

## **Mining and minorities - how to assess**

### **Afternoon workshop on cultural impact assessment as a tool for a Just Transformation**

Serbski institut Chóšebuz / Sorbian Institute Cottbus  
&  
Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg

Cottbus, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Brandenburg University of Technology  
Building LG 2 C/D (intermediate building), Room 229/230

#### **Aim**

Since many nations of the Global North decided to end their uses of non-renewable resources - especially lignite, coal, and atomic energy - new questions of industrial land use are on the rise: On the one hand, resources for wind turbines and PV systems continue to be mined, leading to consequences of mining still influencing socio-cultural, economic, and environmental structures. On the other hand, post-mining landscapes stay landscapes of energy when they are re-used as wind farms or solar parks, others become landscapes of re-mining due to the need for new resources such as copper or rare earths.

For the research field of impact assessment, these developments rise new conceptual and methodological questions, especially, when the land use takes place in settlement areas of Indigenous Peoples or autochthonous minorities. As some examples have already shown, within minorised contexts there is an approach needed which focuses on collective impacts rather than individual ones. Consequences of mining and other industrial projects do not just influence individual factors such as health or life standard. They have a lasting influence on historically grown socio-cultural networks as well as practices.

While singular case studies hint on ways to access minoritised cultures and to ensure participation within assessment processes, we believe that by international exchange and comparison, it is possible to sharpen the methodology and concept of cultural impact assessment within indigenous or autochthonous contexts. Our research interest stems from our field of practice, Lusatia/Łužyca, a German region shaped by lignite mining for the last 150 years at least. At the same time,

Lusatia/Łužyca is the historical as well as current settlement area of the Sorbs, an autochthonous minority. While in the past, industrial impacts on Sorbian culture were mostly ignored within planning processes, the now approaching ending of lignite mining in 2038 (or earlier) and the re-uses of post-mining areas raise new questions on – but also open new possibilities for – minority participation. Funded in July 2022, the new department for regional development and minority protection at the Sorbian Institute/Serbski institut will accompany these transformational processes by exploring the possibilities of cultural impact assessment as a tool for a Just Transformation.

Because of that we would like to invite guests from all over the world and differing disciplines to participate in an expert's workshop on how to access minoritised or indigenous cultures within industrial planning. Contributions could focus on but also extend questions like:

- How to assess culture? Gaps between frameworks and everyday practice
- How to work in minoritised contexts? Do's and Don'ts
- Where to implement CIA? National and regional specifics
- How to ensure participation of differing stakeholders, especially minoritised groups?

*The workshop will be organised hybrid to ease participation from different countries and is planned for one afternoon. Instead of classical presentations, two planned panels will focus on direct discussion. A preparing portfolio will be shared in advance. Participation without presenting will be possible and is encouraged!*

*Possible outputs, such as a joint publication, will be discussed together.*

If you have any questions, please contact our colleague Jenny Hagemann ([jenny.hagemann@serbski-institut.de](mailto:jenny.hagemann@serbski-institut.de)).

## Agenda

14:30-15:00 CEST	<b>Opening &amp; Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and introduction to BTU &amp; SI</li> <li>▪ Introduction of aim, format, and participants</li> </ul>
15:00-16:00	<b>Discussion 1: Methods</b> Input: Rasmus Kløcker Larsen & Philippe Hanna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methods to access minorised “culture”</li> <li>▪ Dos and Don’ts in indigenous contexts</li> </ul>
16:00-16:15	Coffee break
16:15-17:15	<b>Discussion 2: Implementation</b> Input: Bernhard Weyrauch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact assessment in different planning frameworks</li> <li>▪ Implementing CIA in Lusatia</li> </ul>
17:15-17:30	Coffee break
17:30-18:15	<b>Wrap-Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary of discussions</li> <li>▪ Ensuring participation &amp; spacial justice</li> <li>▪ IA as a tool for a Just Transformation</li> <li>▪ How to proceed?</li> </ul>

### Location

Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus  
 Building LG 2 C/D (intermediate building), Room 229/230  
[https://www.b-tu.de/campusplan/zentralcampus-cottbus#toggle\\_building\\_43](https://www.b-tu.de/campusplan/zentralcampus-cottbus#toggle_building_43)

### Link for online participation (no special application required)

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3aedc90a2446874c52a28806412c4c3117%40thread.tacv2/1717768969599?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e890e6df-b180-4ff0-9500-6460f4be8dae%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227582780e-1be9-42f2-b024-859ee255aee6%22%7d>

### Contact

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### Organised by

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 Dr. Fabian Jacobs (Sorbian Institute)  
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 Prof. Dr. Ludger Gailing (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg)  
 Prof. Dr. Bernhard Weyrauch (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg)