**Master in Political Ecology**

**Academic year: 2022-2023**

**DEGROWTH ECONOMICS**

**Instructors**:

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**Guest speaker:**

Jason Hickel

Beatriz Galindo Professor, ICTA and Department of Anthropology

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**Objectives**

In this course we will introduce basic ideas from mainstream and heterodox economics and link them to degrowth theory. This course will familiarize you with core economic concepts and arguments used by degrowth researchers and practitioners, and give you a taste of current debates concerning growth in economics. By the end of this course you should be able to understand the basic controversies, explain the core ideas behind alternative economic proposals and feel comfortable to debate degrowth with a mainstream economist.

**Structure**

The course has ten, two-hour classes. Each one will involve a mixing of teaching, discussion and group work, if conditions permit. To participate in class, you should have read the 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 related questions during the class.

All articles and reading material for the class are uploaded in the Campus Virtual. You don’t need to buy books, go to the library or download anything.

**Evaluation**

A take-home exam consisting of 3-5 250 words questions based on the material of the course. Date to be determined.

**PROGRAM OUTLINE**

**Class 1 – Introduction to Degrowth Economics (Giorgos Kallis)**

**10/1, 15:00-17:00**

Kallis, G. 2017. Economics without growth. In Castells, M. et al. Another Economy is Possible. Cambridge, Polity Press.

**Class 2 – The invention of the economy (Giorgos Kallis)**

**12/1, 15:00-17:00**

Sections on ‘the invention of the economy’ (chapter 2) in Kallis, G. 2018. Degrowth. Agenda Publishing Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Mitchell, T., 2014. Economentality: how the future entered government. Critical Inquiry, 40(4), pp.479-507.

**Class 3 – Neoclassical economics and its faults (Salvador Pueyo)**

**17/1, 15:00-17:00**

Boerger, L., Exploring Economics Team 2016. Neoclassical Economics. Network for Pluralist Economics.

**19/1, 15:00-17:00**

**Class 4 – Thermodynamics and economics (Salvador Pueyo)**

Georgescu-Roegen, N. 1973. The entropy law and the economic problem. Pp. 37-49 in: Daly, H.E. (ed.), Toward a Steady-State Economy. W.H. Freeman and co., San Francisco.

**24/1, 15:00-17:00**

**Class 5 – Ecological economics (Salvador Pueyo)**

Martinez-Alier, J. 2013. Ecological Economics. P. 91008 in: Wright, J. (ed.), International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2nd ed. Elsevier, Amsterdam.

**26/1, 15:00-17:00**

**Class 6 – Macroeconomics beyond growth (Salvador Pueyo)**

Chapt. 1 (“Introduction”, pp. 17-22) in: D’Alessandro, S., Dittmer, K., Distefano, T., Cieplinski, A. 2018. EUROGREEN Model of Job Creation in a Post-Growth Economy. The Greens | EFA.

Hickel, J. 2020. Degrowth and MMT: A thought experiment. jasonhickel.org, 23-9-2022.

Pueyo, S. 2015. Introduction to ecological econophysics for degrowth. Proceedings, 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics.

**Class 7 – Marxian political economy (Giorgos Kallis)**

**2/2, 15:00-17:00**

Chapters 2 and 3, Kay, G. 1979. The economic theory of the working class. Mc Millan Press.

Chapter 2, ‘Capital assembled’ in Harvey, D. 2010. The enigma of capital. Oxford University Press.

**Seminar 1 – The rise of the capitalist world-system (Jason Hickel)**

**7/2, 15:00-17:00**

Chapters 4 and 5, Hickel, J. 2017. The divide: A brief guide to global inequality and its solutions. Penguin Random House. <https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D4726349_09732025_63186>

Further reading:  
-Hickel, Jason. 2020. “Capitalism: A Creation Story”, in Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World. Penguin. <https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D4726349_09732025_849606>  
- Patnaik and Patnaik. 2021. Chapters titled “Increasing Supply Price and Imperialism”, and “The Neoliberal Regime”. In Capital and Imperialism. Monthly Review Press. (www.b-ok.org)   
-Patel and Moore, "A History of the World In 7 Cheap Things". Verso. (www.b-ok.org)

**Class 8 – Feminist economics (Giorgos Kallis)**

**9/2, 15:00-17:00**

Federici S. 2012. Revolution at point zero: Household, reproduction and the feminist struggle, p. 15-40

Federici, S., 2009. The devaluation of women’s labour. In A.Salleh et al (eds) *Eco-sufficiency and global justice: Women write political ecology*, pp.43-65.

**Seminar 2 - Development in the Anthropocene (Jason Hickel)**

**14/2, 15:00-17:00**

-Hickel, Jason. 2021. “How to achieve full decolonization,” New Internationalist:  
<https://newint.org/features/2021/08/09/money-ultimate-decolonizer-fjf>  
-Hickel, Jason. 2021. “The anti-colonial politics of degrowth,” Political Geography:  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0962629821000640>  
-Kaboub, Fadhel. "Green and Just", New Internationalist: <https://newint.org/features/2020/08/11/green-and-just>  
  
Further reading:  
-Hickel, Jason et al 2022. “Imperialist Appropriation in the World Economy: Drain from the Global South through Unequal Exchange, 1990-2015,” Global Environmental Change

-Hickel, Jason. 2020. “Quantifying National Responsibility for Climate Breakdown,” The Lancet Planetary Health  
-Hickel, Jason, Daniel O’Neill, Andrew Fanning and Huzaifa Zoomkawala. 2022. “National responsibility for ecological breakdown: A fair-shares assessment of resource use, 1970-2017” The Lancet Planetary Health

**Class 9 – Economic policy for degrowth (Giorgos Kallis)**

**16/2, 15:00-17:00**

Section ‘Policies and Action’ (chapter 5) in: Kallis, G. 2018. Degrowth. Agenda Publishing Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

O’Neill, D. 2017. A progressive economy. <https://peg.primeeconomics.org/policybriefs/a-sustainable-economy>

**Class 10 – Grassroots and solidarity economies (Salvador Pueyo)**

**23/2, 15:00-17:00**

Section ‘Grassroots actions’ (chapter 5) in: Kallis, G. 2018. Degrowth. Agenda Publishing Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Pages 65-66 and 78-79 (+ 2 lines of p. 80) in: Dow, G.K. 2018. The theory of the labor-managed firm: Past, present, and future. Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics 89: 65-86.

Robles, W., 2019. The politics of agricultural cooperativism in Brazil: A case study of the landless rural worker movement (MST). Journal of Co-operative Organization and Management 7: 10–25.