



NEWS

2012
Newsletter

European Society for Ecological Economics



Sigrid Stagl
President of ESEE

editorial

**Dear ESEE and other ISEE members,
Dear conference participants,**

In Europe and more widely growth is discussed controversially these days. On the one hand austerity policies are prescribed for heavily indebted countries in the Euro Zone leading to deep public sector cuts; on the other hand the belief that slashing spending will actually create jobs, because fiscal austerity will improve private-sector confidence has been criticized by Krugman and others. Recent elections in France strengthened the latter camp. Overall the impression remains that the measures of the last two years have been expensive (in monetary terms and otherwise), prevent the pursuit of important societal goals (such as supporting green technologies and practices, helping the elderly or the poor) while offering no long-term solutions to the ongoing debt crisis.

In a parallel universe the Green Economy is being discussed, which is to some degree due to the different time scale, but largely due to different political actors. Since last year important organizations such as UNEP, UNCTAD, UN-DESA, OECD and IEA have published major reports on the subject. While the interest in the interrelation between the economy and environment is welcome, the documents leave major questions unanswered and to ecological economist it sounds like a repeat of debates of qualitative growth and sustainable growth over the last few decades. Meanwhile ecological economists are of course searching for analytical framings that are based on different social logics and different economics; these ideas are slowly penetrating the growth debates (e.g. Tim Jackson's and Peter Victor's important work on ecological macroeconomics). The Rio+20 conference due to take place later this month is widely seen as a crucial opportunity for leaders to put the global economy on a more sustainable footing; it remains open what the summit will deliver.

A related debate is that of 'planetary boundaries' (Rockström et al 2009, Nature) which the Rio+20 summit is also expected to convert the concept of into meaningful action. 'To avoid catastrophic environmental change humanity must stay within defined 'planetary

boundaries' for a range of essential Earth-system processes', said the authors. In recent months the debate was taken to the next level by asking questions about normative goals resulting from the analysis, differences between fixed limits and thresholds, whether additional dimensions such as terrestrial net primary productivity should be added, and about scale (difference between 'systemic processes' and 'aggregate processes').

While economists and natural scientists are addressing these important issues, it seems that another change is going on. Activists are increasingly pushing to acknowledge and appreciate the important work of 'cultural creatives', 'change agents' or 'pioneers of change' (see also report of the German Advisory Council on Global Change 'World in Transition A Social Contract for Sustainability'). Instead of requesting behavior change from individuals, this approach is targeting the power of groups who get inspired by novel ideas and practices. Tipping points, levers of change and supporting structures come to the fore.

Sadly, we have recently learned that Professor Elinor Ostrom has passed away. She was a Nobel Laureate, recipient of many other awards, distinguished professor and person who cared deeply for people and the planet. She had contributed to and supported the ecological economics community as keynote speaker at our conferences, as lecturer at our summer schools and in many other ways. She was an active contributor until the very end. On June 12, the day of her death, she published her last article, "Green from the Grassroots". In this article she wrote "evolutionary policymaking is already happening organically. In the absence of effective national and international legislation to curb greenhouse gases, a growing number of city leaders are acting to protect their citizens and economies. This is hardly surprising – indeed, it should be encouraged." Throughout her work she demonstrated the importance of constructive interplay between structures and grassroot action. She will be dearly missed.

To finish, I wish the organizers of the 12th ISEE conference from 16 to 19 June 2012 the very best for running the event. For those of you who are coming to Rio de Janeiro may read this editorial at the conference or on the way home. All other ESEE members will be able to read the Newsletter online after the conference. During the preparations of ISEE 2012 Peter May and his 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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SOCIETY NEWS SOCIETY NEWS SOCIETY NEWS

ESEE elections 2011 completed

ESEE members have voted their representatives for the next three years. We congratulate the new board members and thank them for their commitment!

Reelected Board Member: Nina Eisenmenger (Austria), Treasurer

New Board members: Timothy J Foxon (UK), Olivier Petit (France), Nuno Videira (Portugal), Jasper Kenter (UK), as student representative

New student representative in the ESEE board!



Since late 2011, the ESEE board has a new student representative, Jasper Kenter. Jasper is a PhD student at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland), researching deliberative approaches to valuing the environment, with case studies in Scotland and the Solomon Islands.

Jasper is also working at the University of St Andrews where he is looking at the (obstacles to) uptake of nature valuation evidence in decision-making, and he is project manager for the UK National Ecosystem Assessment Plural, Shared and Cultural Values working group. If you want to raise any student issues, want to contribute to or have ideas for ESEE student activities, contact Jasper at jasper.kenter@abdn.ac.uk

New email list and discussion group for ESEE students

To ease communication between students and early career ESEE members, we have set up an email list and LinkedIn discussion group. Posting on either is open to all subscribers. The email list is particularly meant for sharing events and announcement that may be useful to other ESEE members. The LinkedIn group is particularly useful for discussions and requests – e.g. you may be looking for useful paper references, you may be looking for help or feedback in preparing teaching materials, you want someone to informally review a paper, you may be looking for funding sources etc. For links to both go to <http://www.euroecolecon.org/studentlist/>

Three News on *Environmental Policy and Governance*, the ESEE Journal

by Felix Rauschmayer

1. First, we can celebrate: After a rather long time of consideration, ISI has integrated our journal into its database. Environmental Policy and Governance (EPG) starts off with an impact factor of 1.5 (even though it rather would be 1.8 according to preliminary calculations). So, publishing in the primary outlet of ESEE is now worthwhile also for those amongst us who want to please their institutes by having a good impact factor.

2. The special issue from the last ESEE conference is nearly ready – only the editorial is missing (as well as the odd latecomer). We (i.e. the editors of this special issue: Begüm Özkaynak, Irene Ring and Felix Rauschmayer) will present papers on economic localisation, green new deal and ecosocialism, environmental policy in Madagascar, multi-level analysis of socio-economic systems metabolism, and on sustainable development indicators. The issue will be out in October this year.

3. Finally, there is a change in editorship. EPG has two editors: Andrew Gouldson, the main editor, and one ESEE-editor. I had the honour of serving as ESEE editor for more than 3 years, and will now pass the responsibility to Begüm Özkaynak whom many of you know as the proficient and caring organizer of the ESEE 2011 conference in Istanbul. She has been designated by the ESEE board and will take on responsibility this summer. Besides the ESEE editor, quite a few ESEE and ISEE members are members of the EPG editorial board, which holds its meetings at ESEE conferences. Furthermore, ESEE has the right to use some pages in the printed volumes and is represented with information on the EPG homepage.

Call for Future ESEE Conference Organizers

ESEE holds its conference biennially. These conferences normally attract 300-450 social and natural scientists. Last year we met in Istanbul, and Olivier Petit and his team are currently busy organising next year's meeting in Lille.

For 2015 and 2017 we are now looking for individuals / groups who might be interested in applying for organizing a conference in either of these years. Organizing a conference is an opportunity to highlight the profile of a research group (or several groups in a country). Don't worry, if you don't have much experience in organizing big academic events. ESEE offers advice based on past experience and key points have been summarized in a conference handbook. We encourage people with enthusiasm for the field of ecological economics and for bringing people together.

If you are interested, please send an **Expression of Interest** until **30 September 2012** to Irene Ring at irene.ring@ufz.de - Your proposal should include:

- 1. Contact information** of point person and other already committed members of the local organising committee (LOC) (individuals and groups in the host location or country willing to help organizing the conference). List all individuals that you would like to involve in the conference committee and any staff resources for local assistance in organising the conference logistically.
- 2. Proposed location:** Please identify a suitable meeting venue that can accommodate up to about 450 conference participants. The proposed meeting facilities must be able to accommodate the following: Plenary sessions, about 10 concurrent sessions, poster and exhibition area, information and registration desk, receptions, catering area and other potential functions, such as computer and internet access, student workshops, and other small meeting rooms.
- 3. Accessibility and lodging:** Please describe transportation and lodging options and ease of conference site. The location of the conference venue should be reasonably accessible for international and national participants and not too costly or time-consuming. Accommodation should be available in broad price and quality ranges for all conference participants.
- 4. Finance, potential sponsorships and in-kind support:** The LOC is responsible for all financial aspects linked with the administration and organisation of the conference that should be self-financing. Next to conference registration fees, sponsoring and in-kind support may play an important role. It is advisable that the LOC organizes fund-raising activities: financial, scholarships, and in-kind contributions towards the conference are welcome. Please describe your ideas in this respect.
- 5. Amenities of the location:** Including restaurants, arts, recreation and other attractions.
- 6. Sustainability and environmental advantages:** Please list the advantages your site and conference can offer in this area. This can refer to offerings by local hotels, food and waste options, (public) transportation, etc.
- 7. Previous experience** in organising scientific meetings or conferences: Please list events, responsible individuals / groups (who are also members of the ESEE conference LOC) and participant numbers.

A proposer is not expected to have firm answers to all questions at this stage. However, these items are important as a first checklist for you and for the ESEE Board to decide upon future ESEE conference venues. A final decision for the conference venue of ESEE 2015 is expected to be taken by June 2013. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Navigating Change to Accountable and Fair Environmental Governance

by *Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská*

European governance today is facing a number of challenges. Complexity of the present world, in particular diversity of interest, multiple decision actors, and the dynamics of economic and natural processes have dramatically increased the probability of unexpected events and their impact across the scale. Global systems are characterized by dynamics of human-environment interactions and interconnections across natural and social systems. This makes such systems more vulnerable. The risk of natural disasters such as flood, heats, water security problems, and biodiversity loss are just part of the evidence that humanity may be crossing planetary boundaries and approaching dangerous tipping points. Reducing the risk of potential global environmental disaster requires a “constitutional moment” comparable in scale and importance to the reform of governance that followed World War II.

32 governance experts affiliated with the Earth System Governance Project argued that a more effective environmental governance system needs to be instituted in the article published in *Science*, on March 16, this year. “Navigating Anthropocene: Improving Earth System Governance” argues for seven structural institutional changes in global environmental governance to prevent rapid and irreversible change on ecosystems and human societies.

In particular, the paper calls for the creation of a UN Sustainable Development Council to better integrate sustainable development concerns across the UN system, with a strong role for the twenty largest economies (G20) and suggests upgrading of the UN Environment Program to a full-fledged UN agency. In order to improve the speed of decision-making in international negotiations, the article calls for stronger reliance on qualified majority voting in international decision-making. The scientists, several of them ecological economists, also argue for increased financial support for poorer nations, including through novel financial mechanisms such as air transportation levies. In addition, the article calls for stronger consultative rights for representatives of civil society in global governance, based on mechanisms that balance differences in influence and resources among civil society representatives.

Proposed institutional novelties are questioning traditional representative democracy and intend to increase power of major global actors but at the same time to make them accountable for decisions taken and introduces more equitable position for less powerful parties.

The assessment underlying this article has been presented at the science conference “Planet under Pressure”, held in March 2012 in London and it is also a key contribution of the science community to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”).

Environmental Justice: From a Local to a Global Movement

by *Nick Meynen*

From oil drilling disasters in Nigeria and Ecuador to climate change effects on the North Pole, from uranium mining in Bulgaria and the Namibian desert to ship-breaking in India, environmental injustices happen at all stages of a resource's life-cycle. They travel the world, but do not occur at random. They are guided in that journey by multinational corporations (MNCs), which often make sure that the worst injustices only occur in the peripheral areas of our global economy. While MNCs try to hide such environmental injustices, EJOLT exposes and dissects them.

EJOLT stands for Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade. This FP7 project – financed by the European Commission – supports the work of Environmental Justice Organisations (EJOs), uniting scientists, activist organisations, think-tanks and policy-makers from the fields of environmental law, environmental health, political ecology and ecological economics. The focus is on the practical use of concepts such as liabilities or Ecologically Unequal Exchange in environmental activism and policy-making. The work on a well-informed movement for environmental justice is at the core of this unique four-year project (2011-2015).

The latest EJOLT reports are good examples of our work: ‘**Legal avenues for EJOs to claim environmental liability**’ (EJOLT report 4) reads like a 100p manual for environmental justice organizations that want to take their battle to court. Using 11 case studies, it examines the scope for different courses of legal action against environmental injustice. The thread common to all cases is that severe environmental damage is often associated with the involvement of large MNCs trying to operate in a self-created legal vacuum. Legal frameworks are applied with varying degrees of success. The report gives 17 clear recommendations for the many EJOs fighting for environmental justice.

‘**Issues in the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity**’ (EJOLT report 5) discusses three socio-economic approaches to make biodiversity loss more visible so as to better defend it. Drawing upon eight cases in which EJOs are involved, it shows how different social actors use or refuse one approach or the other according to the social context. In particular it examines which social organizations and forces favour or oppose economic compensation, and why.

As well as producing reports, factsheets, videos and articles on environmental justice, EJOLT's singularity is its global inventory of environmental conflicts. The 23 participant organisations are putting their knowledge together to compile and map cases of environmental injustice all over the world with the first interactive maps launched online in 2013. Scientists and activists are invited to join in this global effort. To do so, contact the coordinator on mapping: leah.temper@gmail.com and follow the latest news on EJOLT through twitter (@EnvJustice), our facebook page (EJOLT) or on our website (www.ejolt.org).

Symposium Review – ‘Economics as if life mattered’

by Aiora Zabala



Bringing to life Schumacher's very worthwhile, classical yet up-to-date reading, the symposium 'Economics as if Life Mattered' at the Zoological Society of London in May, is focused on identifying how current global economic policy hinders conservation and how to shape it in order to save species and ecosystems. Aiora Zabala reports that a very fine combination of speakers as well as a high diversity of participants (from financial economists to primatologists) favored engaging and inspiring discussions, both on stage and over informal conversations.

The symposium was organized by the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), the New Economics Foundation (nef) and the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE), and supported by the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Key speakers included Alejandro Nadal (UNAM, Mexico), Robert Alexander (Sweet Briar College, US) and Brian Czech (Center for the Advancement of a Steady State Economy, US).

A debate rooted in the specific issue of wildlife valuation and in the role of protected areas led to broader discussions on pathways for conservation. Inevitably but often overlooked, macroeconomic policies play a key role in shaping both degradation and conservation (Nadal). Considered unfair, unsustainable, unhappy and unstable, further reflection on the global economic system is essential in this quest (Esteban). Several speakers reminded the fact that considering economic systems as closed systems isolated from the environment is one of the major cause of current conservation failures: as long as physical limits and real value of ecosystems are not accounted for in economic appraisal, conservation is hindered and wild diverse ecosystems are destroyed.

Values other than the monetary as drivers of human decision were also emphasized via measures of progress beyond GDP and Maslow's pyramid of human needs. Interestingly, the lower the position in the pyramid of the need driving a decision, the stronger the behavior of the actor appears to be (Alexander). The risk of financialization of nature was also recalled, as well as the apparent impossibility of putting a value to the invaluable. The latter is still a major question to solve in economic theory and political practice: How can we commensurate the incommensurable in order to make informed political decisions? Perhaps a shortcut to such a theoretical endeavor may be shifting the question: Is it actually necessary to compare the invaluable? Or, can we find alternative decision-making procedures? Another issue may be to question how dominant, normative principles that guide current economic policy making, such as profit maximization and price stability, can be dethroned by other more human-like, wellbeing based principles or goals. Thus, what principles can we use to equilibrate the intrinsic importance of life with the instrumental value of economic activity into single decisions? Maybe by redefining these underpinning principles, the quest for a technical way to commensurate the incommensurable would stop being vital.

Interestingly, Alejandro Nadal's assertion that the macroeconomics is not the juxtaposition of the microeconomics contrasted with Robert Alexander's final statement on that 'fate is the accumulation of innumerable small decisions'. However, this contrast may be complementary rather than opposed when framing both in the context of complex systems theory: large-scale systems (macro) show emergent properties which arise from multiple interactions of agents at the small-scale (micro), yet these properties may not be detectable at the small-scale. Hence, the macro is not just the aggregation of the micro, yet it is still built on the outcomes of multiple micro interactions. In plain words, the combination of two elements may be much more than the sum of both. However, this rule of thumb that echoes the extrapolation of the micro to the macro represents still a gap to overcome in general economic theory.

Speaking about links and gaps, arguably one major failure among the conservationist community is that it has failed to make a clear, direct link between biodiversity and economics (Czech). This relates to a hot topic in informal conversations during the symposium: the general need for conservation and sustainability experts to speak to the 'non-usual suspects', to stop only 'preaching to the converted' and to elaborate on convincing arguments for skeptics. There was also a general agreement on the opinion that valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services shall be taken with caution due to its many theoretical flaws, but that it has started to play a remarkable role in environmental advocacy while other more radical, effective solutions are not being implemented.

Another analogy based on complex systems theory leads us to a concluding remark. Panarchy loops illustrate how small-scale, faster processes affect large scale, slower processes and vice versa. Since this influence is essentially reciprocal, changes at any scale can have significant effects on the overall system. Therefore, adequately planned and executed small-scale conservation projects are as necessary as a thorough reflection and discussion on how the broader global economic system works, in order for wildlife conservation to become real.

Aiora Zabala is a doctoral researcher at the University of Cambridge.

Elinor Ostrom R.I.P.



The European Society for Ecological Economics deeply regrets the passing of Elinor Ostrom (12.6.2012), who received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics.

Elinor Ostrom has been an exceptional academic leader who promoted not only a shift of paradigms in social and economic sciences, but also in the ways governance and policies are thought about and in the relationship between natural and social sciences. Elinor Ostrom a key note speaker of ESEE 2007 and THEMES summer school in Slovakia inspired a number of ecological economists for interdisciplinary research across natural and social sciences. She will be missed enormously but WE will continue to honor her legacy by furthering research on environmental governance and collective actions.

COUNTRY CONTACTS

Ukraine's Initiative – Rio+20 Side Event on World Environmental Constitution



The Ukraine's International Institute – Association of Regional Ecological Problems – IIAREP (lead organizer), The Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, The University of Vermont and the All-Ukrainian Ecological League are organizing a Rio+20 side event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. To break through to a sustainable future, scientists from post-Chernobyl Ukraine, supported by their American, British and Belgian colleagues urge development of the World Environmental Constitution (WEC).

The proposed WEC is comprised of two indissoluble parts: definitive – a global legal act prescribing basic norms for environmental safety and stimulation of a green economy for sustainability; and institutional – to fulfill the WEC mandate, a global system of environmental governance under the umbrella of the World Environmental Organization (WEO).

The WEC is principally a new concept that will define the legal status of a human being not only as a citizen of a state, but also as a citizen of the planet with basic environmental rights, privileges and responsibilities. It is expected that it will close gaps in the international legislative regulation and will represent a comprehensive international environmental policy in a concentrated form.

The idea of a WEC is as old as the original Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. First declared by scientists in April 1992, it has been repeatedly emphasized by Ukraine at UNGA sessions since 1997. Simultaneously, WEO establishment has been promoted by Brazil, France, Germany and other states. The Endorsement on WEC was supported by International Society for Ecological Economics Ninth Biennial Conference "Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-Being" (New Delhi, 2006).

Yuriy Tunytsya, Executive Director of IIAREP, will be the main speaker at the event. Other discussants include experts in international environmental policy and law from the academic and NGO sectors: Anatoliy Tolstouhov (All-Ukrainian Ecological League), Ihor Soloviy (Institute of Ecological Economics, Ukrainian National Forestry University), Svyatoslav Kraevskyy (IIAREP), Joshua Farley (Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, UVM), and Brian Czech (Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy – CASSE).

More information about the event is available at:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=1000&nr=27&menu=126>

About the related voluntary commitments:

Concerning the World Environmental Constitution and World Environmental Organization:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=77>

Concerning Ukraine's contribution to the implementation of the concept of greening of education:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=76>

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS

ESEE 2013 Preliminary Call for Papers

Ecological Economics and Institutional Dynamics

**10th International conference of the
European Society for Ecological Economics
18-21 June 2013, Lille (France)**

Proposals for **paper and poster presentations** (abstracts with 1200 words with a summary of 800 characters) on any of the following Conference themes, and for the organisation of **special sessions** in the form of focused discussions/thematic sessions, are welcomed. A limited number of special sessions (10 to 15% maximum of the parallel and special sessions) can be organized in French. Abstracts articulating social and environmental questions would be particularly appreciated.

Themes of the conference

- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary theoretical approaches
- Methodological and epistemological issues
- Governance, policies and institutions
- Resources and environment
- Actors and behaviors
- Towards a Socio-Ecological Transition
- Institutionalization of Ecological Economics: a European Perspective
- Others

Keynote speakers and roundtable participants will include:

Michel Capron, Andrew Dobson, Florence Jany-Catrice, Inge Røpke, Elizabeth Shove, Clive Spash...

Relevant dates and deadlines

Proposals for special sessions:	1 October 2012
Notification of acceptance of special sessions:	31 October 2012
Submission of abstracts for papers and posters:	30 November 2012
Notification of acceptance of papers and posters:	15 February 2013

Website: <http://eese2013.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en>

Contact: eese2013@sciensesconf.org



CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS

Third International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity, 19-23 September 2012, Venice, Italy

The conference offers an opportunity for people to meet in a different environment, and to find points of agreement and convergence between each other. This should help them to focus their own efforts while keeping in mind the complex nature of the de-growth movement as a whole. People with different areas of interest and levels of experience can come together and combine their knowledge. This includes research (universities, study groups, lines of research), experimentation (good practices, permaculture, networks of economic solidarity), communication (activists, filmmakers, journalists and other media figures), and artistic expression (actors, musicians, writers and poets).

Confirmed speakers include: Serge Latouche, Joan Martinez Alier, Giorgos Kallis, Francois Schneider, Arturo Escobar, Tim Jackson and others.
Deadline for abstract submission: Extended to 15th of June, 2012

Further information: <http://www.venezia2012.it/?lang=en>

3rd International Conference on Sustainability Transitions “Sustainable Transitions: Navigating Theories and Challenging Realities”, 29-31 August 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark

Further information: <http://www.ist2012.dk/>

Workshop on Collective Agency & Institutions, Sustainability, and the Capability Approach, 27-28 September 2012, UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

In terms of space and time, sustainable development (SD) requires much more responsibility than an individual can cope with: it stretches to the global level and well into the future. An individual can try to comply with rules of SD, but it cannot alone achieve the goal of sustainability. The capability approach (CA) focuses on the individual and is not fit to explain collective agency. Yet, it acknowledges the influence of social affiliation, of groups and social norms on individual identity and individual goals. As a theory of justice the CA holds on to ethical individualism, i.e. the CA views individuals – and only individuals – as the units of moral concern. Thus, the CA demands that SD should not hold for the generations on average, but for each single individual if it is to be judged just. The aim of the workshop is to explore the role of collective agency & institutions both for SD and in the theoretical framework of the CA.

Deadline for submission: June 15
Deadline for registration: July 15

Further information: http://www.geneca.ufz.de/data/collectivity-workshop_call_2nd17516.pdf

Growth in Transition Conference, October 8-10 2012, Vienna

The guiding questions of the conference are:

- How can we achieve a good life for all – today and tomorrow – in the light of the numerous crises?
- How can we help to build a sustainable economic and financial system?
- How can we reach qualitative growth?
- How should we grow and what should grow? Where are the limits?

What will happen?

Within the framework of the “Growth in Transition” Conference committed people from political, administrative, scientific, economic, civil and other backgrounds will discuss the key issues of the future and jointly work on solutions in interactive and innovative settings.

The conference is hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

Further information coming soon at: www.growthintransition.eu/conference2012

Call for Abstracts: 2nd Vienna Workshop on Sustainable Development for Doctoral Students, 15-16 November 2012, Vienna, Austria

The doctoral school of the Institute of Social Ecology (SEC) will host the 2nd Vienna Workshop on Sustainable Development for Doctoral Students. This is a unique, informal event for doctoral students and young researchers working in Vienna to present their work to a dedicated audience in an effort to start an interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainability issues and create synergies.

The workshop will be held on the 15th and 16th of November 2012. Applicants are required to submit a short abstract (approx. 400 words) outlining their research until September 30, 2012. Students will be notified about the acceptance of their submission by the end of October 2012 the latest.

Please send your applications until September 30, 2012 per e-mail to Panos Petridis: panos.petridis@aau.at

Further information: <http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/socec/inhalt/4358.htm>

EDUCATION

Multiple Methods in Interdisciplinary Environmental Research – Ecological Economics Summer Institutes

Interdisciplinary environmental research is increasingly characterized by a major methodological shift. It is becoming evident that no single method can overcome the challenges of interdisciplinary research at the interface between social and natural sciences. The call for the use of multiple methods in interdisciplinary research is an increasingly important methodological debate in communities such as ecological economics, political ecology and resilience alliance. In particular, the growing attention on collaborative research requires multi-method application to overcome theoretical but also practical challenges. Building on the successful ESEE summer school series **THEMES**, the ESEE Summer Institutes introduce innovative theoretical and practical ideas of multi-method application and collaborative research to the education of doctoral and post-doctoral interdisciplinary environmental researchers.

ESEE Summer Institutes are open, bottom-up series of educational institutes (not necessarily summer) where each host provides training in the area of their expertise. Summer Institutes will operate as a self-managed organization, integrated in national educational systems and securing most of their operational resources independently. At the same time, membership in the network of Summer Institutes brings value added to individual institutes. Ideally the separate events will evolve into a long term ESEE tradition. As such, the ESEE Summer Institutes can become a vehicle for long term knowledge transfer in ecological economics and a platform for exchange of educational experiences within the network (teaching materials, methods and exchange of students).

In case of interest, please contact chair of educational committee: Janne Hukkinen at janne.i.hukkinen@helsinki.fi or Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská (vice president).

List of Past Institutes

2011:

June 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

<http://www.ecoeco.org/content/2012/01/thor-heyerdahl-summer-school-in-environmental-governance>

Forthcoming Institutes

2012:

Thor Heyerdahl Summer School in Environmental Governance: Global Environmental Governance, 25.06.2012–06.07.2012, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences. Second Thor Heyerdahl Summer School in Environmental Governance offers PhDs and young researchers the opportunity to develop high level skills in analyzing global governance issues like climate change, biodiversity preservation, sustainable use of biological resources, water management, and pollution. <http://www.ecoeco.org/content/2012/01/thor-heyerdahl-summer-school-in-environmental-governance>

EDUCATION

Forthcoming Institutes (Cont'd)

Multiple Methods in the Governance of the Commons, Central European School

October 15-28, 2012 Bratislava

Hosted by TEMPUS project at the Comenius University Bratislava and organized by the Centre for Transdisciplinary Study of Institutions, Evolution and Policies (CETIP), IF SAS Bratislava Slovakia (www.cetip.sk) and with keynote speakers: Elinor Ostrom and Jouni Paavola.

2013:

Methods of Framing in Ecological Economics and Environmental Policy - hosted by University of Helsinki Finland

Launch of Doctoral School in Social Ecology, Vienna

The Institute of Social Ecology is reorganizing its doctoral program. The new Doctoral School Social Ecology (DSSE) has been launched on March 21st. The DSSE is a 3-year doctoral program and offers cutting edge research and excellent supervision in an interdisciplinary environment. Dissertation projects are complemented by a variety of courses and seminars which deepen the understanding of society-nature relations and facilitate interdisciplinary communication among students and faculty. Regular courses by renowned international scholars add to the teaching portfolio.

DSSE strongly encourages self-organization among doctoral students. SEC provides infrastructure and resources for a self-organized doctoral colloquium to facilitate communication and scholarly exchange among doctoral students. DSSE-members also have access to resources for inviting guests and to participate in international scientific conferences. Doctoral students in Social Ecology acquire experience in socio-ecological theories, concepts and methods, preparing them for international professional careers inside and outside academia. The DSSE is open to all students currently enrolled in the Doctoral Programme in Social Ecology and welcomes new applicants.

Further information: <http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/socec/eng/inhalt/297.htm>

About the European Network of Political Ecology - ENTITLE

ENTITLE is an EU-funded Initial Training Network under the Marie Curie actions of FP7, coordinated by ICTA at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (www.eco2.bcn) and with the collaboration of 8 Universities, 2 NGOs and 1 SME. ENTITLE will train 17 researchers in the emerging supra-disciplinary field of Political Ecology, giving them the theoretical, analytical and complementary skills that will make them employable in jobs related to environmental policy analysis and advocacy. Research and training are framed around five key cluster sub-programmes concerned with the analysis of: environmental conflicts; environmental movements; natural disasters; the commons; and environmental justice and democracy. Research is based on a series of empirically-based investigations of a geographically and thematically diverse set of case-studies. Research will be action and policy-oriented culminating in a series of Action and Policy Briefs targeting civil society organizations and policy-makers.

Training of the network's fellows includes an integrated curriculum of local and intensive network courses, summer schools, secondments and training through work. Fellows will be seconded or recruited by one SME and two NGO partners of the project, building bridges between political-ecological research and practice. ENTITLE builds on an on-going collaboration in training between the participating institutions, manifested in a series of successful summer schools (www.environmentalconflicts.com). It brings together some of the world's top scholars in political ecology, and overcomes the fragmentation of existing political ecological research in Europe, offering a critical mass of research and training. The researchers trained in the network will be employable in academia, public administration and NGOs.

Further details available at: www.politicaecology.eu

Conflicts Over Commons Summer School Series: Fisheries co-organized by Boğaziçi University and the University of Manchester August 27-Sept 2, 2012 İstanbul

We invite M.A. and Ph.D. level students to participate and contribute to the first event of the Conflicts over Commons Summer School Series, co-organized by Boğaziçi University and the University of Manchester. The summer school series aim to facilitate a dialogue between higher education, civil society and the industry on the dynamics of use and management of common-pool resources (CPR). Given the significance of CPR management in environmental protection and sustainable development, coupled with heightened interest especially in the diverse management practices for their sustainable use, investigating the dynamics of use and management of CPR's is a particularly pressing need.

The series will center on a specific CPR each year, starting with the 2012 summer school on fisheries. Scholars from Boğaziçi University and the University of Manchester, as well as guest speakers, will be delivering the lectures. This year's event will take place at Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, between August 27th-September 2nd, 2012, with support from British Council Turkey and Boğaziçi University. The summer school will include theoretical and empirical debates on CPR's in general and fisheries in particular. We invite interested M.A. and PhD students to apply by June 22nd, 2012. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae (with the names of two references) and a cover letter of no more than 1,000 words, which should summarize their research interests, explain why they are interested to attend the summer school, and describe how the summer school would contribute to their work. Application material should be sent in electronic form to conflictsovercommons@gmail.com. 30 students will be admitted to attend the event. The event does not require any registration fee, and accommodation and workshop meals will be provided to the admitted participants.

For more information, visit www.econ.boun.edu.tr/conflictsovercommons

For questions, contact the summer school coordinator Bengi Akbulut by e-mailing conflictsovercommons@gmail.com

ALTER-Net Summer School 2012

ALTER-Net (A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network) will organize its seventh summer school from 5 to 15 September 2012 in the beautiful surroundings of Peyresq, Alpes de Haute-Provence, France. The topic this year is 'An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services'. The school is a unique opportunity to explore this important issue with like-minded post-graduate students and young scientists from all over the world. About 20 speakers will give presentations on this subject. The ALTER-Net Summer Schools contribute to the durable integration and spread of excellence within and beyond the network, and promote interdisciplinary approaches. The 2012 Summer School will focus on: Biodiversity, ecosystems and their services to people; Ecosystem processes, function, services, benefits and values; Resilience of social and natural systems; Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services; Linking biodiversity research with policy and the public. For more information: <http://www.alter-net.info/what-we-do/training-summer-school/summer-school/2012>

STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER

Student Research Expose – Miguel Brandão



Tell me about yourself.

I am originally from Lisbon, Portugal, but I have lived abroad for half of my life. I have studied or done research in Spain, Italy, England, the Netherlands, Norway, East-Timor, Wales, Denmark and Angola. Living in these different places was more by coincidence than planning. I consider myself fortunate to have been enriched by this broad array of experiences (despite a considerable carbon footprint!), which has made me want to dedicate myself towards a sustainable global society.

I recently completed my PhD in Environmental Strategy, which was based at the University of Surrey (UK). I have a broad background: My undergraduate degree was in ecological agriculture and my masters in development and environmental economics. Now I have started working at the International Life Cycle Academy in Barcelona. Prior to this, I worked at the European Commissions' Joint Research Centre looking at land-use systems and biofuels/biomass. In my free time, I enjoy taking the 5-minute walk from my home to the beach and having a spin on my Vespa.

What is your research about?

My research has focused mainly on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). LCA is a tool for assessing the sustainability impacts of products and services along their whole life cycles. This holistic view is achieved by considering all stages of product chains; e.g. resource extraction, production, transport, use and recycling/disposal (i.e. from cradle to grave). As a result, this approach avoids the shifting of burdens between different life cycle stages, different areas of protection (e.g. sustainability pillars), and between different regions of the world.

My PhD thesis was titled Food, Feed, Fuel, Timber or Carbon Sink? Towards sustainable land-use systems: a consequential life cycle approach. It consisted of a global sustainability impact assessment of competing land-use strategies for a variety of functions in the UK, whereby the potential for land use to mitigate climate change, provide ecosystem services and support biodiversity, while providing economic value added associated with the different strategies was estimated and contrasted. I have recently won the SETAC Europe LCA Young Scientist Award in recognition of my thesis' contributions to the LCA field.

If you were in charge of the world economy for one day, tell me one thing that you would do and why?

One day would not be enough to guide society towards a new paradigm of harmony within our species and between us and other species! However, I would start by trying to shape people's behavior towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns with the right incentives. I would use a combination of taxes and subsidies because that is what people seem to respond to the most. But I would also introduce new laws and institutions to halt environmental degradation and promote social harmony. For example, I would try to secure the maintenance of ecosystem processes, continuously decreasing levels of deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, and I would phase out nuclear activities and military spending, while ensuring a more equitable distribution of the world's resources.

Tell me one thing that you think many ecological economists don't realize, but should?

I think that the transdisciplinary nature of ecological economics means that it should be as inclusive as possible, but not at the expense of conceptual or methodological inconsistencies. While its strength lies mainly in the methodological pluralism it embraces, there are still many ideas worthy of consideration from neoclassical economics that are currently dismissed outright by ecological economists. For example, the importance of (regulated) markets, trade, economic growth and technology in generally supporting sustainable development (for example, their role in poverty alleviation and in resource-use efficiency) ought not be underestimated. I think we shouldn't risk excluding useful ideas that echo in the real world nor ostracizing other professionals dedicated to sustainable development. In my opinion, the main challenge for Ecological Economics is achieving methodological pluralism while being internally consistent and pragmatic. The world needs it!

Miguel can be contacted at migbrandao@gmail.com.

Are you a student (or have you just graduated) and are you interested in a short expose of your research? Then please contact Jasper Kenter, ESEE student rep, at jasper.kenter@abdn.ac.uk.

STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER: SHORT NEWS

Stirling Environment Camp, 4-6 September 2012

The University of Stirling will host a three-day Environment Camp on Environmental Valuation Methods for Ecosystem Services. The Environment Camp is organized as part of the University of Stirling's Eco-Delivery project (www.eco-delivery.stir.ac.uk/), funded by the European Investment Bank. The Environment Camp will feature four keynote lectures and sixteen contributed presentations by postgraduate students and early career researchers. The program aims to provide participants the opportunity to share their work and to learn about the latest developments in the field of valuation methods in a relaxed workshop environment. Keynote speakers include Nick Hanley (Stirling), E.J. Milner-Gulland (Imperial College London), Laura Taylor (North Carolina State) and Brett Day (East Anglia). For further information, please contact Dr Frans de Vries at f.p.devries@stir.ac.uk

Scottish marine research visiting fellowship scheme

The objective of the Visiting Fellowship Scheme is to stimulate and enhance MASTS-related research, by inviting non-UK Scientists to spend up to a maximum of six months at one (or more) MASTS (Marine Alliance for Science and Technology Scotland) institutions. Fellows can be at any stage in their careers, so both enterprising young postdoctoral researchers as well as established scientific leaders are welcome to apply. Proposals should originate in MASTS partner institutions, and multi-partner supported proposals are encouraged. For more details and application forms contact masts@st-andrews.ac.uk. Deadline 13.00h on Friday, 13th July 2012.

IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group

The Sustainable Use Specialist Group (now called Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group) has now been re-created. It is a specialist group in IUCN spanning Species Survival Commission and the Commission on environmental, economic and social policy. More information about the SG is available at www.iucn.org/suli where you can also register to receive SULI's newsletter.

Open Position: Doctoral Student in Environmental Risk Governance, Environmental Policy Research Group, University of Helsinki

The Environmental Policy Research Group (EPRG) of the University of Helsinki is recruiting a doctoral student in the field of environmental risk governance. The initial contract is for 2 years, including a 6 month trial period. The expected starting date is negotiable but should be between September 1, 2012 – January 1, 2013. During 2013-14 the researcher will be conducting research in the Risk Governance of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (RICCS) project, funded by the Academy of Finland's Research Program on Climate Change (FICCA).

The candidate is expected to hold a Master's degree in one of the following or closely related fields: interdisciplinary environmental studies, environmental social science, environmental psychology, cognitive science, or ecological economics. She/he is expected to apply for a doctoral student position in the fall of 2012 in one of the following faculties of the University of Helsinki: Social Sciences, Biological and Environmental Sciences, or Agriculture and Forestry. The researcher will be a member of the EPRG, a group of 2 senior researchers, 2 post-doctoral researchers and 3 doctoral researchers focusing on the socio-cognitive aspects of sustainability assessment, risk governance and environmental policy (<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/jahukkin/research-group/>).

The salary follows the Finnish universities' YPJ salary scale (EUR 2231-2790, depending on experience and performance). Applications should include a max 2-page statement of research interests (in English), curriculum vitae and list of publications, and transcripts of university degree with course grades.

Applications should be sent by email to janne.i.hukkinen@helsinki.fi by July 31, 2012. For more information, please contact Janne I. Hukkinen, professor of environmental policy, janne.i.hukkinen@helsinki.fi, +358 50 367 1375 (<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/jahukkin/>).

PUBLICATIONS

Book Announcement

Inclusive Wealth Report 2012: Measuring Progress Toward Sustainability



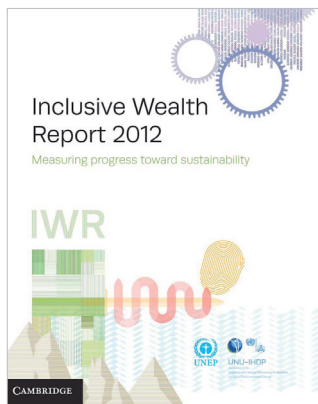
UNU-IHDP
Secretariat of the
International Human Dimensions Programme
on Global Environmental Change

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) proudly announces the launch of the Inclusive Wealth Report 2012 (IWR 2012) at the Rio+20 Conference in Brazil.

The report presents a framework that offers a long-term perspective on human well-being and sustainability, based on a comprehensive analysis of nations' productive base and their link to economic development.

The IWR 2012 was developed on the notion that current economic production indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) and the Human Development Index (HDI) are insufficient, as they fail to reflect the state of natural resources or ecological conditions, and focus exclusively on the short-term, without indicating whether national policies are sustainable.

The IWR 2012 features an index that measures the wealth of nations by looking into a country's capital assets, including manufactured, human and natural capital, and its corresponding values: the Inclusive Wealth Index (IWI). Results show changes in inclusive wealth from 1990 to 2008, and include a long-term comparison to GDP for an initial group of 20 countries worldwide, which represent 72% of the world GDP and 56% of the global population.



The IWR will be published every two years and will offer policy-makers a practical framework for assessing the state of a country's productive base. It can also provide guidance on which forms of capital investment should be made to ensure sustainable development. More broadly, the report will be of use to scholars and practitioners working in economics, development studies, environmental studies and other fields.

The Inclusive Wealth Report 2012 is a joint initiative of UNU-IHDP and UNEP in collaboration with the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) and the Natural Capital Project.

The Inclusive Wealth Report 2012 will be launched at a joint UNU-IHDP and UNEP side event at the Rio+20 Conference in Brazil on June 17 and will be available for download on the IHDP website. A hard copy version will be published by Cambridge University Press.

For more information, please visit www.ihdp.unu.edu or contact press@ihdp.unu.edu.

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ESEE 2012 Newsletter

Editors of the June 2012 Newsletter

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