

The DFG-funded Research Training Group "**Ecological Regime Shifts and Systemic Risk in Coupled Social-Ecological Systems**" (ECORISK) deals with the systemic risks from crossing ecological tipping points, resulting consequences, as well as governance approaches for addressing such risks. Within the framework of three thematic clusters (Ecosystem Dynamics, Human activities and Governance), the Research Training Group brings together perspectives from behavioral economics, ecological modelling, environmental systems science, geography, geoinformatics, political science and sociology. The transformation towards a more sustainable agriculture serves as guiding example. The Research Training Group is located at Osnabrück University, whose broad range of outstanding research attracts students and scholars from around the world to a vibrant and livable city rich in tradition and culture (visit the [project website](#) for more info).

With a starting date on October 1st, 2024, **we offer a total of 10 PhD positions (m/f/d, pay grade 13 TV-L, 75%, for three years.** A list of all positions is available on the [project website](#).

**We would like to draw your attention to two positions at the Department of Environmental Economics, with a focus on behavioral and experimental economics:**

In the subproject "**Participatory Interventions to Foster Cooperation in the Face of Regime Shifts and Systemic Risk**" (supervised by Prof. Engel) the focus lies on participatory methods as an approach for promoting cooperation and coordination in face of systemic risks. Addressing systemic risks in social-ecological systems requires cooperation and coordination among actors with different interests and located in distant places. Participatory methods, such as perspective taking and vision-building aim to bridge such differences and distances. The PhD project will address how such methods can be adapted to allow upscaling to contexts where affected parties are interconnected, but geographically distant. For this purpose, it will adapt existing methods to an online setting and assess the impacts of such methods by means of a lab experiment in two countries. In doing so, a focus will also lie on understanding the underlying behavioral mechanisms, i.e. the inner processes promoting cooperation.

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In the subproject "**Regime Shifts and Human Behavior in Agricultural Systems**" (supervised by Dr. Thomas) an environmental and behavioral economic study on the perceptions of regime shifts (and associated tipping points and systemic risk) of farmers in Germany will be carried out. The subproject applies a transdisciplinary mixed-method approach by combining qualitative and quantitative research methods. In a first step, a literature review will identify cases of regime shifts as well as associated actors and drivers, which are relevant for the German agricultural sector. Afterwards, with semi-structured in-depth interviews, the subproject will aim at understanding farmers' perceptions of regime shifts and their implications for farmer decision-making. In a final step, a laboratory experiment testing different behaviorally informed interventions aiming at influencing those perceptions will be carried out. Please note that fluency in the German language is a strict requirement for this position.

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