



NEWS 2011

European Society for Ecological Economics



Sigrid Stagl
President of ESEE

Dear ESEE members, dear conference participants,

So, the financial crisis is over and we can go back to doing what we are best at. Well, of course it's not over, but let me still first talk about the "real real economy", as Juan Martinez-Alier and Giorgos Kallis call it, before talking a bit about money, currencies and financial markets.

I have lost track of the number of times that I have seen the graph from Rockström et al (2009, Nature) used in presentations over the past two years. That image which communicates so clearly the idea of limits and our failure to stay within a 'safe operating space' has become a powerful starting point for many debates. It points to the well-known but poorly addressed problem of climate change. Recent data from the US government's Earth Systems Research Laboratory in Hawaii indicate that the world is getting extremely close to emission level of 400 ppm, a level which many scientists believe we must avoid at any cost if we are to have a decent chance of tackling climate change. After a brief respite resulting from the economic crisis, the CO₂ concentration increased by nearly 1.6ppm on last year, the highest ever recorded.

An even stronger message from Rockström et al is that biodiversity loss is even further outside of the safe operating space than climate change and needs urgent regulatory attention. TEEB was a major study on the issue in which ecological economists had some success in shaping the debate. At the moment, the formation of IPBES, the 'Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services', is in progress. Like IPCC it aims to be an interface between the scientific community and policy makers and to build capacity for and strengthen the use of science in policy making. It will be an important initiative for ecological economists and our collaborators to contribute.

The biogeochemical flow boundary (nitrogen and in a recent phosphorus) was also shown to be far beyond the safe operating space. High-input industrial agriculture and continuously increasing transport volumes are to blame. In Africa we observe another disturbing trend, the rush to secure land, which highlights the increasingly intense global competition for land resources.

A lot of work is needed to reverse these disturbing trends. But let me turn to another big issue, which happens largely underneath the radar of ecological economics - the role of money for economic growth. Hans-Christoph Binswanger has been a notable exception. He writes that stability is impossible with the current monetary system. Which changes to the monetary system would be necessary for Peter Victor's vision of "Managing without

editorial

Growth"? Also how to cope with the currency crisis in Southern Europe? These are some of the questions that we need to address when trying to make positive contributions to the crisis discourse. While the economic crisis brought Keynesian ideas back into the policy arena, most measures were green only in rhetoric, not in action and largely ignored the critical role of money.

The "financialisation" of commodity markets is an area which highlights clearly the linkage of biophysical, economic and ethical issues. Earlier this month the UCTAD published a report which says that the "financialization" of commodity markets has changed trading behaviour and significantly affects the prices of such basic goods as staple foods; it amplifies herding behaviour and creates price bubbles. What is a nuisance to consumers in the North is a death penalty for the hungry of the South. Carbon markets are generally seen as the next target for "financial innovation". In my view we need more critical analysis of these developments.

Ecological macroeconomics is an emerging research area which responds to some of these challenges (as reported by Armon Rezai in this newsletter), but it still needs to build bridges to financial economics. Other research areas that are gaining momentum quickly are focusing on structural change, which is not sufficiently covered in macroeconomics. Karolina Safarzynska gives in this newsletter her account of recent developments in socio-technical transitions and socio-ecological transitions and Jeroen van den Bergh is editing a new journal on the subject: Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions (EIST). The first issue is now available online.

To end on a positive note, I also observe a number of inspiring developments. The recent economic crisis has invigorated local initiatives such as local currencies and voluntary exchange systems. The challenge here is to reconcile inspiring initiatives that are close to home with societal goals such as maintaining and fostering the welfare state. Also in the business sector a surge of social enterprises, community-interest companies, sustainability-driven enterprises have started. It remains to be seen how viable they are and whether these concepts are recipes for areas beyond the green luxury markets.

To finish, I wish the organizers of the 9th ESEE conference from 14 to 17 June 2011 the very best for running the event. For those of you who are coming to Istanbul may read this editorial at the conference or on the way home. All other ESEE members will be sent the Newsletter after the conference by mail. During the preparations of ESEE 2011 Begum Ozkaynak and her colleagues have shown time and again their dedication to make this event a special occasion. They have done their bit, now it is up to us to fill the conference space with inspiring talks, rigorous analysis, critique and constructive suggestions.

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ESEE BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN AUTUMN

The terms of office of three places on the board and two student representatives are ending this year. The society will hold elections to fill the positions in the Board in autumn. We hope that many of the Board members whose terms are expiring will be standing again, but this is also a chance for anybody interested to stand an election for ESEE Board.

A formal call of nominations will be emailed to members later in the year. If you are interested in standing for election to the ESEE Board, please contact any other member of the ESEE Board and we will provide further information and/or send an email to elections@euroecolecon.org. Being on the ESEE board provides an opportunity to influence the direction of the Society and Ecological Economics in Europe, with the added bonus of getting to know and working with a great bunch of people!

Klaus Kubeczko

SOCIETY NEWS SOCIETY NEWS SOCIETY NEWS

 **Links to other Heterodox Societies – European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE)**

The ESEE board has agreed to investigate the potential links between our associations and other associations with similar ontological, epistemological, theoretical foundations and research themes.

As former member of the council of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE) and coordinator of the Research Area: “Environment-economy Interactions”, I want to take the opportunity to provide some information on this association and the communalities and complementarities with ESEE.

EAEPE is probably the economic association in Europe which comes closest to ESEE in terms of living pluralism in economics, theoretical foundations and concerns with mainstream positions. There are many signs of how close we are. ESEE and EAEPE share the roots in the thinking of economic writer, amongst others: Gunnar Myrdal, William Kapp and Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen. The Veblen 150 anniversary Prize for the best book on institutional economics was jointly awarded by EAEPE and AFEE to Arild Vatn for his book on “Institutions and the Environment”. There are several ESEE members who regularly participate at EAEPE conferences and at this year’s EAEPE conference in Vienna, for example, a special session will be dedicated to “Ecological Macroeconomics – theory and policy” with distinguished ecological economists.

Approach to the economy and to economics

The main aim of EAEPE is to promote evolutionary, dynamic and realistic approaches to economic theory and policy and to help to develop a realistic and adequate approach to theory and policy. EAEPE’s intention is to provide an open forum for the debate among different schools in Europe. Therefore, it organises annual conferences covering a broad range of research areas as well as focused conferences and summer schools. Members of EAEPE come from different disciplines, not only from economics, but also from political science, sociology, philosophy, history and regional sciences. They covers a broad spectrum of research fields ranging from labour economic, gender issues, monetary economics, Post-Keynesian macro-economics, innovation economics, network analysis and environmental issues to the foundations of institutional and evolutionary economics.

EAEPE’s conception of the economy is of a cumulative and evolutionary process unfolding in historical time in which agents are faced with chronic information problems and radical uncertainty about the future. Evolution-

ary and institutional economic theorising builds a common theoretical background on the understanding of economics as well as the critical view of neoclassical economics. The enquiry in evolutionary political economics is value-driven and policy-orientated and recognises the centrality of participatory democratic processes to the identification and evaluation of real needs. Analysing real world phenomena is understood as an open-ended and interdisciplinary process in that it draws upon relevant material in psychology, sociology, biology, anthropology, politics and history, as well as economics itself.

Approach to environmental issues:

In line with ESEE's understanding of the interaction of the environment and society, EAEPE recognised that the socio-economic system depends upon, and is embedded in an often fragile natural environment and a complex ecological system. The Research Area on Environment-Economy Interactions is one out of 18 active areas. It focuses particularly on the dangers and opportunities brought about by the process of globalisation on the environment and on the institutional setting that might be designed in order to conciliate the health of the biosphere with sustainable world development. Climate change, environmental policy issues, material input-output and innovations for sustainable development are some of the topics that are discussed at EAEPE conferences.

Shared goals and mutual benefits:

In my view, there is no significant difference between ESEE and EAEPE in the perception of socio-economic research. Apparently researchers associated to one or the other organisation specialise on different problems and questions. However, given the real world societal challenges, such as climate change, resource scarcity and conflicts, slowing down of economic growth in Europe ..., more intensive interactions would be worthwhile to explore, as challenges are getting more complex and policy fields as well as research questions increasingly overlap (e.g. employment and environmental industry). Ecological economists' deep understanding of the embedding of the society (and economy) in physical, chemical and biological dimensions could be to the benefit of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary researchers in evolutionary political economics. This means that apart from collaboration in the Research Area Environment-Economy Interactions, a broader dialogue could provide new impulses for both associations. More intensive interaction of scholars from both associations could help to strengthen a constructive approach to surmount shortcomings and dead ends of present mainstream economics and to overcome the long lasting debates in heterodox societies on criticism of mainstream theories which is not heard anyways.

One possibility of cooperation is to use EAEPE's annual conferences as forum for ecological economists to discuss, in a constructive atmosphere, core topics with institutional and evolutionary economists and scientists from other disciplines having a similar understanding of what economics is about and not getting stuck in defending non-mainstream position. This opportunity has been regularly taken by several ESEE members participating in sessions at EAEPE conferences in the past and could be increasingly used in the future. Given that the conferences take place every year and ISEE conferences in even numbered years are often far away, ecological economist could take the opportunity to meet in Europe. Another possibility that should be envisaged is to intensify collaboration in concrete research projects in Europe.

If you are interested in a cooperation with EAEPE or in participating in conferences or other activities do not hesitate to contact me personally at the Istanbul conference or by email: klaus.kubeczko@ait.ac.at.

For more details on EAEPE take a look at <http://eaepe.org/>.

Klaus Kubeczko

Dear ESEE-members,

The collaboration between ESEE and its affiliated journal Environmental Policy and Governance has evolved well. A good share of its editorial members are eminent members of ESEE and ISEE and herewith influence the journal's development. A number of published articles also come from our scientific community. The two freely available special issues relate to core issues and people of ESEE, such as the special issue 20/4 taking up selected papers from our last ESEE conference in Ljubljana. The submission rate is increasing so that we have been able to increase the quality of the publication which reflects in the mock ISI impact rate which increased to approx. 1.3. For

autumn, we are waiting for a decision of Thomson ISI to include EPG in its ranked journals so that publishing in EPG becomes more rewarding for those of us whose organisations require ISI-ranked rather than other publications.

A high-quality journal needs high-quality papers and an ESEE-affiliated journal needs submissions from its members. This is why I invite you to submit your current papers to Environmental Policy and Governance.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Felix Rauschmayer

ESEE-Editor of Environmental Policy and Governance



ECOLOGICAL MACROECONOMICS

The Great Recession of the past years has brought macroeconomics back. Many of the recession's phenomena, causes and consequences alike, could not be understood using a framework built on microeconomic decision-making. Over the past decades the economic profession has enshrined so-called "micro foundations" as a hallmark of modern economic theory. By focusing on the individual consumer, firm, or government, however, one can easily miss important determinants of the economic system. Ecological economics has fallen victim to the same mistake by mostly focusing the unit of investigation on low-level, small-scale subsystems of the economy. There are, of course, notable exceptions and, counter to their mainstream colleagues, the interest of ecological economists in the field of (ecological) macroeconomics is increasing.

The need for ecological macroeconomics springs from the recognition of the simple fact that the world is finite. As the world economy grows, it is exceedingly confronted with the planet's biophysical limits, but according to projected growth rates resource use will continue to increase. Ecological economists have been identifying the problem by providing the necessary empirical data and by pointing to unsustainable practices. They were also successful in demonstrating the inadequacy of conventional macroeconomic thinking in addressing the fundamental social problems a transition to sustainability requires. Neoclassical macroeconomics also assumes that setting caps and price signals are sufficient to steer the market economy towards a sustainable pattern of growth. Others believe that such a transition is fundamental, requiring serious rethinking of the growth paradigm and associated standard economic assumptions. Herman Daly has been one of the most outspoken advocates of recognizing the embeddedness of the economy within a social and physical context. His work on the steady state economy has been instrumental in disentangling the many ways in which the modern market economy is reinforcing economic growth. The Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy made the dissemination of information on a steady state economy to a wider audience its mission. Dominant macroeconomic theory further builds on a supply-side approach which features full utilization of resources. This is the result of the assumption of optimality and well-functioning markets. Under omnipresent full employment, however, many of the social problems associated with the fundamental transformation necessary to lower environmental stress do not arise. A reduction in economic activity can provide breathing space for the biophysical system, but bears devastating social implications. Clearly, social institutions do not have to rest on an expanding economic system. Exploring alternative institutional frameworks has been a central tenant of

to the Degrowth movement.

Given that climate change has been identified as one of the three global environmental problems for which humanity has already transgressed the safe operating space, research on climate change and policy has been an area where ecological economists have advanced these aspects in concrete terms. The work of the Sustainable Development Commission under Tim Jackson and modeling results of Peter Victor have considered the macroeconomic implications of transition to sustainability and degrowth, contributing to an ecological macroeconomics.

While it is important to infuse ecological thinking into macroeconomics theories, it is also important to infuse macroeconomic thinking into ecological theories. A consistent macroeconomic framework allows disentangling the implications of policy prescriptions advocated by ecological economists for the economy as a whole. Sustainable consumption, reduced working time, and "green" investment are such concepts. The macroeconomic implications of these policies are not immediately obvious: If consumption is reduced, saving increases. An increased saving ratio can feed into higher investment and higher economic growth. Reducing working time can spur technological progress, because firms want to adopt labor-saving technologies. This could again lead to higher output due to higher labor productivity. "Green" investments can help to reduce the impact of economic activity on the environment, but they themselves can spur economic activity along the lines of a macroeconomic rebound effect.

The growing interest in figuring out how the macroeconomy and the environment interact and how policies can be designed to put the economy on a sustainable path manifests itself in the increasing number of researchers working on the issue. ESEE will dedicate multiple sessions to the issue at its 9th international conference in Istanbul. The European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy will do the same at its conference in September in Vienna. My institute is hosting a series of workshops specifically on this topic.

While there is encouraging progress on merging ecological with macroeconomic thinking, there are many further steps to take. Questions on a sustainable organization of real production and finance, and social well-being remain. Non-mainstream economists have been developing theories on all of these issues without resorting to an optimizing framework for a long time. Ecological economists should build on their insights to strengthen their theories and policy recommendations.

Armon Rezai

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TRANSITION RESEARCH

Currently, there is much interest in the study of large-scale socio-technical transitions to environmentally sustainable economy. This is motivated by the fact that sectors, such as transportation, energy, agriculture and water are characterised by persistent problems, which are deeply embedded in existing structures and practices. To escape such problems coordinated action of multi-stakeholders, a mix of different types of policy interventions (technological, institutional, social), or even a fundamental change in the society may be necessary.

HOT

In general, a transition is defined as a change from one state to another. Thus, transitions are fundamental system changes (Rotmans et al., 2000). Building upon the multidisciplinary literatures on, among others, system innovations, evolutionary and complexity theories, complementary approaches have been proposed to analyse possible transition pathways towards sustainable socio-technical systems, namely: the multi-level perspective (MLP), strategic niche management (SNM), technological innovation systems (TIS); and transition management (TM). MLP provides a conceptual framework that has been mostly applied to analyse historical studies of transitions, including transitions towards mass production, automobile systems, sewage systems and steam shipping (e.g., Schot et al. 1994; Geels 2002) and, recently, also to study currently unfolding cases (e.g., Raven, 2007; Verbong and Geels, 2007; Nykvist and Whitmarsh, 2008; Berkhout et al., 2009). The framework consists of three interdependent levels, namely: niche, regime, and landscape. Levels are nested in a hierarchy: niches are embedded in regimes, and regimes in landscapes. The higher in the hierarchy, the more structured and difficult it is to change the level architecture. A niche is a protected space where radical novelties emerge and have the opportunity to learn, develop and gain a critical mass of adopters (Kemp et al., 1998; Schot and Geels, 2007). At the regime level, societal groups, professionals, shared cognitive routines in an engineering community and established industry practices create stable configurations, along which technological trajectories unfold (Schot and Geels, 2007). Landscape encompasses those features of the system that cannot be changed directly at the will of the actors, for instance, the material infrastructure, political culture, and social values (Kemp and Rotmans, 2001). In this context, transitions come about as partly spontaneous gradual transformations and reconfigurations of interdependent components which occur at the different (interlinked) levels. The process of change can follow different 'pathways' (Schot and Geels, 2007).

Strategic niche management (SNM) is a governance

approach closely related to MLP (Kemp et al., 1998). It has been invoked to provide practical and theoretical insights into how to stimulate niches with a high potential for sustainable development so as to induce a transformation in the dominant regime (Nill and Kemp, 2009). Complementary to SNM, transition management is a governance approach to steer a long-term societal change towards a sustainable economy. It focuses on creating new visions of sustainable development and setting up a number of 'small-scale' experiments (Loorbach and Rotmans, 2006; Raven, 2007). Transition experiments are projects which have a potential to make an effective contribution to broader transitions. At the strategic level, transition management focuses on creating a network of front-runners, who work together to develop visions and transition images. At the tactical level, it aims to establish networks, organizations and institutions supportive for sustainability objectives, and to develop subsequently portfolios of experiments and innovations to be carried out in practice (Loorbach, 2010).

Technological innovation systems (TIS) relates to the multi-level perspective for analyzing technological change (Markard and Truffer, 2008). The approach goes back to Carlsson and Stankiewicz (1991). Its focus is narrower than MLP's objectives. In particular, TIS studies potential drivers and barriers for a successful diffusion of technological innovations, whereas MLP addresses social processes associated with assimilation of new technologies from the broader perspective. TIS aims at identifying and managing system failures that may hamper transitions by studying functions of the system. Functions are variables and structural elements of the system, which are supportive to innovation, such as resources mobilization, knowledge development and diffusion, entrepreneurship experimentation (Jacobsson and Berger, 2011).

Transition research is a growing dynamically field of studies. Over the last few years, numerous special issues on different aspects of transitions have been published, including special issue on designing long-term policy in *Policy Sciences* 42(4); on computational and mathematical approaches to societal transitions in *Journal of Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory* 14(4); on infrastructures and transitions in *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 77 (8); or on innovation and sustainability transitions in *Research Policy* 39(4). During the 1st European Conference on Sustainability Transitions in June 2009, the Sustainability Transition Research Network has been found as an independent research-driven network on transitions. In the STRN's manifesto eight themes have been identified for future research so as to enhance understanding of specific problems related to transitions: (1) transition dynam-

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ics and delimitation; (2) governance, power and politics; (3) top down and bottom up processes; (4) the role of firms and industry in transitions; (5) sustainable consumption, social practice and everyday life, (6) civil society and social movements in transitions;

(7) the geography of transitions; (8) modelling transitions. These will be also the main themes debated during the 2nd International Conference on Sustainability Transitions in Lund in June 2011. Finally, a new journal, associated with the network has been established *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*. The journal offers a platform for reporting studies of innovations and socio-economic transitions to enhance an environmentally sustainable economy and solve structural resource scarcity and environmental problems.

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Karolina Safarzynska

Europe's strategy for a resource-efficient future

Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI)

In 2010 the new "Europe 2020" strategy was launched, succeeding the "Lisbon Strategy" which had been the EU's main economic agenda for the past ten years. While the "Lisbon Strategy" used to be exclusively growth oriented, the new strategy of economic development also takes environmental and social implications into account. Seven so-called "Flagship Initiatives" were created to ensure that the goals of "Europe 2020" will be reached – a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy.

One of the pillars on the EU's new economic agenda is the realisation of a "resource-efficient Europe". The EU thus commits to the close interrelation between the well-being of European societies and a responsible use of natural resources. The Flagship Initiative on "Resource Efficiency" aims to support European economic performance and competitiveness while reducing resource use, to ensure security of supply of essential natural resources and to limit the environmental impacts of resource use, most notably climate change. According to the Flagship Initiative, a resource-efficient Europe will need technological improvements, a significant transition in energy, industrial, agricultural and transport systems, and changes in behaviour of producers and consumers.

The European Commission thus in general keeps its win-win perspective on economic growth and reduction of environmental problems. This is insofar problematic, as hardly any empirical evidence exists from the past, which illustrates that an absolute reduction of resource use in a situation of continued economic growth can be achieved. However, it must be noted positively that the Flagship Initiative takes a much broader approach to resource use and its economic, social and environmental implications compared to earlier policy processes, most prominently the "Thematic Strategy for a Sustainable Use of Natural Resources". That strategy was adopted by the Commission in 2005 and almost exclusively focused on reducing the negative environmental impacts related to resource use, while ignoring issues of the overall scale of Europe's resource use in absolute terms.

The EC's Directorate-General for the Environment is currently working on a "Resource-Efficiency-Roadmap": a detailed plan for the implementation of the Flagship Initiative which will eventually fill it with life. The Roadmap will be published in the second half of this year. The Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) is currently involved in several projects, which deliver important inputs for this Roadmap and future EU resource policies and thus uses the opportunity of directly influencing political processes on the EU

level:

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The project "Assessment of resource efficiency indicators and targets" suggests political targets for key categories of resource use, such as materials, water, land and energy/GHG emissions. They include overarching targets such as increases of material productivity and reductions of EU's Carbon Footprint as well as specific targets such as increased recycling rates for metals and construction minerals, or a zero growth of sealed land area. The targets will be measurable with corresponding indicators.

The study on "Resource Efficiency Scenarios" develops scenarios that describe routes towards a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy by 2050. SERI compiles key elements for these scenarios, which describe important actions and necessary changes in different parts of the economy: in transport and mobility, in agriculture and food consumption, in construction and housing, etc. The scenarios and key elements will support the development of new policies required, identifying actions and instruments, including completing the knowledge base across the EU.

In the project "Macro-economic modelling of sustainable development", a detailed analysis of current resource use in Europe is performed. SERI identifies the potential risks that Europe will have to face with regard to different types of resources (geological / economic scarcity, changes of demand, global competition for resources, etc) and describes the possible economic and environmental effects of those risks. The results of this project will be combined with the results of the "Resource Efficiency Scenarios" study to develop integrated scenarios and simulate the impacts of different resource use policy measures with two macro-economic environmental models.

For more information on SERI's work on resource use in the context of the European Flagship Initiative on Resource Efficiency, see <http://seri.at/allgemeines/2011/03/15/europe%E2%80%99s-strategy-for-a-resource-efficient-future/>

Stefan Giljum and Stephan Lutter

TOPIC

SLOVAKIA



CETIP - The Center for Trans-disciplinary Study of Institutions, Evolution and Policies
Bratislava, Slovakia

Ecological Economics in Slovakia

Ecological economics community in Slovakia is growing. Since first membership 10 years ago the group has expanded to almost 10 members. Today it encompasses experience in interdisciplinary social – natural science research and involvement in several international research networks. In 2008 The Center for Trans-disciplinary Study of Institutions, Evolution and Policies (CETIP) a virtual research centre at the Institute for Forecasting Slovak Academy of Sciences was initiated with the kind assistance of Elinor Ostrom.

CETIP is dedicated to interdisciplinary research and training introducing novel ideas into the social science research and education. CETIP concentrates on research and training primarily in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, where we are presently witnesses of complicated process of economic, social and environmental changes. Main concern is to continue in existing inter and trans-disciplinary cooperation in the field of institutional, behavioral and ecological economics. To provide adequate opportunities for intergenerational cooperation, such conditions for trans-disciplinary career development of early stage and experience researchers in European research Area, supporting flexible research teams and interdisciplinary cooperation across natural and social sciences. CETIP ambition is also to provide a platform for science and policy interface through public seminars or discussion forums at regional, national or international level. Directed by active members of ESEE Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská (director), Richard Filčák (vice-director) and Veronika Chobotová (research secretary) CETIP is part of other international academic communities such as International Human Dimension Program of Global Environmental Change (IHDP) (www.ihdp.org), International Association for the Study of Commons. CETIP has active cooperation with similar research centres in the region such as with the Institute for Economic and Environmental Policy, IEEP in Prague (www.ieep.cz), St. Istvan University and Budapest University in, Hungary or Ljubljana University but also well known centres such as the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University (<http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop>) and the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity, Arizona State University (<http://csid.asu.edu>). CETIP is faculty member of the IHDP project Earth System Governance and the Centre for the Study of Institutional Diversity (ASU).

Experimenting with the governance of the commons

The group research foci concentrates on ecological and institutional economics with 7 EU Framework projects undertaken since 2003 (IDARI, EUROCOOP, THEMES, RUBICODE, GOVERNAT, RESPONDER, ECOFINDER) and Cost project of the Earth System Governance network.

Since 2009 CETIP has been involved in international experimental research coordinated by the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity, Arizona State University on social dilemmas in collective actions of the commons. Based on innovative work of Ostrom et al. (1994) and Cardenas, et al. (2008) CETIP has been conducting field experiments with common pool resources (forest) in Central Europe and analysing robustness of forest socio-ecological systems using multiple methods approaches. Main objective is to understand and predict human behavior. To examine how incentives and institutions affect decisions and outcomes under the complexity and uncertainties more at: www.prog.sav.sk.

To expand experimental research on collective actions in governance under the controlled situation CETIP has established the Virtual Experimental Economic Laboratory (VEEL) in cooperation within the partner at the

Slovak University of Technology (Centre of Excellence: Urban Infrastructure and the Knowledge Economy SPECTRA+). Lab mission is to increase innovative potential of social science research and the quality of graduate and postgraduate education in the Slovak Republic. Existence of local experimental economic laboratory creates opportunity to expand region specific research projects, attract attention of young scholars to expand their carrier in their home country and contribute to the cost effective operation. In September CETIP is expecting research visit of Marco Janssen, director of the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity, Arizona State University who will work with us in new lab and take part on the workshop *The Role of New Approaches in Studying Sustainable Governance: Experimental Research and Modeling of Governance Processes*. The main objective of the workshop is to demonstrate if and how experimental and modeling techniques can substantially contribute to environmental governance and the design of effective management strategies under the given complexity. The workshop targets at interdisciplinary researchers in the area of environmental governance, in particular post doctoral researchers and PhD students. The workshop is the contribution to the debate on innovative ideas and challenges of multi-method application and collaborative research in interdisciplinary environmental research organized under the COST Action IS0802 "Transformation of Global Environmental Governance" [http://transformation- geg.org/](http://transformation-geg.org/).

Science and policy dialogue

CETIP has initiated the series of thematic discussions sessions at international conferences. Two discussions sessions were successfully undertaken so far at the at the 8th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics in 2009 in Ljubana (*Towards Sustainability Economics? Transformation, Innovation, Adaptation*) and at the 11th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics in 2010, Oldenburg and Bremen (*Experimenting the Governance of the Commons*). Next discussion session will be held on the 9th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics in Turkey on the topic: Multiple methods in interdisciplinary research and education.

CETIP organize also national and regional discussion forums. The main objective is to increase deliberative and trans-disciplinary dimension of the Science by balancing information and discussion at the scientific and policy conferences. One science policy interface workshop took place in April 2011 in Bratislava and focused on effective management of natural resources in Europe with regard to the Strategy Europe 2020 of the European Union.

Interdisciplinary education

Main objective of the program is strengthen the need for multiple methods in interdisciplinary research and into continuous education of doctoral and post doctoral researchers in ecological economics. We propose this as an open, bottom-up series of educational institutes operated as self-managed organization. As such, Summer Institutes can become a vehicle for long term knowledge transfer and the platform for exchange of educational experience within the network. Pilot course on multiple methods in interdisciplinary research has been successfully completed in May with 14 PhD students from 2 PhD programs in Slovakia: environmental management and spatial planning.

Tatiana Klavankova-Oravska

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS**CEECEC Online Course: "Ecological Economics For and Through Civil Society Organizations"**

The online course, "Ecological Economics For and Through Civil Society Organizations" that was piloted under the European FP7 CEECEC project (<http://www.ceecec.net/online-course>) will be run again under the EJOLT project (Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities and Trade). This is likely to be between September and December 2011. We are now accepting applications from interested potential students, preferably with NGO, policy or academic backgrounds. The course is anticipated to last a maximum of 16 weeks, and a nominal fee (ranging from 50€ to 150€) will be charged to cover running costs. The maximum number of participants in the course will be 50 and students require a good command of written/oral English and internet access. If interested please write a one-page letter of intent, outlining your relevant experience and interests, and why you wish to take the course, and email it to hhealyatceecec@gmail.com by June 30, 2011.

**European Society for Ecological Economics on Facebook**

The Publications and Publicity Committee is committed to further news and information about ESEE. To inform in particular about events and publications, it has decided to create a Facebook group called European Society for Ecological Economics. It can be easily found using the search function on Facebook (www.facebook.com).

Visitors will have access to information published by the group's members and if you join the group you'll be able to post comments and view links, pictures, videos.

For additional information please contact: Ines Omann (email: ines.omann@seri.at), and Charlotte Da Cunha (email: charlotte.da-cunha@reeds.uvsq.fr).

**Final CEECEC Newsletter**

The final newsletter of CEECEC, an EC-funded CSO capacity building project is now online [here](#). Inside you'll find links to our new E-Book, available in English and French, [Ecological Economics from the Bottom-Up](#). This is a unique open access resource for learning/teaching ecological economics through real-life CSO case studies on conflicts in areas such as mining, forestry, transport infrastructure, tourism, waste management, corporate accountability/liability, ecological debt, and protected areas management. You'll also be able to read about our [on-line course](#), and access 3 new [reports](#). "From Activism to Policy Research: Key Issues and Topics for Future Collaborative Sustainability Research" is based on the work of CEECEC network partners, but contains topics ripe for cooperative research from non-CEECEC CSOs that we met along the way in [Kenya](#) and [Slovenia](#). Meanwhile, "Ecological Economics and CSOs: A Blueprint for Collaboration" showcases the processes and methods developed over the course of the project to enhance joint knowledge production. Finally, "CSOs and Ecological Economics: Mapping and Assessing CSO Engagement with the Field" presents an overview of ecological economics (EE) research used by CSOs.

**NEWS
NEWS
NEWS**



Call for Papers from Low Carbon Economy

The [Low Carbon Economy](#) (LCE) is published by [Scientific Research Publishing](#) (SRP), USA. The Journal dedicates to the latest advancement of low carbon economy and the goal is to keep a record of the state-of-the-art research and promote the research work in these fast moving areas.

Peer Review:

All submitted papers will be peer-reviewed by the international editorial board members to ensure the quality and fairness.

Open Access:

All SRP journals are Open Access; all readers can freely get full text on SRP's website. It can raise visibility and help undeveloped areas to gain scholarly resources without any barriers.



"Sustainable Development: Capabilities, Needs and Well-being": New book out now!"

In October 2010 the book "Sustainable Development: Capabilities, Needs and Well-being" co-edited by Felix Rauschmayer, Ines Omann and Johannes Frühmann has been published by Routledge. Contributors besides the editors are Paul-Marie Boulanger, Ivonne Cruz, Ortrud Lessmann, Manfred Max-Neef, Tell Muenzing, John O'Neill, Luc Van Ootegem, Sophie Spillemaeckers, and Gerben J. Westerhof.

Sustainable Development (SD) is most prominently defined with respect to the needs of current and future generations. Political and scientific discussion, though, refrains from this concept, even though much can be gained by referring to needs. This book brings together chapters that clarify the concept of needs directly or relate it to other scientific approaches. On the one hand, there is the capability approach which is widely used by human development studies and politics and can thus be utilized for bringing the Brundtland definition of SD into practice. On the other hand, meeting needs is intrinsically linked to well-being which is the main driver for human action.

"This groundbreaking new work establishes links between sustainable development, needs, well-being, and the capabilities approach that is central to human development and the United Nations Development Programme. This exciting new book incites a whole new way of looking at sustainable development."

The book can be ordered at the [Routledge website](#).

For further questions please contact Felix Rauschmayer (felix.rauschmayer@ufz.de) or Ines Omann (ines.omann@seri.at).



Proposal for a special issue of the "International Journal of Sustainable Society"

Topic:

"The contribution of protected areas to sustainability"

Aim of the special issue:

The aim of the special issue is to highlight the significance and importance of protected areas for sustainability, not only in an ecological sense but taking into account the economic and social dimension of sustainable development. This includes the economic impacts of protected areas (e.g. provision of vital ecosystem services for local communities), as well as social implications (e.g. participation of stakeholders in establishment and management of protected areas). The special volume aims to present the most recent developments in the scientific debate, in the form of empirical and policy oriented papers on which general conclusions for the role of protected areas for sustainability, as well as for the management of protected areas, can be drawn.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

ESEE 2013 Conference

July 3-5, Lille, France



Université
Lille1
Sciences et Technologies



Host institutions: The 2013 ESEE conference will be jointly organised and hosted by CLERSE (Lille Centre for Sociological and economic research and studies, CNRS-Univ. Lille 1, <http://clerse.univ-lille1.fr/>) and OMI (Market Organisations and Institutions, Univ. Reims Champagne Ardenne, <http://www.univ-reims.fr/omi/>) with the Partnership of RIODD (International Research Network on Organizations and Sustainable Development). CLERSE and OMI are two of the research centres engaging in research and teaching in the field of Ecological Economics in France, with a particular focus on socio-economics and institutional analysis.

A few words about our region: Historically, the North of France has been one of the first industrialised regions in Europe: coal mining, textile industry, car industry, intensive agriculture, etc. have impacted negatively on our natural environment. This is probably why the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region was the first in France to be governed by the Green party. The government led by the Greens introduced a number of sustainable development policies at large scale. The region is still today considered as a living laboratory where experiments are conducted at various levels.



Lille - an attractive city:

1,2 million inhabitants in the greater Lille. A third under 25 years old.

From its rich merchant past, Lille has kept a real commercial tradition. You can stroll in the numerous shops of the pedestrian streets or in the Vieux Lille where you will find antique shops and art galleries.

A city of Culture : Fine Arts Museum (second museum after the Louvre for the collections); Louvre II (in 2012, the Louvre will open an annex just 40 kms from Lille, in Lens), etc.

Easily accessible : An International airport (Lille Lesquin); 50 min by train from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport; Motorways (A1, A 8); High speed trains - TGV/Eurostar/Thalys (London: 80 min; Brussels: 38 min; Paris: 60 min.)

Nicolas Postel, Olivier Petit, Martino Nieddu, Franck-Dominique Vivien
Coordinators of the Organising Committee

Contact: Olivier Petit: olivier.petit@univ-artois.fr

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

XIVth World Water Congress

25-29 September 2011, Porto de Galinhas, Pernambuco, Brazil



Brazil will proudly host the XIV World Water Congress for the first time in over three decades that IWRA has held this global meeting for water resources decision-makers, researchers and practitioners.

For more informations visit www.worldwatercongress.com.

THE ROLE OF NEW APPROACHES IN STUDYING SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE: EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH AND MODELING OF GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

October 03-04, 2011

Centre for Transdisciplinary Study of Institutions, Evolution and Policies1 (CETIP), IF SAS
Bratislava, Slovakia.

Organizers:

Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská (CETIP)
Veronika Chobotová (CETIP)



Funding:

COST Action IS0802 "Transformation of Global Environmental Governance"

<http://transformation-geg.org/> and the Centre for Transdisciplinary Study of Institutions, Evolution and Policies (CETIP)

<http://www.prog.sav.sk/?id=CETIP>

Workshop in brief:

The main objective of the workshop is to demonstrate if and how experimental and modeling techniques can substantially contribute to environmental governance and the design of effective management strategies under the given complexity.

The workshop targets at interdisciplinary researchers in the area of environmental governance, in particular post doctoral researchers and PhD students (max 20 participants). It will take the form of keynote lectures, lab sessions and roundtable discussions. The workshop is the contribution to the debate on innovative ideas and challenges of multi-method application and collaborative research in interdisciplinary environmental research as being a part of open series of Training Institutes initiated by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE).

The workshop is an activity of the Working Group 2 of the COST Action IS0802 "The Transformation of Global Environmental Governance: Risks and Opportunities (TGEG)", <http://transformation-geg.org/>

Programme:

Sunday October 2nd: Arrival and check-in

Monday October 3rd: 9:00 – 17:00 Workshop, 19.00 Dinner

Tuesday October 4th: 9:00 – 17:00 Workshop, Departures

International Greening Education Event 2011

19th to 21st of October, 2011, Karlsruhe, Germany

A three-day International Greening Education Event will be held from 19th to 21st of October, 2011 in the green city of Karlsruhe, Germany. This event will take academia, education, environmental and sustainable development policy makers, senior members of academic institutions, representatives of government and non-governmental organisations and international development agencies, school administrators and teachers, sustainable development practitioners and environmental management professionals through the need for greening education and then discuss effective initiatives that educational institutions need to take to make sustainability an integral part of teaching and learning.

The event provides an exclusive forum to examine how global warming, climate change and other environmental concerns are reshaping education globally, deliberate on the role of academia in making world cleaner, greener and more sustainable, discuss cutting-edge issues in greening education and share best practices from around the world in respect to education for sustainability. Further to the knowledge sharing on greening education including topics such as ecologizing curriculum (incorporating sustainability), greening of courses and creating low carbon education institutions; the upcoming event also provides an excellent networking opportunity with academia, sustainable development practitioners and other stakeholders in Europe and beyond. An excursion (optional) on Saturday the 22nd of October, 2011 is planned which will also provide an additional and informal networking opportunity. You are cordially invited to attend this international event and/ or nominate the member(s) of your institution.

For further information, please see: <http://www.etechgermany.com/IGEE2011.pdf>

Or contact via email: mail@etechgermany.com

The Sixth International Symposium on Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases (NCGG-6) Science, Policy and Integration

2-4 November 2011, Amsterdam, The Netherlands



From November 2 to November 4, 2011, the Air Quality and Climate Change Section of the Netherlands Association of Environmental Professionals (VVM) organizes the Sixth International Symposium on science, implementation and policy aspects of non-CO2 greenhouse gases (NCGG-6). NCGG-6 will be held in Amsterdam in The Netherlands and will address both the role of non-CO2 greenhouse gases and aerosol in human-induced climate forcing and options for reduction in industry and society. The symposium aims to remove barriers between policy, industry and science and fosters the dialogue between scientists, engineers and officials in industry and government working in this field from different perspectives. This multidisciplinary approach is expected to yield realistic and achievable mitigation solutions that significantly lower NCGG emissions.

For more information click <http://www.euroecolecon.org/pdf/NCCG6%20folder.pdf>

International Conference "Territory and Environment: from representations to action"

December 8-9, 2011, Tours (France)

This conference aims to produce an overview of research in Western countries over the last forty years on the theme "territory and environment". It proposes to sum up the transformations that have taken place in the building and implementation of social and spatial representations, from the viewpoint of environmental issues. The idea will be to address the question of reciprocal influences, on the one hand of environmental issues on transformations of "territorial practices" and on the other hand of effects on the environment of these spatial practices and their regulation. In this context, the organizers hope to focus discussion on the results of these transformations in actual practices, governance, decision-making processes and the various modes of intervention of political and technical actors - expert or not - taking part in the territorialisation of environmental policies and the ecologising of planning practices.

This bilingual conference will bring together international researchers around three main thematic:

- Axis 1. New scales of environmental and planning policies
- Axis 2. The environment as a new norm for local policies
- Axis 3. The renewal of government actions

The call for papers, in French and English, is open until March 18, 2011.

The paper proposal form and all relevant information are available at the following address: citeres.univ-tours.fr/environnement

CONFERENCES



CONFERENCES

Planet Under Pressure: new knowledge towards solutions

26-29 March 2012, London

The conference will discuss solutions, at all scales, based on the latest scientific evidence. It will provide scientific leadership for the Earth Summit, Rio +20, also in 2012.

Guiding the direction for the conference is the International Council for Science's five grand challenges for global sustainability research: observations, forecasting, responses, thresholds and innovation. The conference will also support international assessment processes, for example the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the new biodiversity assessment, plus the Millennium Development Goals.

The London conference will act as a platform to strengthen and enlarge the global-change research community and mark a move to a new vision for global-change research. It will bring together leading social and natural scientists and young scholars, to create a new understanding for tackling global sustainability challenges. Working across scales will be a strong theme for the conference. The event will include strong policy interaction. The programme will be designed to attract policymakers, industry, health specialists, and many others, particularly from the developing world. Scientists will be encouraged to discuss options and solutions.

More informations can be found at www.igbp.net.



EDUCATION

Summer School series in Environmental Governance

A summer school series – **the Thor Heyerdahl Summer School in Environmental Governance** – is established at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. The series aims at giving PhDs and young researchers the opportunity to develop high level skills in analyzing environmental governance issues. It offers the opportunity to critically reflect on the present status of both theory and practice in the field, and to discuss alternatives to present developments and solutions.

Three courses are so far planned. The first course on **Environmental governance: Institutions for sustainable development**, runs from **June 20 till July 1, 2011**. The main focus will be on the institutional foundation of environmental governance and how issues at global, national and local scales are linked. Specific challenges related to creating sustainable development will be emphasized. Various policy areas will be explored like climate change, biodiversity preservation, pollution and land use.

The second course is titled **International environmental governance and** is planned to run in 2 weeks in **June 2012**. In this course the focus is on the process of creating international environmental regimes, their interplay and the relationships with other international agreements – especially trade. Analyzing national follow ups both in South and North will also be a core issue.

The third course is on **Alternative institutions for the management of local natural resources**. It will be organized in **June 2013**. This course will mainly focus on the national and local level – specifically how international and national policies/environmental regimes interact with local institutions and practices. Issues like climate change, biodiversity, pollution and natural resource management will be core.

The course run in June this year has attracted several internationally renowned researchers as lecturers. Nobel laureate **Elinor Ostrom** will participate as keynote lecturer at the 2011 event. Professor Ostrom is especially known for her studies on the role of self governance and the capacities of local communities to craft their own rules to manage environmental resources. Over the years Ostrom has increasingly focused also on issues related to global environmental policy. Other keynote speakers include **Ashwini Chhatre, Kate Farrell and Clive Spash**.

The summer school series is organized by the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB). Professor Arild Vatn is responsible for convening the series.

More information is available at <http://www.umb.no/thor-heyerdahl-summer-school>

Arild Vatn

From ESEE Education Committee: ESEE SUMMER SCHOOLS

ESEE is in the process of systematizing its educational activities. The Education Committee has been working on a proposal to the ESEE Board to establish so-called ESEE Summer Schools. They would be an open, bottom-up series of educational Schools (not necessarily *Summer* Schools) in which each host provides training in the field of their expertise. Each School would follow a more or less shared methodology but manage itself independently, possibly as part of a national educational system. The School would secure most of its operational resources independently of ESEE. At the same time, membership in the ESEE Summer School network brings added value to the individual Schools.

The idea of ESEE Summer Schools originates in the recognition that no single method can overcome the challenges of interdisciplinary research at the interface of social and natural sciences. The call for multiple methods in interdisciplinary research is heard more and more often in communities such as ecological economics, political ecology and resilience research. Collaborative research requires multiple methods to overcome both theoretical and practical challenges. The proposed graduate and post-graduate level Schools build on the successful ESEE summer school series THEMES.

Ideally, the separate events will in the long run become a tradition. As such, the ESEE Summer

Schools can be a vehicle for long term knowledge transfer in ecological economics and a platform for exchange of educational experiences within the network, such as teaching materials, methods and student exchange.

Here is a list of current and planned Summer Schools:

2011: The international Thor Heyerdahl summer school in Environmental Governance organized by Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), supported by the Thor Heyerdahl Institute, Larvik.

2012: Multiple method application in the governance of the commons, Bratislava, Slovakia, hosted by TEMPUS project at the Comenius university with contribution of Centre for Transdisciplinary Study of Institutions, Evolution and Policies (CETIP), IF SAS Bratislava Slovakia.

2013: Methods of framing in ecological economics and environmental policy, hosted by University of Helsinki, Environmental Policy Research Group; Finnish Graduate School for Environmental Social Science; Finnish Society for Environmental Social Science.

Expressions of interest: University of Leeds, UK; University of Oldenburg, Germany.

The ESEE Education Committee welcomes proposals for future ESEE Summer Schools!

Janne I. Hukkinen

Master of Science (MSc) Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

ABOUT SEEP

The WU Master of Science in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy (SEEP) is an innovative, internationally unique program that equips participants with the necessary theoretical background and factual information about the interconnected dynamics of economic and social systems and the physical environment. Even more progressively the program enables participants to understand different problem framings and to use appropriate analytical tools to engage with decision processes and longer term policy on multiple spatial levels.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The SEEP approach is based on sound socio-economic analysis. Students selfselect two out of four areas of concentration, notably Environmental Change and Policy, Population, Human Capital and

Policy, or Globalisation and Multi-Level Policy, or Globalisation and Social Policy.

APPLICATION

The two-year programme which will start in Oct. 2012 is open to students from all countries, provided they hold a relevant undergraduate degree (based on a program worth at least 180 ECTS credits) with some university-level training in (a) economics, (b) other social sciences and (c) quantitative methods (16 ETCS in total), skills and knowledge relating to (a) global sustain-ability issues and (b) international policy processes and very good English language skills. Please write to: stagl@wu.ac.at

Sigrid Stagl

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