

IFIS-Online-Colloquium

IFIS invites you to its **Online Colloquium n° 27**:

Time:	Wednesday, November 13, 2019 , at 20.00-22.00 h , Zoom meeting.
Presenter:	Professor Karen O'Brien, University of Oslo, Norway
Topic:	<i>Responding to the Climate Crisis: A Quantum Approach to Social Change</i>

Details

Climate change research makes it clear that the world is on a dangerous path, and that we have a small window of opportunity to avoid severe, widespread, and irreversible global impacts. At a time when radical social transformations are called for, most people feel they cannot make a difference. Some conclude that we are heading for societal collapse and doomed for extinction. Yet, what if we are drawing on the wrong paradigm for understanding deliberate transformations to sustainability? What if we are underestimating our collective capacity to generate for social change? In this Colloquium, I will explore ideas from quantum social theory and their implications for climate change responses. I will suggest that closer attention to metaphors, meanings, and mattering can empower quantum social change. In fact, I will argue that when it comes to climate change responses, we matter more than we think.

Short bio of the presenter



Karen O'Brien is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at the University of Oslo in Norway. She holds a PhD in Geography (1995) from the Pennsylvania State University, where she studied the relationship between tropical deforestation and climate change in Chiapas, Mexico. Over the past three decades, Karen has focused on understanding the social and human dimensions of environmental change, including its relationship with globalization and implications for human security. She has participated in four IPCC reports and published numerous books and articles about climate change. Her current research projects, Adaptation-CONNECTS, emphasizes the role of creativity, collaboration, empowerment, and narratives in adaptation and transformation processes, including the role of paradigms in generating conscious social change. Karen is co-founder of cCHANGE, promoting integrative perspectives on transformation in a changing climate and co-author (with Robin Leichenko) of the textbook, *Climate and Society: Transforming the Future*.



If you wish to participate, please register with us by Nov 10, 2019 at info@ifis-freiburg.de.

Registered participants will receive the Zoom invite shortly before the event.

More info on the IFIS Online Colloquium:

The main **intent of our Colloquium** – in line with [IFIS' general mission and purpose](#) – is to help connect interested integrally oriented researchers and practitioners by offering them a forum to exchange experiences around innovative approaches to complex social challenges. The colloquium is designed to strengthen the dialog and connection between IFIS' members and friends, mostly spread out in different countries and even continents. We also hope to attract new colleagues to join us and be part of IFIS' community of [integral research and inquiry](#).

Web: <http://www.ifis-freiburg.de/node/50> (English), or <http://www.ifis-freiburg.de/node/85> (German)

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