**Online Master's Degree in Degrowth: Ecology, Economics and Policy Academic year: 2021–2022**

**Housing for Degrowth**

**Instructors**:

François Schneider

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**Objectives**

So much housing has been built, so much land sealed by construction and associated services and still basic needs relating to housing are largely unfulfilled. Now is the time for “housing for degrowth”. This course will challenge students to think about degrowth transformative paths and visions of housing. Based on the book collection [*Housing for Degrowth*](https://www.routledge.com/Housing-for-Degrowth-Principles-Models-Challenges-and-Opportunities/Nelson-Schneider/p/book/9780367358334) (Routledge, 2018) the four classes will be presented by both editors Anitra Nelson and François Schneider. In 2018 they travelled by train through 11 European countries during one month presenting in daily events their collection (see [more on book,](https://anitranelson.info/housing-for-degrowth-principle-models-challenges-and-opportunities/) [the tour](https://anitranelson.info/european-book-tour-2018/) and [blog)](https://housing.degrowth.net/). The project opened up narratives of housing for degrowth for public debate. These four classes offer a short online journey through work and discourses on housing for degrowth, assisting students to shape their degrowth visions and housing pathways as they share their housing experiences and potential degrowth solutions in the diverse contexts in which they live.

**Structure**

The course consists of four classes (4 x 2.5 hrs = 10 hours). In each class, we will first discuss the compulsory reading via key set questions. Second, one or both instructors will present key ideas, approaches and work, either by talks or lively discussions centring on differing positions and debates. The last part of the class involves breakout rooms and reports back from student groups followed by more discussion. We expect students to participate actively in the discussions and presentations.

The first class, “The degrowth housing tour”, will introduce housing for degrowth narratives; the second class “Small is necessary” will highlight the necessity of small living spaces and all aspects of the ecological economies of sharing, the third “Let’s live it” is about degrowth living labs, and the fourth class “Let’s organize” is on the challenges and potential of deurbanization and ecological recovery.

All articles and reading material for the class will be made available to the students. The compulsory and optional readings will be divided within the class.

**Evaluation**

The grading will be based on both written and oral interventions. We expect that everyone will critically read and reflect on the readings in advance, so that each can address a specific question on the reading, such as “How does this reading relate to your own experiences?”. Sometimes the instructors will set a specific question about a reading in advance, sometimes we will announce a question in class. Oral evaluations will be made of reports from breakout rooms (small group discussions). All students will submit a page identifying a key guiding principle, transformative process or futuristic vision to advance housing for degrowth for the written evaluation.

**PROGRAM OUTLINE** 

**Class 1. The degrowth housing tour - 14:00-16:30 CET, March 11 2022**

This class will start with a “get-to-know” housing for degrowth. Anitra and François will take a tour through the various works in *Housing for Degrowth* (and beyond) to explain the importance of ‘narrative’ in developing housing for degrowth.

***Required reading***

Chapter 1: Housing for growth narratives

Chapter 2: Housing for degrowth narratives

Chapter 22: Summary and research futures of “Housing for degrowth”

**Class 2. Small is necessary - 14:00-16:30 CET, March 18 2022**

In this class, Anitra will explain how minimising living space, including through greater sharing of spaces, can economise on materials, energy use and human effort and can maximise quality of life which is essential in visions of degrowth.

***Required readings***

Anitra Nelson and Paul Chatterton Dwelling beyond growth: negotiating the state, mutualism and commons in Federico Savini, António Ferreira and Kim Carlotta von Schönfeld (eds), *Post-Growth Planning: Cities Beyond the Market Economy*, Routledge, 2022

Read any chapter of Small is Necessary: Shared Living on a Shared Planet, Pluto Press, 2018. The whole book is open access here — https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/30716 

**Class 3. “Let’s live housing for degrowth”- 14:00-16:30 CET, March 25 2022**

Students will be invited to present one personal experience of housing for degrowth (a temporary experience (say of living in a hut), of sharing a flat, or of assisting in building a simple sustainable dwelling). The experiential approach central to this class will be presented by François Schneider, including from his living lab Can Decreix.

***Required readings***

Chapter 10: The Simpler Way, housing, living and settlements by Ted Trainer. Chapter 6: The radical potential of tiny house mobility by April Anson.

Chapter 12: Low impact living by Jasmine Dale, Robin Marwege and Anja Humburg

**Class 4. “Let’s organize housing for degrowth” - 14:00-16:30 CET, April 1 2022**

In this class we will take to, debate and talk about the strategic societal implications and opportunities for transformation for housing for degrowth, including economic aspects and debates over strategies of ‘top-down’ and/or ‘bottom up’.

***Required readings***

Chapter 13 Neighbourhoods as the basic module of the global commons by Hans Widmer (‘P.M.’)

Chapter 20 Mietshäuser Syndikat: Collective ownership, the ‘housing question’ and degrowth by Lina Hurlin 

**Online Master on Degrowth Academic year: 2021-22**

**Energy communities and Degrowth**

**Instructor**:

\*Name Surname\* Marula Tsagkari \*Affiliation\* University of Barcelona, Spain \*Your [email\*](about:blank) marou.tsagari@gmail.com

**Objectives**

This course will discuss the topic of energy cooperatives and communities and how/if they can be vehicles for a degrowth transition.

**Structure**

2,5h seminar

**Content** (Please describe the course in max 150 words)

We will start with a short presentation of the topic of energy communities and cooperatives and we will watch a short documentary on how these initiatives emerge, and what difficulties they face. Then we will be joined by a founding member of a coop to get some insights on energy coops and the potential for a degrowth transition.

**Material** to share with the students Recommended readings:

M Tsagkari, J Roca, G Kallis (2021) [From local island energy to degrowth? Exploring democracy, self](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629621003819)-sufficiency, and renewable energy production in Greece and Spain. Energy Research & Social Science 81, 102288

[Conrad Kunze](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-015-0301-0#auth-Conrad-Kunze) & [Sören Becker](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-015-0301-0#auth-S_ren-Becker) (2015) [Collective ownership in renewable energy and opportunities for sustainable degrowth.](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-015-0301-0) [Sustainability Science](https://link.springer.com/journal/11625) volume 10, pages425–437 (2015)

Hanke, Guyet & Feenstra (2021) [Do renewable energy communities deliver energy justice? Exploring insights from 71 European cases.](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629621003376?casa_token=Dz26ygCMLtMAAAAA:_157c7HwGEQ7-V-ECpsrX9ylNHZLORbtQiHa5bE169Z91GRdWwTWP-Bwy39C8rr2_rzGQDKhvA) Energy Research & Social Science 80, 102244

**Online Master on Degrowth**

**Academic year: 2021-22**

**Tourism and Degrowth**

**Instructor**:

Robert Fletcher

Sociology of Development and Change, Wageningen University

rfletcher@wur.nl

www.anthfletch.com

**Objectives**

This course will aim to familiarise participants with the growing discussion concerning the potential to introduce degrowth ideas and principles in efforts to promote sustainable tourism development.

**Structure**

2,5h seminar

**Content** (Please describe the course in max 150 words)

Tourism is one of the world’s largest industries, yet until recently it had not been included in the rapidly expanding degrowth discussion. The dramatic use of tourism as a strategy to restimulate economic growth generally in many places in the wake of the 2008 global recession, resulting in a dramatic increase in tourism arrivals in popular destinations throughout the world, changed all of this, promoting mounting critique of what came to be called ‘overtourism’, with touristic degrowth proposed as one strategy to redress it. Subsequently, the massive restriction in global travel during the COVID-19 pandemic further complicated this discussion, replacing previous concerns about overtourism with worries about the newfound threat ‘undertourism’ posed to destinations dependent on tourism revenue. In this session, we will explore the lively discussion concerning the (potential) relationship between tourism and degrowth inspired by all of these developments.

**Material** to share with the students

* **Fletcher, R.**, I. Murray Mas, A. Blanco-Romero and M. Blázquez-Salom. 2019. “Tourism and Degrowth: An Emerging Agenda for Research and Praxis.” *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 27(12): 1745-1763, introduction to special issue on “Tourism and Degrowth.”
* **Fletcher, R.**, A. Blanco-Romero, M. Blázquez-Salom, E. Cañada, I. Murray Mas and F. Sekulova. 2021. “Pathways to Post-capitalist Tourism.” *Tourism Geographies*.

**Online Master on Degrowth**

**Academic year: 2021-22**

**Design Global, Manufacture Local**

**Instructor**:

Alekos Pantazis

Assistant Professor, University of Thessaly

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<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0904-4697>

**Objectives**

* Go through what is Commons and Digital commons
* Delve into blending elements of physical and digital commons under the concept “Design global, manufacture local”. We will examine the sustainability and social characteristics of such an emerging mode of production through an example in the primary sector.

**Structure**

2,5h seminar

**Content** (Please describe the course in max 150 words)

Commons-based initiatives transform the way we work and interact. The dominant system, after failing to beat them, is now utilizing its dynamics to steer them for its own profit and perpetuation. Can we understand those dynamics and use them towards post-capitalist futures?

**Material** to share with the students

* Pantazis, A., and Meyer, M. (2020). *Tools from below: Making agricultural machines convivial*. The Greek Review of Social Research, 155: 39–58. ([link](https://ejournals.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/ekke/article/view/24828/20621))
* Bauwens, M., Kostakis, V. and Pazaitis, A. (2019). *Peer to Peer: the Commons Manifesto*. London: University of Westminster Press. Accessed July 8, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.16997/book33>. Chapters: 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 3.3

**Online Master on Degrowth**

**Academic year: 2021-22**

**Doughnut economy and degrowth**

**Instructor**:

Mladen Domazet

Institute for Political Ecology

[mladen@ipe.hr](about:blank)

[http://ipe.hr/en/mladen-domazet/](about:blank)

**Objectives**

This course will introduce students to concepts of doughnut economics and degrowth-inspired modification of the doughnut visualisation tool. We will explore the national ‘degrowth doughnuts’ developed by IPE and connect them to strategic elements of degrowth transformation introduced in other courses of the programme.

**Structure**

2,5h seminar

* Introductions between the group and the course convenor
* Presentation of the development of IPE Degrowth Doughnut
* Group work on the degrowth donut database
* Individual/smaller group development of narrative comparisons of 2 national doughnuts from the database
* Presentation of doughnut-based strategies connecting to key degrowth themes from other courses
* Wrap up

**Content** (Please describe the course in max 150 words)

Navigating justice and sustainability in the 21st century is hard enough without trying to weld together two associative, but often ambiguous concepts, like ‘degrowth’ and ‘doughnut economy’. Yet, in searching for a conceptual reconstruction of the real processes and cultural strategies (common and individual) to secure wellbeing or need satisfaction, these associative and impactful concepts can attain understanding more easily than other difficult coin concepts (e.g. *entangled humanism*, *politics of swarming* or *genocentrism*). Doughnut Economics claims that the doughnut concept can offer a vision of space for flourishing for humanity in 21st century, and provide the impetus to thinking needed to reach that goal. Degrowth, on the other hand denies the centrality of economics as the dominant definition of human interaction with each other and living nature. In the course we will introduce a proposed modification – a degrowth donut – and explore its strategic and explanatory potential.

**Material** to share with the students:

ZOE Institute – A compass towards 2030

Domazet et al. 2020. Mental Models of Sustainability: The Degrowth Doughnut Model

[http://ipe.hr/en/degrowth-donut/](about:blank)