Master in Political Ecology
Academic year: 2019-2020

Transformations

Instructors:

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Objectives

In this module we will introduce basic ideas from the commons, social movements, feminism and care, commons-based alternative economic practices and peer-to-peer scholarships.

Theoretically: 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 (social) 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.

Practically: you will go hands-on experiences through life-projects of different communities that are centered around the common provisioning of basic human needs (food, shelter, mobility, energy access). You will be able to debate their commonalities and divergences, and discuss them through a feminist lens.

Structure

The module is formed of: five courses of ten hours each, with sessions of two/three-hours classes; most of them are theoretical but part of them are practice-based with field visits.

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 cloud folder (https://cloud.degrowth.net/s/mMdQbPy9H22aFfE) 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. Alekos Pantazis and 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 where their course is detailed.

NOTE:
You will receive details about assignments and exams in a different document
PROGRAM OUTLINE

Course 1: Introduction to the Commons, Giacomo D’Alisa

Day 1 (2 hours)
Date: Monday 2nd March, 10:00 – 13:00
Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d’Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona (mapa)

First session (3 hours)
Introduction the Institutional Approach to the commons


Day 2 (3 hours)
Date: Tuesday 3rd March, 10:00 – 12:00
Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d’Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona

Introduction to the Political Ecology of the Commons

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

Optional


Note: Consider staying after the class because some person working at Lleialtat Santsenca will explain how this urban commons works.

Day 3 (2 hours)
Date: Wednesday 4th March, 10:00 – 12:00
Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d’Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona

Introduction to the Digital commons

Chapter 1 – Benkler, Yochai. 2006. The wealth of


Day 4 (3 hours)
Date: Friday 6th March, 10:00 – 13:00
Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d’Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona

Commons, Caring for degrowth


Victoria Bateman. Capitalism is suffering a crisis of care. Available here

Optional

Note: you should have already read the following paper for the course of Prof. Kallis G.

Course 2: Commons and Social Movements, Angelos Varvarousis

Day 1 (2 hours)
Date: Monday 9th March, 15:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

From Commons to Commoning, and the openness vs closure debate

Mandatory

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


Further readings


Day 2 (2 hours)
Date: Tuesday 10th March, 15:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Commons and Social Movements

Mandatory


Further Readings


Day 3 (3 hours)
Date: Wednesday 11th March, 14:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Commons and Societal Transformations


Day 4 (3 hours)
Date: Friday 13th March, 14:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Participatory Commons Game
Course 3: Caring and Feminist Political Ecology, Stefania Barca

Day 1 (2 hours)
Date: Monday 16th March, 10:00 – 13:00
Where: Espai Francesc Bonnemaison, Sant Pere Més Baix, 7, website

Social reproduction and care


Optional


Day 2 (3 hours)
Date: Tuesday 17th March, 10:00 – 12:00
Where: Espai Francesc Bonnemaison, Sant Pere Més Baix, 7, website

Degrowth


Optional


Day 3 (3 hours)
Date: Wednesday 18th March, 10:00 – 13:00
Where: Espai Francesc Bonnemaison, Sant Pere Més Baix, 7, website
More-than-human commoning


Optional


Gender and Environment

Day 4 (2 hours)
Date: Friday 20th March, 10:00 – 12:00
Where: Espai Francesc Bonnemaison, Sant Pere Més Baix, 7, website

Students’ presentations
Course 4: Peer-to-Peer: Capitalism, Commons and Future Scenarios. Co-designed by Vasilis Kostakis & Alekos Pantazis.


Day 1 (2 hours)
Date: Monday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March, 15:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Lecturer: Alekos Pantazis

The political ecology of technology

Retrieved from: https://vimeo.com/174899444

Day 2 (3 hours)
Date: Tuesday 24\textsuperscript{th} March, 14:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Lecturer: Vasilis Kostakis

The rise of cosmolocalism: Digital commons and beyond


Day 3 (3 hours)
Date: Wednesday 25\textsuperscript{th} March, 14:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Lecturer: Alekos Pantazis

The rise of cosmolocalism: Notes from the field

Day 4 (2 hours)
Date: Friday 27th March, 15:00 – 17:00
Where: Aula 3, Escola Post Grau, Campus UAB

Lecturer: Alekos Pantazis

Students’ presentations: What lies ahead?


Course 5: Grassroot Alternatives: Experiences between lifestyles and (informal) enterprises. Claudio Cattaneo

Day 0 (pre-course conference and workshop): Whole week-end
Date: Friday 1st November and Saturday 2nd 2019,
Where: Olive field, Picamoixons; The students have received a detailed document about the excursion to Picamoixons village.

The multifunctional values of sustainable agriculture: a case of participative olive farming.


Day 1: 3 hours
Date: Thursday 26th of March, 15.00-18.00
Where: Can Masdeu

The value of squatting
The session will consist of a tour of the Can Masdeu project (housing + social centre) and will then focus on how the household project is organized: if the Aristotelian expression oikonomia literally means “managing/ruling of the house”, this session will be purely about oikonomics.


Day 1: 2 hours
Date: Monday, March 30th, 12:00-14:00
Where: Bicihub, Carrer Pere IV, 58-60 Barcelona

Mobility, Communication and Energy. Practical insights on how the economy of the change is building to become mainstream. The case of Biciclot.

Ilich, I., (1978) "Energy and Equity", in "Towards a History of needs".
Day 2: 2 hours
Date: Monday, March 30th, 16:00-18:00
Where: to be confirmed: La Pinya, (free school casa Buenos Aires), c. Mont d’Orsá 31, Vallvidrera Superior

**Education and self-organization: the case of La Pinya free school**

No reading

Day 3: 3 hours
Date: Wednesday, April 1st, 10:00-13:00
Where: Aula 1, Escola Postgrau

**Commons-Trade-Markets vs. Capitalism Final insights on grassroots alternatives.**


https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8330.2010.00782.x