



European Society for Ecological Economics

1996-2016 Anniversary Bulletin

Reflections on two decades of Ecological Economics in Europe



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From the President

IRENE RING

Still at home

What a coincidence! I am writing this editorial exactly 20 years after the International Conference “Ecology, Society, Economy: Toward Sustainable Development”, organised by Sylvie Faucheux and Martin O’Connor from 23 – 25 May, 1996, at the Université de Versailles à Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines in France. A special session at this conference served as the Inaugural Meeting of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), the newly founded European Chapter of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). I can still remember very well how excited I was to participate in this conference.

Only three years before, I had finished my PhD in economics on the potential and limits of market-oriented environmental policy from an ecological perspective, moving into quite new arenas after my geoecology diploma. While writing my thesis and searching for innovative approaches, I had discovered the at the time pretty new journal of Ecological Economics.

And now I could meet, listen and talk to a fair number of the journal’s authors, and even be a founding member of this new European society! I clearly felt, now I have found my academic home – and I still feel this, 20 years later, as the Society’s fifth president.

I am grateful to the heritage of past ESEE presidents Sylvie Faucheux, Clive Spash, Arild Vatn and Sigrid Stagl who each put tremendous efforts into building ESEE. Engaged ESEE board members, ESEE country contacts and ESEE members, not to forget the admirable efforts of ESEE local conference and summer school organising teams, have each contributed to the successful development of our Society and spreading its ideas.

What is ecological economics?

Ecological economics is the analysis of the interactions between economy, society and environment. It does not constitute a new single unified theory for or of sustainable development. Rather, the emergence of the sustainable development field signalled the need for economic, social and natural science analyses to be brought together in new perspectives, responding to the concerns expressed worldwide for ecological, social, economic and political dimensions of sustainability.

It represents a new practice of economics responding to a specific problem domain which may legitimately be addressed in a variety of ways. Ecological economics thus uses analytical tools and concepts coming from many different

disciplines and fields of experience. Since 1996, ESEE has developed as a quite distinct ‘flower’ within the wider ISEE bouquet. From the beginning, ESEE added a focus on socioeconomic aspects – not least emphasizing the plurality of values and the importance of social processes in forming preferences and values.

ESEE has the ambition to promote an innovative research agenda in Europe and a wide reflection that can help decision-makers and citizens in the implementation of policies for sustainable development.

Where to from here?

Ecological economists have been very successful over the years in developing and influencing research agendas as well as attracting relevant project funding. Funders’ requirements for inter- and transdisciplinary work have steadily increased over the past decades, requirements that increasingly match the very aims of the Society in carrying out research.

Ecological economists contribute heavily to science-policy-interfaces such as the International Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in a variety of functions. Ecological economists succeeded in building up and editing highly

successful academic journals, with ecological economics as the ISEE's affiliated journal, Environmental Policy and Governance as the journal affiliated with ESEE and Environmental Values that is freely accessible to ESEE members.

Over the years, we have developed a substantial number of new ecological economics courses and master programmes at many universities across Europe, so that students can now choose amongst an increasing number of options and directions. Nevertheless, there is still much to do! Global and European environmental, economic, social and political challenges persist, and are increasing in some areas. There is

also a need for reflecting the profile of ecological economics: on the one hand, our academic journals are becoming so successful compared to some of the environmental, resource or agricultural economics outlets that authors previously publishing in their own societies' journals are increasingly submitting their manuscripts to our journals, often with no understanding what the difference between the approaches is.

On the other hand, with more and more academic societies and societal movements widely or partly aiming to achieve similar goals as ESEE, ESEE membership has tended to go down over recent years. So there is a

need for combined efforts to attract engaged members, building on our specific profile and advertising the advantages being an ESEE member. Having said this, it's now time to relax a bit, lean back and feel proud of what we all have achieved in the past two decades! Enjoy reading our 20th ESEE Anniversary Bulletin!

Irene Ring is President of the ESEE, Deputy Head at the Department of Economics at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ and about to become a Professor of Ecosystem Services at the International Institute Zittau, Technical University of Dresden, Germany.



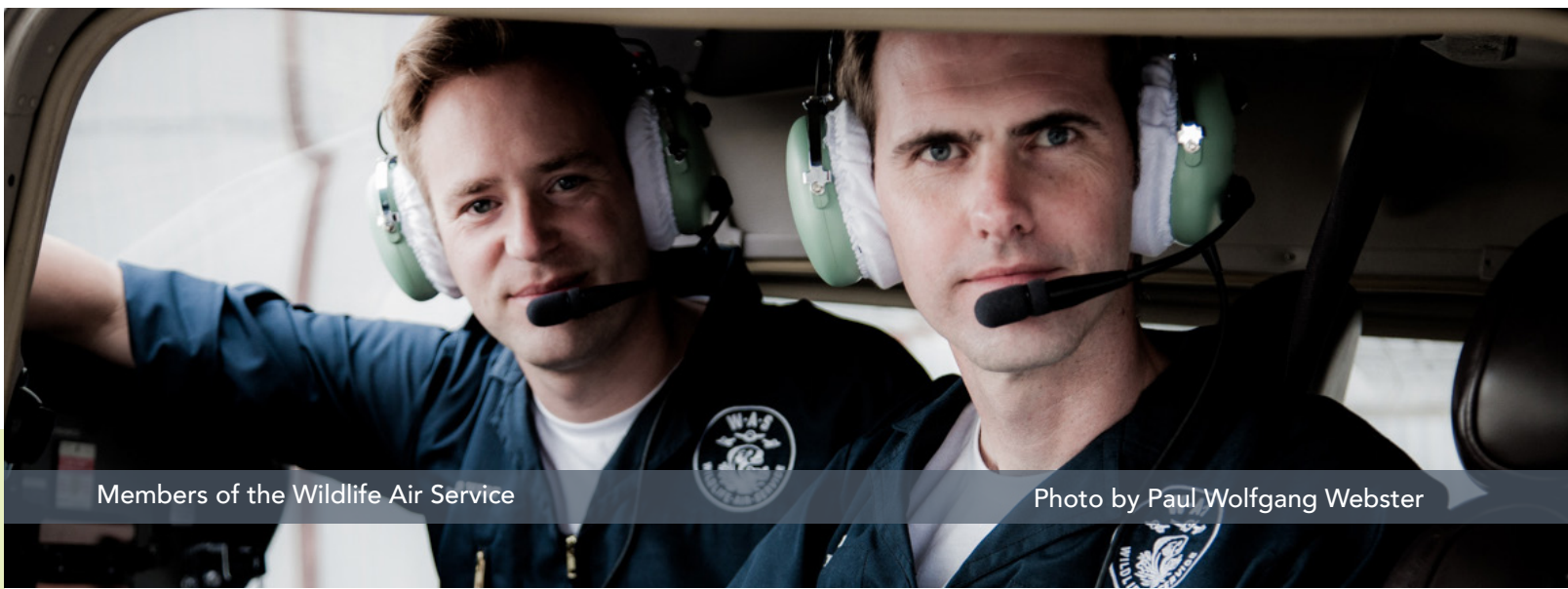
From the Editor
JASPER KENTER

Linking horizons in a changing Europe

Welcome to the 20th Anniversary Bulletin of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), celebrating the birth of ESEE in 1996. This one off, 'special issue' grew out of a desire to reflect on who we are, where we have come from and where we need to go, as a school of thought, a movement and an organisation. Much of this bulletin engages with some of the people who have witnessed and

influenced the organisation over the past decades, Inge Røpke, Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Tommaso Luzzati, Clive Spash, Arild Vatn, and Irene Ring, to reflect on these key topics. An important thread in their personal relations with ESEE and ecological economics more broadly is how they experience it as a 'home'. In times where research funders are increasingly obsessed with metrics (Spash), and interdisciplinary research

is in demand (Ring), but often still not properly recognised (Fischer-Kowalski, Vatn), the role of ESEE as an open, warm, tolerant, critical and radical, nurturing, and creative interdisciplinary space only becomes more important. Development of these aspects of ESEE are beautifully illustrated by Nuno Videira in this bulletin's centrefold.



Members of the Wildlife Air Service

Photo by Paul Wolfgang Webster

“At the 1997 EU Treaty of Amsterdam summit, I ended up in prison for its entire duration”

As we reflect on 20 years ESEE, Europe is in a very different state. In 1996 I was involved in the flowering of a movement opposed to economic globalisation and the environmental and social injustice it causes. I spent much of my time protesting at international summits, and saw many of my friends badly hurt by police reacting violently against dissent. At the 1997 EU Treaty of Amsterdam summit, I ended up in prison for its entire duration, along with 800 others I was preventatively arrested as a ‘member of a criminal organisation’ intent on disrupting the proceedings (an unnamed one, I wasn’t yet a member of ESEE!). I was a vegan at the time but there was no vegan food in jail. After 24 hours, I was given a plate of pickled onions. I was starving and ate it, but came to regret it, because I didn’t eat anything else the next three days, and couldn’t get rid of that lingering pickled onion taste! For me, Europe stood for Fortress Europe, the erosion of democratic ideals through the integration of national security apparatus, and the neoliberal hegemony. We wanted a bottom-up Europe where we would break up the power of corporations, introduce a basic income in a steady state economy (or just give things to each other as gifts!) and end the concept of being an ‘illegal’ human being.

At the time support for the extreme right was gradually rising in some

countries (Front National, Vlaams Blok, FPÖ etc.) but nobody foresaw it as the threat to the European Union that it now poses. The European elite was optimistic: this was the time of preparing for introduction of the Euro, and laying the groundwork for substantial expansion of the union. Centre-left neoliberals such as Blair and Schröder dominated politics and kept policies firmly centrist. Now, centre-left parties have all but collapsed across the continent, in some cases to the benefit of more radical leftists but more so to populist nationalist movements whose influence now dominate politics across the board.

Living in the UK in the face of the ‘Brexit’ referendum, I now feel very unsure of where I stand. Suddenly Europe with its Convention on Human Rights, its Court of Justice that regularly limits the excesses of nation states, and its environmental framework directives seem rational and almost idealistic compared to the bizarre proclamations that the dozen of European Donald Trumps make on a daily basis. Suddenly the centrist alternative seems the lesser of two evils.

But the widely shared discontent with the old neoliberal thesis, and the concerns of many with the populist, reactionary antithesis provide space for fresher thoughts. This is a clear opportunity for ecological economics and broader heterodox ideas, such as what Inge Røpke in this bulletin refers to as ‘New Paradigm economics’ after Edward Fullbrook, which she feels we need to embrace to ensure that this new paradigm is anchored on

a biophysical foundation. This is not just an academic challenge but also one of translating research into public understanding of a different way, if we can show that our ambitions leave behind the stale dynamics of left, right and centre.

The International Futures Forum (IFF) has developed a model for transformative change that encourages us to think in terms of three ‘horizons’¹: H1-3. H1 stands for “the dominant system and the challenges to its sustainability into the future”. H3 represents the “ideal system we desire and of which we can identify elements in the present that give us encouragement”. H2 reflects “the nature of the tensions and dilemmas between vision and reality, and the distinction between innovations that serve to prolong the status quo and those that serve to bring the third horizon vision closer to reality”. The framework can be used as a facilitation tool, where participants are encouraged to put on different H1-3 hats, and the type of thinking associated with the horizon: managerial for H1, visionary for H3, and entrepreneurial for H2. By recognising these different perspectives, we can emphasise with the demands on policy makers to address problems directly arising from the status quo (keeping the lights on), nurture the seeds of change for the future, and bridge the tensions between them, what IFF call “redesigning the plane whilst flying it”. The H2 link is crucial here, and we need the openness to embrace pragmatic bridging actions without losing a critical identity.

Ellen Stenslie discusses this tension in her article on legal innovation in social entrepreneurship, where social enterprises may generate positive change but at the same time increasingly take over the role of failing governments. Recently, a former comrade on the antiglobalisation barricades got back in touch with me, Wietse van der Werf. Wietse has since started several pragmatic charities and social enterprises to engage large groups of citizens in conservation, very much taking on an 'H2 role'. In his view, for entrepreneurial change to have genuine transformative potential, we need to speak to people's hearts at least as much as their minds. An example is the Wildlife Air Service², an international civilian air service mobilising amateur and professional pilots to expose illegal logging, poaching and fishing. The idea is to link to what people already love to do to generate change from the bottom-up. The key thing here is not to change people's identity, but to be entrepreneurial in how you can mobilise existing skills and values for positive change. This engagement in altruistic or biospheric activities then may lead to identity change, in IFF jargon linking H2 to H3. This resonates with more formal examples where people's identities gradually change by engaging in pro-environmental practices, such as farmers taking part in agri-environment schemes³. More broadly this also relates to the importance of understanding the relations between institutions and action, as highlighted in this bulletin by Arild Vatn.

"For entrepreneurial change to have genuine transformative potential, we need to speak to people's hearts at least as much as their minds."

Thus, for the next 20 years of ESEE, and ecological economics more broadly, a crucial challenge for us is to link our fairly abstract concepts such as degrowth and societal metabolism to things that are meaningful to a nonacademic audience and that can resonate with hearts as well as minds. Frameworks such as 3H can help us walk the tightrope between maintaining a clear identity (as vigorously advocated by Tommaso Luzzati in this bulletin) and not using the same us-them rhetoric that both old leftists and right wing populists are prone to, by recognising that there is a need to bring together different kinds of actions and thinking linking different temporal scales and social-institutional contexts.

Jasper Kenter is Principal Investigator in Ecological Economics at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and Chair of the ESEE Publications Committee.

1. <http://www.internationalfuturesforum.com/three-horizons>
2. <http://www.wildlifeair.org>
3. Riley, M., 2016. How does longer term participation in agri-environment schemes [re]shape farmers' environmental dispositions and identities? Land Use Policy 52, 62–75. doi:10.1016/j.landusepol.2015.12.010



AN INTERVIEW WITH ARILD VATN

Reflections on ecological economics

What ecological economics needs to advance

What does it mean to you to be an ecological economist?

It means that there are limits to how much humans can “intervene” in natural systems without causing malfunction. These interventions not only threaten other species, but may even threaten our own sustenance. This raises fundamental ethical questions regarding both inter- and intra-generational justice. Ecological economics acknowledges that these limits are not fixed, nor easy to define. There are technical aspects related to lack of knowledge—uncertainty and ignorance. There are value issues related to which changes are acceptable and which are not.

Ecological economics brings ethical questions back into our analyses as economists. It implies a search for languages and for fora where we can express and decide on these ethical dilemmas. It implies a search for institutions that are able to foster responsible decision-making and ensure sustainable futures. It implies a search for economic systems that can develop within limits and that are able to define necessary precautionary strategies. So ecological economics is a mix of positive and normative analyses going beyond the standard definition of efficiency. It is not about neo-classically founded analyses just expanded to include the environment. It is about rethinking

what the characteristics of our biophysical environments imply for the way we act and interact with other humans and with nature at large.

What has ecological economics achieved?

Ecological economics has put emphasis on the above—on limits, on human–environment interactions, on ignorance, on value pluralism, on the need for changing the structure of economic systems. It has developed against strong forces, both professionally and politically. While we have managed to establish organisations and good fora for discussion, creation of new ideas and our own journals, the mainstream still stays strong. Hence, we continue to be a minority voice, which for many of us implies working in interdisciplinary departments. While ecological economics is interdisciplinary, the power of the mainstream to keep us straddling the margins of the discipline presents a major challenge.

What would a world ruled by ecological economists look like?

I do not think we should aim for ruling the world. We should aim for developing ideas that could be democratically accepted as the “new rule”. To inform the debate about what that world could look like, I would emphasise the following “utopian” thoughts. At the basis

should lie a new vision about human and societal development that emphasises justice and needs. High levels of human welfare are possible with much lower levels of consumption than in present-day western societies. It is important to ensure ecological space to allow those living in outright poverty to meet their basic needs.

The key concept in ensuring this—I propose—is responsibility. This means responsible consumers, political authorities and firms. While emphasis on the consumer is important, I do not think it is possible to develop sustainable futures without starting with the basic economic institutions. Today's institutions foster economic growth. They even depend on it. To get on a sustainable track, we need some very demanding changes. We need to create production units that can function well and be creative without being dependent on an expanding economy. This means creating firms that are not based on individual rationality—profit maximisation—but on social rationality. It demands changes in both ownership structures and the form and functioning of the financial sector. Rules for international trade need to be reformulated to facilitate this transition. No less.

“Understanding the relationship between institutions and action is crucial to support the creation of sustainable futures.”

Where should ecological economics be heading?

The changes I have described are very demanding. Keeping the right direction in mind, I think ecological economists can play a very important role in developing research that can inform a process of transformation. But ecological economics needs to take on one more step to advance. We need to engage in the development of a theory of human action—to understand why

we act the way we do. So far, we have either used—implicitly—the theory of rational choice, or we have gone further and endorsed theories of plural values. While the latter development is very important, thinking about economic systems demands more of us.

There may be various ways to proceed. Personally, I engage in incorporating insights from institutional theory into ecological economics. I find institutional theory offers great opportunities for advances as it acknowledges the relationships between the institutions we develop and the motivations we hold. As humans hold plural values, we seem to be able to act based on different kinds of motivations. Understanding the relationship between institutions and action is

crucial to support the creation of sustainable futures. We can then help develop ideas for systemic changes. We need, however, to move quickly, as time is now probably the most limited resource we have.

Arild Vatn is Professor of Environmental Sciences at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He is a former President of ESEE (2006-2010) and the 2016 winner of the Kenneth Boulding Award.

Interviewer: Dan O'Neill

AN INTERVIEW WITH
INGE RØPKE

Reflections on ecological economics

A personal perspective on an urgent task for ecological economics

When I started working with environmental issues in the late 1980s, it was not obvious where I could find an intellectual home. I had a background in the economics of innovation and various streams of socio-economics, but the associations in these fields had little focus on environment. Together with a couple of colleagues, I

participated in a project on a Danish clean technology innovation programme, and we decided to present a paper at the first conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics in 1990. Of course, Venice was great, and we met a few people with related socio-economic interests, but most of the

papers were applied neoclassical economics—and extremely boring from our perspective. Something different was needed. I didn't discover the first conference on ecological economics in Washington in 1990, but in 1992 the second conference was closer to home, in Stockholm, and that became a turning point for me. The conference

was really interdisciplinary with lots of interesting papers, and many contributions were critical toward neoclassical economics. I had found my intellectual home.

Since then, the field has been through a long journey where research programmes have been developed in many different directions, whilst at the same time, a set of core beliefs and concepts became entrenched in the field, such as systems thinking, radical uncertainty, social metabolism, environmental justice, power and institutional perspectives. These days it is not possible to be a polyhistor, but being part of the ecological economics community makes it possible to keep an open and wide horizon. Over the years I've heard so many interesting presentations on all sorts of topics—spanning from exergy, panarchy and socio-ecological systems to environmental history, commodity frontiers and value articulating institutions. The openness makes it possible for many of us to venture into new topics and to ensure cross-fertilisation between fields that are usually separate. There is every chance to get wiser and little risk of getting bored, and most of the time, we are discussing something really important.

Increasingly, several other scientific communities working on environmental issues offer the same kind of qualities—interdisciplinarity, broad perspectives, problem-orientation, engagement, relevance.

“It is extremely important to strengthen ecological economics, because the field is well positioned to take on a specific task: to ensure that a biophysical perspective becomes foundational in the development of a new economics”

What is then special about ecological economics? Is it important to develop this community further, or can we just as well relate our work to other communities? In my opinion, it is extremely important to strengthen ecological economics, because the field is well positioned to take on a specific task: to ensure that a biophysical perspective becomes foundational in the development of a new economics. Mainstream economic theories tend to be part of the environmental and social problems rather than part of the solution. It is a great challenge to provide an alternative to the dominant theories—a new economics that is supportive of socially just sustainability transitions.

This challenge needs to be met in a cooperation between many streams of heterodox economics. As Edward Fullbrook has argued, the different communities of heterodox economics tend to

define themselves on the basis of their particular difference with the orthodoxy, which makes the alternative weak^{1,2}. Fullbrook finds that heterodox economists actually agree on a number of substantial points, including basic ideas from ecological economics, which could form the basis for what he calls a New Paradigm Economics. Along the same lines, Frank Stilwell argues that a stronger alternative to mainstream economics could be formed around the label “political economy”, again including ecological economics.³ Actually, this alternative could really be considered the mainstream since it has a long lineage back to the classical economists, while neoclassical economics was a side-track that has turned out to be a cul-de-sac. I'd recommend taking a look at Fullbrook's and Stilwell's reflections on how to form stronger alternatives to the present neoclassical and neoliberal dominance.

Of course, ecological economics should pursue the different, more specific research programmes that have emerged within the field, sometimes in cooperation with other heterodox communities, as for instance, in relation to environmental governance and the development of an ecological macroeconomics. But simultaneously, we should contribute to the strengthening of a stronger alternative economics and make sure that it is firmly based on a biophysical understanding of the economy.

Inge Røpke is Professor of Ecological Economics, Department of Development and Planning, Aalborg University and winner of the 2014 Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Award

Interviewer: Tom Bauler

1. Fullbrook, E. (2013). “New paradigm economics”, real-world economics review, issue no. 65, 27 September 2013, pp. 129-131, <http://www.paecon.net/PAERreview/issue65/Fullbrook65.pdf>
2. Fullbrook, E. (2014). New Paradigm Economics versus Old Paradigm Economics. Interview with Edward Fullbrook, Conducted by Paul Rosenberg”, real-world economics review, issue no. 66, 13 January 2014, pp. 131-143, <http://www.paecon.net/PAERreview/issue66/Fullbrook66.pdf>
3. Stilwell, F. (2016). Heterodox economics or political economy? World Economics Association Newsletter 6 (1), February 2016, pp.2-6, <https://www.worldeconomicsassociation.org/newsletterarticles/heterodox-economics-or-pe/>



AN INTERVIEW WITH
MARINA FISCHER-KOWALSKI

Reflections on ecological economics

Am I an ecological economist?

What does it mean to you to be an ecological economist?

Well – I am not so sure I am. I was reluctant to accept presidential responsibility for ISEE in 2014 due to a lack of formal education in economics. I received my PhD in sociology, and was then trained in postgraduate courses across the social sciences. I learned to admire the 19th century political economists—Ricardo, Smith and Marx—in pursuing social theory in a broad sense. Later, from and within NGOs, I learned that my spontaneous love for nature, wilderness, animals and physical adventures was frustrated by a seemingly insatiable human species that treated the planet as its property to be consumed. I am driven to understand society in its interactions with nature in a conceptually integrated way, and I have a passion for preserving some remains of non-manipulated nature. Does this make me an ecological economist?

“My sociological breeding predestined me to see the (monetary) economy as no more than an unduly dominant subsystem of society”

Beginning in the late 1980s, I delved into the study of what Cutler Cleveland later termed the biophysical economy, deliberately

ignoring its monetary dimensions. With a gradually expanding network of international cooperations, this work developed into what is today known as the paradigm of “social metabolism”, and its methodology of “material and energy flow accounting” (MEFA). It generated a rich body of empirical data at the macro-, meso- and local levels and across long periods of time; but this remained relatively isolated territory within ecological economics.

My sociological breeding predestined me to see the (monetary) economy as no more than an unduly dominant subsystem of society, and my borrowing from the natural sciences taught me the causal interrelatedness of phenomena—if there was a way to create scientific approaches bridging across this great divide, they had to be systemic, and there could not even be a chance of reducing one to the other. So I might be an ecological economist after all, but this does not preclude being an industrial ecologist, or, my personal preference, a social ecologist.

What has ecological economics achieved?

I think ecological economics has achieved a number of very successful strands of research, and is well equipped to meet a number of challenges posed by the current system. It has overcome, it seems to me, the fallacy of “weak

sustainability”, but it has not become the science of sustainability some aspired it to be. It has achieved academic recognition and it is establishing a rapidly increasing number of academic programs under its name. Organisationally, it has managed to generate academic societies in more and more parts of the world, and the International Society is running one of the most successful interdisciplinary journals. Ecological economics remains, though, an umbrella term for a broad variety of approaches that show only weak relations to one another. This broadness, or methodological pluralism as it is sometimes called, may be its strength, but it carries with it a number of major drawbacks. The most important drawback could be that ecological economics does not become a serious challenge to mainstream economics.

The window of opportunity for challenging mainstream economics has never stood open more widely than it does now. The ongoing economic crisis is debated in terms of its systemic causes. Popular media are discussing how (and whether) capitalism can be “saved”, and the Economist magazine has even run a cover piece on the fallacy of using GDP to measure prosperity. The ecological economics I envision which grows and “weeds out” its field of methodological pluralism, should make use of this opportunity.

What would a world ruled by ecological economists look like?

I don't believe in an expert-run world, not even by good-willed interdisciplinary experts. And I am pretty sure ecological economists would be heavily overcharged by this job.

Where should ecological economics be heading?

Research publications tend to follow research funding. In our field, there are three strands of research funding available: funds for basic research, policy-oriented research funds, and business-oriented funding. Research funding is largely judged on the clarity of concepts, the use of stringent methods, and reference to a body of well-known literature. These standards don't make life easy for interdisciplinary research—the only special assets it may rely upon are novelty and creativity. With respect to policy-oriented funding, economic policy actors cannot be expected to spend much of their money on critical approaches like ecological economics. Environmental policy actors may be more likely to do so, but they tend to spend their money on research for environmental protection that does not put them into conflict with their economic policy counterparts (TEEB for example). Finally, there are cooperations with business. They are a particular challenge to ecological economics because they may further divide the research community into those who apply mainstream economics principles and work on variations of the “business as usual” model, and those who look upon business as the root of all evil and will not engage in this area of research at all.

“The window of opportunity for challenging mainstream economics has never stood open more widely than it does now”

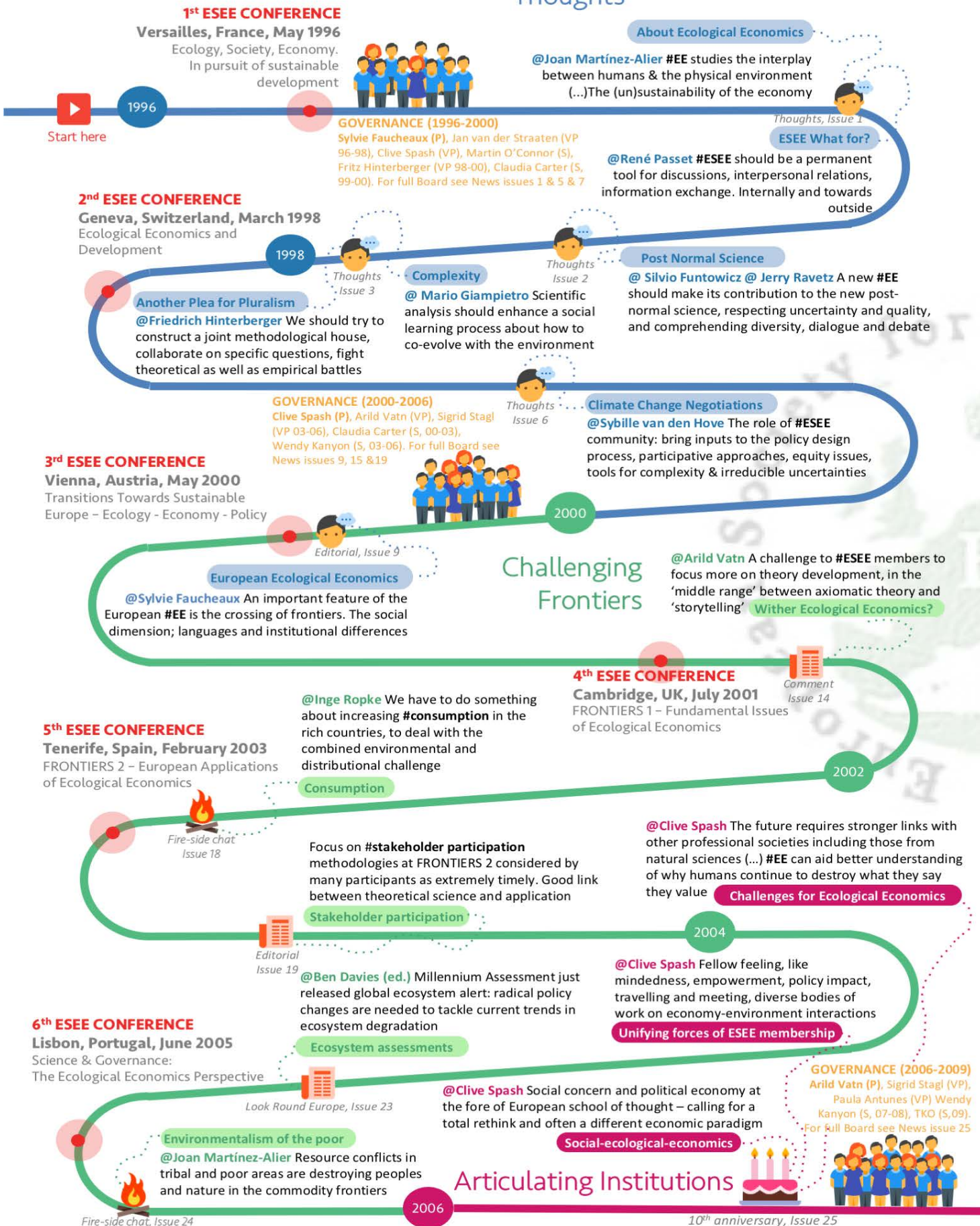
Globally, different interests also split the field. While researchers from high-income countries criticise unduly high consumption as a major driver of environmental destruction, emerging economies rely upon this very consumption to raise their standard of living. Researchers from these countries cannot easily be expected to join in on a critique of economic growth. These differences create enormous heterogeneity within the field, and a difficult situation for the journal (which has a low degree of mutual referencing), and possibly may rip the field apart if they become too strongly politicised.

Going forward, it would be of great help if funders could be convinced to invest in solid comparative research on long- and medium-term development, directed at human and environmental wellbeing beyond economic growth.

Marina Fischer-Kowalski teaches social ecology at the Alpen Adria University in Vienna, and is Past-President of ISEE

Interviewer: Dan O'Neill

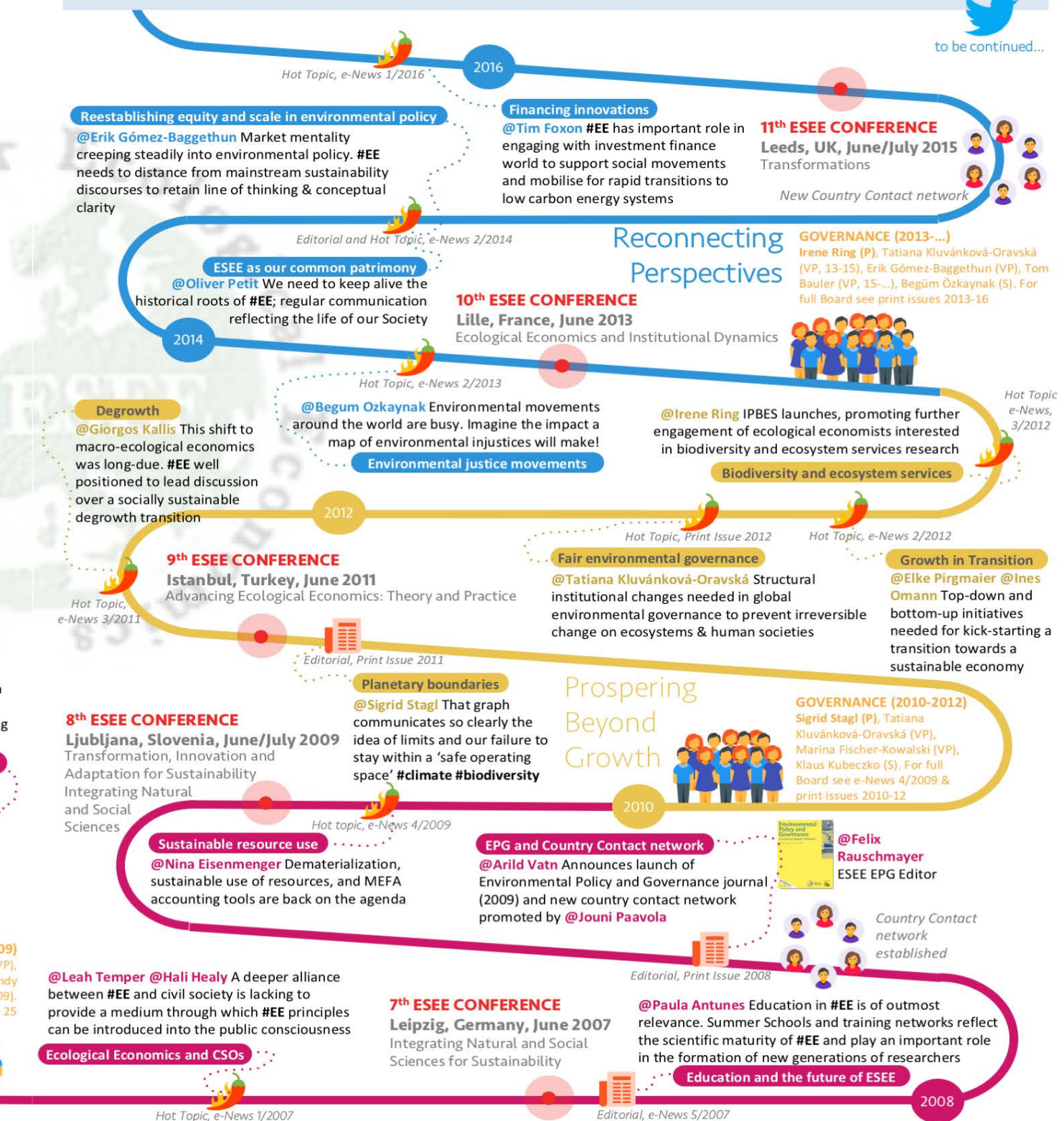
Inaugural Thoughts



Re-tweeting 20 years of ESEE NEWS

@ Nuno Videira

For this Hot Topic, marking the 20th anniversary of ESEE, I went back to the ESEE Newsletter archives to collate 20 years of news, thoughts and hot topics. Here, they are imagined as a personal selection of 're-tweets', as if social networking messages under 140 characters existed back since 1996. The timeline layout is loosely inspired by some of Otto Neurath's and Gerd Arntz's visual communication charts from the 1930's. Many other interesting topics and contributions by dedicated ESEE members at the service of the Society did not make the final cut, so the invitation stands for a (re)read of past ESEE News to fill in the gaps. The vault is freely accessible at <http://www.euroecolecon.org/newsletter/>, offering a glimpse and testimony of the work of the Society throughout the years.



Hot topic

Is the world of business as we know it changing?



ELLEN STENSLIE

Most of the time, it feels like change towards a truly sustainable economy is progressing excruciatingly slow. This is particularly so when we look at unsustainable business practices, enabled by politicians in pursuit of economic growth. While the business sector is very diverse, and in some cases pioneering green practices, business as we know it has to change fundamentally if we are to achieve true sustainability. More importantly; the public is now increasingly pressurising businesses to give back to their communities and go beyond just following the law.

Innovation in how to solve the overwhelming amount of social and environmental ills across the world, is high on the international and national agenda. Politicians more and more turn towards the business sector for help (i.e. the place where the money is). Debates arising from the ecological economics community have however demonstrated that this can be very problematic, whether it entails market-based mechanisms or the financialisation and privatisation of certain environmental goods. Mainstream capitalist entrepreneurs might see potential market opportunities in social and environmental problems, and thus some claim they must be incentivised to invest. But there are also other types of entrepreneurs. Disillusioned with conventional


organisational models like charities and corporations, they choose to organise themselves differently to address social and environmental issues. Enter the global rise of social and environmental entrepreneurship and the social enterprise.

“By redefining the purpose of the enterprise, and setting environmental and social mission at the centre of their raison d’être, these entrepreneurs challenge hegemonic business institutions”

Social enterprises are in essence market-oriented and they can be for- or not-for-profit. They blend social and economic purpose, adopting business-like approaches towards solving social and environmental issues. It is an aim of these entrepreneurs to be innovators and to create larger-scale change. Some look more like traditional companies, others more like charities. Many choose to organise by adopting new, legal structures. Such structures are being introduced across the world, as existing structures are no longer able to capture the specific nature of these enterprises, especially in terms of securing social and environmental purpose. Two examples include the

United States’ Benefit Corporation, created to enable mission-driven, for-profit companies, and the Community Interest Company (CIC) in the United Kingdom; a limited liability structure created for the social enterprises serving and re-investing in community interest. Many countries have created similar structures, or are considering doing so.

By redefining the purpose of the enterprise, and setting environmental and social mission at the centre of their raison d’être, these entrepreneurs challenge hegemonic business institutions. Changing the legal structures under which actors operate, as well as the conventions and norms that guide their rationality and behaviour implies a shift away from persistent institutions like shareholder primacy and profit maximization, towards a wider matrix of goals more aligned with overall societal welfare. In the case of the Benefit Corporations, they must have a material positive impact on society and the environment. They report annually, using a third party standard. CICs must similarly report every year on how they serve community interest, they also have a cap on dividends and an asset lock.



"The notion of enterprises making profits from delivering social and environmental value that we in many cases would have expected from the government can be troublesome"

Most of these legal structures, although an interesting step away from business as usual, nonetheless have some shortcomings in practice. Some seem mostly attractive to charity-like organisations wishing to have more control and attract social investments and grants, representing a shift where the voluntary sector becomes more business-like, and not vice-versa. Others look like any other business only with stricter requirements on reporting and accountability. Some are plagued by weak enforcement mechanisms and lack transparency. Still, innovative entrepreneurs are demonstrating that it is possible to do business in a different way, and they have both consumers and employees rooting for them. To them, new, hybrid legal structures represent a necessary step forward, providing legitimacy and mission control, at the same time as enabling them in their pursuit to improve the world.

The notion of enterprises making profits from and gaining competitive advantage from delivering social and environmental value that we in many cases would have expected from the government can be troublesome to some people. The growth of non-profit and re-investment oriented models may offer some hope to in this regard. In any case, it seems the boundaries between what is private, public or non-profit sectors are getting fuzzier, challenged by a new generation of entrepreneurs. More empirical research is needed, and will no doubt provide valuable data on the dynamics of hybrid enterprises in the years to come. While new, legal structures are a small change, and for many not radical enough, they certainly represent something very different from Milton Friedman's now old-fashioned insistence on shareholder primacy. Nevertheless, the question of whether they can help transform the economy towards a fundamentally sustainable one remains un-answered for now.

Ellen Stenslie is a PhD Candidate at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and Student Representative on the ESEE Board.



AN INTERVIEW WITH
CLIVE L. SPASH

Reflections on ESEE

Building a community for social ecological transformation

How did you get involved in ESEE?

I became familiar with ecological economics from the late 1980s while living in the USA, and co-authored a plenary paper with my PhD supervisor, Ralph d'Arge, at the first conference in Washington, D.C. When I returned to Europe I connected with various people and ran a discussion group in Scotland that explored issues around ecological and environmental economics. My substantive involvement in ESEE was due to Martin O'Connor who phoned to ask me to stand for election as Vice President at the forthcoming inaugural Paris conference in 1996. I had never thought about such a post before, but decided I would give it a go. Jan van der Straaten and I got exactly the same number of votes from the conference delegates, and so the decision was made that ESEE would have two vice presidents (Sylvie Faucheux was elected president).

What do you think is unique or special about ESEE?

The European Society has been more politically and socially aware and engaged in the broader social sciences. This stems from the mixture of people who were involved from the start, and a critical social science perspective being more common in Europe. While I was President of ESEE we

ran two 'Frontier' conferences, one on theory and one on practice/applications, limited to 100 people and funded by a Marie Curie grant to support a high level of student/young researcher attendance. I think these really helped bring the community together and create a sense of common purpose. Various summer schools have also operated in a similar way over the years for smaller collectives. From the start what I liked about ESEE was a more convivial atmosphere and more concerned environmentalism than the theoretical and abstracted approach of environmental and resource economists.

Is the ecological economics community in Europe different than elsewhere?

Yes, there are clear differences, but it has also been changing over time. There was a distinct difference early on due to the cross linkages and engagement with participation and deliberative processes, value articulating institutions, social multi-criteria analysis, science and technology studies, and generally the attempts to link all this to theoretical foundations. As I have written in the journal, my feeling is that others have been looking for pragmatic magic numbers to impact politically, but with little concern for any theoretical basis in social science, or political, understanding.

The 'engineering approach' has also been dominant elsewhere — often including faith in technology — with the search for 'solutions', as if everything were a problem with a technical fix.

In Europe, there is more openness to questioning markets and corporate capitalism rather than an apologist approach that asks for scale limiting side constraints, emissions trading and a bit of income redistribution. There is also a strong critique of the capital accumulating economy within the foundations of ecological economics, although this is perhaps too rarely expressed openly as such. Indeed, as I have also pointed out, there has been an ongoing struggle to maintain a core critical social science perspective against the powers urging conformity to the dominant economic discourse, regardless of its lack of social and biophysical realism.

The ESEE community has also managed some stability while other regional societies have come and gone, collapsed and been reformed, lacked focus and direction, or been dominated by individuals. At the same time there have been divisions such as the splitting off of the resilience people into their own organisation, or the reduced presence of the new resource economists who largely went back into the mainstream.

Where should ESEE be heading?

There is a role for ESEE to be more active in terms of its community. As a society ESEE needs to care for its members and find ways to support the younger members of the community who face managerialism, metrics, short term contracts and exploitation by senior colleagues. I would also like to see ESEE promoting good practice, such as not flying, having vegetarian/vegan food only at conferences, and generally encouraging low impact academic lifestyles by example. We need to recognise there is no credibility in being academics who, for example, fly all over the world telling people to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and that fossil fuels are running out. For many today there is a stronger focus on the need for social ecological transformation. The future of Europe is bleak with fascism on the rise,

neoliberalism and corporations dominating politics, and the economics of selfish greed being promoted as if this made humans flourish. The European Union envisions a future world of trade, competition and growth through highly, socially and environmentally, invasive technologies. As in the past that means the majority are suppressed to serve a minority and the world will be divided by military might and 'security' forces. ESEE needs to become more radical and engaged in the social and environmental upheavals of our time. We need research that helps achieve a better future than the one humanity is now creating. That involves both promoting the means for transformation and the utopian vision of where we want to go. Perhaps this is why many are interested in degrowth, because, regardless of what you think of it academically or disagreements you

might have with the term or content, the degrowth movement is clearly committed to changing the system. Smaller by design not disaster. Not, "slower", as Peter Victor rewrote my phrase.

Clive Spash is Professor of Public Policy and Governance at the Institute for Multi-Level Governance & Development, Department of Socio-Economics, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, and former President of ESEE. He is editing the Routledge Handbook of Ecological Economics: Nature and Society, due out in the second half of 2016.

Interviewer: Olivier Petit



AN INTERVIEW WITH
TOMMASO LUZZATI

Reflections on ESEE

Time to reinforce our roots

How did you get involved in ESEE?

After completing my PhD thesis, which was on including social influences within economics, I got a post-doc research grant on regional development. The professor I collaborated with, Antonio Calafati, introduced me to K.W. Kapp's work and encouraged me to pursue my interests in environmental topics. Actually, he funded my first

participation to an ESEE conference, the Geneva's one, 1998. I presented a paper, I met great people, young and established researchers. I remember Mario Giampietro, Giuseppe Munda, Clive Spash and many many others... I attended the general meeting, which was really interesting. A debate emerged between some members who defended their neoclassical positions and the others. Actually, I also dared

to participate by saying something against monetary evaluation and I got praised by a professor. I met him just after, it was Joan Martinez-Allier.

What do you think is unique or special about ESEE?

Since 1998 I have been lucky enough to have attended all the ESEE conferences. Over the years, the society has become bigger and

conferences attracted an increasing number of participants, especially young people. Nonetheless, the constructive and convivial spirit of our conferences has remained unchanged.

Is the ecological economics community in Europe different than elsewhere?

I think that we inherited from our European intellectual tradition the “old” institutional perspective: we are aware that economic processes are embedded in societies and institutions, not only in Nature. Moreover, we have a critical analytical approach, which does not rely upon faith, neither in markets, nor science and technology, nor in governments.

Where should ESEE be heading?

The cost for a larger size of our community is, in my opinion, that our identity has become somehow

fuzzy. Just as an example, several participants to our conferences have never read a single line of Georgescu Roegen. In contrast, at the beginning of the 2000s the Society got funded to organise two beautiful medium size (100 persons) conferences (Cambridge and Tenerife) which contributed to our identity through the interactions between senior and young researchers. I believe we should reinforce our roots and sharpen our identity back, though it may not be easy to organise similar events again.

However, with the help of the tools available now on the web, we could start a process to identify a set of readings that all people in our community, including those wishing to attend our conferences, should have read. For sure, each of us has a different view on ecological economics. However, I’m rather confident that it would be easy to have a core list with a few readings (and keywords), on which we could

agree with a near unanimous consensus.

Tommaso Luzzati is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Pisa. At the core of his research is a desire to understand the roots of environmental degradation, with particular reference to the work and the ideas of K.W. Kapp, to the relationship between energy, economy, and the environment, and to the composite indicators and rankings debate.

Interviewer: Olivier Petit

ESEE ecological economics training institutes

Juha Hiedenpää
Chair, ESEE Education Committee

Since 2014, ESEE has released calls to sponsor ecological economics summer and winter schools, and other training events. The ESEE training institutes are a series of transdisciplinary, collaborative events aimed at early career researchers, practitioners and decision-makers in Europe. Events can be focused on any of the diverse range of topics associated with ecological economics. Following experience of previous ESEE educational programmes, ESEE has encouraged self-organised events that share a common, participatory structure, supporting research excellence of ecological economics centres across Europe. Candidates can apply annually with ESEE for up to 2000 euro towards the cost of an event

to be held within the following two years.

Reports from recent training institutes

ESEE summer school, University of Leeds, June 28-30, 2015.

We held a pre-conference ESEE 2015 summer school in Leeds, UK. We had 30 attendees, from 14 different countries, selected from nearly 90 applicants, ensuring a very high calibre of delegate. A main goal of the ESEE Summer School was to move away from the traditional PhD conference, which tends to be longer talks by attendees and quite passive. Instead we conceived the idea of a dynamic and stimulating summer school that would challenge delegates and at the same time provide a wide platform of shared

learning. We had planned three main sessions:

- 3 minute thesis: we wanted to hear in a concise form, what people were researching and what made them passionate about their subject. We got exactly that, some really entertaining talks by people from an amazing range of backgrounds.
- Early career session: to listen to and then ask questions to people with more established careers, both inside and outside academia. What we learnt was that life is not a linear process, and there are ups and downs but that eventually the fog clears, you see where you want to go, and you can strive to achieve it.



- Transformations sessions: these were the central feature of the Summer school, linking to the main ESEE 2015 Transformations conference theme. We constrained delegates on the first day to think inside the box, working within established UN goals and targets. On day two, we stretched people to think outside the box, and develop radical change ideas and personal action plans. After the summer school, 4 brave people put together a 10-minute presentation and gave their challenge on Transformations to the 300+ opening ceremony attendees in the Great Hall.

***"The summer of degrowth",
Autonomous University of
Barcelona and Research &
Degrowth, July, 6-16, 2015***

"Inspired, motivating and refreshing". One participant in the summer school on degrowth and environmental justice 2015 summarised with these words her experience during the ten days of the course.

This edition of the summer school tried to re-establish the links between claims from communities in resistance against environmental injustice around at the planet and the internal and external, environmental and social sources of degrowth.

Thus, between July 6-15, thirty students from twenty different countries undertook a critical revision

of the proposals being put forward in the name of degrowth deepening their logic and extent in the light of environmental justice.

A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ESEE ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS TRAINING INSTITUTES

ESEE has opened this year's call for training institutes. Candidates can apply annually with ESEE for up to 2000 euro towards the cost of an event to be held within the following two years, but are responsible for the remainder of funding. Applications have to include a short rationale for the meeting including a description of the meeting format and how the below criteria are met (max 2 pages), a budget, an indication of what budget posts ESEE funds will be spent on, and an overview of other (potential) funding sources. Applications are to be submitted to esee.training@gmail.com and the 2016 deadline for submissions is November 25, 2016. Keep an eye on the ESEE website and newsletter for deadlines in following years.

Event criteria

- Highly collaborative and participatory; not just a series of lectures and presentations.
- Transdisciplinary: including participants beyond academia, e.g. decision-makers, practitioners, community representatives, etc.
- Students are heavily involved in organising the event.
- Zero or low cost for participation, with some kind of bursary opportunities for those in a low-income situation.
- The organisers have to record participant feedback on the event and make this available to ESEE.
- Environmental awareness: a plan to minimise (and potentially compensate) the carbon footprint and other environmental costs.

Further guidelines and suggestions

In addition to mandatory criteria, ESEE suggests the following guidelines for the events. These guidelines will also be used to decide between competing applications in the annual round.

- Duration: 2 days for pre-conference events, 3-5 days for other events
- Number of participants: 20-30 participants; a relatively small group of students helps to build group cohesiveness and identity.
- A mix of student and post-doc with at least third post-docs.
- Provide opportunities for publication of outputs.
- Provide opportunities for ECTL credits associated with courses.
- Remote locations preferred to maximise engagement.
- Family friendly with childcare options available.
- As the decision on competing proposals is taken by the ESEE Board, proposals by active ESEE Board members are excluded from consideration. They are still free to submit applications, but these will only be considered in the case of no other eligible application(s) by applicants outside the ESEE Board.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Inês Cosme

An effective and democratic transition to a more sustainable society

Tell us about yourself? What are you researching?

I am an environmental engineer from the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal. I'm pursuing a PhD in Globalization Studies and working as a researcher in CENSE – Center for Environmental and Sustainability Research, in the ecological economics and environmental management team. I am currently focusing my research on environmental policy and governance. I have mainly been exploring the sustainable degrowth discourse and proposals for action. This research has been leading me to a research gap in the field: how can we improve democracy in strong sustainability approaches to environmental policy, and what are the trade-offs between legitimacy and policy effectiveness in this context? My PhD research will present a fresh perspective on what we have to consider when pursuing the goals of deepening democratic institutions while downscaling in an ecological and socially just way the impacts of our production and consumption systems.

If you were in charge of the world economy for one day, tell me one thing what you would do and why?

If I were in charge of the world economy for one day, and assuming I would also have unlimited human

and economic resources, I would first of all remove environmental harmful subsidies. If we want to have a more sustainable future, the first step is to discourage economic activities that are not in accordance with that. I would also remove investments on fossil fuels and redirect them to less polluting activities that need to be scaled up. If I still had time, before I turn into a pumpkin at midnight, I would improve social and environmental norms in international trade, since the social and environmental costs created by the delocalization of industry from rich to poor countries should not continue to be tolerated.

Tell me one thing that you think many ecological economists don't realise, but should.

I think that many ecological economists do not realise the urgency of the debate between legitimacy and effectiveness of environmental policy. It is a common concern between researchers in the field that people must be involved in political processes, as evermore we understand that representative systems tend to lack transparency. An effective involvement of people is also thought to lead to better environmental and social outcomes, but if and how this happens needs to be explored more, especially with empirical studies. An effective transition to a more sustainable society has to be achieved democratically, thus how people are involved in the policy cycle is a key question. There are numerous examples of individual and collective perception change when stakeholders are involved in the policy-making processes. Crucially, the creation of a culture of participation and a vision of global citizenship through education needs to happen in parallel, so that people feel that they are capable of understanding and debating about what makes a good society and how to achieve it.

More about Inês: <https://pt.linkedin.com/in/inescosme/en>

Interviewer: Jasper Kenter

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Sabin Roman

Time to educate people about thermodynamics

Tell us about yourself.

I am a PhD student at the Institute for Complex System Simulation at the University of Southampton. Previously, I completed an Integrated Master's degree in Mathematical Physics at the University of Edinburgh. My initial ambition was to do particle physics but concerns about environmental threats and energy shortages captivated my interest and I have decided to research these problems from a quantitative, physics perspective.

What are you researching?

My research is focused on the characteristic, long-term, large-scale emergent features of societies, in particular on the mechanisms of societal collapse. I attempt to build dynamical system models that describe the time-evolution of aggregate, measurable properties (e.g. population levels, resource usage) by capturing important feedbacks between these variables. The world model that the Limits to Growth study was based on is a prominent example of this type of modelling.

Research in this area has dealt predominantly with the cases of single, isolated socio-environmental systems. What occurs when several systems of this type interact? While societal interactions are deemed

important e.g. migration and commerce, little has been done to model networks of multiple, coupled, interacting socio-environmental systems. The modern world system is an example of this type, exhibiting high interconnectedness. My aim is to quantify this structure through mathematical models, where each component has the features of a smaller social system.

If you were in charge of the world economy for one day, tell me one thing what you would do and why?

If I was in charge of the world economy for one day I would organise a set of world-wide introductory presentations, lectures or conferences on systems thinking and thermodynamics, and ask all economists, business owners and heads of state to attend.

If thinking doesn't change, nothing else can.

Any direct actions taken on the day would likely be resisted later on and not have the desired, long-term impact. If new ways of thinking can be instilled or at least introduced there is some realistic possibility of systemic change towards a sustainable future.

Tell me one thing that you think many ecological economists don't realise, but should.

Many scientific disciplines have established specific methodological procedures, research questions, theoretical tools and experimental techniques. Some of these features have emerged naturally from the empirical imperative of trying to explain real-world observations and experimental results. Other practices have arisen from the need to simplify the complexity of real systems to be able to model them mathematically, for example the rationality of human actors in neo-classical economics.

But often, social inertia and institutional conventions can lead to some of these assumptions and practices to be carried on longer than they are actually useful.

A constant influx of new ideas is needed to keep academic fields alive. I think ecological economics is well alive and its practitioners should not be tempted now or in the future to mimic the more rigid frameworks of other disciplines. This is always a risk and they should be mindful of it.

More about Sabin: <https://cmg.soton.ac.uk/people/sr10g13/>

Interviewer: Jasper Kenter

Publish in Environmental Policy and Governance

Now in its 26th volume, and with an ISI Impact Factor of 1.6, Environmental Policy and Governance (EPG) is happy to be affiliated with the European Society for Ecological Economics and hopes to play a positive role in the global development of the field.

EPG seeks to advance interdisciplinary environmental research and its use to support novel approaches and solutions. The journal publishes innovative, high quality articles which examine, or are relevant to, the environmental policies that are introduced by governments or the diverse forms of environmental governance that emerge in markets and civil society. The journal is deliberately interdisciplinary, seeking to publish

articles that build the understanding of environmental issues not only by drawing upon and contributing to the environmental social sciences, but also by linking the social and natural sciences and beyond. The journal encourages methodological innovation and diversity in order to foster interdisciplinary, problem-oriented environmental research.

As competition to be published in Environmental Policy and Governance is high, we ask authors to place the major emphasis of their papers on conceptual issues of wider interest and importance, and the minor emphasis on case studies or particular issues or contexts. We welcome the submission of papers to the journal, and aim to offer speedy and constructive responses

to all paper submissions whether through our initial editorial review or for selected papers through our refereeing process. We also welcome ideas for special issues, and have spaces for special issues to be published from 2018 onwards. Submission details and contact information can be found on [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1756-9338](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1756-9338)

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ESEE Country Contact Network

The ESEE is proud to announce its updated Country Contact Network to facilitate the transfer of information between the membership and the Board of ESEE. Country Contacts have been re-confirmed or nominated by the Board of ESEE in the following countries:

Albania Romina Koto rominakoto@yahoo.it	Slovakia Veronica Chobotova verochobo@gmail.com	Italy Tommaso Luzzati tluzzati@ec.unipi.it	Finland Nina Honkela nina.honkela@helsinki.fi
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The Country Contacts will:

- Provide the first port of call to present and prospective ESEE members in their countries;
- Promote ESEE membership in their country;
- Provide and channel news, announcements and other information to ESEE Newsletter;
- Represent the membership in a country towards the Board.

The ESEE will:

- Facilitate and foster collaboration among the members through the Country Contacts;
- Seek consultation and advice of country contacts and membership in their countries in matters where geographic representation is important, such as preparation for elections;
- Use the Country Contact network for fact-finding and dissemination;
- Support national activities and events of members in different countries on the basis of requests from national contacts by

adopting, marketing and publicising them.

The board of ESEE is happy to consider proposals regarding the appointment of Country Contacts for additional countries.

Please contact:
Erik Gómez-Baggethun,
Erik.Gomez@nina.no

Become a member of ISEE/ESEE

Are you interested in...

- Linking economy, society and environment
- Green economy, steady state economics, and degrowth
- Environmental policy and governance
- Environmental justice
- The food, water, energy nexus
- Climate science and politics
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration
- ...and other critical topics in ecological economics?

The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) is a not-for-profit, member-governed organization dedicated to advancing understanding of the relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems for the mutual well-being of nature and people.

ISEE offers its members a number of benefits, including:

- An opportunity to network with people around the world who share an interest in discovering just how human societies are transforming and being transformed by their environment
- Membership in Regional Society where available
- Biennial conferences open to all members at discounted rates
- Membership fees progressively scaled according to income (from only \$15/year)
- Website that offers information of value to the membership as a network of researchers and leaders in the field
- Searchable database of members
- Weekly news
- Information on job openings in the field
- Information on research funding opportunities
- Dissemination of ecological economic tools
- Subscription in paper format and/or electronic version of the ISEE journal Ecological Economics at a substantially reduced rate
- Discounts on other journals and books

The European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) is the European branch of ISEE providing a network for ecological economics in Europe. Sign up as a member of ISEE and you can join ESEE at no additional cost.

Being an ESEE member brings a lot of advantages:

- Reduced registration fees at ISEE/ESEE sponsored events, including biennial ISEE and ESEE conferences
- ESEE quarterly newsletters
- Subscription to the electronic version of the ESEE journal Environmental Policy and Governance at a substantially reduced rate
- Free online access to the journal Environmental Values
- 30% discount on Wiley and Blackwell Publishing Limited books
- Special discounts on other selected books
- ISEE and ESEE web sites and social networks offering useful information to members, such as a membership database, job openings in the field and research funding opportunities
- The opportunity to network with researchers in ecological economics across Europe and around the world and to support the advancement of ecological economics in many ways, such as activities for Horizon 2020.

To join ISEE and ESEE or renew go to www.euroecolecon.org/membership/

Special offer for students:

As a student (incl. PhD) you have two membership options:

1. Active student members: You are an ordinary paying member of ISEE and ESEE with full membership rights in both organisations. You will still be registered as a student in our files (as long as you tick the box concerning this information when registering). This membership status implies that you are also granted the special right to vote for student members of the

ESEE board, stand as a candidate for student member representation on the ESEE Board and are allowed to pay student rates at our conferences. To join ISEE and ESEE as an active student member, go to www.euroecolecon.org/membership/
2. Student members: You are a member of ESEE only, but obtain this status for free. You have the same rights as paying ESEE members, except that you do not have any

voting rights. You will, however, receive the same benefits as paying members of ESEE like reduced conference fees, newsletter, access to publications with reduced prices, etc. However, as a member of ESEE only, you will not acquire any of the ISEE-specific benefits.

To join ESEE only as a free student member, go to www.euroecolecon.org/student-membership/