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

   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 1\textsuperscript{st} 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


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

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=CYdGMGwOnEa

Day 2 (2 hours)
Date: Wednesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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


Federici Silvia. Feminism and the Politics of the Commons. Available here

Optional

Latin American gaze


On the Black Commons in Us

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:


Further material

A Marxian archive on the comnmns (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
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


Optional


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=nsRFdBB0yzU

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


Optional


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

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:** Wednesday 10th March, 15:00 – 17:00

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

**Commons and Social Movements**

**Mandatory readings**


**Further Readings**


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*


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):


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:

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

Book Recommendations (optional):


Day 2 (3 hours)
Date: Tuesday 16th March, 15:00 - 18:00
Where: online

Feminisms and the Environment

Mandatory Readings:


Book Recommendations (optional):


Day 3 (2 hours)
Date: Wednesday 17th March, 15:00 - 17:00
Where: online
Feminist Decolonial Degrowth & Commoning Care

Mandatory Readings:


Book Recommendations (optional):


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., Utrate and Martínez, E. The Commons Transition Primer: https://primer.commonstransition.org/1-short-articles
Articles: 1.1., 1.2, 1.3 & 1.4.

Day 1 (3 hours)
Date: Monday 22nd March, 15.00 - 18:00
Where: online

The political ecology of technology

Mandatory readings:


Scientists’ warning on affluence. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16941-y.pdf


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 cosmolocalism: Digital commons and beyond

Mandatory readings


Day 3 (2 hours)
Date: Wednesday 24th March, 15:00 – 17:00
Where: online

The rise of cosmolocalism: 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.

Day 4 (3 hours)
Date: Friday 26th March, 15:00 – 18:00
Where: online

Students’ presentations: What lies ahead?

Supporting Material


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,

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**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](#)

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**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**