



Module Description

| Module name: Ecological Economics and Degrowth | | | |
|--|--------|------------------------|----------|
| Course form | Credit | Duration | Language |
| Workshop (online) | 5 ECTS | 1 week block course | English |

1) Qualification goals / Outcome:

Students will have received an overview of Degrowth and Ecological (Macro-)Economics and will be able to explain and discuss core themes in both fields. They understand how degrowth and ecological economics differ from mainstream economics as well as from mainstream solutions to environmental challenges and will be able to critically analyze and assess sustainability policy-making in the light of degrowth. Lastly, they can place discussions around socio-economic transformations in the context of the larger debates within ecological economics, especially relating to the themes of feminism and post-colonialism.

2) Course content:

This workshop offers an introduction to Degrowth and Ecological Economics. It starts by surveying the socio-ecological crisis and its pseudo-solutions, then moves to Ecological Macroeconomics. Subsequently, Degrowth will be introduced as one specific field within ecological economics that goes beyond academic scholarship as an activist movement. During the second half of the workshop, we delve deeper into current debates around Ecological Economics and Degrowth, and engage with feminist ecological economics as well as with global perspectives on Degrowth.

3) Teaching methods:

The course will be held entirely online with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous sessions that cover both lectures and interactive sessions. Each day has a core topic, which will be introduced in the asynchronous lecture, and for which students are asked to prepare two readings. During sessions 2, the class meets for small-group discussions, during which students discuss the readings and guiding questions. Subsequently, the class gets together as a group and brings together as well as develops further what was discussed in the break-out rooms.

4) Kind of module:

The module can serve as a module in an economics, sustainability or social science degree.



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5) Requirements for participation:

The course is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. It requires English skills at advanced academic levels to read and critically engage with the literature. Students should know how to write an academic essay, i.e. formulate a research question and develop an argument by referring to relevant literature in the field.

6) Requirements for granting credit points

| a) contact times | b) self-study | c) exam preparation | d) marking |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| 30 h | 30 h | 90 h | yes |

e) assessment pattern

Essay. Will be graded according to the pattern provided by the Certification Project.

7) Module coordinator

The module is carried out by the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik e.V.
Responsible staff: Janina Urban, M.Sc. (janina.urban@plurale-oekonomik.de)
and Anita Lehner, M.A. (a.lehner@plurale-oekonomik.de)

8) Module teaching staff

Corinna Dengler, PhD, currently postdoctoral researcher at the department for Development and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Kassel.
Birte Strunk, M.A., currently PhD student at the economics department of the New School for Social Research.