

Intervention from the floor and interview after the event by/with Heiner Benking at:



# Breaking Down New Walls

10th Annual Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Berlin, November, 9-11 2009



Third session:

## Walls of menace to the Environment

Breaking down the walls that constrain environmental and sustainable development prospects). [[Audio and Video](#)]

### **New Science, new Language, new Thinking ?**

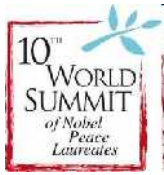
**HOW ABOUT?**

**OLD and proven, traditional and NEW**

### **Thinking and Doing and Sharing ?**

[more]: [New Renaissance 3](#), [UN COP15 – UNFCCC side events Copenhagen 2009](#),  
Continuously updated this Blog: [www.quergeist.info](http://www.quergeist.info)

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Breaking down  
new walls for a world  
without violence

Whoever imagines mental  
deep permeable barriers

which actually do not exist  
and then thinks them away,  
has understood the world.

As space is entrapped  
in geometry's network of lines,  
thought is caught in its (own) inherent laws.

Maps make the world comprehensible to us;  
we are still waiting for  
the star-maps of the spirit.  
In the same way than ambling through fields  
we risk getting lost,  
the spirit negotiates its terrain.

*Friedrich Rückert,*

*Wisdom of the Brahmins, a didactic poem,*

*Charles T. Brooks in 1882 – above is unfortunately only a clumsy first*

*translation by Robinson/Benking*

*as we could only get hold of the original German version.*

*this is a critical translation issue:*

*WALLS & BOUNDARIES are „man-made“ – They have no equivalent in Nature.  
The term Schranken therefore can be translated as restraining bounds, or  
semiphors, barriers & temporary permeable or translucent / transparent  
material/strata/membranes/transition zones).*



Interview, Panel-Discussion, ....

**Friedrich Rückert**  
***Die Weisheit des Brahmanen,***  
***ein Lehrgedicht in Bruchstücken***  
Werke, Band 2, Leipzig und Wien  
[1897], S. 50-51.

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## How about that for a beginning?

Elinor Ostrom, Economy and Political Sciences, Nobel Prize Lecture, Dec, 8., 2009

- multi-perspective
- multi-positional and multi-centric
- mix of scales
- nested
- meta-data analysis research included
- diversity of rules and systems
- coping with dilemmas
- multi-level
- not chaotic – but complex
- common pool resources and sets
- common analytical tools and language
- common and diverse regimes
- communication and agent-based models
- clarifying concepts, trust and reputation
- ....

### More:

*Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* Ostrom, Elinor, Cambridge University Press, 1990

*Understanding Institutional Diversity* Ostrom, Elinor, Princeton, Princeton University Press. 2005.

*Understanding Knowledge as a Commons: From Theory to Practice* Ostrom, Elinor and Hess, Charlotte, Editors, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2006

## e – DISCUSSION ON ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

***"Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development".***



N) Proposal for *Anna-Lindh-Foundation*, European – Mediterranean Countries, Berlin-Alexandria 2008. *Transcultural Dialog and Peace-Making*  
Roundtable learning from experience during the last 40 years and new ideas

**Stumbling blocks preventing true dialog, peace-making, and reconciliation:**

- 1) we fight over words but do not check the meaning,
- 2) we do not question and compare the values attached to statements and attitudes,
- 3) we do not contextualize and embody concepts and meaning, do not check the sectors, regions, scales, proportions and consequences of alternative actions,
- 4) we do not give voice, empower, listen, cherish and cultivate difference or variety in dialog and decision making,
- 5) Disorientation and dumbing-down in Cyberculture and a mis-administered and misunderstood, intangible “Globalisation / Glocalisation”: Where we get overloaded by communication noise (sign/symbol melange) and media demagoguery which means: no trust and fidelity in the statements and no ways and means to check the credibility and impact/relevance, and get lost between the scales, brackets, and sectors.
- 6) The above incompatibility and incomparability opens the door for over-claims and oversimplifications. Leaders use intangible jargon (plastic-words), neglect impacts and avoid instead of exploring differences and alternatives.

**UN – ECOSOC- AMR 2008:** <http://www.quergeist.net/AMR-2008/>  
[http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/Responses\\_in\\_Full-Part\\_I.pdf](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/Responses_in_Full-Part_I.pdf)