2.2.3. Holistic Science and Systems Thinking (external seminar)

Name of Module/Course	**Holistic Science and Systems Thinking** – Solving complex problems in international development
Short description	Why do hunger, poverty and environmental degradation persist despite more than 50 years of international development programmes? Can we solve complex problems with a mechanistic worldview? How can we think our way out of a problem when the problem is the way we think? What are the benefits of a systems view of life? What can we learn from the worldview of indigenous peoples? Join this course to explore the benefits of holistic science and systems thinking for international development practices. Understand the differences between a reductionist and a holistic focus on solving complex problems in international development. Learn about the wisdom of indigenous peoples. We will dialogue and put in practice the benefits of holistic science, systems thinking and the indigenous worldview to solving complex problems in the development sector.
Name of Programme	-
Name of University	-
Name of Lecturer	**Dr Jörg Elbers**
Responsible University lecturer	**-**

Credit Points	**SWS**	**Attendance (h)**	**Self-study (h)**	**Total workload (h)**
-	-	10	15	25

Start & end dates, WS	**Start & end dates, SS**	**Other timeslot (blockcourse):**
28.9. – 26.10.2021	**29.03.2021 -**	

Registration until	**Number of possible AGEP participants**
SS: 15.03.2021 / WS: September 17th, 2021	30

Content and goals of qualification	This course deals with a holistic approach to tackle wicked problems in the development world. There will be three main issues: • holistic science • systems thinking • the worldview of indigenous peoples The idea is to understand the power of holistic science and systems thinking for analysing and solving complex problems in development related to the students' background. On successful completion of the course, students will:

	• have experienced the difference between dialogue—as an essential tool for development work—and discussion • know the difference between a holistic and a reductionist view on development topics • know the benefits to elaborate development projects with a holistic and systemic perspective • be able to analyse development practices with a holistic and systemic perspective
Preconditions for participation	Students are required to read, present, and dialogue about academic papers on the topic of holistic science and systems theory. While no previous knowledge is assumed, an interest in the topic is important.
Teaching Methods	• Lectures requiring attendance • Dialogue in class • Practices and exercises • Videos • Learning journal • Students are required to read, present, and dialogue about texts on holistic science and systems theory.
lesson format (online/face-to-face)	online
Assessment method	The participants will receive a certificate of participation, but will not be graded. To receive the certificate, they are required to deliver the following: 1. **Participate in four lectures**, including practical exercises (50% of work load) 2. **Engage with content outside of lectures** by watching (lecturers') videos and reading literature (20% of work load) 3. **Write a short essay about the subject of the course** (one or two pages, 30% of work load)
Language	English
Inscription external student	www.agep-info.de