



ESEE 2015: Transformations

Call for papers for the 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics, University of Leeds, UK

30 June – 3 July 2015

Conference objective and themes

This conference takes place as this century's key challenges for human society become ever clearer and more entrenched: increasing levels of resource use and environmental impacts; threats to food, water and energy security; unequal distribution of economic and physical wealth; power imbalances and conflicts; new waves of political and economic migration; and the lack of international will to address the reality of planetary threats such as climate change and global biodiversity loss. In the face of these challenges, the very notion of universal progress is eroded. In this context, academic thinking beyond traditional disciplines is called upon to play a crucial role.

ESEE 2015 explores solutions for the transformation to a sustainable society. Research is needed which is both critical of the blindness of the past and visionary for the future. Ecological Economics contributes by shining a spotlight on the interdependency of economic activity and natural systems, and identifying options that prioritise human wellbeing within planetary boundaries. The conference will contribute to the dissemination of knowledge on these issues, foster future research collaborations between academics and stakeholders, and provide training and learning opportunities for younger researchers through an associated summer school which will feed into the main conference. Under the banner of *Transformations*, we invite contributions which aspire to go beyond academic excellence to guide the future on the following topics:

1. *Post-growth economics*

This theme addresses changes needed to economic systems to achieve a high level of human well-being for all people without relying on increasing consumption, including:

- 1.1. Degrowth and steady-state economics
- 1.2. Green economy and ecological macroeconomics
- 1.3. Work and employment beyond growth
- 1.4. Financial and monetary reform for sustainability
- 1.5. Stabilising population
- 1.6. Social metabolism, industrial ecology, and the new industrial revolution

2. *Natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental quality*

This theme encompasses empirical investigations into the systems, incentives, institutions and business models for natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental quality, including:

- 2.1. Economics, incentives and institutions for ecosystems and biodiversity

- 2.2. Natural resources: management, use and conservation
- 2.3. Ecosystem services: debating, valuing, preserving and providing
- 2.4. Economic issues in environmental quality and degradation
- 2.5. Environmental justice

3. *Development, consumption and well-being*

This theme addresses the challenge of enhancing human well-being within planetary boundaries, including:

- 3.1. Resource use, health and human well-being
- 3.2. Distribution, equality, and social justice, including the rural-urban divide
- 3.3. Developing resilience of systems, businesses and communities
- 3.4. Alternative development pathways for the Global South
- 3.5. Patterns of trade, production, and consumption

4. *Power, politics, institutions and the reality of achieving change*

This theme addresses political economy and institutional changes needed at local, regional, national and global scales, as well as linkages between these scales, including:

- 4.1. Power relations and overcoming vested interests
- 4.2. The role of social movements in the sustainability revolution
- 4.3. Getting there from here: viable frameworks for planetary problems
- 4.4. Interrelations between societal, cultural, and economic and political values
- 4.5. The role of cities and scale in achieving sustainability

5. *New business models and understandings of human behaviour*

This theme addresses the role of new business models and understanding of human behaviour in achieving a socially and environmentally sustainable economy:

- 5.1. Business models, organisations, and alternative valuation
- 5.2. Investment, finance and social welfare
- 5.3. Product-service systems and transition to a circular economy
- 5.4. Changing practices and patterns of human behaviour
- 5.5. Governing and managing interactions between stakeholders

6. *Theory, methods and practice of ecological economics*

This theme examines theoretical and methodological advances needed to address the above challenges, including:

- 6.1. Heterodox, post-Keynesian and ecological economics: connections and contradictions
- 6.2. Transdisciplinarity: post normal science, sustainability science, transdisciplinary research designs
- 6.3. Indicators and modelling approaches
- 6.4. Teaching ecological economics: curriculum development and practical experiences
- 6.5. Participation and engagement: ecological economics and stakeholder communities

7. *Special Sessions*

In addition, we have accepted a number of Special Session proposals that are open for the submission of abstracts:

- 7.1. The Green Economy's failing agenda: On energy, mining and ecological distribution conflicts
- 7.2. A complex but necessary interplay: complementing intrapersonal and systemic sustainability transitions
- 7.3. Advancing participatory modelling approaches for sustainability transitions
- 7.4. Beyond GDP: increasing the policy value of alternative measures of economic welfare

- 7.5. Building an effective PES scheme for protected areas: aligning insights from different disciplines
- 7.6. Closure and resource scarcity: open borders and ecological economics
- 7.7. Concrete utopias, heterotopias, nowtopias: chance or danger for the societal transformation envisioned by degrowth?
- 7.8. Conventional and unconventional monetary policy: implications and opportunities for sustainability
- 7.9. Cultural ecosystem services: Frontiers in theory and practice
- 7.10. Degrowth, well-being, social capital and income change
- 7.11. Developing functional ecological macro-models
- 7.12. Distributional conflict in a post-growth economy
- 7.13. Ecosystem services and natural resources of the north – sustainability, values and trade-offs
- 7.14. Food Transformations: Towards Sustainable and Low Carbon Food Supply Chain Futures
- 7.15. Future Earth and Ecological Economics: A dialogue
- 7.16. Governing Ecosystem Services: Framing, processes, and underlying rationales
- 7.17. Integrated assessment and valuation of ecosystem services provided by urban green infrastructure
- 7.18. Interrogating Payments for Ecosystem Services on Intrinsic Motivations for Conservation
- 7.19. Legal Institutions and Ecological Economics
- 7.20. Macroeconomics, finance and sustainability
- 7.21. Mapping Ecological Distribution Conflicts: From activists' knowledge to Science
- 7.22. New approaches to valuing ecosystem services: what can socio-cultural and deliberative methods offer?
- 7.23. PORES – power relations and ecosystems
- 7.24. Resource efficiency: What are we measuring?
- 7.25. Scientometric as a way to assess the state of ecological economics: understanding the present to see the future
- 7.26. Special Session: New tools for understanding rapid transitions: insights from Exergy and Useful Work Analysis for Global Energy Use, Low Carbon Transitions and Economic Growth
- 7.27. Special Session: From incremental to radical transformation: reconciling energy systems with 2°C carbon budgets.
- 7.28. Special Session: Quantifying patterns of resource use transformations and ecological distribution conflicts.
- 7.29. Target setting in a resource constraint world
- 7.30. The political economy of a socio-ecological transformation: the role of actors and institutions
- 7.31. The role of technology in the transition towards a Degrowth Society
- 7.32. Trade in transformation: Accounting for global resource use
- 7.33. Transformational change, REDD+ and synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation in forest and agriculture
- 7.34. Transformative Science for Transformative Social Change: What kind of Science for Sustainability Transformations
- 7.35. Urban Sustainability Transitions: Actors, Resources, Indicators
- 7.36. Using Polanyian concepts to bring together sustainability discourses

Abstract format

For papers and posters, please submit an extended abstract of 600–1200 words, together with a 150 word summary, by 14 December 2014. Extended abstracts may include references (not counted in the word total), but the summary should not. Submissions will be reviewed by an international review panel before being accepted.

A prize for the best student paper presented at the conference will be awarded. There will be a dedicated poster session, and a 'best poster' prize will be awarded at the conference.

Submission

Abstracts and special session proposals may be submitted via the conference website:
www.esee2015.org

Key dates

Special session proposal deadline:	29 October 2014
Abstract submission deadline - EXTENDED:	14 December 2014
Notification of acceptance of abstracts:	31 January 2015
Registration deadline – early bird:	6 March 2015
Final paper due:	8 May 2015
Registration deadline for presenters:	8 May 2015
Conference (Leeds):	30 June – 3 July 2015

Conference venue

The conference will be held at the University of Leeds, a leading centre of ecological economics research in the UK. It is co-organised by the School of Earth and Environment, School of Geography, and the Leeds University Business School.

Pre-conference event

An International Summer School will take place on 28–30 June 2015, bringing together around 30 postgraduates and early career researchers with senior international ESEE researchers in a highly engaging and interactive format, providing space for discussion and exchange, as well as an opportunity to receive feedback on their own vision, research, and career plans. In parallel with the ESEE 2015 conference theme “Transformations”, the summer school will focus on the interrelations and interactions between the ecological, social, political, cultural and technological aspects of transformation to a sustainable society. Ideas developed in the summer school will be presented during one of the plenary sessions at the main conference. PhD and Master’s students, and early career researchers, are invited to participate. Further details are available from the conference website.

Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers and roundtable participants who have confirmed attendance include Frans Berkhout, Melissa Leach, Arild Vatn, Julie Nelson, Giorgos Kallis, Dan O’Neill, Sigrid Stagl and Geert Spaargaren.

Organising committee

The organising committee for the conference includes Tim Foxon, Jon Lovett, Julia Steinberger, Gary Dymski, Jouni Paavola, Dan O’Neill, Marco Sakai, Paul Brockway, Jasper Kenter, Giuseppe Fontana, Malcolm Sawyer, Kevin Reilly, Gordon Mitchell, Alison Suckall, Vicki Parker, Alan Gallagher and Anthony Lowe.

Scientific committee

The scientific committee includes Irene Ring, Tatiana Kluvankova-Oravska, Begüm Özkaynak, Alice Bows-Larkin, Katherine Farrell, Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Janne Hukkinen, Tim Jackson, Giorgos Kallis, Klaus Kubeczko, Markku Lehtonen, Tommaso Luzzati, Unai Pascual, Felix Raushcmayer, Inge Røpke, Clive Spash, Sigrid Stagl, Arild Vatn, Nina Eisenmenger, Nuno Videira, Lenka Slavikova, Juha Hiedanpää, Erik Nicolas Gomez Baggethun and Olivier Petit.

Environmental impact

A plan to minimise the environmental impact of the conference is being developed in co-ordination with the University's Sustainability Team.

Contact

For the latest information, visit the conference website at: www.esee2015.org

Please direct any enquires to: esee2015@leeds.ac.uk



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