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Born: July, 19, 1976, Freiburg i.Br., Germany

Affiliations: Association in founding <http://www.isania.at>;

Austrian Institute for sustainable development (ÖIN), St. Pölten;

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Dr. Iris Kunze is a geographer and sociologist and an expert on non-profit associations and social innovation initiatives, especially ecovillages and intentional communities as social innovations for sustainable living and solidarian economy. Iris teaches at the moment a seminar at the University of Graz in biological resource management and market gardening with sociocracy as organizational form. Iris is still voluntarily engaged as co-director at the Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development (ÖIN), where she worked as researcher from 2018 till 2020 in a national research project for responsible decisions in organisations with the aim to develop a digital tool (VREDE 2011 till 2018). Before, Iris had a position as a senior researcher and project manager at the Center for Global Change and Sustainability at BOKU University, Vienna, in three research projects. September 1, 2018 Iris is on a sabbatical leave for one year of further education. Iris researched on social innovation initiatives applying participant observation and interviews on community-based initiatives like ecovillages. Before, Iris coordinated the doctoral school of sustainable development while researching on human-nature-relationship at BOKU from 2011 till 2013. From 2004 till 2010 Iris was co-developing a 'community research' focus as fellow at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Münster where she graduated with a Diploma and PhD in geography and sociology.

Furthermore, Iris was living in an ecovillage and is active in networking with civil society initiatives as advisor of the Global Ecovillage Network. As a co-founder of the Institute for Integral Studies in 2008, Iris co-explores facilitation of political group processes.

Fields of study, teaching and authorship: Sustainability, community building, Social movements, Ecovillages, Transformation Studies, Social Innovations, Human-Nature-Relationship, Qualitative Research Methods, Human Geography.

Research Projects and Awards (selection)

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| 2015-17 | Empirical research on sustainability practices in ecovillages for COSIMA-Project: Austrian Climate Research Program: Governing community-based social innovation for climate change mitigation and adaptation with practice theory and action research approach (COSIMA) |
| 2015-18 | Co-organising, co-facilitating and evaluating ten multi-stakeholder workshops with the co-created method of 'Collaboratory': EU-Erasmus+ Partnership Leadership for Transition 2.0 (LiFT) and LiFT 1.0 from 2013-15 |
| 2014-17 | Researching on social innovation initiatives for transformative change (ecovillage, co-housing and Slow Food movements) and the cross-cutting theme of social learning in the 4years EU-FP7 project Transformative Social Innovation Theory TRANSIT . |

2011	Survey for plenum GmbH, Vienna „ go for Ökodorf “
2011-13	EU-grundtvig learning partnership “ Environmental and natural education for a sustainable world ” (ENESWO): Germ. Leader with Institute for Integral Studies, Freiburg; (lead: Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Utrecht University; partner: WWF Turkey).
2011	Donald Durnbaugh Starting Scholar Award of the Communal Studies Association, USA for the paper: Social Innovations for Communal and Ecological Living. Lessons from Sustainability Research and Observations in Intentional Communities.
2005-08	PhD- Scholarship of the German Environmental foundation (DBU)

Work experience

2013-19	Senior research assistant and project manager at Centre for Global Change and Sustainability, University of Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU).
2011-13	Coordinator of the Doctoral School of Sustainable Development and Post-doc-research fellow about Concepts of Human-Nature-Relationship in Sustainability Processes , Institute for Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning (BOKU University, Vienna)
Since 2009	External teaching fellow on sustainable ways of living at the University of Teacher Education St.Gallen, Switzerland and University of Applied Sciences, Münster
2009 -11	Researching and teaching fellow at the Department of Sociology of the University of Münster, Germany: Coordination of the social-ecological community research
1998	Internship at FORUM GmbH , a service and consulting enterprise to public and private institutions in the field of urban and regional development in Oldenburg: projects about sustainable urban planning with the governments in Bremen and Lower Saxony.

Education

2018-19	Educational year: Pioneers of change, Vienna
2005-2008	Ph. Dissertation: „Soziale Innovationen für zukunftsfähige Lebensweisen. Gemeinschaften und Ökodörfer als experimentierende Lernfelder für sozial-ökologische Nachhaltigkeit.“ in Geography, Sociology, University of Münster. (Social innovations for sustainable ways of living. Intentional communities and Ecovillages as experimental learning fields for socio-ecological sustainability) Field research in Intentional communities and ecovillages in Germany, India, Scotland
1997-2004	Geography Diploma (side subjects: Sociology, Politics) of the University of Münster, Germany

Further voluntary activities

Since 2019	Co-Director of the Austrian Institute for sustainable development (ÖIN), St. Pölten
2016-19	Living in the ecovillage of Sieben Linden; board member of the cooperative.
Since 2014	Coordinator of the research working group of the Global Ecovillage Network

Since 2013	Board member of the International Communal Studies Association (ICSA)
Since 2008	(Founding) board member of the transdisciplinary Institute for Integral Studies (IFIS), Freiburg
1998-2000	Representative of University students in Local Agenda 21 Sustainability process of the City of Münster

Publications (selection; see entire list on www.iriskunze.com)

Iris has a high number of academic publications in German and English (books, articles and double blind reviewed articles) and has giving lectures and workshops on conferences all over the world.

Monographs/ Books

Kunze, Iris (2009): Soziale Innovationen für zukunftsfähige Lebensweisen. Gemeinschaften und Ökodörfer als experimentierende Lernfelder für sozial-ökologische Nachhaltigkeit. Dissertation. Ecotransfer-Verlag, Münster. <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:hbz:6-54319499425>

Kunze, Iris (2003): „Bildet Gemeinschaften – oder geht unter!“ Eine Untersuchung selbst-verwalteter, subsistenter Gemeinschaftsprojekte und Ökodörfer in Deutschland – Modelle für eine zukunftsfähige Lebensweise? Online-Veröff.: <http://miami.uni-muenster.de/Search/Results?lookfor=Kunze&type=AllFields>

Book editions

Peper, Ines, Iris Kunze und Elisabeth Mollenhauer-Klüber (Hg.)(2019): Jenseits von Wachstum und Nutzenmaximierung. Modelle für eine gemeinwohlorientierte Wirtschaft. Aithesis Verlag. Bielefeld. http://www.aithesis.de/epages/63645342.mobile/de_CH/?ViewObjectID=167635164

Kunze, Iris, Elke Fein, Even Elias Edvardsen, Bettina Geiken, Stian Haugstad, Per Hörberg, Marius Lervåg Aasprong, Katrin Muff, Jonathan Reams, Christiane Seuchs-Schoeller (2018): **Hosting Collaboratories: Insights and learnings from different cases**. EU-funded Erasmus+ project LiFT 2.0 (2015-18), Intellectual Output N° 3. http://leadership-for-transition.eu/?page_id=644

Fein, Elke, Marius Lervåg Aasprong, Bettina Geiken, Per Hörberg, Iris Kunze, Markus Molz and Jonathan Reams (2018): **Methodology Book. Designing and hosting Collaboratories**. EU-funded Erasmus+ project LiFT 2.0 (2015-18), Intellectual Output N° 2. http://leadership-for-transition.eu/?page_id=629

Freundeskreis Ökodorf e.V. (Hg.): 20 Jahre Ökodorf – Erfahrungen, Reflexion und Resümee 1997-2017. Eurotopia-Verlag, ISBN 987-3-9816860-6-7 (Redaktion: Chironya Stanellé, Iris Kunze)

Grundmann, Matthias, Dierschke, Thomas, Drucks, Stephan u. Kunze, Iris (Hg.)(2006): Soziale Gemeinschaften. Experimentierfelder für kollektive Lebensformen. In der Reihe: „Individuum und Gesellschaft: Beiträge zur Sozialisations- und Gemeinschaftsforschung“. LIT-Verlag. Münster.

Reviewed Publications

Woiwode, Christoph, Niko Schöpke, Olivia Bina, Stella Veciana, Iris Kunze, Oliver Parodi, Petra Schweizer-Ries & Christine Wamsler (2021): Inner transformation to sustainability as a deep leverage point: fostering new avenues for change through dialogue and reflection. Sustainability Science DOI 10.1007/s11625-020-00882-y. Published open Access <https://rdcu.be/cdSSn> or: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-020-00882-y>

Fazey, Ion; Schöpke, Niko [183 Authors; u.a. Iris Kunze]: (2020) Transforming knowledge systems for life on Earth: Visions of future systems and how to get there. [Energy Research & Social Science](#). Volume 70, December 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101724>

Avelino, F., Dumitru, A., Cipolla, C., Kunze, I. & Wittmayer, J. (2020): Translocal empowerment in transformative social innovation networks, *European Planning Studies*, 28:5, 955-977, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2019.1578339>

- Wittmayer, J., Backhaus, J., Avelino, F., Bel, B., Strasser, T., Kunze, I., Zuijderwijk, L. (2019): Narratives of change: How social innovation initiatives construct social transformation. In: *Futures* 112 (2019) 102433. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2019.06.005>
- Avelino, Flor, Adina Dumitru, Carla Cipolla, Iris Kunze & Julia Wittmayer (2019) Translocal Empowerment in Transformative Social Innovation Networks, *European Planning Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/09654313.2019.1578339](https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2019.1578339)
- Hausknost, Daniel, Haas, Willi, Hielscher, Sabine, Schäfer, Martina, Leitner, Michaela, Kunze, Iris, Sylvia, Mandl (2018): Investigating patterns of local climate governance: How low-carbon municipalities and intentional communities intervene in social practices. In: *environmental policy and governance* 1-12. Full text online: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eet.1804>
- Schäfer, M.; Hielscher, S.; Haas, W.; Hausknost, D.; Leitner, M.; Kunze, I.; Mandl, S. (2018): Facilitating Low-Carbon Living? A Comparison of Intervention Measures in Different Community-Based Initiatives. *Sustainability* 2018, 10, 1047. <http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/4/1047>
- Haxeltine, A., Avelino, F., Wittmayer, J.M., Kunze, I., Longhurst, N., Dumitru, A., and T. O’Riordan (2018) Conceptualising the role of social innovation in sustainability transformations, In: Julia Backhaus, Audley Genus, Sylvia Lorek, Edina Vadovics, Julia M. Wittmayer (eds.) *Social Innovation and Sustainable Consumption: Research and Action for Societal Transformation*. Routledge
- Longhurst, N., Avelino, F., Wittmayer, J., Weaver, P., Dumitru, A., Hielscher, S., Cipolla, C., Afonso, R., Kunze, I. and Elle, M. (2016), Experimenting with alternative economies: four emergent counter-narratives of urban economic development, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 22, 69-74
- Flint, C., Kunze, I., Muhar, A., Yoshida, Y., Penker, M. (2013): Exploring Contemporary Typologies of Human-Nature Relationships and Linkages to the Ecosystem Services Concept. In: *Urban and Landscape Planning*, 120, Dec. 2013, p. 208–217
- Kunze, Iris (2012): Social Innovations for Communal and Ecological Living. Lessons from Sustainability Research and Observations in Intentional Communities. In: *Communal Societies*, 32 (1), p. 50-67; full text download https://iriskunze.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/kunze2012_socialinnovations_csajournal.pdf

Articles (selection)

- Kunze, Iris (2021): Transformative Governance and Food Practices for Sustainability in and by Ecovillages: a German Case Study. In: Kropp, Cordula, Antoni-Komar, Irene & Sage, Collin (ed.): *Food System Transformations. Social Movements, Local Economies, Collaborative Networks*. Critical Food Studies, University of Reading, UK. Routledge. London. p. 175-197
- Kunze, Iris (2020): Neue Gemeinschaften zwischen Utopie und gelebter Alternative. In: Görgen, B., Wendt, B. (Hg.): *Sozial-ökologische Utopien. Diesseits oder jenseits von Wachstum und Kapitalismus?* Oekom Verlag.
- Kunze, Iris (2020): ‘A New We’: Post-individualistic Community-based Initiatives as Social Innovations? Empirical Observations in Intentional Communities. In: Jansen, Bettina (ed.): *Rethinking Community through Transdisciplinary Research*. Palgrave. P. 285-305.