

Birte Strunk

Economist and Philosopher

Assistant Professor · Bard College · New York, United States

✉ bstunk@bard.edu 🌐 BirteStrunk.github.io | Updated: 21 Jul 2025

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Economics, *Bard College, New York, US* since 2025
Research and teaching focus: Ecological Economics, Political Economy of Race and Gender

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy, *The New School, New York City, US* since 2024
Thesis on Critical Theory, Environmental Ethics, and Economics
Committee: Alice Crary, Jay Bernstein

PhD in Economics, *The New School, New York City, US* 2020-2024
Thesis on Labor in a Socio-ecological Transformation
Committee: David Howell, Mark Setterfield, Till van Treeck, Alice Crary

PhD Visiting Research Fellowship, *Harvard University, Cambridge, US* 2022
Visiting Research with Stephen Marglin

MPhil Economics, *The New School, New York, US* 2020-2022

MA Philosophy, *Fernuniversität Hagen, Germany* 2020-2023

MSc Socio-Ecological Economics & Policy, *WU Vienna, Austria* 2018-2020

BA Liberal Arts and Sciences, *University College Maastricht, the Netherlands* 2013-2016
Including a semester abroad at *University College London, UK*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

Strunk, B. (2023). Between limits and abundance: A degrowth transition as a threat or a promise? *Degrowth Journal*, 1.

Gräbner-Radkowsch, C., & Strunk, B. (2023). Degrowth and the Global South: The twin problem of global dependencies. *Ecological Economics*, 213, 1-20.

Gräbner-Radkowsch, C., & Strunk, B. (2023). Degrowth and the Global South? How Institutionalism can Complement a Timely Discourse on Ecologically Sustainable Development in an Unequal World. *Journal of Economic Issues*, 57(2), 476-483.

Strunk, B., Ederer, S., & Rezai, A. (2022). The role of labor in a socio-ecological transition: combining post-Keynesian and ecological economics perspectives. *European Journal of Economics and Economic Policies: Intervention*, 19(1), 103-118.

Gräbner, C., & Strunk, B. (2020). Pluralism in economics: its critiques and their lessons. *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 27(4), 311-329.

Dengler, C. & Strunk, B. (2018). The Monetized Economy Versus Care and the Environment: Degrowth Perspectives on Reconciling an Antagonism. *Feminist Economics* 24(3), 160-183.

Academic handbook articles

Strunk, B. (2025). *Degrowth and Decent Work*. In: van der Linden, Marcel; Moore, Madelaine; Scherrer, Christoph (Eds.): Elgar Companion to Decent Work and Sustainable Development Goals. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dengler, C. & Strunk, B. (2022). *Feminisms and the Environment*. In: Pellizzoni, Luigi; Leonardi, Emanuele; Asara, Viviana (Eds.): Handbook for Critical Environmental Politics. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Working Papers

Strunk, B. (2023). Carbon emissions, inequality and working hours: A US state-level analysis of the role of Veblen effects in labor supply and emissions

Strunk, B. (2023). What's wrong with the 'grand gender convergence'? Gender wage gaps, care penalties and essential work in the United States

TEACHING

Bard College

since 2025

- Ecological Economics
- Political Economy of Gender

The New School for Social Research

2021-2023

- Teaching Fellow for the *Bayesian Econometrics* class (7 sessions, spring 2023)
- Teaching Assistant for Till van Treeck for the course *Political Economy of Distribution and Growth: United States and Germany* (fall 2021)

University College Maastricht

2017-2018

- Philosophy of Science
- Contemporary World History
- Theory Construction and Modeling
- Research Methods I & II
- Research Project

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Young Scholar Prize by the Keynes Society 2021 for my Master thesis 'Of climate and work: labor market dynamics in ecological macroeconomics' (supervised by Armon Rezai).

Egon Matzner Award for Socioeconomics 2019 together with Corinna Dengler for our paper 'The Monetized Economy Versus Care and the Environment: Degrowth Perspectives on Reconciling an Antagonism'.

EAEPE Simon Young Scholar Prize 2018 together with Claudius Gräbner for our paper 'Pluralism in Economics: Its critiques and their lessons'.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- The New School, New York, US** 2021-2022
Research on the comparative political economy of lousy job incidences with David Howell
- The New School, New York, US** 2021
Research on economic sociology with Eiko Ikegami
- University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria** 2020
Contracted research for a policy report on SDG 8
- Vienna University of Business and Economics, Vienna, Austria** 2020
Research fellowship at the Institute for Ecological Economics, writing my master thesis on labor in a socio-ecological transition with Armon Rezai
- Johannes Kepler University Linz, Linz, Austria** 2020
Research assistance with Claudius Gräbner, editorial work for a book manuscript on *R for Socioeconomic Research*
- Vienna University of Business and Economics, Vienna, Austria** 2020
Part-time employment (20h/week) as a researcher evaluating the Austrian national climate and energy plan

SCHOLARSHIPS

- New School for Social Research** 2020-2024
NSSR Prize Fellowship and NSSR Dissertation Fellowship
Full funding for tuition and living stipend
- Böckler Foundation** 2018-2020
Scholarship from the German Unions foundation
Monthly funding, mentoring support and semester abroad funding
- WU Merit & WU Graduation Scholarship** 2019 & 2020
Small scholarships for outstanding grades (top 1% in my degree)
Value each 750€.

ORGANIZATON OF ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Second Vienna Conference for Pluralism in Economics, Vienna, Austria** 2019
Core organizing team, especially for fundraising and communications, ca. 200 international participants
- Symposium on Economics Teaching in Liberal Arts, Maastricht, the Netherlands** 2015
Core organizing team, speaker at the opening lecture, ca. 100 international participants
- Global Order Conference, Maastricht, the Netherlands** 2015
Core organizing team and track coordinator of the 'Global Economy' track, ca. 70 international participants

FELLOWSHIPS

ZOE Institute for future-fit Economies

since 2018

The [ZOE Institute](#), based in Cologne, Germany, is a non-profit think tank that aims to contribute to a sustainable economic transformation via consulting and educational work. Since 2018, I have supported them as a research fellow.

Balaton Group

since 2018

As a Donella Meadows Fellow, I have been part of the [Balaton Group](#) since 2018. The Balaton Group has been founded by Donella and Dennis Meadows (the authors of the *Limits to Growth* report) in 1982 and brings together researchers and practitioners throughout the globe who work on system dynamics and sustainability.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks, Keynotes and Workshops

‘Pluralism in Economics’, Roundtable speaker at the IIPP Research Seminar Series at University College London, UK (November 2023)

‘Feminist Degrowth’, Speaker at the Rethinking Economics Switzerland Summer Academy in Chandolin, Switzerland (August 2023)

‘Carbon emissions, inequality and working hours: A US state-level analysis of the role of Veblen effects in labor supply and emissions’, Guest lecture at University Duisburg-Essen, Germany (January 2023)

‘Grenzen des Wirtschaftswachstums: Degrowth’ [Limits to economics growth: Degrowth], Guest lecture at University Bochum, Germany (December 2022)

‘Introduction to Ecological Economics’, Ekonsepto Philippines Climate Change Webinar (December 2021, online)

‘Introduction to Plural Economics - What is it and why do we need it?’, Rethinking Economics Zambia Launch Event (November 2021, online)

‘Warum braucht es Plurale Ökonomik? Gründe, Kritik, Herausforderungen’ [Why do we need Plural Economics? Reasons, Critique, Challenges] together with Claudius Gräbner, Event by Society for Pluralism in Economics Vienna (June 2021, online)

‘Herausforderungen einer pluralen Ökonomik: Implikationen für Theorie und Praxis’ [Challenges of plural economics: implications for theory and practice] together with Claudius Gräbner, Klausurtagung [yearly spring convention] of the German Network for Pluralism in Economics (May 2021, online)

‘Post-Keynesianismus: Eine Einführung’ [Post-Keynesianism: an Introduction], guest lecturer in Corinna Dengler’s course at University Vechta, Germany (January 2021, online)

‘Plural Economics: Feminist-Ecological Economics’, invited guest lecturer at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung workshop on plural economics in Cologne, Germany (May 2020, cancelled due to Covid)

‘Degrowth and Marxism’, guest lecturer at the NSSR course ‘Economics of the Environment’ together with Andreas Lichtenberger (February 2019)

Conference Presentations

Ecological Economics (ESEE) Conference (2022, Pisa, Italy)

Conference on Sustainability, Work and Growth by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (2021, online)

Workshop De-growth, zero growth and/or green growth? Macroeconomic implications of ecological constraints by IPE Berlin (2021, online)

Post-Keynesian Economic Society (PKES) conference (2021, online)

Second Vienna Conference for Pluralism in Economics (2019, Vienna, Austria)

Association for Socio-Ecological Education and Research (ASEER) conference (2019, Duisburg, Germany)

Forum for Macroeconomics and Macroeconomic Policies (FMM) conference (2018, Berlin, Germany)

European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE) conference (2018, Nizza, France)

European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) conference (2017, Budapest, Hungary)

International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFEE) Authors Conference in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (2017, Berlin, Germany)

International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFEE) conference (2016, Galway, Ireland)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER WORK

Journal Referee Activity

since 2021

Ecological Economics

Feminist Economics

Journal of Economic Methodology

Review of Evolutionary Political Economy

Degrowth Journal

Post-Growth Economics Network

since 2017

Founding member

Elected board member 2019-2021, co-chair 2020-2021

Editorial Board of the PEN Working Paper Series

Network for Pluralism in Economics

since 2014

Elected board member of the national network 2016-2017

Organizing team for the Second Vienna Conference for Pluralism in Economics 2019

Founding member of PINE Maastricht in 2014

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Policy reports and popular science writing

Kirchner, M. & Strunk, B. (2021). *Maßnahmen: Was kann Klimapolitik leisten?* [Measures: What can climate policy achieve?] In: [Klimasoziale Politik](#). Eine gerechte und emissionsfreie Gesellschaft gestalten.

Kirchengast, G. et al. (2019). Referenzplan als Grundlage für einen wissenschaftlich fundierten und mit den Pariser Klimazielen in Einklang stehenden Nationalen Energie- und Klimaplan für Österreich ([Ref-NEKP](#)), Gesamtband, November 2019, 204 S., CCCA Wien-Graz. Verlag der ÖAW, Wien, Österreich.

Blog articles

The Conversation 2024: [Quelle place pour le Sud global dans la décroissance?](#) together with Claudius Gräbner-Radkowitsch.

Developing Economics 2023: [Degrowth and the Global South: Remarks on the twin problem of structural interdependencies](#) together with Claudius Gräbner-Radkowitsch.

Postwachstumsblog 2023: [Degrowth und der Globale Süden](#) [Degrowth and the Global South] together with Claudius Gräbner-Radkowitsch.

Developing Economics 2021: [Pluralism in economics – its critiques and their lessons](#) together with Claudius Gräbner.

Ökonomenstimme 2020: [Kritik an der Pluralen Ökonomik – Was ist dran und warum ist das wichtig?](#) [Critique of plural economics - what is justified and why does it matter?] together with Claudius Gräbner.

Makronom 2020: [Postwachstum in Zeiten von Corona](#) [Post-growth in times of Corona].

Makronom 2017: [Plurale Ökonomik ist sowohl Kritik als auch gelebte Praxis](#) [Plural Economics is critique as well as practice].

Degrowth.info 2017: [Degrowth and Feminism: How a feminist degrowth approach can alleviate ecological and gender injustices](#) together with Corinna Dengler.

SKILLS

Software: Microsoft Office, Stata, R, Git, L^AT_EX, Zotero

Languages: English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)