

Master in Political Ecology
Academic year: 2018-2019

Commons, care and feminism

Instructors:

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Objectives

In this module we will introduce basic ideas from the commons, social movements, feminism and care, and peer-to-peer scholarships. You will be familiarized with core concepts and arguments that belong to three different approaches to the commons, i.e. institutional analysis “à la Ostrom”, political ecology school and the digital studies. You will get a taste of current debates concerning commons in the social sciences, a political ecology feminist gaze of the commons and the technology-led digital commoning. By the end of this course, you should be able to understand the basic controversies and explain the core ideas behind these three strains of the commons. You will be able to debate their commonalities and divergences, and discuss them through a feminist lens.

Structure

The module is formed of four courses of ten hours each: four sessions of two/three-hours classes. Each class will involve a mix of teaching, discussion and group work. To

participate in class, you should have read the mandatory readings carefully in advance. Without this preparation, you will not be able to follow the class, and what you will get out of it will be limited. Instructors will assume that students have done the readings, and may ask relevant questions during the class.

Most of the articles and reading material for the class are uploaded in a special Dropbox folder (<https://cloud.degrowth.net/s/SHXMxNCYc2eSytD>) and will stay there up to two months after the end of the class, after which it will be deleted. You need to go to the library for the reading of Stefania Barca's classes. Vasilis Kostakis have offered you all the links where you can find the contents of the materials you need to study, see in the document below.

Assignments and Exam

In another document, the details.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Monday 4th February, 12:00 – 14:00 (2h)

Introduction the Institutional Approach to the commons (Giacomo D'Alisa)

Chapter 1 - Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. Governing the Commons : The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Cox, M., G. Arnold, and S. Villamayor Tomás. 2010. A review of design principles for community-based natural resource management. *Ecology and Society* 15(4): 38.

Tuesday 5th February, 11:00 -13:00 (2h)

Production / reproduction / ecology: fundamentals of ecofeminist political economy (Stefania Barca)

Mellor, Mary (2017). "Ecofeminist political economy. A green and feminist agenda", in *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*

Salleh, Ariel (2010). 'From metabolic rift to metabolic value', *Organization & Environment*, 23: 205-19

Biesecker Adelheid and Sabine Hofmeister (2010). "Focus: (Re)productivity. Sustainable relations both between society and nature and between the genders." *Ecological Economics*, 69: 1703-11

Wednesday 6th February, 12:00 – 14:00 (2h)
The political ecology of technology (Vasilis Kostakis)

Stallman, R. (2014). Why Software Should Not Have Owners. Retrieved from: <https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/why-free.en.html>

The P2P Value Project. (2016). Promoting the Tech Commons. Retrieved from: <https://vimeo.com/174899444>

Friday 8th February, 12:00 – 14:00 (2h)
Introduction to the Political Ecology of the Commons (Giacomo D'Alisa)

Chapters 10, 11 and 17 - De Angelis, Massimo. 2007. *The Beginning of History: Value Struggles and global Capital*. Pluto Press

Feminism And the Politics of the Commons Federici Silvia. www.thecommoner.org

Monday, 11th February 15:00 -18:00 (3h)
From Commons to Commoning, and the openness vs closure debate (Angelos Varvarousis)

Mandatory

Stavrides, S., 2016. Commons space. London: Zed Books (Introduction)

Optional but highly recommended

Stavrides, S., 2016: Commons space. London: Zed Books (27-76)

Optional and recommended

Harvey, D. (2012) *Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution*. London: Verso (Section 1, Chap. 3)

Further readings

Simmel, G. (1994). Bridge and door. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 11(1), 5-10.

Hardt, M., Negri, A. (2009) *Commonwealth*. Boston: Harvard University Press (Of Love possessed pp 194-203)

J.K. Gibson-Graham Jenny Cameron and Stephen Healy (2016).

Commoning as a postcapitalist politics. In: Amin Ash and Howell Phillip: *Releasing Commons*. Routledge. London

Tuesday, 12th February, 14:00 – 17:00 (3h)
The Openness versus Closure debate (Angelos Varvarousis)

Mandatory

De Angelis, M. (2017) *Omnia Sunt Communia. On the Commons and the Transformation to Postcapitalism*. London: Zed Books (Pag. 376-406)

Optional but highly recommended

Varvarousis, A. Kallis, G. (2017) *Commoning against the Crisis*
In: Castells et Alter (eds) *Another Economy is Possible. Culture and Economy in a Time of Crisis* Cambridge: Polity Press

Wednesday, 13th February, 15:00 – 17:00 (2h)
Commons and Social Movements (Angelos Varvarousis)

Hardt, M., Negri, A., Harvey, D. (2009) *Commonwealth: an exchange*. *Artforum* 48: 3: 210-221

Participatory Commons Game Friday, 15th February, 15:00 – 17:00 (2h)
(Angelos Varvarousis)

Monday, 18th February, 15:00 -18:00 (3h)
Global environmental justice: an ecofeminist perspective (Stefania Barca)

Isla, Ana (2017). "Whose debt for whose nature? gender and nature in neoliberalism's war against subsistence", in *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*

Di Chiro, Giovanna (2017). "Welcome to the White (M)Anthropocene? A feminist-environmentalist critique", in *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*

Tuesday, 19th February, 14:00 – 17:00 (3h)
Commons, Caring for degrowth (Giacomo D'Alisa)

Care - D'Alisa G., Deriu M. and Demaria F, 2014. In D'Alisa, G. Demaria, F. and G. Kallis (eds), *Degrowth. A Vocabulary for a New Era*. Routledge: Earthscan.

Household work and energy consumption: a degrowth perspective - D'Alisa G, Cattaneo C (2013) *Journal of Cleaner Prod* 38:71-79.

Carework as Commons: Towards a Feminist Degrowth Agenda. Akbulut, Bengi. Blog entry. Available at [Degrowth media Library](#)

Optional

Corinna Dengler & Birte Strunk (2017): The Monetized Economy Versus Care and the Environment: Degrowth Perspectives On Reconciling an Antagonism, Feminist Economics, DOI: 10.1080/13545701.2017.1383620

Wednesday, 20th February, 15:00 – 17:00 (2h) **Care and commoning as (gendered) labour (Stefania Barca)**

Leonard, Sarah and Nancy Fraser (2016), "Capitalism's Crisis of Care" (interview), *Dissent* magazine: <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/nancy-fraser-interview-capitalism-crisis-of-care>

Singh, Neera (2013). 'The affective labor of growing forests and the becoming of environmental subjects: Rethinking environmentality in Odisha, India.' *Geoforum* 47:189-98

Littig, Beate (2017). "Good green jobs for whom? a feminist critique of the green economy", in *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*

Students' presentations - Friday, 22nd February, 15:00 – 17:00 **Caring and feminist political ecology (Stefania Barca)**

Monday, 25th February, 15:00 – 18:00 (3h) **Introduction to the Digital Commons (Giacomo D'Alisa)**

Chapter 1 - Benkler, Yochai. 2006. *The wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom.* Yale University Press

Digital Commons - Fuster, Mayo. in In D'Alisa, G. Demaria, F. and G. Kallis (eds) 2004. *Degrowth. A Vocabulary for a New Era.* Routledge: Earthscan

Tuesday, 26th February, 14:00 – 17:00 (3h)

The rise of the digital commons (Vasilis Kostakis)

Kostakis, V., and Drechsler, W. (2018). Utopia is Now. *Aeon*. Retrieved from: <https://aeon.co/essays/why-the-utopian-vision-of-william-morris-is-now-within-reach>

Kostakis, V., and Roos, A. (2018). New Technologies Won't Reduce Scarcity But Here's Something That Might. *Harvard Business Review*. Retrieved from: <https://hbr.org/2018/06/new-technologies-wont-reduce-scarcity-but-heres-something-that-might>

Wednesday, 27th February, 15:00 – 17:00 (2h)**The rise of cosmologicalism (Vasilis Kostakis)**

Bauwens, M., Kagel, E., and Dönnebrink, T. (2017). Michel Bauwens on the Commons & on Systemic, Organisational, Personal Transformation. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVgZczNFcpE>

Students' presentations, Friday 1st March, 15:00 – 17:00**"What lies ahead?" (Vasilis Kostakis)**