Welcome to the new edition of the MEG newsletter!

By Rainer Hummel, MEG Programme Coordinator

Shortly before summer break another edition of the MEG newsletter. With the upcoming internships for the 2nd semester students and the hard work going into the master theses summer “break” may prove somewhat misleading. In any case it will be a break from the university routine and you can get a glimpse of the active MEG community in the following pages.

As a program, we would like to extend a cordial welcome to our new Program Director, Prof. Michael Pregernig! He fills the vacancy created by the move of Prof. Schanz into the leadership of the university. As you can see in his introduction later on, governance is central to his research interests and we are grateful we could lure him away from Vienna to Freiburg. Welcome Prof. Pregernig! We are eager to shape complex futures with him and see him lead MEG to new heights!

The contributions, almost all written by students, are a motley mix of travel reports, how to guides (group work, German classes, thesis time), and musings on our sense of wonder and the MEG community – all spiced up by a cartoon series that has become an instant celebrity in the last edition. Enjoy and bring some of your summer experiences back with you to share in the next newsletter!

News

- With the beginning of this semester, Dr. Christl Kessler of the Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute, Freiburg joined the MEG Programme Committee. She is replacing Prof. Dietrich Burger, who retired from his post. Dr. Kessler is teaching the gender theory part of the MEG module Global Societal Changes, which is also one of her main research interests.

- The MEG Program was pleased to welcome Sabrina Shahab, a manager of Grameen Shakti in late June as part of the module Corporate Governance. Part of the Grameen family, Grameen Shakti strives to provide energy solutions to rural people in Bangladesh and to empower women in the community through technology training centres. For their efforts, Grameen Shakti was awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize of the Right Livelihood Foundation in 2007. Sabrina has worked for the Dhaka-based organization for several years and could thus share facts and stories from a rich pool of experiences. Her visit was facilitated under a recently developed programme to
allow recipients of the Right Livelihood Award to share their knowledge and expertise with a wider audience.

- The Programme could win over Dr. Barbara Skorupinski from the Centre for Basic Studies in Ethics and Philosophy (EPG) to contribute to the Selected Topic: “Technology Assessment and Sustainable Development”, which introduces and discusses the methodology of Technology Assessment. The work focus of the EPG Centre is to “sensitize future teachers to scientific and occupational ethical problems”. Accordingly, Dr. Skorupinski’s involvement added a highly appreciated critical ethical reflection on technological development to the module. The course is offered in cooperation with the Institute of Forest Utilization and Work Science.

- Several experts in the field of Environmental Sociology joined the module Environmental Sociology, coordinated by Prof. Hermann Schwengel from the Institute of Sociology, this semester. An introduction by Prof. Lange from the Research Center for Sustainability Studies Bremen on “Nature and/or Environment and/or Sustainability?” was followed by a variety of presentations on newly evolving approaches within the discipline of Sociology. Bianca Baerlocher from the University of Basel introduced the concept of Ecological Regimes, while Prof. Dr. Helga Weisz, of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, presented a case study societal material flow in different agricultural systems. Dr. Michael Schillmeier, who works closely with the renowned risk sociologist Ulrich Beck at the LMU München then provided a reflection on the SARS epidemic from an Actor-Network perspective. The lively discussions afterwards were highly appreciated by the students and the program wishes to express its gratitude towards all guest lecturers for their willingness to share their precious time and expertise.

- The MEG class 2007-2009 is now in the middle of their Master thesis work. Once again, the subjects and location of the research varies widely. This year’s topics include a meta-analysis on culture of sustainability, research on greening public procurement in the food sector and the analysis of policy streams in connection with the Philippine renewable energy law. Many students travelled abroad for their research, to places such as Nepal, Scotland, Philippines and Hungary. Their time at Freiburg will come to an end around November, with the annual graduation ceremony – held this year in the Peterhofkeller.

- The MEG class starting in Winter Semester 2009 / 2010 has now been selected. By the end of the application deadline May 15, the programme had received 300 online applications and 103 complete applications from 34 different countries. Of the 35 applicants admitted to the programme, 29 confirmed their study place, represent-
ing 17 different countries. This year, 7 of the students – from Ghana, Bangladesh, Ecuador and Brazil - will join MEG on a DAAD scholarship.

• The head of UNCTAD’s Trade and Sustainable Development Section, Dr. Ulrich Hoffmann, joined the MEG program for a guest lecture in May. He presented on "The Current Economic Crisis and Its Effects on Sustainable Structural Change in Economy and Trade". Looking for input from MEG students and attending guests was important to Dr. Hoffmann: "We need the cross-fertilization between universities and organizations such as UNCTAD", he explained.

Dream Job: MEG Program Director

By Professor Michael Pregernig, MEG Program Director

MEG has experienced some significant changes in recent months and it is venturing into a dynamic future. In this contribution, I want to address some of the recent changes and upcoming challenges.

First of all, it has to be highlighted – though with mixed feelings – that the founding director of MEG, Prof. Heiner Schanz, has become full-time Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of Freiburg University and with that has temporarily left the Faculty of Forest and Environmental Sciences and has given up the directorship of MEG. In the name of the ‘MEG community,’ I want to congratulate Heiner for his professional advancement and I want to thank him for the enormous efforts and energy that he has put into the establishment and the development of the MEG program.

In May, I have taken over Heiner’s position as professor and MEG Program Director for a fixed-term period of six years. I herewith take the opportunity to briefly introduce myself and my visions for the MEG program.

I was born in Saalfelden, a small town in the middle of the scenic though heavily touristic province of Salzburg, in Austria. After high school, I moved to Vienna to savor the pulse of a big city … and, of course, to get university education. After graduation, I started to work at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU). In 2001/02, I held a 12-month Research Fellowship at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (USA). Before coming to Freiburg, I worked as an Associate Professor at InFER, the Institute of Forest, Environmental, and Natural Resource Policy at BOKU.

As regards my professional background, I am kind of a hybrid. Today, I would call myself a political scientist but it took me quite some detours to get there. First, I started out to study economics … probably to become a rich and powerful manager (but I can’t say for sure since I have intentionally pushed that already to the back of my mind). The popular spirit of environmental enthusiasm of the late 1980s made me gradually rethink my economic fix. So I decided to study forestry as well. But forestry soon turned out as too technical and too productionist for my fledgling green mindset. Therefore, I chose to swing back to societal concerns by delving into the field of political science, or to be more specific: into the study of environmental governance regimes.

In recent years, my research foci have been in the following areas:

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SHAPE. COMPLEX. FUTURES.
the role of science and expertise in environmental and natural resource policy, with a special focus on the inherent tensions between effective scientific policy advice (cf. the buzzword of ‘evidence-based policy-making’) and democratic inclusiveness;

causes, manifestation, and resolution of political conflicts around the distribution and use of natural resources before the background of societal change and the pluralisation of values;

challenges of participation and representation, with a focus on the question of how the character of public policy making changes when governmental actors increasingly find themselves as facilitators, moderators, and partners in participatory processes among a diverse set of non-governmental actors;

inter- and transdisciplinarity in research and teaching, with a critico-constructive look at the possibilities and limits of these new, much-vaunted principles of scientific and practical problem solving.

My experience in cross-disciplinary teaching, that is also what I want to bring to bear in the MEG program. Since 2007, I have been a faculty member of an inter- and transdisciplinary Doctoral School on “Sustainable Development” (dokNE) at BOKU. Based on that experience, I hope to be able to productively bring in some new aspects into the MEG program as well. Altogether, I am very much looking forward to work in and for this innovative MSc program.

I wish all of you a relaxing and inspiring summer!

Expanding Horizons

By Jan Andrew Zubiri, MEG 2009

The last semester of class 2009 is ticking. I remember the first official contact I made with the MEG Programme through Esther, our programme coordinator: an email dropped in my inbox that brought the good news of my acceptance in MEG. In the waning weeks of the semester, I try to look back in the almost-two years I’ve been pursuing MEG, and discovered some positive externalities the programme has introduced.

Studying the MEG Programme automatically throws one into an international class that eventually evolves into a close knit group (probably as a result of shared coping?). We are 24 students coming from 18 different countries all over the globe. That’s a 24-strong network right on the outset. Add to that the MEG alumni and students to come, and that increases our network several fold. I applied and got the opportunity to attend the UN Convention on Biodiversity and got to know another set of 47 young people from different parts of the world. Several forums, speaking engagements, and conferences later that were born out of that Convention, I’ve lost count of the number of people I’ve met who had nothing to do directly with MEG.

Learning should not be confined within the halls and walls of the university. I’ve made contact with people ranging from a physicist who specializes on radar technology for stealth jet fighters to the German Minister for Economic and Development Cooperation with whom I’ve shaken hands (heck, I never had the chance to shake the hands of the head of the ministry of economics and development where I worked!). I don’t have a monopoly of these opportunities. My classmates have their fair share of intellectual and social learning outside the classroom through various conferences, internships, and research undertakings.

In hindsight, I can’t figure out how we managed to squeeze in these extra-curricular activities in our hectic class schedule. Some of us have left Freiburg and gone to their countries of origin or elsewhere to pursue their
respective research and interests. I’ve lost track what each of us is doing. One thing is for sure: they have moved on to build their network, to expand their horizons, and- the motto of the MEG Programme puts it very well- to shape complex futures.

Tips and Tricks for Successful Group Work

By Topsi Rongrongmuang, MEG 2010

As a MEG student for only a bit less than 10 months, I have lost count of how many presentations I have made. I can’t say they are too much, but they are certainly A LOT. Half of them were individual works and another half were products of more than one head. I personally like to work alone as I know what I want, and I can quickly make decisions. In contrast, group works collect new creative thoughts and they are generally much more comprehensive. But again, it normally takes a lot of time and effort to get to an agreement (majority or consensus or dictate, you name it). And from my past experiences, I would like to share some tips and tricks on how to survive a group work and make it a successful one with a minimum struggling level.

First, you need to choose the topic of your interest. You don’t need to have a background on the issue but you have to be keen to dig deeper. If you have no idea whatsoever of all those topics, you can close your eyes and point your finger on the paper randomly. Superstition power will help you through this first stage. Don’t choose the topic because your close friend picks it. You will have no motivation to learn and lose the spice of combating with others.

Next step is about getting your group members. Normally, you have no control over this selection. You might know more or less who you want to work with but people will come together in form of spontaneous ordering. Nevertheless, beware of someone who is usually unreachable and you actually don’t know where s/he lives. Also make sure that everyone’s determination to participate is clearly shown- especially if they have to be out of town. Watch out if you fall into the situation that all other members of the group share the same mother tongue. They tend to forget that you don’t speak their language. Or they might just want to deeply express themselves to other members and think it’s only you who don’t get what s/he said and who cares? Of course, you care! So keep reminding them…

Getting to coordinate the work, major roles are naturally divided, such as, facilitator, compiler, commentator, initiator and follower. These divisions are not fixed to only one person and usually swappable. I’m impressed of how democratic and flexible we are in MEG.

I notice that most of us are habitually addicted to the internet. It will make your life a lot easier if you and your team get connected through one of the messengers. You can do virtual meetings or send files and web links within seconds. Email is also good but not as much in real time. You will still need to meet in person from time to time anyway. Make sure everyone knows the meeting time and place. The best place to meet is in the CIP room at the faculty. Another alternative is someone’s WG. But you have to be sure that the place is not too far for any
members, there is enough space to sit, and no tempting smell of cooking nearby!
Once you and your team have finished and reviewed each others’ parts, compilation work is usually assigned to one person. S/he needs to be very creative with the powerpoint template, as we have already done A LOT of presentations in the past and we don’t want to duplicate the old themes. Pictures and cliparts are to be inserted, and you might want to show video clips or short movies to alter the boring bla bla bla. Watch out for the allowed presentation time by assigning someone as time keeper. I know it usually does not happen, but practice if you have spare time.

And now you all will be ready for the exciting presentation. Good luck!

Thesis Time!

By Shannon White, MEG 2009

“Choose a specific topic!” “No! That’s not specific enough!” “Make a timeline and stick to it. No Matter What!” These were some of the wise words of advice that were given to me from previous MEG students during my 3 month, pre-thesis, grace period. It was during this time that I was to discover that there are many many topics within the scope of Environmental Governance that I am interested in, and that choosing only 1 (specific) topic that I wanted to spend the next 6 months researching would not be an easy task. Not only did I have to find something that I was interested in, but also that could lead to a future job, as well as allowing me to travel, while minding my limited student budget at the same time, and I desperately wanted to find a topic that would allow my research to used for Something, not just to be put on the shelf in my bedroom.

I searched high and low for such a topic, and finally after contacting the organization where I did my internship, The Regional Environmental Center (REC), I was able make an arrangement, where my research would also aid them in addition to allowing me to finish my studies. Whew! The first step had been completed. However, as I dove into the vast amount of readings, it began to dawn on me that this really was only the beginning. It wasn’t until after weeks of trying to handle the steep learning curve, I remembered another piece of advice that was given to me “the reading will never end”. Very true.

Today I find myself already off my timeline (oopsies!) and in the library daily, trying to organize and reorganize my notes, thoughts and pdfs. However, finally upon deciding that the topic Barriers of Implementing Green Public Procurement in the Food and Catering Services in Eastern Europe was not only specific enough but also something that fulfilled the rest of my personal criteria, I have begun. So wish me luck now as I dive into the vast and dark ocean of my thesis. ☺

Ich muss Deutsch lernen!

By Catherine Njeri, MEG 2010

Hallo, ich bin Catherine und ich komme aus Kenia, meine Hobbys sind reisen, chatten und lesen. Ich………..When I go to sleep at night, I realise that in my dreams, I have perfect German conversations with my friends, housemates and even strangers! However, come morning and I meet my housemate on the corridors, I can barely even have a one minute conversation in fluent German! How difficult can learning a new language be?? Welcome to the real world.

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Fast forward to August 2008, I had an intensive German course here in Freiburg and I was very enthusiastic about learning a new language. Complete with a dictionary, phrase book and a course book, I was fully equipped to learn Deutsch! I never missed a class and tried to participate as much as possible.

Then I learnt that the best way to improve was to get a tandem partner, and it was quite fashionable as almost everyone in my class was out to get one. So, I decided to give it a shot and was lucky to find someone who wanted to improve her English and help me with German. The first meeting was a success, but her English was more or less fluent, so we spoke more English than German at every meeting! Actually it became more of making a new friend rather than learning German!

I am surrounded and engulfed by the German language everywhere I turn. On TV (I must mention here that my addiction to TV ended in Freiburg since all the interesting programmes are in German!) and on radio, newspapers, posters and so on. I was counting on this factor to contribute to my learning German. However, it does not seem to be working.

In October, I started the Masters programme and as you can imagine, I now have less time for German. With the assignments and readings, I always seem to have the perfect excuse to explain my lack of progress.

In between attending German classes first at SLI and now at the Volkshochschule, (somewhat I blame my lack of progress on the institution of learning 😊). I have also made attempts to learn German online! I have tried several websites all of which promise success, but I am sure that those of you who have tried this will agree with me that it is a challenging way to learn. It requires a lot of motivation and discipline, both of which I realise I need to nurture!

I have had several experiences where I wished I could speak fluent German. Try searching for an apartment on the Zypresse or WG gesucht...the abbreviations are enough to stress you out and once you figure them out comes making the call to book an appointment for an interview. I memorised the question auf Deutsch but the response from the other end would throw me off track. Luckily for me some people spoke English and then it was easy; others simply hung up on me, while with some people we struggled to communicate until an appointment was set.

Another memorable event was on the speed train. I sat opposite a sweet old woman who liked to talk and she immediately started telling me what seemed to be an interesting story and all I could do was nod and smile. I did not have the heart to tell her that I could barely understand what she was animatedly talking about. But I was caught when she asked me a question and waited patiently for my answer and I shamefacedly told her...ich verstehe nicht..ich lerne Deutsch! She simply shook her head and completely ignoring me, turned to a more responsive audience!

How about the time I missed an appointment because of the confusion over the German style of telling time! I was to see the doctor at Halb Eins and so with the newly adapted German punctuality I was at the reception desk at 1.30 just for the receptionist to tell me that I was late for my appointment! And I was like isn’t it halb eins.......and she gave me the duh look and then it hit me. Halb Eins is 12.30 German time!

Am I the only one who is always puzzled at the English version of the announcements on the train for instance on ICE and IC? I am always like, was that English? But that is a story for another day. For now my attempt to learn Deutsch continues....wish me luck!
Passing on the gift – A study tour with Heifer Int. Nepal

By Rainer Hummel, MEG Programme Coordinator

The students are angry. Their protests did not yield the desired results. Rocks fly, a car that tries to break through the barricades gets torched by the irate protesters. In a landlocked, mountainous country like Nepal these disruptions pose dire consequences. Only two highways connect the Kathmandu valley with the vital supplies from India. A chain of 8000m peaks and passes over 5000m make access from the Tibetan side in the North impassable save for yaks and human porters on foot. As a consequence, the effects are felt widely and immediately, with lines at gas stations, newspaper articles announcing the rationing of certain food items and raw materials and frequent blackouts in the capital Kathmandu. The recent transition from monarchy to a Maoist government, suspiciously observed by India and the Nepalese army did not go over smoothly. On many signs, in an effort to mark the new era, the word “royal” is scratched out or scantily taped up, only adding emphasis in a backwards way supposedly unintended by the iconoclasts. Much remains to be done in a country with a per capita GDP of slightly over $1000 per year and illiteracy rates of over half the adult population and over two thirds of Nepalese women. Nobody even attempts to compile a gross happiness product like the reclusive kingdom of Bhutan to the East. Ninety different spoken languages and several alphabets make communication a challenge. The economic growth stories of the powerhouses to the North and South, China and India, largely bypassed Nepal.

It is against this backdrop of societal change and poverty that Heifer International is trying to deliver help on the ground. The heifer (for those less familiar with agricultural terminology: a heifer is a cow that has not had a calf yet) symbolizes the basic working principle of the organization to deliver livestock to families so they can eke out a living and grow their income over time. In Nepal, the animals mostly used are goats and water buffalo. The livestock, however, is merely a symbol, as the main work takes place in education and capacity building which often precedes the delivery of livestock by years. Yet the power of an image of (typically) women and children holding young goats or chicks is not lost in the fundraising efforts of Heifer. It is one of the consistently more successful aid organizations operating in over 125 countries worldwide, based in Little Rock, Arkansas in the South-eastern United States.

Heifer International got started after the Spanish Civil War. The founder, Dan West, handed out food aid in war torn Spain when he decided to find ways of ending hunger more permanently so that families “could be spared the indignity of depending on others to feed their children.” In Nepal there was an
effort in the late 1950s that largely failed. A renewed entry into the country in 1993 proved much more successful. Heifer started with a group of 25 women in the lowlands of the Terai at the border with India. Two year later the first water buffalo got delivered, and starting in 1997 things took off. Today, Heifer Nepal is considered a model for other countries in Asia. The working principles of Heifer have been adopted by the World Bank.

Except for the sparsely populated far West of Nepal Heifer has a presence through four regional offices and 46 permanent staff members, all from Nepal. Typically, there is a triadic partnership between the country program, local project partners and the actual project groups. The project groups are often groups of 15-25 rural women. Working through women groups has proven to provide the best multiplier effects and the most sustainable welfare improvement for families. The basic training is focused on the proverbial three Rs of education (reading, writing, arithmetic) but also animal husbandry and agricultural crops. This can make a huge difference in the lives of rural women as their self-esteem and pride grow along with their ability to feed their families and generate income. Some groups set up savings accounts for emergencies, e.g. enabling them and their family members to seek treatment in case of illness.

The decisive point is that many of these women and their families become ambassadors of the Heifer idea themselves and pass on the gift by spreading knowledge but in a very tangible way as well: By accepting a goat or a water buffalo families pledge to pass on some of the offspring to other families later on, thus self-perpetuating the effect of the initial gift. Today, in Nepal the rate of what Heifer calls “passing on the gift” far exceeds 100%, meaning that for every donated animal there is more than one animal of the next generation that is passed to another family in need. The approach makes a difference. Heifer can also operate fairly independently of the ruling government. As long as aid organizations are allowed into a country and a minimum infrastructure is maintained, the focus on local projects and rural women groups allows Heifer to largely operate under the radar of national governments.

For those interested, Heifer offers internships and other ways to participate. Much information is available under www.heifer.org. For internship opportunities you can also email rainer.hummel@ifp.uni-freiburg.de

El Camino de Santiago - A Unique World Heritage Site

By Tempei Miyaji, MEG
2009

In May, I took an early summer holiday to do the pilgrimage to Santiago in Spain. In this short column, I would like to share a bit of my pilgrimage story of Santiago and my burning master thesis topic “Culture and Sustainability”. Santiago de Compostela is popularly known as the Mecca of Christianity together with Rome.
with Rome and Jerusalem. Since the 10th
century, there have been countless pilgrims
taking the road to Santiago. The most popular
parts of the pilgrimage route were declared as
the World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993.

The pilgrims advance toward Santiago on
their feet, bicycles or donkeys, by crossing the
mountain chains, the desert, the hills, valleys,
the forests and many of small villages and
town, while staying at Albergues (the pilgrims
inns). I walked around 8 hours and up to
30km to 40km
everyday. It was
more than plenty
of time to muse
on the mystery of
nature or my
possible master
thesis topic etc.

One of the topic I
had in mind dur-
ing the pilgrimage
was about cul-
ture, a question like ‘what makes this pilgrim-
age route outstandingly valuable?’ Obviously,
the historical architectural creations like ca-
tedrals, chapels or bridges along the route
seem to construct the outstanding significance
of the site as tangible cultural properties.
However, about 10% of the original roads
were destroyed and in many places, the high-
way is running parallel to the pilgrimage route.

Is a road culture? It seems that also intangible
elements of culture underlyingly contribute to
construct the value of the pilgrimage road.
The road connects towns and people and embraces networks. The fact that the route is
continuously followed by countless pilgrims,
the beliefs and customs taking root among
pilgrims form the entity of the route and ap-
pear to be “the living pilgrimage route.” In
addition, the high integration of tangible cul-
tural properties with surrounded nature which
create the cultural landscape would be also
one of the elements of its outstanding values.
Indeed, from 1992, UNESCO started to in-
cluded cultural landscapes into the World
Heritage List., even
though the term “cultural
landscape” was not spe-
cifically mentioned in the
official document of this
site.

The term “culture” has a broad connotation,
therefore it has been often neglected by main-
stream sustainability concerns. However,
these tangible, intangible and cultural land-
scape seem to be also the important environ-
ment which need to be preserved for the next
generations.

**Are we killing our sense of wonder?**

*By Elena Mejía Villacís, MEG 2010*

I got the idea to write about
the sense of wonder be-
cause of pornography and
nature: How pornography is killing our sex life
and how we are killing nature by taking out
the surprise and reducing the marvellous to
the mundane.

What is “sense of wonder”? To answer this,
you have to remember when you were a child
and everything you discovered was a pleas-
ure. Or remember when someone shows you
a beautiful place that you never realized be-
fore. Or when you saw someone beautiful. Or
when you notice the birds outside. All of these
things –although small things- are marvellous
because of our sense of wonder. Keep this in
mind while you read through these words.

Now, returning to pornography. Last month I
was following the debate: Is pornography

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good or bad? There were several arguments in favour and against pornography, and among these there was one that I found personally outstanding from the others. It came from a psychologist who said that pornography is taking away the sense of wonder from American’s sexual life; she puts two clear examples to support her theory. First, teenagers affirm that they prefer to have sex immediately when they date a new partner in order to avoid tensions, there is no surprise in sex: “We have seen everything already”. Second, she has learned from many couples with sexual problems that pornography is creating an illusion of the “right thing”, therefore we need “new experiences” to keep ourselves surprised. To clarify this, I cannot think of a better phrase than the one by Naomi Wolf, an American author: “For the first time in human history, the images’ power and allure have supplanted that of real naked women. Today, real naked women are just bad porn.”

Porn however, is just one of the examples. What about nature? But how is nature related to porn? Well according to the Actor Network Theory (ANT) it must be related! I relate both because I want to touch a completely different case and give you –my readers- the real naked woman and not just hook you up with power and allure ;-)"

So changing to nature. Do you remember Rachel Carson and her famous “Silent Spring”? This American author also wrote Sense of Wonder, a book (now a movie of her life) that summarized - in Carlson’s words - why humans tend to abuse the environment when they lose their capacity to feel nature. She writes, “If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life”. Makes sense? I think, yes. However, now, because our sense of wonder has been replaced by modernity, we need to make nature more attractive! What is the power and allure of nature and what is that of the naked woman? That is something that I am still pondering.

Finally, either in either sex or nature, I think we are striving to feel more and new emotions. Will we end with zoophilia being in fashion? Will we have to give nature more “qualities” to make it attractive? Who knows. Meanwhile I think everything is about love, not the heart or the red colour but the meaning. Acknowledgment: Somaeih Emamjomeh for the good discussion and corrections.

http://www.asenseofwonderfilm.com/
Hello again! Almost two semesters of the MEG Programme! Now I feel that I can start talking about it as an expert. So here’s a little bit of my “not so new Meggie Wisdom”...

Where should I start?

One of the first things one starts to notice after being in the MEG Programme for a while is that one’s language skills suffer a dramatic transformation. For one thing, even though I’ve been living in Germany for almost a year now, my German has improved so little... and my English is getting so complex...

I’ve found out I have a “MEG answer” for every question, even the simplest things in life... I’ll show you what I mean:

1. What time is it?
2. How are you?
3. How is the weather?
4. What is the purpose of our current work?
5. What is the purpose of our current work?
6. What is the purpose of our current work?
7. What is the purpose of our current work?
8. What is the purpose of our current work?
9. What is the purpose of our current work?
10. What is the purpose of our current work?

Last time I talked about how intense modules can be, but in fact after a few modules already, I admit not all require the same level of commitment. The key is to learn how to adapt and reinvent yourself according to the circumstances...

Intensive Module Mode

Highly Demanding Final Presentation Module Mode

Relaxed Module Mode

And one of the utmost lessons that I’ve learnt is the meaning of the word “consensus.”

After this, S.O.S. meeting...

Decision making among the MEG is indeed tricky... one notices this when confronted with “non-Meggies.”

Oh, by the way, I’m proud to say my Mexican culture is more spread than I had imagined...

Shape. Complex. Futures.
AND OF COURSE, IT'S NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY. IT'S BEEN GREAT TO START ENJOYING THE NICE SPRING/SUMMER WEATHER... IT'S BEEN AMAZING TO SEE HOW IT HAS CHANGED!

BEGINNING OF SEMESTER BREAK - END OF SEMESTER BREAK...

AND THE EFFECTS OF THE WARM WEATHER ARE VERY OBVIOUS... WE CAN FIND A HAIR SHORTAGE AMONG THE MEGGIES...

OR IS IT THAT ONE HEAD IS GETTING BIGGER??

NOW THAT I'M BETTER WITH THE BIKE, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT RIDING ALONG THE PINZER TO UNI IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES...

BUT LIKE WITH EVERYTHING, IT DEPENDS ON THE PERSPECTIVE. THE WAY BACK IS NOT AS ENJOYABLE...

IT IS GREAT TO REALIZE THAT THE MEG PROGRAMME IS BRINGING TOGETHER A GROUP OF VERY TALENTED PEOPLE, AND I DON'T ONLY MEAN REGARDING THE PROGRAMME ITSELF... WE HAVE MANY "HIDDEN" TALENTS AMONG US... I THINK IF WE DO NOT WORK AS ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PRACTITIONERS, MOST OF US STILL HAVE ALTERNATIVES...

OH, ONE LAST PIECE OF MEG WISDOM, AND IT'S AGAIN ABOUT HOW RELATIVE EVERYTHING IS... IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE FRAMEWORK... I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE:

June 2009

BLANK

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR INTERNSHIP?"

July 2009

"I'M GLAD YOU ASKED! I ACTUALLY FOUND A MORE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS KIND..."

AND TALKING ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP, IT'S CRAZY HOW FAST TIME FLEES, INTERNSHIP TIME IS ALREADY HERE!! I WILL MISS MY MEGGIE CLASSMATES!! AND ALSO FOR THOSE OF YOU FINISHING YOUR THESIS: LOTS OF SUCCESS!!

I WILL SEE YOU SOON!

PROBABLY FOR MORE MEGGIE ADVENTURES... AND SINCE NEW MEGGIES ARE ALREADY ON THE WAY... AND I'M AN OLD MEGGIE" NOW... WOHOO... BIS BALD!!!

SHAPE. COMPLEX. FUTURES.