

Degrowth and sustainability pathways

PhD course – 5 credits

May 20-June 10



In the context of a climate emergency, there is an increasing demand from society and students to learn about societal models (including welfare provision) that function without economic growth. In this context, degrowth aims for a multi-scalar transformation beyond the growth-oriented economic paradigm to achieve socio-ecological sustainability. It primarily emphasizes the downsizing aspects of production and consumption but also alludes to the pathways of a society that can thrive or manage without relying on growth. This course will inform these pathways by placing wellbeing for all species and natural systems at the center and rethinking our social systems independent of economic growth in fields such as work, culture, civil society, governance and decision-making. This introductory course

engages with the 'degrowth' discourse by bringing it in critical dialogue with disciplines including i) political ecology, ii) political economy, iii) feminist scholarship, and iv) ecological economics and v) sustainable welfare.

This **PhD course** offers **insights** into the ways in which socio-ecological sustainability pathways can be enhanced by the degrowth perspective. Focusing on theoretical, yet empirically anchored, **themes** such as sustainable welfare, steady-state economy, sustainable wellbeing economy, work, care, conviviality and justice, the course unfolds strengths and limitations of these themes in the context of achieving socio-ecological sustainability, as informed by a range of complexities and scalar dimensions.

The course is built on thematic sessions each of which is composed of a lecture and a seminar. Each session will begin with a brief lecture and be followed by a seminar at which groups make presentations to critically introduce and discuss notions and perspectives brought up in the course literature under a specific theme.

Intending to provide a platform for a course participant's own research, each doctoral candidate is invited to consider the ways in which course discussions could enrich their research perspectives. In a final presentation, course participants would explore such connections.

The language of instruction is English.

Does this sound interesting?

If so, sign up for the course by sending an email to the course coordinators, Mine Islar, mine.islar@lucsus.lu.se and Max Koch max.koch@soch.lu.se

