Masterclass Retreat 2013
Towards a better understanding of complexity and scale and their relevance for global cooperation

Over a short but intense two day period, the Masterclass Retreats of the Centre for Global Cooperation Research offer an exciting opportunity to explore some of the Centre’s key research questions together with leading experts from a wide-ranging disciplinary background and different world regions in an intimate atmosphere.

This year’s Masterclass Retreat tackles the issues of complexity and scale and their relevance for the success or failure of global (and other) cooperation. The primary objective of the Masterclass is to gather new insights about the foundations of (global) cooperation with a view to developing ideas about how a more successful global cooperation could be brought about. Cooperation among individuals and within small groups is an omnipresent cornerstone of human societies; some even argue that it is the main reason for humanity’s evolutionary success. Cooperation works especially well if shared in-group identity is made salient which also sets the group apart from other groups. This social phenomenon is one of the reasons why cooperation at a larger scale, e.g. at the global level, is considerably more complex – and prone to fail. There exist many other reasons. Renowned scholars from disciplinary backgrounds as diverse as sociology, psychology, economics, mathematics, anthropology and biology are asked to think about what makes large scale cooperation different from other forms of cooperation, how we can grapple with the complexity of global cooperation situations, and whether, how and to what extent we can scale-up findings drawn from small group cooperation to the global level.

The Masterclass Retreat will be held from 29 – 31 August 2013 within in the attractive context of the 2013 Ruhrtriennale – International Festival of the Arts. The Ruhrtriennale is an annual music and arts festival in the northwestern area of Germany that uses the industrial monuments of the Ruhr region – Germany's headquarters for coal, steel and heavy industry - for its opera, theatre, dance and other productions. The Retreat will be held in the Blower House Complex, built in 1902 to generate furnace wind for the blast furnaces of the Meiderich ironworks. It is now one of the oldest buildings in the North-Duisburg Landscape Park. Our discussions of the issues of complexity and scale will be flanked by an inspiring cultural program.

The programme features a number of high-level panelists from key institutions. When Gianluca Grimalda is not at the Centre for Global Cooperation Research in Duisburg, he does research and gives lectures at the Laboratory of Experimental Economics (LEE) at the University Jaume I in Castellón, Spain, and at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. He has co-led a large-scale international experimental research project on globalisation, co-operation and trust with 200 participants from six countries.
**Eric Johnson** is Norman Eig Professor of Business at the Columbia Business School, the director of the Columbia Center for Excellence in E-Business, and co-director of the Center for Decision Sciences at Columbia University. His research examines the interface between Behavioral Decision Research, Economics and the decisions made by consumers, managers, and their implications for public policy, markets and marketing. According to the Institute for Scientific Information, he is one of the most highly cited scholars in Business and Economics.

Since 2008, **Jürgen Kurths** holds the Chair of the research domain Transdisciplinary Concepts and Methods of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and is Professor for Nonlinear Dynamics at the Humboldt-University, Berlin. His contributions to the area of nonlinear processes in the geosciences are diverse and highly original, and his work has had a considerable impact on the field. His main research interests are synchronisation phenomena, emergent behaviour in complex networks, time series analysis and their applications in sustainability research and life sciences.

**Alicia Melis** is Assistant Professor in the Behavioural Science Group at Warwick Business School. Her research focuses on the evolution of cooperation in general and the psychological mechanisms supporting human cooperative and prosocial interaction in particular. Her research conducted with Michael Tomasello, on the cognitive capabilities of chimpanzees to strategic helping in a collaborative task was recently published in the Biology Letters. Her experimental results suggest that the human inclination to cooperate might not only be learned but could be also inscribed into the human heritable information.

**Martin Nowak** is Director of the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics and Professor of Biology and Mathematics at Harvard University. He received numerous prizes for his ground-breaking work on the mathematical description of evolutionary processes. His book “SuperCooperators. Altruism, Evolution, and Why We Need Each Other to Succeed” is one of the most important recent contributions to cooperation research. Here, he lays out five principles of cooperation and argues that cooperation is the third fundamental principle of evolution beside mutation and selection.

**Elke Weber** is the Jerome A. Chazen Professor of International Business at Columbia Business School and Professor of Psychology and Earth Institute Professor at Columbia University. She works at the intersection of psychology and economics. Elke Weber is an acclaimed expert on behavioural models of judgment and decision making under risk and uncertainty. Recently she has been investigating psychologically appropriate ways to measure and model individual and cultural differences in risk taking, specifically in risky financial situations and environmental decision making and policy.
Thursday, 29 August 2013

13:00 - 16:00  Visit of two installations “Douglas Gordon: Silence, Exile, Deceit – An Industrial Pantomime” and “rAndom International: Tower” at the Kokerei Zollverein, Essen (optional)

17:00 - 19:00  Ruhrtiennale – Käte Hamburger Kolleg-Symposium “Invisible Hands”

Cooperation is seen as a rational, intentional strategy – partners in cooperation share particular interests and come to an agreement on the best way of making these a reality. But what happens in the case of ‘automated’ processes? Under the chairmanship of Professor Claus Leggewie, Co-director of the Centre for Global Cooperation Research, four speakers from widely differing disciplines will explore the phenomenon of automatic, unconscious, or unintended cooperation of the kind that occurs ‘out of sight’ of the actors concerned. Cooperation of this kind encompasses not only such things as market mechanisms, but also processes – like high-frequency stock-exchange trading – controlled by machines or programmes, everyday situations involving semi-conscious ‘nightwalking’ activities, trauma, and various psychopathologies, and, last but not least, a variety of forces such as ‘providence’ and predestination.

The contributions from art, theatre, economics, psychoanalysis, and computer science promise some illuminating insights into the ‘automatisms’ both of the everyday world and of world society – truly a world of unintended consequences.

Please note that this event will take place in German, translation will be provided.

20:00  Ruhrtiennale Cultural Event (optional)

Massive Attack V Adam Curtis

“A musical entertainment about the power of illusion and the illusion of power” A. Curtis

In this unusual project, the music of Robert Del Naja – in a performance by Massive Attack – will be combined with the sharp, politically uncompromising perspective of filmmaker and provocateur Adam Curtis. The Kraftzentrale event will redefine the very idea of a pop concert, transforming it into what Robert Del Naja has called a “collective hallucination”.

Standing room tickets only

Location: Kraftzentrale, Duisburg
Friday, 30 August 2013

8:30 - 9:15  Coffee and Registration

9:00 - 9:15  Welcome

Dirk Messner, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen; German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

9:15 - 10:45  Behavioural sciences meet international relations

The picture of failing global cooperation stands in stark contrast with what we know about cooperation at interpersonal scales. Multidisciplinary research has produced substantial evidence suggesting that human beings are astonishingly cooperative. This session considers those findings from the behavioural and life sciences to think anew about ways to improve cooperation at a global scale. Do those findings have implications for theorizing international relations and global governance? What are the challenges for (global) cooperation research ahead?

Alejandro Guarin, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

Daniel Haun, Research Group Comparative Cognitive Anthropology, MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology & MPI for Psycholinguistics

Dirk Messner, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen; German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

10:45 - 11:00  Coffee Break
Cooperation as the golden rule?

Cooperation rather than competition can be considered as one of the most important engines of evolution. It is key to any construction of complexity, be they multicellular creatures or human language. If cooperation and pro-social behavior took root because they gave people an edge in the struggle to survive, what does this mean for today’s global challenges? What can we learn from the mechanisms of cooperation such as direct and indirect reciprocity or spatial selection for failures and successes of cooperation at the global scale?

Martin Nowak, Programme for Evolutionary Dynamics, Harvard University

Moderation: Daniel Haun, Research Group Comparative Cognitive Anthropology, MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology & MPI for Psycholinguistics

Lunch Break

The cooperative bias in the history of humans

Humans have an inclination to cooperate which sets them apart from many other animals. What is unique about human cooperation, and what promotes and helps to stabilize coordination and cooperation between individuals? What lessons can we learn from the strengths and the weaknesses of human’s propensity to act in a pro-social and cooperative manner for the global scale?

Alicia Melis, Behavioural Science Group, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick

Moderation: Jennifer Jacquet, Environmental Studies Program, New York University

Ruhriennale Cultural Event (optional)

Harry Partch “A Ritual of Dream & Delusion”

Harry Partch (1901–1974) is one of the most original artists and musicians of the twentieth century. In search of a musical world far from European music, the American composer not only invented his own tonal system, but also designed and built instruments of idiosyncratic beauty to play his music. The encounter with his unheard sound world full of lightness and humor makes possible the discovery of masterpiece Delusion of the Fury (1965/66) – his last large-scale opera and at the same time the highpoint of his artistic work. Based on Japanese and African myths, he develops a piece between dream and madness, that integrates all theatrical means, light, movement, and song with the extraordinary presence of his instruments in a theater without a precise setting, where temporal layers overlap.

Location: Bochum, Jahrhunderthalle
Saturday, 31 August 2013

9:00 - 11:00  The possibilities and pitfalls of global we-identities

Group experiments show that the size of a group and its heterogeneity seem to influence the level of cooperation. Social distance, cultural diversity, or the level of communication have an impact on an individual’s trust or willingness to reciprocate which in turn facilitates or hinders cooperation. If we attempt to integrate these and similar insights about cooperation between individuals and in groups into our knowledge about political and social processes at the global level, what lessons can we draw? What mechanism, techniques or institutions might help us to overcome the structural, cognitive and other limitations to work together in order to address global problems?

Gianluca Grimalda, Department of Economics, University Jaume I; Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen

Moderation: Claus Leggewie, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen; Centre for Advanced Study of the Humanities, Essen

11:00 - 11:15  Coffee Break

11:15 - 13:15  Can we think the future? Cognitive Boundaries to future-oriented decision-making

Future-orientation of decision-making requires that we process issues of extraordinary complexity and scale – something human beings simply might not be capable of. How do individuals cope with complexity in decision making under conditions of risk and uncertainty? What can prompt us to become better in addressing complex global problems?

Elke Weber, Columbia Business School; The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Eric Johnson, Columbia Business School, Columbia University

Moderation: Silke Weinlich, Research Unit "The Impossibility of Cooperation", Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen

13:15 - 14:30  Lunch Break
14:30 - 16:30  **Can we model the world's complexity?**

Financial markets, food-supply chains, energy grids, transportation networks – these and other systems seem disparate or, at minimum, loosely connected. Yet in order to come to terms with the challenges the world faces, they need to be thought about and analysed together. While complex modeling of ecological networks (e.g. with regard to climate change) is already well advanced, the biggest challenges are posed by integrated models that rely on ecological, economic and social networks.

Jürgen Kurths, Research Domain Transdisciplinary Concepts & Methods, Potsdam Institute for Climate Research, Potsdam; Institute of Physics, Humboldt University, Berlin

Moderation: Dirk Messner, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

16:30 - 17:30  **Observations and Wrap-up:**

**A Practitioner’s Perspective:** Adolf Kloke-Lesch, Associate Fellow, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

**Wrap-up:** Silke Weinlich, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen; Dirk Messner, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen; German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

17:30 - 18:30  **Coffee Break & Snacks**

20:00  **Ruhriennale Cultural Event (optional)**

**Bruno Beltrão & Grupo de Rua: Crackz**

*Dance performance*

The Brazilian choreographer Bruno Beltrão has the unique talent of reflecting reality in the abstract, while at the same time making the abstract concrete. With his company Grupo de Rua (Street Group), founded in 1996 in Niterói, near Rio de Janeiro, he became famous for his danced deconstruction of hip-hop. While hip-hop relies primarily on individual virtuosity, Beltrão creates high complex collective choreographies for his company with which he takes over the theater stage. Beltrão now presents the German premiere of a new work.

Location: PACT Zollverein, Essen
About the Centre

Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research is an interdisciplinary research institute of the University of Duisburg-Essen. The Centre provides a framework for internationally renowned fellows from different disciplines and world regions to pursue research on the opportunities and challenges of global cooperation amidst political-cultural differences in the world society.

Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research was co-founded by the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the Institute for Development and Peace / Institut für Entwicklung und Frieden (INEF), and the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) in Essen.

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