

# 13<sup>th</sup> Conference RIODD 2018

## GRENOBLE

### 16-18 OCTOBER 2018



The 13<sup>th</sup> RIODD conference will take place in Grenoble from October 16 to 18 in 2018. As a pluridisciplinary, even interdisciplinary event, it is organized by a team of researchers in law, economics, geography, management, social psychology, education sciences, and sociology. Such positioning expresses both the RIODD scientific approach and a vested interest of the Université Grenoble Alpes.

As for every previous RIODD conference, the scientific committee will consider all communication proposals relating to sustainable development challenges faced by organizations, whether they are private or state-owned (companies, associations, public services...); their opportunities and constraints; their room for operational or strategical manoeuvres; the conditions required to implement, carry or drive projects; the adequate changes in governance; the decision-making processes; the internal or external assessments; etc. Any field belonging to social and human sciences, engineer sciences or ecology is welcome.

In particular, the scientific committee wishes to launch further discussions about social dynamics, including conflicts and resistances in the field of sustainable development, resulting in structural changes. This could also bring out new knowledge about the scientific methodologic issues to characterize such changes.

**VENUE :** Saint-Martin-d'Hères Campus (Université Grenoble-Alpes)



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**CERAG** (UGA/CNRS) : Centre d'Études et de Recherches Appliquées à la Gestion. **CERCRID** (UL/CNRS) : Centre d'Études et de Recherches CRITiques sur le Droit. **CREG** (UGA) : Centre de Recherches en Économie de Grenoble. **CRJ** (UGA) : Centre de Recherches Juridiques. **IUG** (UGA) : Institut d'Urbanisme et de Géographie Alpine. **LaRAC** (UGA) : Laboratoire de Recherche sur les Apprentissages en Contextes. **LIP** (UGA/CNRS) : Laboratoire Interuniversitaire de Psychologie. **PACTE** (UGA/CNRS) : Laboratoire des sciences sociales.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN QUESTIONS: SHIFTING DIRECTION OR FILLING THE GAPS ?

More than half a century ago, the issue of «social responsibility of businessmen» was raised [see among others Bowen: 1953] as a response to the infatuation of North-American youths for political alternatives breaking with the desire of material accumulation which fed capitalism and its social and environmental consequences. At the same time, from various fields likely to nurture different projects, critics of industrialist and capitalist economic systems have flourished, from Barry Commoner's [1971] or Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen' works [1979] to Club of Roma [Meadows: 1972]. These works now encompass the corporate governance responsibility in mass unemployment, increase in inequalities, social precariousness, etc.

Does this mean that nothing has changed? What can we learn from the worldwide spread of civil, social and labor rights –despite resistances and counter reactions–, the improvement of renewable energies or the implementation of social and environmental liabilities on corporations in France and Europe? Could these be menial and insecure changes? Borrowing from Boltanski and Chiapello [1999], can we advocate that they exemplify the ability of capitalism to recycle critics, and thereby obstruct any possible structural bifurcation towards new modes of production and any new balances of power? Assuming that sustainable development actions only benefit corporations' competitiveness, does sustainable development support the capital-driven economic system in perpetuation? Does it increase the troubles that sustainable development is supposed to solve? Such ambivalent stances raise at least two central issues which the scientific committee wishes to tackle in depth:

➔ **How is it possible to characterize, evaluate, i.e measure, a social structural change?** If it appears «easy», through past experiences, to distinguish regimes, regularities (recurrences), orders, and identify crises, revolutions, break-through innovations, etc., which methods can be mobilised to address present times? Is it possible to discern a fashion from a potentially structuring trend? How can we identify irreversibilities?

➔ **How is it possible to produce irreversible changes towards a more sustainable development?** If it appears «easy», through past experiences, to distinguish actors, rules, instruments, principles of action which have effectively produced institutional changes, which efficient practices can we mobilize today in order to renew structural innovations (such as developing new consuming habits, new investment models, forget about accumulation regimes and current power structures, etc.)? How is it possible to characterize and evaluate the resistance forces when

engaging in new practices and behaviors: attitudes, intrinsic or extrinsic motivations, social representations while at the same time characterizing and evaluating the material resources (legal, economical, managerial...) available to argue and act?

Submissions related to the above issues are welcome; they can be carrying either a state of the art of knowledge and problematics, a conceptual or empirical argumentation, stemming from on-going or realized works. The scientific committee is hoping to offer an opportunity for building cross-disciplinary synergies and to favor scientific approaches bypassing binary and ideological oppositions such as will vs. constraint, intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation, individual vs. collective, freedom vs. rule, rationality vs. affects, action vs. institutional structure...

Because the congress issues may appear broad, researchers can focus on spheres of actions, on economic sectors, on territories, or on historically and geographically situated cultures. As an outcome, we expect to identify new understandings of the world, and elements of development projects and their practical monitoring. Observations can be conducted at the level of collective actions (companies, administrations, associations...) or individual ones. Some possible themes can be identified:

**1. What do we know about commitment conditions when a change occurs in a productive or consuming behavior?** Is the promotion of «good practices» sufficient? What processus, what conditions, drive a marginal behavior (such as frugality) to become a norm? Are the possible instruments for a political governance helping the consumers? What contribution can we expect from theory of engagement in social psychology, in education sciences and network sociology...?

**2. What do we know about the necessity of perpetuating a social innovation?** Until which point can one's personal incentives (ethics, desire, conviction...) resist to social constraints (financial debt, market power...)? Reflections can be grounded on existing works on institutional architectures of the commons (Ostrom...), of national regulation modes (Amable, Boyer...), of laws (Delmas-Marty, Supiot...), of social justice realisation (Smith, Fraser, Honneth...). Contributions could lead to think beyond the sole condition of economic value examined at the organisation level or at the national economy level [Chanteau *et al.* : 2017].

**3. What do we know about mental factors of resistance or engagement into change?** Can climate change skeptics and followers of conspiracy theory maintain a controversy against the robustness of established scientific facts? Can social sciences provide a new lens to examine the tension between universalism (global governance of a “common world”) and localism (i.e. the sovereignty of communities on their territorial ecosystems)? What can social sciences teach us about the instrumentalisation of such a tension: globalized elites, exacerbated patriotism (“my country right or wrong”)?

**4. Can human sciences educate the critical mind?** Arguably, there is an epistemological specificity in sustainable growth education: knowledge in the field is transmitted simultaneously to the application of norms aiming at correcting existing inefficient practices [Barthes *et al.* : 2017]. Is it possible to combine the epistemic stance of human sciences aiming at describing *what is* and an education to sustainable growth aiming at establishing *what should be*? Beyond all cognitive and epistemological aspects, contributions are expected to examine to which point a social learning can affect practices in the long term. Reflexivity is at play [Dewey : 1910], as well as attention [Citton : 2015] or critical thinking [Fabre : 2011] for learners. Issues dealing with nudging, politician paternalism or corporate paternalism and their regulation are also paths to explore.

**5. What conception of social responsibility grounded in regulations?** How does the approach chosen by a private or public regulation authority impact the way economic actors commit themselves to social responsibility? For example, what impact can be expected from the current opposition between international law trends,

such as that of the mega-treaties likely to reduce social and environmental constraints on trade and investment, and some bilateral treaties (for example Nigeria/Marocco in December 2016) which are more demanding? In a general manner, when legal law is little effective, what role is left over to public policy, to the judge, to the mediator, to the referee? How do hard law and soft law growingly interact, however interact differently with regards to internal and international law?

**6. How should we understand the claim for a free will and individuation in the economic sphere? And how is it possible to think autonomy and social regulation together?** Are we experiencing a disruption or a novel idea regime developed from ‘les Lumières’ or the “spirit” of capitalism? How are the desires to be “one’s own boss”, and to earn more, “because I’m worth it”, “paternalism” socially built? Conversely, under what conditions is a collective action – whether public or private – efficient and legitimate at the firm level? Do specific stances testify to different CSR approaches? If so, do they affect the relation to authority, at every level?

**7. What methods can be useful to characterize an institutional change, especially when the distinction between phenomenal diversity and structural transformations matters?** Authors use a large set of terminologies to describe institutional changes: bifurcations, changes, crises, metamorphosis, progress, transformations, transitions, and innovations... Does this variety express successive fashionable phenomena or an increased precision in the understanding? Is each of those concepts empirically characterized? Can sustainable development practices fit with one or more of those concepts? Is it possible to integrate history, economics, ethnology, psychology, sociology, law, and politic sciences contributions etc.?

**8. When building a collective action – whether public or private, transforming or conservative -, how can we capture changes specific to scale effects, would they be spatial or social?** How can one understand the success of doctrines or of types of action such as “transfers”, or “importations”, but also translations, acculturations...? Examples of such collective actions are numerous: local or complementary moneys in Vancouver, the French Aude or Switzerland, from ‘garden city’ (Milton Keynes) to ‘sustainable city’ (Freibourg, etc.), from self-management to shared governance? The consistency of isomorphism theory could for example be addressed. How is it possible to think an efficient and integrative articulation of actions taking place at different levels (tackling climate change, social discriminations, etc.)? Is entering a “transition” regime - energy, ecology, solidarity – a factor of structural change?

**The scientific committee will examine all kinds of communication proposals addressing the above non-exhaustive list of issues, would they be empirical or conceptual, programmatic or based on research findings.**

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# 13<sup>th</sup> Conference RIODD 2018

## GRENOBLE

### 16-18 OCTOBER 2018

Up to date informations are available on the website of the conference (<https://riodd2018.sciencesconf.org>) or via the RIODD website ([www.riodd.net](http://www.riodd.net)).

#### ORGANISATION

The congress offers the possibility to exchange scientific and professional knowledge in many ways:

- 1° Thematic 'parallel' panels of two forms:
  - « **special panels** » gather a set of contributions convened by an individual or a group, for example to present the results from a collective research or to launch a collective research. The session can be suggested with a pre-identified list of contributions ('closed' panels) or with a specific call for papers ('open' special panels). Special panels projects are submitted to the congress scientific committee in a pre-selection process (*see the schedule below*).
  - « **varia** » sessions group individual contributions under specific themes, amongst the RIODD general themes.
- 2° **Plenary sessions** from keynote speakers
- 3° A **doctoral** workshop (doctorate candidates can submit their proposals to the organisation committee) focus on methodological issues and the PhD process.
- 4° **Professional roundtables** with public and private actors.
- 5° A prize for a doctoral work: the [prix de thèse RIODD/Vigeo-Eiris 2018](#).

#### SUBMISSION PROCESS

##### Key dates/ Congress RIODD 2018

Action	Deadline
<b>Special panel projects</b> submission	Until 20 February 2018
Scientific committee decision	1 March 2018
<b>Communication proposal</b> submission	From 1 March to 2 May 2018
Scientific committee decision	15 June 2018
Final <b>communication</b> text ( <i>to be transmitted to discussants</i> )	15 September 2018 (Deadline for registration of authors of accepted papers)
Congress	16-18 October 2018

- To submit a **special panel**, please download the template file from the Congress website (<https://riodd2018.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/1>, then click on "Pour proposer une session spéciale [...], télécharger le fichier-modèle") and upload it back completed on the congress site ("<https://riodd2018.sciencesconf.org/user/submit>" then click on "Déposer une contribution") before February 20.
- To submit a **paper**, please download the template file from the Congress website (<https://riodd2018.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/1>, then click on "Pour proposer une communication [...], télécharger le fichier-modèle") and upload it back completed on the congress site ("<https://riodd2018.sciencesconf.org/user/submit>" then click on "Déposer une contribution") before May 2.

In case of trouble, contact us by email: [riodd2018@sciencesconf.org](mailto:riodd2018@sciencesconf.org)

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