Summary
The course aims at providing PhD students with 1. theoretical basis and key concepts of scenario development; 2. tools to perform a scenario analysis; 3. the possibility to develop in groups of four persons scenarios themselves 4. critical reflection on the utility of scenarios for own research.

Content
The course will be constructed as a mixture of lectures on concepts and approaches of scenario analysis, talks providing examples from recent and ongoing research and scenario exercises, and practical work on own scenario exercises in groups of four which are supported by regular coaching sessions.

Dates:
• March, 5, 2020 16-18h Overview, group formation and theme exploration
• March, 18, 2020 09-17h Introduction to Scenario Techniques and plenary debate on "Designing Sustainable Futures" (either in the morning of late afternoon)
• April, 1, 2020 16-18h Coaching Session (optional)
• April, 8, 2020 16-18h Coaching Session (optional)
• April, 22, 2020 16-18h Coaching Session (optional)
• April, 29, 2020 16-18h Coaching Session (optional)
• May, 6, 2020 16-18h Coaching Session (optional)*
The course will be developed in form of block courses. The first main block encompasses different modules, the goal being to provide the basis for an entire process for developing and analyzing scenarios.

Students will apply the scenario methodology to specific cases, for example EPFL main campus, Renens, and or Neighborhub Fribourg. Finally, the students will assess and present their scenarios on a one-day work-shop.

Lectures will include amongst others the following aspects

1. Introduction – Overview of Scenario Approaches
What is a scenario? What are its key elements? What are the different types of scenarios? How scenario approaches may support and improve decision-making processes? When scenarios are inappropriate? What are the most important schools of thought? etc. Theoretical module.

2. Identifying focal issue
What historical trends and/or sudden events led to present situation? How such current state is perceived by stakeholders? What are the main concerns for the future? Institutional Analysis, Discourse Analysis, multi-dimensional framings, SWOT, “De Bono’s thinking hats”, etc.

3. Discussing drivers and main uncertainties
What are the main drivers and uncertainties than can change the future of the system/institution/problem at hand? How these drivers may evolve and interact with each other? STEEP framework, future workshops (visioning focus groups, etc.), system analysis (e.g. causal diagram),

4. Describing scenario assumptions and storylines
How to develop consistent, plausible and pertinent storylines? How to translate them into model inputs? How to iterate qualitative and quantitative techniques? “2x2 matrix” method, incremental approaches, “emblematic events”, wind tunneling, etc.

5. Analyzing and assessing scenarios
How to conduct analysis across the scenarios set? How to discuss scenarios analysis’s results for various stakeholder groups? Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA), Integrated assessment, etc.

6. Crowd-sourcing methodology

Note
Dr Livia Fritz is the assistant in charge of this course.

Keywords
scenario analysis, crowd sourcing, arts, transdisciplinarity

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

• Understand the theoretical basis and key concepts of scenario development
• Apply the tools to perform a scenario analysis (including transdisciplinary and crowd-sourcing tools);
• Critically reflect on the utility of scenarios for the own research.

Resources
Bibliography


Ressources en bibliothèque

- Scenario types and techniques: Towards a user's guide / Börjeson
- Creating the future: The use and misuse of scenarios / Godet
- How to improve scenario analysis as a strategic management tool / Postma