



January 2024

ARUA NISANSA Research Forum 2024

13th and 14th of March

Graduate School of Business, Cape Town, South Africa

Session 4 (Earth)

1:30pm – 3:00pm, Breakaway

‘Local pathways and initiatives – from daily lived experiences to strategies and networks’ (parallel)

Speakers: Michaela Meurer, University of Marburg (session lead); Stephanie Borchards, Stellenbosch University; Ernst Halbmeier, University of Marburg; Boitumelo Malope, Stellenbosch University

Abstract:

When it comes to designing sustainable and equitable pathways of change, we cannot ignore the complex realities at the local scale. Here, top-down implemented programs may have a different impact than assumed; at the same time, local actors already bring experience with ecological change and thus have developed diverse responses, established networks and proven resilience strategies. Such strategies are often hidden in everyday life but still, they offer potential for resilience. To consider them is necessary to shape pathways of change in an effective and socially just way and to prevent social inequality from being further exacerbated in the name of climate protection.

In this panel, we therefore want to focus precisely on this scale of local everyday life and its actors and networks.