Activist living in Hambach Forest
- Police officer
- Resident of Morschenich
- Worker in the Hambach surface mine

2. **Black Lives Matter, USA:** This international activist movement, originating in the African-American community, campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards black people. After refusing to kneel during the national anthem, Colin Kaepernick has reignited a fierce debate over racial issues in the USA. Now a fictitious meeting is called amongst some of the main stakeholders to discuss these and ways to move forward.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Donald Trump
- Delrish Moss, sheriff of the town of Ferguson
- Colin Kaepernick
- Tomi Lahren, Fox News Reporter
- Michelle Alexander, Author and Civil Rights advocate
- All Lives Matter Supporter

3. **Monsanto/Bayer merger, global:** With a merger between Bayer and Monsanto looming, the duo looks to heavily dominate the agricultural market through the patenting of seeds. With, for example, the rate of farmer suicides in India spiralling due to intense financial and legal pressures by Monsanto, this is a questionable development. Now Monsanto representatives have agreed to a fictitious meeting to discuss the potential benefits and pitfalls of this market monopoly.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Hugh Grant, CEO of Monsanto
- Stock-Market Speculator
- Zellipah Githui, former Kenyan subsistence farmer, now employee of Monsanto
- Member of Via Campesina
- Representative of UNEP
- Member of Anonymous Activist group

4. **Gun Control, USA:** Following many previous and the latest school shooting in Parkland, Florida, a fictitious meeting with the main stakeholders takes place with the aim of identifying strategies to reduce incidents of a similar nature in the future.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Donald Trump
- Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the NRA
- Emma Gonzalez, Student Activist
- Employee of Slide Fire, Weapon Manufacturer based in rural USA
- Senator Bernie Sanders
- Survivor of Las Vegas Shooting in 2017

5. **Tabajós Basin Dams, Brazil:** Following the projected expansion of hydroelectric dams in the Tabajós Basin in the highly threatened Brazilian rain forest there has been a call to hold this fictional discussion around the benefits and dangers of this move to consider the trade-offs between meeting rising energy demand and potential human rights violations.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Fernando Coelho Filho, Energy Minister for Brazil
- Antonio Brasiliano, Director of Empresa de Energia São Manoel S.A., the company building the dam
- Native Inhabitant of Munduruku Tribe
- Representative from the Interamerican Commission of Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council
- Representative of Amazon Watch
- Gisele Bündchen, Model and Ambassador for the UNEP

6. **Fisheries' Overexploitation, African West Coast:** Another outbreak of Ebola has been confirmed in both Sierra Leone and Senegal. There has been an alleged correlation between this newest outbreak and the overexploitation of the fisheries by EU mandated fishing fleets. A fictional meeting has been called to discuss how the acts of the EU policy makers have driven citizens of Sierra Leone and Guinea to consume a higher amount of bush meat and therefore increase their vulnerability to Ebola and then most importantly how this development can be turned around.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- EU Fishing Legislation Policy Maker
- Doctor based in Sierra Leone.
- Local coastal fisherman
- Supermarket Chain owner in the UK that imports fish from Gulf of Guinea
- Illegal trawler owner active in the area
- Bushmeat vendor in local market in Guinea

7. **Cobalt Mine, Democratic Republic of Congo:** After an investigation into numerous human rights violations at a cobalt mine in DRC and assembly factories in China, there has been a fictional meeting arranged to discuss regulation in the global industry of producing lithium-ion batteries, that are used in, among others, iPhones.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Tim Cook, CEO of Apple
- Assembly Line Employee of Amperex Technology Ltd.
- Cobalt Miner in DRC
- Representative of the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition
- Import Policy Maker in the USA
- Sustainability Advisor at LG

8. **Gender Pay Gap, United Kingdom:** All companies with more than 250 employees in the UK have to report their gender pay gap by April 4th. Many have already done so, i.e. EasyJet, which has received a lot of critique for its high gap. Another example are the BBC's contracts with Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe, which keeps the debate going. This fictitious meeting is taking place after the April 4th deadline to see how the problem can best be addressed and in particular whether measures should be mandatory or voluntary, and which role the state should take in this.

Actors/Stakeholders:

- Amber Rudd, Minister for Women and Equalities
- Johan Lundgren, CEO of EasyJet
- Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary
- Kasia Staszewska, Women's Rights Policy Adviser at ActionAid
- Sue Barker, English television presenter
- Conservative male UK Government employee