

**HERRENHAUSEN CONFERENCE, FEB 20–22, 2019**

THE NEW ROLE OF THE STATE  
FOR THE EMERGENCE AND  
DIFFUSION OF INNOVATION

**HERRENHAUSEN PALACE, HANNOVER, GERMANY**

The role of the state and of state governments in knowledge societies for the stimulation, regulation and diffusion of innovation has been debated in politics and various social sciences for years, especially in times of economic crisis. Current discussions include the question whether and how state-related actors and agencies can mobilize innovations and drive their diffusion to properly address Grand Societal Challenges and Sustainable Development Goals worldwide: climate and environmental threats, natural resource scarcities, increasing levels of inequality and exclusion and the challenges of the digitalization and robotization of our lives, to name a few. On this background, the search for a governance scheme most effective in pushing respective innovation and diffusion activities cannot escape the old debate on state versus market or on centralized versus decentralized planning or on autocratic versus democratic decision making. In this context, we also need to reflect on what we mean by 'state' and 'statehood' in the 21st Century as well as new state dimensions such as 'new publicness', like in the sharing economy. These crucial debates deserve a broader, transdisciplinary platform to account for the various disciplinary viewpoints on the questions at hand.

**Questions of the conference include:**

- Has state-driven innovation (policy) positive impacts on welfare and growth?
- What is the role of the state and 'statehood' for innovation vis-à-vis economic and social actors?
- How can governments and innovation policy address societal transitions and grand societal changes?
- How to overcome innovation system lock-in? Is there a role for 'creative corporatism' beyond incumbent stakeholders and new tech giants?
- How can innovation policy be made more inclusive and help to bridge social divides?
- Innovation policy for economic and extra-economic returns – How to master the balance?

The targeted audience includes – but is not limited to – researchers ranging from economics to regional, political and social sciences as well as policy makers or representatives from economic development agencies or other administrations.

"The New Role of the State for the Emergence and Diffusion of Innovation" is part of the Herrenhausen Conference Series initiated by the Volkswagen Foundation.

**Useful Information**

Please register online at <https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungskalender>

Please note that the workshops on February 22 are exclusively open for invited participants. If you would like to attend the workshops on Friday, please contact William Arant ([arant@uni-bremen.de](mailto:arant@uni-bremen.de)).

Registration Deadline: **February 10, 2019**. There is no charge for attendance but booking is essential.

Beginning of Conference February 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Detailed Program: [www.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de)


**Herrenhausen Conferences**

With its Herrenhausen Conferences the Volkswagen Foundation provides 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. The main focus of the conferences lies on the current challenges faced by each research area rather than on further in-depth discussions and analyses of individual well-established topics. We are interested in unanswered questions and unsolved problems – and in the respective research field's relevance for society.

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