



## **Lernwerkstatt and utopia(s).**

### **Perspectives on sustainable development in universities and society**

12 February - 14 February 2025, Halle (Saale)

In a world characterised by multiple crises, the search for utopias - for places and ideas that do not (yet) exist but are conceivable and desirable - is becoming increasingly urgent and relevant. Universities play an important role in this search, as they have always functioned as places where alternatives and visions have been and continue to be conceived. This claim is further legitimised by the increasing focus on education for sustainable development, which addresses the ability and willingness of students (and teachers) to participate constructively and creatively in the creation of a sustainable society. In this context, Lernwerkstätten can be regarded as special places within the university landscape in two respects: They not only offer spaces to think and negotiate utopias beyond narrow curricular frameworks, but are themselves the result and expression of alternative ideas and concepts of (higher) education, which are in constant development and are also dependent on new (still utopian?) ideas.

At the 18th annual conference of the university Lernwerkstätten in Halle, we would like to offer a forum in which social and educational ideas and utopias can be presented, discussed and further developed together in the context of education for sustainable development. We invite all interested parties to participate with theoretical, conceptual and empirical contributions on the status and perspectives of sustainable development in and of society and universities. The special opportunities offered by university Lernwerkstätten should of course be at the centre of this. In order to allow sufficient space for exchange, discussion and networking, we ask that contributions are clearly related to the conference's main topics and that each participant is limited to one submission. We look forward to your ideas!

Focal points:

- University Lernwerkstatt as spaces **for** utopia(ies)
  - Significance of utopias and/or social movements for science/university
  - Dealing with social and ecological crises (and their management) in the context of Hochschullernwerkstatt
    - o Democracy and human rights education
    - o Education for sustainable development / global citizenship education
  - Social and political responsibility of university Lernwerkstätten and strategies for dealing with controversial topics
  - Future-orientated methods (design thinking, future workshop, etc.)
  
- University Lernwerkstatt **as** utopian spaces
  - Visions of future-oriented higher education and teaching
  - Genesis, (lived) present and future visions of Lernwerkstätten as a space for sustainable education
  - Transdisciplinary development, research and teaching projects within the framework of university Lernwerkstätten
  - Perspectives of university Lernwerkstätten with regard to sustainable education, internationalisation/global learning etc.

**Formate:**

<i>Format</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Abstract</i>
Forum	Coherent and moderated contributions (max. 3) on a main topic of the conference with time for discussion of the presented results	90'	max. 5000 sign
Werkstatt/ Workshop	Joint discussion of theory, empirical material, teaching/learning concepts, etc. under a defined question and with the involvement of the participants	90'	max. 5000 sign
Single contribution	Lecture followed by a discussion on a key topic of the conference (several individual contributions will be grouped together by the preparatory team)	30'	max. 2000 sign
Spotlight	Media-supported impulse on an ongoing project, a planned concept or a very specific question or challenge in working and/or learning processes (several spotlights are grouped by the preparation team; there is room for exchange and discussion)	10'	max. 1000 sign

**Deadlines:**

- Submission of contributions to the conference: 15/09/2024
- Feedback on the acceptance of contributions: 1 December 2024
- Registration for the conference: 15.09.-15.12.2024 (Early Bird), 16.12.-01.02.2025 (Standard)

Registration for the conference and submission of abstracts is now possible at <https://lernwerkstatt.info/tagung2025>. A conference proceedings is planned.

We look forward to a wide range of contributions and exciting discussions at the 18th International Conference of University Lernwerkstätten and welcome you to Halle.

Jun- Prof. Dr. Christopher Hempel, Kathrin Kramer, Felix Liebig, Dr. Dietlinde Rumpf, Clara Schilke, Veronika Schlosser, Dr. Siglinde Spuller, Stephanie Winter-Below

**contact**

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