

Co-operatives as Sustainable Actors

Carolin Schröder

Center for Technology and Society
Technical University of Berlin

Visiting Professor
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

Co-operatives offer promising conditions for an economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable future — after all, members not only promote their own interests and goals, but also contribute actively to the shaping of their local environment. And the fact that the co-operative movement boasts a large number of supporters who explicitly appreciate its sustainable and democratic nature suggests an even greater potential. Co-operative, i.e., collective, self-responsible action may be the result of an inspiration to become involved and of mutual support among the members, but it can also have an effect that goes beyond the co-operative, e.g., when co-operative principles are applied to neighbourhoods and districts, in the form of civic engagement.

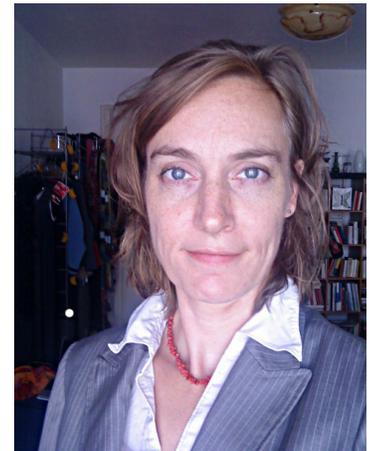
Results from an interdisciplinary research project on German co-ops show huge differences when it comes to realizing these potentials. Using examples from this study, Dr. Schröder will focus on the technical, social, and political dimensions of co-operative sustainability.

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3:30 – 4:30 pm

Room 146 Kirk Hall

University of Saskatchewan



Carolin Schröder is a postdoctoral researcher at the Technical University of Berlin. With a background in urban planning, she has been focussing on participation and co-operation in urban and regional planning as well as urban governance and management forms. Her work is dedicated to the problems and opportunities offered by interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, a recurring subject in her publications. Over the last decade, she has co-ordinated a number of research projects, has taught at several universities, and is currently responsible for the broad research area “participation” at the Center for Technology and Society, Technical University of Berlin.

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