

## Holistic Science and Systems Thinking

<b>Name of Module/Course</b>		<b>Holistic Science and Systems Thinking</b> – Solving complex problems in international development		
<b>Short description</b>		<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<b>Name of Programme</b>		-		
<b>Name of University</b>		-		
<b>Name of Lecturer</b>		<b>Dr Jörg Elbers</b>		
<b>Responsible University lecturer</b>		-		
<b>Credit Points</b>	<b>SWS</b>	<b>Attendance (h)</b>	<b>Self-study (h)</b>	<b>Total workload (h)</b>
-	-	10	15	25
<b>Start &amp; end dates, WS</b>		<b>timeslot</b>		
<b>28.9. – 26.10.2020</b>		5 weeks, 2h per week, Mondays 18.00 – 20.00		
<b>Registration until</b>		<b>Number of possible AGEF participants</b>		
<b>September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>		30		
<b>Content and goals of qualification</b>		<p>This course deals with a holistic approach to tackle wicked problems in the development world. There will be three main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• holistic science</li> <li>• systems thinking</li> <li>• the worldview of indigenous peoples</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>On successful completion of the course, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have experienced the difference between dialogue—as an essential tool for development work—and discussion</li> <li>• know the difference between a holistic and a reductionist view on development topics</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know the benefits to elaborate development projects with a holistic and systemic perspective</li> <li>• be able to analyse development practices with a holistic and systemic perspective</li> </ul>
<b>Preconditions for participation</b>	<p>Students are required to read, present, and dialogue about academic papers on the topic of holistic science and systems theory.</p> <p>While no previous knowledge is assumed, an interest in the topic is important.</p>
<b>Teaching Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures requiring attendance</li> <li>• Dialogue in class</li> <li>• Practices and exercises</li> <li>• Videos</li> <li>• Learning journal</li> <li>• Students are required to read, present, and dialogue about texts on holistic science and systems theory.</li> </ul>
<b>lesson format (online/face-to-face)</b>	online
<b>Assessment method</b>	<p>The participants will receive a certificate of participation, but will not be graded. To receive the certificate, they are required to deliver the following:</p> <p><b>Participate in four lectures, including practical exercises (50% of work load)</b></p> <p><b>Engage with content outside of lectures by watching (lecturers') videos and reading literature (20% of work load)</b></p> <p><b>Write a short essay about the subject of the course (one or two pages, 30% of work load)</b></p>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Inscription external student</b>	<a href="http://www.agep-info.de">www.agep-info.de</a>