

## Workshop

### **Agent-based modelling in Ecological Economics – A useful tool or just a fancy gadget?**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2016 at ESCP Europe Business School Berlin**

*Organized by SustBusy: Research Center on Business and Society – Towards a Sustainable World*

Agent-based models (ABM) have acquired a place among other modelling tools in economics, but not an uncontested one. For some it is a useful tool to depict heterogeneous agents and their bounded rational decisions. For others it is a bunch of ad hoc descriptions, the results of which cannot be generalized.

When founded in the late 1980s, Ecological Economics has been among the first branches of economics to criticize the standard assumption of perfect rationality and full information. Faced with a complex natural system it became all too obvious that optimization models for emissions or the exploitation of natural resources draw an over-optimistic picture of the role of the economy within nature. Ecological Economics pointed out our lack of understanding for nature's complexity. ABM could be a tool to depict the limitations of our knowledge as well as a more complex ecosystem. They could help analyzing the consequences of non-optimal behavior, of learning, and of belated understanding of necessary adaptations. Some Ecological Economists took up the challenge and developed ABM on resource exploitation, land use, water conflicts or climate change. But the method is still not widespread.

**The workshop shall investigate the potential of ABM for Ecological Economics. Are they worth investing in and learn how to program? Are the results helpful or just ad hoc outcomes of toy models? Can ABM be useful in the context of Ecological Economics or are they unsuitable to portray the link to nature? We would like to discuss these and further questions with you in a workshop format with high-profile keynote talks, oral presentations with discussants, and time for debate. We explicitly encourage PhD students as well as advanced scientists to apply.**

Applicants are invited to submit abstracts of 300 to 500 words by **March 15<sup>th</sup> 2016** via email to [sustbusy@escpeurope.eu](mailto:sustbusy@escpeurope.eu) together with the application form available on the workshop's website. Active participation is required by agreeing to serve as a discussant for another paper. Notification of acceptance will be given after a review process by April 6<sup>th</sup>; full papers are due by May 8<sup>th</sup> 2016. A fee of €60 covers all catering as well as materials during the workshop. For more information and help please consult our workshop's website [www.sustbusy.eu](http://www.sustbusy.eu) and do not hesitate to contact our office.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Berlin,

Sylvie Geisendorf and Katharina Sevecke (Coordination)

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**SustBusy**

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[www.sustbusy.eu](http://www.sustbusy.eu)  
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