

Master in Political Ecology.
With Specialization in Environmental Justice and Degrowth
Academic year: 2020-2021

Module: Transformations

Module Coordinator: Giacomo D'Alisa

Module Instructors:

1. Course: **Introduction to the Commons**

Instructor: Giacomo **D'Alisa**

FCT Post Doc, Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal

email: giacomodalisa@ces.uc.pt; personal profile: [here](#)

2. Course: **Commons and social movements**

Instructor: Angelos **Varvarousis**

Post Doc, Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, COSMOS Research Project

email: aggelosvar@gmail.com

3. Course: **Feminism, Ecology and Caring**

Instructor: Corinna **Dengler**

Research Fellow, University of Vechta, Germany

email: corinna.dengler@gmail.com

4. Course: **Peer-to-Peer: Capitalism, Commons and Future Scenarios.**

Instructor: Alekos **Pantazis**

Junior Research Fellow, Tallinn University of Technology

email: alexandros.pantazis@taltech.ee; personal profile: [here](#)

Instructor: Vasilis **Kostakis**

Professor, Tallinn University of Technology

Faculty Associate, Harvard University

email: vkostakis@cyber.harvard.edu; personal profile: [here](#)

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

Instructor: Claudio **Cattaneo**

Associate (=precarious) professor UAB

Post-doc researcher, Masaryk University, Brno

email: virtualclode@gmail.com

OBJECTIVES

In this module, the instructors 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 familiarize 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 fundamental controversies and explain the core ideas behind these three strains of the commons.

Practically: you will also go hands-on experiences through life-projects of different communities centred around the collective 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 consists 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 course properly, 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.

We have uploaded most of the class's articles and reading material on the platform: Campus Virtual de la UAB. 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:

- 1) You will receive details about assignments and exams in a separate document.
- 2) The module is also complemented with a series of seminars detailed in a separate document.
- 3) If we go online for the D'Alisa's class, we will use the Big Blue Button platform, cooperatives run it. Please see the tutorial ([here](#)) to get familiar with the platform.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

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

Day 1 (3 hours)

Date: Monday 1st March, 14:00 - 17:00

Where: Originally planned at Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona ([mapa](#)). **Now: Online**

Introduction the Institutional Approach to the Commons

Mandatory readings

Chapter 1 pages. 1-28 and chapter 3 pages 88- 100 - [Ostrom, E.](#) 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[Chabwela, H. N.](#), & Haller, T. (2010). Governance issues, potentials and failures of participative collective action in the Kafue Flats, Zambia. *International Journal of the Commons*, 4(2), 621-642. DOI:<http://doi.org/10.18352/ijc.189> (open access)

Optional

Empirical work that tests the "Ostrom's principle":

[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. DOI: 10.5751/ES-03704-150438

Further material

Media

Cartoons on the commons:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxC161GvMPc>

Graduate students on the commons (Have they got it right?:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYdGMGwOncA>

Day 2 (2 hours)

Date: Wednesday 3rd March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona **Now: Online**

Introduction to the Political Ecology of the Commons

Mandatory readings

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

Merino, L., & Cendejas, J. (2017). Peace building from a commons perspective. *International Journal of the Commons*, 11(2), 907-927. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.18352/ijc.773> (open access)

Federici Silvia. *Feminism and the Politics of the Commons*. Available [here](#)

Optional

Latino American gaze

Guerrero Osorio A. (2018) *Comunalidad* In D'Alisa, G. Demaria, F. and G. Kallis (eds) 2015. *Decrecimiento. Vocabulario por una nueva era*. Edición Ampliada para Latino américa. Available only in Spanish

On the Black Commons in Usa

Agyeman J. and Boone K. (2020) [Could collective ownership of a "Black commons" help advance economic justice?](#) Available at [Fast Company](#)

No academic gaze on the commons:

Helfrich, S. and Bollier D.: *Commons*. In D'Alisa, G. Demaria, F. and G. Kallis (eds) 2015. *Degrowth. A Vocabulary for a New Era*. Routledge.

Further material

A Marxian archive on the commons
(De Angelis was the scientific coordinator of the website)
www.thecommoner.org

Peter Lineabaugh: the Magna Carta and the commons in England minutes 1:32 to 18:20
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSF3m_Uav6Y

Nivedita Menon: Land grabbing and commons in India, a

femminist account

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWhVIqNlVoU>

Day 3 (2 hours)

Date: Thursday 4th March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona. **Now: Online**

Introduction to the Digital Commons

Mandatory readings

Chapter 1, pages 8-43 - Benkler, Y. (2006). The wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom. Yale University Press

Forte A. and Bruckman A. (2018) Scaling Consensus: Increasing Decentralization in Wikipedia Governance Proceedings of the 41st Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS 2008)

Optional

Fuster, M. (2015) Digital Commons. In D'Alisa, G. Demaria, F. and G. Kallis (eds). Degrowth. A Vocabulary for a New Era. Routledge: Earthscan

Ghosh S. (2007) How to Build a Commons: Is Intellectual Property Constrictive, Facilitating, or Irrelevant? In Hess C. and Ostrom E. (eds) Understanding Knowledge as a Commons. The MIT press.

Further material

Bridging digital and rural commons?: minutes 18:20 - 25:14
New Economic models. the victory of the commons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsRFdBBOyzU>

Day 4 (3 hours)

Date: Friday 5th March, 15:00 - 18:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona. **Now: Online**

Commons and Caring (for degrowth)

Mandatory readings

Davis A. Women, Race and Class The Approaching
Obsolescence of Housework: A Working-Class Perspective.
Available [here](#)

D'Alisa G., Cattaneo C. (2013). Household work and energy
consumption: a degrowth perspective - Journal of Cleaner
Prod 38:71-79. DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2011.11.058

Optional

Dalla Costa M. and James S. (1972) The power of women and
the subversion of the community. Available [here](#).

Victoria Bateman. Capitalism is suffering a crisis of care.
Available [here](#)

Federici S. and Cox N. (1975). Counter planning from the
kitchen - . In Federici S.(2012) Revolution at Point Zero.
Housework, Reproduction, and Feminist Struggle. PM Press.
Also available [here](#) Note: you should have already read the
following paper for the course of Prof. Kallis G.

Further material

Caring beyond households

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rY2whVGkCdk>

Course 2: Commons and Social Movements, Angelos Varvarousis

Day 1 (3 hours)

Date: Monday 8th March, 15:00 - 18:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014
Barcelona. **Now: Online**

**From Commons to Commoning, and an introduction to the Urban
Commons**

Mandatory readings

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

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

Further readings

Bollier, D., & Helfrich, S. (2019). Free, fair, and alive: The insurgent power of the commons. New Society Publishers. (pp. 13-28)

Day 2 (2 hours)

Date: Wednesday 10th March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona. **Now: Online**

Commons and Social Movements

Mandatory readings

Velicu, I. (2014) Peopling the Globe: New Social Movements. In Steger, M., Battersby, P., & Siracusa, J. (Eds.). (2014). The Sage handbook of globalization. Sage. (pp 631-633)

Darcy K. Leach (2013) Prefigurative Politics. In Snow, A., D., Della Porta, D., Klandermans, B., McAdam, D. *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements*

Pickerill, J., & Chatterton, P. (2006). Notes towards autonomous geographies: creation, resistance and self-management as survival tactics. *Progress in human geography*, 30(6), 730-746.

Further Readings

Kouki, H., & Chatzidakis, A. (2020). Implicit feminist solidarity (ies)? The role of gender in the social movements of the Greek crisis. *Gender, Work & Organization*.

Zibechi, R. (2012) Territories in Resistance_ A Cartography of Latin American Social Movement. Edinburg: AK Press

Day 3 (2 hours)

Date: Thursday 11th March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona. **Now: Online**

Commons and Societal Transformations

Mandatory readings

Varvarousis, A., Asara, V., Akbulut, B., (2020). Commons: a Social Outcomes of the movement of the squares. Social Movement Studies pp.1-20

Zeynep Tufekci: How the Internet has made social change easy to organize, hard to win

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo2Ai7ESNL8&ab_channel=TED

Further Readings

(For those willing to read this essay - exchange a glossary will be provided on demand for facilitating comprehension):

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

Day 4 (3 hours)

Date: Friday 12th March, 15:00 - 18:00

Where: Lleialtat Santsenca, Carrer d'Olzinelles, 31, 08014 Barcelona. **Now: Online**

Participatory Commons Game

Course 3: Feminism, Ecology and Caring. Corinna Dengler

Day 1 (2 hours)

Date: Monday 15th March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where: Online

Social Reproduction, Care & (De)Coloniality (2 hours)

Mandatory Readings:

Fraser, Nancy (2017): Crisis of Care? On the Social-Reproductive Contradictions of Contemporary Capitalism. In: Bhattacharya, Tithi (ed.): Social Reproduction Theory:

Remapping Class, Recentering Oppression. London: Pluto Press, pp. 21-36.

Lugones, Maria (2010): Toward a Decolonial Feminism. In: Hypatia 24/4, pp. 742-759.

Book Recommendations (optional):

Ehrenreich, Barbara; Hochschild, Arlie (2002): Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy. New York: Metropolitan Books.

The Care Collective (2020): The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence. London/New York: Verso.

Day 2 (3 hours)

Date: Tuesday 16th March, 15:00 - 18:00

Where: online

Feminisms and the Environment

Mandatory Readings:

Fakier, Khayaat; Cock, Jacklyn (2018): Eco-Feminist Organizing in South Africa: Reflections on the Feminist Table. In: Capitalism Nature Socialism 29/1, pp. 40-57.

Oksala, Johanna (2018): Feminism, Capitalism, and Ecology. In: Hypatia 33/2, pp. 216-234.

Resurrección, Bernadette (2017): Gender and Environment in the Global South. From 'Women, Environment, and Development' to Feminist Political Ecology. In: MacGregor, Sherilyn (ed.): Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment. London/New York: Routledge, pp. 71-85.

Book Recommendations (optional):

Mies, Maria (1986): Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour. London: Zed Books.

Gaard, Greta (2017): Critical Ecofeminism. Lanham: Lexington Books.

Day 3 (2 hours)

Date: Wednesday 17th March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where: online

Feminist Decolonial Degrowth & Commoning Care

Mandatory Readings:

Vega Ugalde, Silvia (2019): Sumak Kawsay, Feminisms and Post-Growth. Linkages to Imagine New Utopias. In: *Alternautas* 2/1, pp. 88-100.

Wichterich, Christa (2015): Contesting Green Growth, Connecting Care, Commons and Enough. In: Harcourt, Wendy; Nelson, Ingrid (eds.): *Practicing Feminist Political Ecologies: Moving Beyond the 'Green Economy'*. London: Zed Books, pp. 67-100.

Book Recommendations (optional):

Haraway, Donna (2016): *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*. Durham/London: Duke University Press.

Johnson, Ayana Elizabeth; Wilkinson, Katharine (2020): *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*. New York: One World.

Day 4 (3 hours)

Date: Friday 19th March, 15:00- 18:00

Where: online

Students' presentations

Course 4: Peer-to-Peer: Capitalism, Commons and Future Scenarios, Alekos Pantazis.

Introductory Readings:

Bauwens, M., Kostakis, V., Troncoso, S., Utratel A.M. & Martínez, E. *The Commons Transition Primer*: <https://primer.commonstransition.org/1-short-articles>
Articles: 1.1., 1.2, 1.3 & 1.4.

Bauwens, M., Kostakis, V. and Pantazis, A. (2019). *Peer to Peer: the Commons Manifesto*. London: University of Westminster Press. Accessed July 8, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.16997/book33>. Chapters 1 & 5

Day 1 (3 hours)

Date: Monday 22nd March, 15.00- 18:00

Where: online

The political ecology of technology

Mandatory readings:

Ephemera Journal, Repair Matters,
<http://www.ephemerajournal.org/issue/repair-matters>, pages
229-251, 253-281, 441-449

Scientists' warning on affluence.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16941-y.pdf>

The efficiency dilemma.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/12/20/the-efficiency-dilemma>

Day 2 (3 hours)

Date: Tuesday 23rd March, 15:00 - 18:00

Where: Online

Invited Lecturer: Vasilis Kostakis (Via VoiP, assisted by Pantazis. This lecture might shift with the next one or other)

The rise of cosmopolitanism: Digital commons and beyond

Mandatory readings

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>

Day 3 (2 hours)

Date: Wednesday 24th March, 15:00 - 17:00

Where:online

The rise of cosmopolitanism: Notes from the field

The convergence of digital commons with local manufacturing from a degrowth perspective: Two illustrative cases. [[site](#)] [[text](#)]

Tools from below: making agricultural machines convivial.
[[text](#)]

Day 4 (3 hours)

Date: Friday 26th March, 15:00 - 18:00

Where: online

Students' presentations: What lies ahead?

Supporting Material

Perez, C., and Raworth, K. (2019). Harnessing Data for Green Growth with Carlota Perez and Kate Raworth.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l19GsYb2ghs>

Kostakis, V. (2019). How to Reap the Benefits of the "Digital Revolution"? Modularity and the Commons.
Administrative Culture. [[text](#)]

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

Day 1: (3 hours)

Date: Tuesday 6th of April 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.

Mandatory readings:

Cattaneo, C., How can Squatting contribute to degrowth? In Nelson, A. and Schneider, F., Housing for Degrowth,

Routledge.

Ilich, I., 1978. "Industrial vs. convivial tools" (p.39-42) in "Towards a History of Needs". Available online [here](#)

Day 2a: (2 hours)

Date: Wednesday, April 7th, 10:00-12:00

Where: **Bicihub**, Carrer Pere IV, 58-60 Barcelona (to be confirmed)

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

Mandatory readings

Ilich, I., (1978) "Energy and Equity", in "Towards a History of needs".

Day 2b: (2 hours)

Date: Wednesday, April 7th, 15:00-17:00

Where: **La Pinya**, (free school in Cal Rocabert), c. Fenestrelles Esplugues de Llobregat (to be confirmed)

Mandatory readings

Trapeze [Collective](#): Do It Yourself A handbook for changing our world. [chapter 7 and 8](#)

Day 3: (3 hours)

Date: Thursday, April 8th, 15:00-18:00

Where: [Can Masdeu](#)

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

Mandatory readings

Johanisova N. and Wolf, S.(2012). Economic democracy a path for the future? *Futures*, 44, pp. 562-570

Pansera, M and Sarkar, S. Crafting Sustainable Development Solutions: Frugal Innovations of Grassroots Entrepreneurs. [Sustainability](#) 2016 (8) 1 51