

## Call for papers Special Issue *Umweltpsychologie*: Participation (2/2017)

As early as 1992, during the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, the demand for more participation on behalf of civil society actors in the managing of environmental challenges was stipulated. Since then, participatory processes have widely spread in the context of environmentally relevant behaviour. Additionally, the report “*World in Transition – a Social Contract for Sustainability*”, published by the German Advisory Council on Global Change in 2011, assigns a central role to participation in fighting climate change and other threats.

Participatory procedures are commonly used as strategies for managing and resolving high-conflict situations. They aim to increase the acceptance and legitimacy of corresponding measures and planning decisions. Participatory procedures can be applied to a broad area of settings. The expansion of renewable energy sources, urban development and nature conservation are just three prominent examples. Both the understanding of what participation actually is, as well as the contexts in which it is used are highly heterogeneous. The questions of how participation is precisely defined, who is responsible for initiating action and processes, how and by whom participants are chosen and which methods are used will usually be addressed and answered by single implementing actors.

Participatory processes, whilst becoming more popular in practice, have been increasingly criticized for their poor quality by social scientific researchers. This special issue aims to contribute to a deeper scientific debate on the subject of participation.

For the special issue 2/2017, we hope to receive in-depth contributions from the areas of psychology, social sciences and neighbouring academic disciplines, as well as from relevant fields of practice. These should focus on the topic of participation in an environmental context. We invite you to submit theoretical or conceptual articles, empirical case studies, and critical discussions of methods or examples from applied practical experiences. Submissions can either address formal, informal or even unconventional approaches to participatory procedures (e.g. flash mobs).

We would also like to specifically invite authors from spatial planning sciences, political sciences, environmental sociology and related disciplines to submit papers for this special issue.

All submitted manuscripts will be subject to the journal’s review process. The deadline for submitting papers is the **30<sup>th</sup> of September 2016**. Contributions are welcome in both German and English language.

To submit an article or for more information, please visit <http://www.umps.de>. Further questions can be directed to the special issue editors

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