

## SESSION DESCRIPTION

### ID S6

#### Title of session:

Social Sciences and Humanities in IPBES

#### Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
<b>Host:</b>	Dr.  Dr.	Mariam Akhtar-Schuster  and Julia Kloos	German IPBES Coordination Office	<a href="mailto:Mariam.akhtar-schuster@dlr.de">Mariam.akhtar-schuster@dlr.de</a>  <a href="mailto:Julia.kloos@dlr.de">Julia.kloos@dlr.de</a>
<b>Co-Host:</b>	Dr.	Alice Vadrot	Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge	<a href="mailto:av456@cam.ac.uk">av456@cam.ac.uk</a>
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#### Abstract:

In the IPCC process, perspectives and insights from social sciences and humanities (SSH) only slowly entered the assessment reports which have so far been dominated by natural scientists (Viktor, 2015, Denis and Moser 2015). To date the rate of their involvement in the longstanding IPCC process is not satisfactory. Similarly, first studies and observations of the younger IPBES process also indicate an imbalance of social sciences and humanities compared to natural science in bodies such as the multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) (Montana and Borie, 2015), in expert groups (K. Heubach, NeFo) as well as in the number of applications of experts for the working groups (German IPBES Coordination office). Since IPBES explicitly aims for a representation of interdisciplinarity and diverse knowledge systems the currently sub-optimal representation of social sciences and humanities in its work programme is an issue of concern.

Building on an expert workshop conducted in November 2015 by the German IPBES Coordination Office in Bonn, Germany, to assess and discuss the role of social sciences and humanities in IPBES and a resulting Policy Brief developed by participants of the workshop, this session aims to discuss the following questions

regarding the kind of contributions, insights and perspectives social sciences and humanities can offer to the IPBES assessments and its processes in general:

- Which IPBES questions need a stronger or an explicit involvement of social sciences and humanities (SSH) to ensure multiple dimensions are considered, which IPBES strives to achieve?
- What framework is needed in order to strengthen the engagement of social sciences and humanities in IPBES processes?
- What can social scientists and humanists do to become more visible at science-policy interfaces?

The questions will be further developed on the basis of expert discussions, which are currently leading to the development of a special issue targeting the relationship between IPBES and social sciences and humanities.

### Goals and objectives of the session:

The goal of this session is to trigger a discussion on the role of SSH in IPBES and provide some recommendations how to effectively and efficiently include SSH knowledge into the IPBES process. A first assessment was done in November 2015 by discussing the role of SSH at the workshop in Bonn. These discussions need to be expanded into and reflected upon from the wider international scientific community because IPBES is a key international process for the scientific community working on biodiversity and ecosystem services. We are therefore certain that our session is well-placed at the ESP conference as its topic directly targets the conference participants.

### Planned output / Deliverables:

The session will build upon a Policy Brief and ongoing science-policy discussions and it aims to contribute to enhance science-policy awareness on the issue by delivering the findings at the next plenary of the IPBES.

### Voluntary contributions accepted:

YES

### Session program

**Date of session:** 20 September 2016

**Time of session:** 14.00h

### Speakers

Time	First name	Name	Organization	Title of presentation
14.05– 14.20	Marie	Steneske	University of Gothenburg, Sweden	IPBES is in great need! A perspective from inside

Time	First name	Name	Organization	Title of presentation
14.20- 14.35	Roger	Keller &	Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Switzerland;	What is missing in IPBES and what could Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) contribute?
	Hans	Keune	Belgian Biodiversity Platform – INBO	
14.35- 14.50	Alice	Vadrot	Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge	Causes of and solutions to the Inter- governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) disciplinary imbalance
14.50- 15.00	Jens	Jetzkowitz	Philipps-University of Marburg	Impulse Statement
15.00				Discussion with Panelists