

# OWL colloquium: Athena's platform for deliberating science-society interactions

11-01-18

We are happy to announce that our next OWL colloquium speaker is **Dr. Jesse Hoffman**, who will enter into academic debate with **Dr. Tjerk-Jan Schuitmaker**.

Date & time:

**Thursday 18 January, 16:00 – 17:00**

Venue:

**WN-S623**, VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1085

Title:

**Imaginations of the future in sustainable development transitions**

Abstract:

It is widely acknowledged that overcoming the current planetary crisis requires new ways of knowledge production and integration in the policy process. The depth, width and urgency of issues like climate change requires, it is argued, a scientific practice that works with society in integrating analyses with building legitimacy and capacity and developing ideas for directions of change.

A key issue in this respect is how science is drawn upon and combined with other ways of knowing to imagine alternative futures. In his presentation, Jesse Hoffman will talk about the role of imagining the future in transdisciplinary research and its performative capacity for building new coalitions. On the basis of recent projects of the Urban Futures Studio, including a design competition for imagining a City without Fossil Fuels (<http://www.postfossil.city/>), he will present an analytical framework for analyzing distinct 'techniques of futuring'. On the basis of this framework he concludes that an understanding of imagination and creativity is key for understanding possibilities for transforming power in transition processes.

About our speaker:

**Jesse Hoffman** is postdoctoral researcher at the Urban Futures Studio (Utrecht University). In 2016 he defended his dissertation titled 'From Resistance to Transformation. Politics of Experimentation with Energy Systems'. In his dissertation, he shows how power relations gradually change in transition processes as actors creatively develop new ideas about themselves, their environment and the future. At the Urban Futures Studio, he currently works on several transdisciplinary projects around cities without fossil fuels, sustainable energy democracy and the neighborhood of the future.

## About the Athena Institute

The Athena Institute at VU University Amsterdam is part of the science faculty. From its early days in the 1990s onwards, it has developed tools and methodologies to successfully deal with science-society interactions at all stages of research and innovation.

## About the OWL colloquium

With its monthly OWL colloquium the Athena Institute aspires to stimulate an inter-, multi-, cross and trans-disciplinary process of deliberation about topics relating to the interface between science and society. Speakers from all corners both within and without academia (CSOs, policy, business and industry...) are invited to present on empirical, theoretical and methodological developments topical to bridging the variety of gaps that complicate science and society interactions.

*For more information, please contact us at [p.klaassen@vu.nl](mailto:p.klaassen@vu.nl).*