

Dear Colleagues,

on February 20-22, 2019, the Herrenhausen Conference "The New Role of the State for the Emergence and Diffusion of Innovation" will take place in Hanover, Germany.

The role of the state in knowledge societies in general and with respect to the generation and diffusion of innovation in particular has been an always latently relevant issue. But especially in times of crisis it has become a considerably challenging topic in many different social sciences. The concurrent debate is bedded into the context of the so-called Grand Societal Challenges worldwide: climate related and environmental threats, natural resource scarcities, increasing levels of inequality and the challenges of the digitalization and robotization of our lives, to name only a few. To organize a proper approach towards solving these problems rather naturally draws on the old debate on state versus market or on centralized versus decentralized planning or on autocratic versus democratic decision-making. The relevance and the need of a thorough discussion of this set of dimensions and related questions and problems deserve a broader platform, an international conference.

We – Uwe Cantner (Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany), Dirk Fornahl (University of Bremen, Germany) and Stefan Kuhlmann (University of Twente, The Netherlands) – are organizing a major

Herrenhausen Conference on

“The New Role of the State for the Emergence and Diffusion of Innovation”

Herrenhausen Conferences, sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation at Herrenhausen Palace, a modern convention center, focus on scientific topics of high social impact that are of particular relevance to the present and future. The Herrenhausen Conferences address unanswered questions and unsolved problems and their relevance for society. They provide international experts as well as junior researchers with a platform for an intense interdisciplinary dialogue on exciting new areas of research and innovative methodological approaches.

Our **Conference Topics at a Glance** (main conference days are February 20th and 21st):

- Session 1: Does innovation (policy) matter for (economic) growth?
- Session 2: Societal Transitions and Grand Societal Challenges
- Session 3: Multiple Roles of the State in Coping with Innovations
- Session 4: Corporatism and Cooperation
- Session 5: Policy Instruments to Support Innovative Changes
- Session 6: Innovation Policy as Inclusive Strategy
- Debate: "The role of the state is solely defined as curing market or system failures" vs. "Government shall not infringe upon market forces"
- Interactive Debate: "How must innovation policy be balanced to deal with economic, ecological, societal and developmental issues?"
- Lightning Talks by 10 selected young scholars
- Workshop on Friday (22nd of February) with young scholars to summarize results of the conference in a memorandum

Financed by

A detailed program and the registration form can be found on the following website:

<https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungskalender/herrenh%C3%A4user-konferenzen/the-new-role-of-the-state-for-diffusion-and-emergence-of-innovation>

Contributors include: Erik Arnold (University of Twente); Engelbert Beyer (BMBF); Knut Blind (Technical University Berlin); Susana Borrás (Copenhagen Business School); Ron Boschma (Utrecht University); Giovanni Dosi (University of Pisa); Jakob Edler (University of Manchester); Jan Fagerberg (University of Oslo); Michael Fritsch (University Jena); Dominique Foray (University Lausanne); Elisa Giuliani (University of Pisa); Lars Grotewold (Stiftung Mercator); Dietmar Harhoff (University of Munich); Jürgen Howaldt (TU Dortmund University); Rainer Kattel (University College London); Michael Liecke (Fraunhofer Society); Göran Marklund (Vinnova); Rongping Mu (Chinese Academy of Sciences); Frank Nullmeier (University of Bremen); Darius Ornston (University of Toronto); Dirk Pilat (OECD); Jason Potts (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology); Johan Schot (University of Sussex); Silvia Schwaag-Serger (University of Lund); Philip Shapira (University of Manchester); Richard Sturn (University of Graz); Judith Sutz (University of Uruguay); Michaela Trippel (University of Vienna); Reinhilde Veugelers (University Leuven); Matthias Weber (Austrian Institute of Technology); Werner Widuckel (University Erlangen-Nürnberg).

Please register online by February 10, 2019. There are no fees for attendance but registration is essential. The number of participants is limited to 150. You can only register online for the first two days of the conference, if you would like to participate in the workshop on the 22nd of February, please contact William Arant (arant@uni-bremen.de). Participation for the workshop will be very selective.

The organizers would be pleased to welcome you to the conference. Feel free to also forward this invitation to colleagues who might be interested in attending the conference.

Sincerely,



Dirk Fornahl, Stefan Kuhlmann and Uwe Cantner