



INVITATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TRA SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Date and Time: 12 December 2024, 11am-12pm
via [Zoom](#)

Agenda

11 – 11:20 am

Formal Part

- Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Protocol, Agenda, Quorum
- Agenda Item 2: TRA Sustainable Futures report
- Agenda Item 3: Election succession of Prof. Holzgreve (Steering Committee)
- Agenda Item 4: Vote on budget

11:20 am – 12 pm

Presentation and Discussion

- Argelander Professor Wolfram Barfuss: “Formalizing Proxy Failure Across Disciplines”

We look forward to seeing you!

Prof. Jan Börner and Prof. Ute Nöthlings,
Speakers of TRA
Sustainable Futures

Ruben Greif and Hanna Zimmermann,
TRA Management

Formalizing Proxy Failure Across Disciplines Presentation by JProf. Wolfram Barfuss

“When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure. For example, when publication metrics in science became targets, scientists started to “publish or perish”, which led to a breakdown of the relationship between the measure—a publication metric—and the underlying goal—quality science. Likewise, GDP is used to measure the welfare of nations. Still, the current economic paradigm undermines the health of our ecological life-support systems, threatening our long-term welfare. Similar phenomena have been summarized under the name of proxy failure and described across various contexts, from governance, society, and artificial intelligence to ecology. However, a context-independent explanation of why proxy failure seems so ubiquitous is lacking.

I'll present work in progress of a TRA-funded project on a formal model of proxy failure that would facilitate a better understanding of the phenomenon, the conditions of its occurrence, and possible strategies to mitigate it.”

