

H A N D B O O K
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DE / GROWTH:

Human Ecology, Solidarity, Community

Contents

Welcome Note.....	1
Session 1: 17th Oct, online, 7pm – 9pm.....	2
Welcome and Introductions	
• Meet the Participants	
• Introduction to the Course and to Moodle (Virtual Learning Environment)	
Session 2: 24th Oct, online, 7pm – 9pm.....	3
Nothing Can Grow Infinitely in a Finite System	
• Systems Thinking: Principles of Human Ecology – Luke Devlin and Svenja Meyerrick.....	3
• Economic Growth: History, Gains and Problems – Gabriela Cabaña and Lorenzo Velotti.....	4
Session 3: 31st Oct, Zoom 7pm – 9pm.....	5
What is Degrowth and Why Do We Need It? – Lorenzo Velotti	
Session 4: 7th Nov, online, 7pm – 9pm.....	6
Green Extractivism: New Varieties of Colonialism and How To Dismantle Them - Gabriela Cabaña	
Session 5: 14th Nov, online, 7pm – 9pm.....	7
Deindustrialisation and Achieving a Just Transition in Scotland – Ewan Gibbs	

Contents

Session 6: 16th Nov 5pm - 20th Nov 11am, <i>in person</i>.....	9
Residential at Whatton Lodge, Gullane	
Shifting Relations: Prosperity in Community	
• Degrowth in Scotland: The Carrying Stream – Mairi McFadyen.....	10
• Anarchy and Utopia: (Re) Situating Patrick Geddes, and Ourselves: Scottish Radical Traditions and Streams – Mike Small.....	11
• Land, People and Power – Alastair McIntosh and Maria Latumahina.....	12
• How Do We Know What We Think We Know? The Epistemology of Radical Human Ecology – Alastair McIntosh and Maria Latumahina.....	13
• Our Lives' Work: Reclaiming Livelihoods – Svenja Meyerricks.....	14
• Capability as Freedom: co-operative tools for mutual flourishing- Luke Devlin.....	15
Session 7: 28th Nov, online 7pm – 9pm.....	16
Different Approaches to Making Change – Bronagh Gallagher and Gehan MacLeod	
Session 8: 5th Dec, online, 7pm – 9pm.....	17
Cultivating Places: Towards Greater Community Autonomy and Resilience – Roland Playle	
Session 9: 9th Dec, Pearce Institute - Govan, Glasgow, 10am - 6pm, <i>in person</i>.....	18
Co-learning Lab and Gathering	
Contributor bios.....	19

Welcome

A warm welcome to all participants of DE/GROWTH: Human Ecology, Solidarity, Community.

As the days shorten in the depths of autumn, we feel privileged to co-create a space together to explore and reflect on heavy and unsettling issues that shake our world, in ways we hope will be generative, sometimes challenging but ultimately collectively empowering for our various efforts and practices to bring about deep-rooted change.

You will become part of a wider learning community and network of folk who have taken part in previous iterations of this course. This is the fourth year of this current course (drawing on 50 years' heritage of CHE's ecological education) and it has shifted quite significantly from its early online format to include a four day residential and a final in-person gathering to allow us to meaningfully connect- 'real people in a real place'- and share our learning journeys. Indeed we, the course organisation team, are also looking forward to learning from you. The course is also an invitation for us all to show up fully human and respectful in our interactions with each other, across the differences we all bring.

This handbook, with its session outlines and links to key and recommended readings, is intended to be a rough map to help you navigate the course and prepare for the sessions in your own time. In addition to this, a key part of the course is to build a learning community and create spaces for peer learning that feed into the course itself. So the handbook isn't intended to be a static document and there may be some changes to the programme and contributors' sessions.

For the latest news, updates, announcements and in preparation of each session, please log in regularly to Moodle, our online learning environment. Final reading lists and possible changes will be uploaded there about a week in advance of each session. Moodle is also our main forum for discussion, asking questions, and interacting with other participants in-between sessions.

For now, we hope that the handbook gives you an overview of the course, and a chance to dive deeper.

We look forward to gathering around the warm stove in Gullane with you all.

Greetings,

Svenja Meyerrick, Luke Devlin, Mairi McFadyen, Roland Playle.
The course organisation team

Session 1:

Tuesday 17th Oct, online, 7pm – 9pm

Welcome and Introduction

This is a welcome and orientation session with the course leaders Svenja Meyerrick, Luke Devlin, Roland Playle and Mairi McFadyen. No preparation or prior reading is required for this session.

In this session you will be introduced to the course themes, structure and learning approach, and all you need to know regarding logistics, commitments and timing. You'll learn about our transformative approach to education. There will also be a chance to briefly introduce yourself and meet the course team and participants in advance of the first teaching session.

We will also introduce Moodle, the Virtual Online Learning Environment for the course. You will receive your login details via email. We will use Moodle throughout the course to post important news and information about each session, including additional content, and for interaction on forums to discuss the course themes, logistics and post any questions.

The link to the course's Moodle is:

<https://degrowth.moodlecloud.com/login>

The course Moodle can be accessed through any web browser, or via the Moodle app available for Android or Apple app stores.

Session 2:

Tuesday 24th Oct, online, 7pm – 9pm

Nothing Can Grow Infinitely in a Finite System

Part 1: Systems Thinking: Principles of Human Ecology

Luke Devlin and Svenja Meyerricks

In seeking to understand the world and our place in it, it is easy to be overwhelmed with data – and questions of how to assess, interpret and make sense of it. In this session, we will introduce some principles and foundations of systems thinking and human ecology. We draw upon the works of some key system thinkers to understand biophysical limits and the planetary boundaries within which our economic and social systems operate.

Key Readings:

DONELLA MEADOWS (2001). **DANCING WITH SYSTEMS**.

STOCKHOLM RESILIENCE CENTRE (2023). **PLANETARY BOUNDARIES**.

GERRY MARTEN (2001) **WHAT IS HUMAN ECOLOGY?**

Additional Readings:

ALASTAIR MCINTOSH (2012) **THE CHALLENGE OF RADICAL HUMAN ECOLOGY TO THE ACADEMY**. IN ROSE ROBERTS, LEWIS WILLIAMS AND ALASTAIR MCINTOSH, 2012. *RADICAL HUMAN ECOLOGY - INTERCULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS APPROACHES*. ASHGATE.

KATHERINE RICHARDSON ET AL (2023). **EARTH BEYOND SIX OF NINE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES**.

Session 2:

24th Oct, online, 7pm – 9pm

Nothing Can Grow Infinitely in a Finite System

Part 2: Economic Growth: History, Gains and Problems

Lorenzo Velotti and Gabriela Cabaña

'Economic growth' is a concept that has marked the last 70 years of politics and economics worldwide. But how did it emerge? This session will cover the basics of the history of economic growth as we know it today, including when and how 'GDP', as a measure of growth, was crafted, and some elements to understand its hegemony today. We will also understand some of the main limitations of using GDP as a measure of well-being and progress, with a particular focus on the ecological and feminist critique of GDP.

Key Readings:

LORENZO FIORAMONTI (2020) **GDP, TIME TO RETIRE!** IN DEGROWTH IN SCOTLAND HANDBOOK, ENOUGH! AND CENTRE FOR HUMAN ECOLOGY P.12

POSITIVE MONEY (2020) **CHALLENGING THE GROWTH PARADIGM** P.15

Additional Readings:

MATTHIAS SCHMELZER (2016) **UNDOING THE IDEOLOGY OF GROWTH: HEGEMONY, PATH DEPENDENCIES AND POWER IN THE HISTORY OF THE GROWTH PARADIGM**

JOSIE SPARROW (2022) **CONSIDER THE SHEEP: THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF RAYMOND WILLIAMS**

Session 3:

Tuesday 31st Oct, Zoom 7pm - 9pm

What is Degrowth and Why Do We Need It?

Lorenzo Velotti

What is degrowth? And why is it necessary? This session aims to answer this basic question with a participatory approach. We will look at different streams of critical thought that brought the elaboration of degrowth as an increasingly solid body of theory. The ecologic, socio-economic, cultural, feminist, and south-north critiques of economic growth, as well as the critiques of capitalism and of industrialism, will be briefly outlined – although some will be investigated with more depth than others. Participants will gain a basic knowledge of degrowth tenets and an understanding of its comprehensiveness and plurality.

Key Readings:

FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER AND JOANNA POPE (2020) **DEGROWTH IS NOT A PASSIVE CRITIQUE BUT AN ACTIVE PROJECT OF HOPE**

JASON HICKEL, GIORGOS KALLIS ET AL, (2022) **DEGROWTH CAN WORK – HERE'S HOW SCIENCE CAN HELP**

VIDEO (2021) **DEGROWTH: IS IT TIME TO LIVE BETTER WITH LESS?**

Session 4:

Tuesday 7th Nov, online, 7pm – 9pm

Green Extractivism: New Varieties of Colonialism and How to Dismantle Them

Gabriela Cabaña

This session will address some of the principles that are guiding action against climate breakdown while reproducing environmental injustices and relations of dependency between the Global North and Global South. This is largely due to the imposed need to perpetuate productive processes that sustain endless economic growth and, therefore, growth in energy demand. Drawing from the cases of hydrogen and lithium in South America, participants will explore why including a degrowth perspective into our energy systems is an urgent task for anyone involved in anti-colonial struggles. The objective will be to show why degrowth opens up emancipatory perspectives so far sidelined in existing policy instruments and political proposals for decarbonization.

Key Readings:

DIANA VELA ALMEIDA (2020) **EXTRACTIVISM** IN DEGROWTH IN SCOTLAND HANDBOOK, ENOUGH! AND CENTRE FOR HUMAN ECOLOGY P.32

Additional Readings:

JAMES J. A. BLAIR, RAMÓN M. BALCÁZAR, JAVIERA BARANDIARÁN AND AMANDA MAXWELL (2023) **THE ‘ALTERLIVES’ OF GREEN EXTRACTIVISM: LITHIUM MINING AND EXHAUSTED ECOLOGIES IN THE ATACAMA DESERT.** INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY | REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE POLITIQUE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT, 16, ARTICLE 16.

RAMCILOVIC-SUOMINEN, S., KRÖGER, M., & DRESSLER, W. (2022). **FROM PRO-GROWTH AND PLANETARY LIMITS TO DEGROWTH AND DECOLONIALITY: AN EMERGING BIOECONOMY POLICY AND RESEARCH AGENDA.** FOREST POLICY AND ECONOMICS, 144

Session 5:

Tuesday 14th Nov, online, 7pm – 9pm

Deindustrialisation and Achieving a Just Transition in Scotland

Ewan Gibbs

Debates around achieving a socially and economically just transition to renewables for workers and communities in Scotland have often focused on the negative experiences of coal mining areas during the last major colliery closures in the 1980s and 1990s. This session is themed around understanding Scotland's ongoing transition to renewable energies through its historical experience of in the coalfields during the second half of the twentieth century. It is split into two parts.

Firstly, it introduces the concept of deindustrialisation, the sustained contracting importance of industry to employment and production and draws attention to the various regimes through which the falling employment in coal mining and manufacturing were managed under after the Second World War. A comparatively just transition was achieved for miners and their families between the 1940s and 1970s under the publicly owned coal industry. Regional policy directed inward investment to establish a more diverse industrial base in the coalfields, creating enhanced opportunities also for women to find jobs in new factories. Scholars of deindustrialisation have referred to this system of consultation and amelioration as a moral economy of deindustrialisation. These safeguards were abandoned during the 1980s and 1990s as the coal industry and other sectors such as steelmaking and electricity were prepared for privatisation under the Thatcher and Major Conservative governments.

Secondly, discussion moves on to the ongoing transition to renewables. Under devolution, Scottish administrations have embraced the potential for wind power to deliver 'reindustrialisation', creating new jobs in areas that lost out in the late twentieth century. As climate change agendas have become more urgent, these hopes have increasingly extended to also creating replacement employment for the work lost in the oil and gas industry in the Aberdeenshire and the Highlands and Islands. Prior experiences of deindustrialisation in the coal, steel and shipbuilding industries have shaped the language of 'just transition' mobilised by Scottish politicians and policymakers. The reality though has been more disappointing. Scotland has achieved a world-leading transition in its electricity generation, but this has been a relatively jobless affair. In contrast to North Sea

neighbours such as Germany and Denmark, Scotland and the UK at large have not made strides forwards to turn their potential to generate wind power into significant sources of industrial employment. The explanation for these setbacks are rooted in the structures of power and ownership which have grown in the deindustrialised economy during and since the end of significant coal mining employment.

Key Readings:

EWAN GIBBS (2021) (INTRODUCTION, CHAPTER 2 AND SYNTHESIS) **COAL COUNTRY: THE MEANING AND MEMORY OF DEINDUSTRIALIZATION IN POSTWAR SCOTLAND** LONDON UNIVERSITY PRESS

GLASGOW: STUC (2020) **SCOTLAND'S RENEWABLE JOBS CRISIS AND COVID19**

Additional readings:

CHRISTINA BEATTY, STEVE FOTHERGILL AND TONY GORE (2019) **THE STATE OF THE COALFIELDS 2019 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE FORMER COALFIELDS OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES**

EWAN GIBBS, FORTHCOMING. **THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN NORTHERN EUROPE: ACHIEVEMENTS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS IN SCOTLAND'S WIND SECTOR**

GABRIELLE JELIAZKOV, RYAN MORRISON AND MEL EVANS (2020) **OFFSHORE: OIL AND GAS WORKERS' VIEWS ON INDUSTRY CONDITIONS AND THE ENERGY TRANSITION, A REPORT BY PLATFORM, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND GREENPEACE**

JIM PHILLIPS (2023) **'STRATEGIC INJUSTICE AND THE 1984-85 MINERS' STRIKE IN SCOTLAND', INDUSTRIAL LAW JOURNAL 52**

JIM TOMLINSON (2016) **'DE-INDUSTRIALIZATION NOT DECLINE: A NEW META-NARRATIVE FOR POST-WAR BRITISH HISTORY', TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITISH HISTORY, 27**

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT (2021) **JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION: A NATIONAL MISSION FOR A FAIRER, GREENER SCOTLAND**

Session 6:

**16th Nov 5pm - 20th Nov 11am, in person
Residential at Whatton Lodge, Gullane**

Shifting Relations: Prosperity in Community



We will learn, cook and eat together at Whatton Lodge, a convalescent home for ex-miners based in East Lothian, connecting the course to a place associated with Scotland's industrial heritage. The Lodge overlooks Gullane Bay and offers spectacular views over the Firth of Forth.

The learning residential is designed to build a learning community in microcosm, in-person, and in a community of place.

Full further residential information to follow on the Moodle platform.

Our accommodation will be in shared bedrooms at the Lodge and at a nearby cottage.

<https://whattonlodge.com/>

Map Link

Friday 17th November

Morning Session

Part 1: Degrowth in Scotland: The Carrying Stream

Mairi McFadyen

While degrowth discourse and practice is only emerging in a Scottish context, we can draw upon rich critical, cultural and intellectual wells as well as a rich and radical heritage of thought and activism in urban, rural, Lowland and Gàidhealtachd contexts. This session will contextualise degrowth in Scotland as part of a 'carrying stream' of resistance, to use a phrase made popular by folklorist Hamish Henderson. It will give particular focus to land activism in Scotland and highlight contemporary concerns around 'green finance' and 'natural capital.'

Degrowth does not impose a universal model but rather seeks out diverse, local practices rooted in specific contexts which hold the potential to restore balance, life and community. We can conceive of this as a 'pluriverse' of local resistance to the monoculture of global capitalism. This session will also reflect on how forms of place-based knowledge, culture and creativity we find in Scotland might be a source and wellspring to help us imagine - and build - more hopeful futures.

Key Readings:

MCFADYEN, MAIRI (2020) **DEGROWTH IN SCOTLAND** IN DEGROWTH IN SCOTLAND HANDBOOK, ENOUGH! AND CENTRE FOR HUMAN ECOLOGY P.127

Additional Readings:

MCFADYEN, MAIRI (2021) **HEELSTER GOWDIE UPENDINGS AND HOPEFUL FUTURES**, LECTURE TEXT, CARRYING STREAM FESTIVAL

MACAULAY, B & DALGLISH, C (2021) '**COMMUNITY LANDOWNERS AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**' COMMUNITY LAND SCOTLAND REPORT

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR (2023) **THE CHEVIOT, THE STAG AND THE BLACK, BLACK CARBON: NATURAL CAPITAL, THE PRIVATE FINANCE INVESTMENT PILOT AND SCOTLAND'S LAND REFORM.** COMMUNITY LAND SCOTLAND REPORT

DÉIRDRE NÍ MHATHÚNA (2021) **TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE RELEVANCE OF DÙTHCHAS.** IN GÀIDHEALTACHD ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURES SCOTTISH AFFAIRS 30.2 (2021): 251-261

Friday 17th November

Morning Session

Part 2: Anarchy and Utopia: (Re) Situating Patrick Geddes, and Ourselves: Scottish Radical Traditions and Streams

Mike Small

This section will cover:

- A brief sketch of Geddes life/work 1854–1932. We will explore what does Geddes work mean for us in Scotland today? How can it inform our work?
- Genius Loci, Place and Placelessness
 - Exploring place and placelessness. Re-inhabitation and place-knowledge is explored as a restorative practice as an alternative to colonisation and displacement.
- Roots and Rivers of Bioregionalism
 - Exploring the idea of regionalism and the development of bioregionalism from the 1890s to the 1970s and today
- Generalism and Democracy
 - Exploring the maligned and forgotten Scottish generalist tradition, and what it means for organising, education and radical democracy
- Radicalising Municipalism
 - What do these ideas mean for our understanding of cities and citizenship? How do these ideas relate to contemporary models of radical municipalism and urban ecology?

Key Readings:*

*these texts will be uploaded to the Moodle in pdf format for easier reading

CHABARD, PIERRE (2016). **ANAMORPHOSIS OF THE WORLD PATRICK GEDDES AND THE THEME OF VISION**. FIRST PUBLISHED IN LE VISITEUR N°7 ©

STEELE, TOM (2003) **ELISEE RECLUS AND PATRICK GEDDES - GEOGRAPHIES OF THE MIND, THE REGIONAL STUDY IN THE GLOBAL VISION** REFRACTIONS, 4

Friday 17th November
Afternoon Session

Land, People and Power

Alastair McIntosh and Maria Latumahina

It is easy to talk about land, power, and other physical realities and social framings such as “capitalism” as if they can be held at arm’s length and examined, but to engage with them is also a psychodynamic process. It involves deepening our understanding of people, of community dynamics, and of their psychology and spirituality and most importantly, of our own psychology and spirituality. In this sharing I will open up a discussion of such issues based upon my work in the early days of land reform on the Isle of Eigg, and carrying it forward into the current work with communities in West Papua with Maria Latumahina. Our aim in this session is to deepen the ground from which we might frame our action and/or activism whereby, as one of our GalGael people put it on an Iona trip, “If you don’t look within you go without.”

Key Readings:*

*We don’t expect you to read the full books listed here but rather begin to familiarise yourselves with these key texts – please read as much as you are able.

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR (2001) **SOIL AND SOUL: PEOPLE VERSUS CORPORATE POWER**

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR AND MATT CARMICHAEL (2016) **SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM**

WEBSITE: MARIA LATUMAHINA, **PAPUA TRANSFORMATION**

Additional Readings:

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR (2021) **SIXTEENTH CENTURY IRISH SERMON ON COP 26**

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR (2019) **GOD CARRY ME**, DARK MOUNTAIN MOUNTAIN REFUGE: TEN YEARS ON THE MOUNTAIN, ISSUE 16

Friday 17th November

Early Evening Session

Capability as Freedom: Co-operative Tools for Mutual Flourishing

Luke Devlin

Our bodyminds evolved in relationship with our ecology - gathering food, avoiding predators and threats, learning and adapting. Our brains, including the mesolimbic system responsible for 'reward' processing, became a finely tuned mechanism. Surviving the challenges of nature required us to be fully-integrated with our senses. The consumerism we experience in industrial civilisation has always sought to tap into this well-balanced system in order to turn us from creators into consumers - first with advertising and ideology, and now also with an advanced set of techniques in the digital environment in order to 'biohack' us: to tap into our senses, neural responses and unconscious drives in order to get us hooked and reliant on a system of exponential growth and ever-increasing novelty. Our distraction behaviours are degrading our mental processes in ways that are leading to more depression and anxiety - and a loss of our sense of real connection to other people, our environment and ourselves.

What would it look like if we became more capable, observant and creative - and worked together to say 'no' to the throw-away culture, in which people, things and our common home are treated as disposable? By exploring ideas from geopoetics, the capability approach, ecological design and the creative commons, heritage craft and 'right to repair' movements, we'll explore ways to become more connected and build up our 'tool boxes' for body, mind and soul. A set of tools is a set of keys - a set of possible creative interventions in your environment, granting freedom from the ennui and life-undermining ethos of modernity, to rediscover the essence of our humanity and reclaiming our capacity for meaningful and useful work beyond the boredom and distraction of modern life.

This is an experiential session, with key readings to be made available via Moodle.

Additional Readings:

MAX-NEEF, MANFRED (1991) **HUMAN SCALE DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPTION, APPLICATION AND FURTHER REFLECTIONS**

Saturday 18th November
Morning Session

**How Do We Know What We Think We Know?
The Epistemology of Radical Human Ecology**

Alastair McIntosh and Maria Latumahina

The previous session looked at deepening the ground of our actions and interactions in the world. We will have suggested that that becomes a question that is metaphysical (about our worldview of underlying reality, ontological (about our view of what a person is), and epistemological (about our view of what constitutes knowledge). I understand human ecology to mean the relationships between people and the natural environment and specifically, that as the study of human community. Epistemology is the study of the nature of knowledge. Therefore, when we work with people and place issues, a question that arises is how we know what we think we know, and especially, if our orientation is "radical", which is to say, reaching to the roots of a matter. The importance of this question shows in debates about the role of science in climate change and Covid virology and epidemiology. It plays out in politics, such as we have seen in Britain in recent years and with son of the Isle of Lewis, Donald Trump in the USA. In this talk, I'll share some experience and the approaches of past students of human ecology in carrying out their research and invite discussion around why epistemology matters in the study and practice of human ecology.

My tie-in with 'degrowth'; will be to encourage deeper critical thinking and appraisal around such a notion. In this talk I will not try to tell you what I think degrowth may or may not be. That's your domain. My part, is to encourage ways of thinking that open up both critical appraisal and also, if I might use such a term, nothing less than spiritual discernment.

Key Readings:

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR (2012) **RADICAL HUMAN ECOLOGY: INTERCULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS APPROACHES**

MCINTOSH, ALASTAIR (2008) **REKINDLING COMMUNITY: CONNECTING PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT AND SPIRITUALITY** SCHUMACHER BRIEFING NO. 15

Saturday 18th November

Afternoon Session

Our Lives' Work: Reclaiming Livelihoods

Svenja Meyerricks

Work is central to our lives, and how, why and when we work is very much shaped by the economic framework we live under. In this session, we will explore different aspects of reclaiming work beyond growth, extractivism and capitalism by looking into how 'work' was shaped by the industrial revolution, and by redefining work to centre care and subsistence activities. We will look at some alternative visions of work in the degrowth literature (e.g. reduced work week, universal basic income etc). Decentralising production process is key to reclaiming work and our livelihoods for a common purpose of caring for each other and the land. We will look at some practical examples and processes which are working to these principles, such as co-operatives, community-owned assets and commoning.

Key Readings:

CORINNA DENGLER AND BIRTE STRUNK, 2017. **DEGROWTH AND FEMINISM**. IN: DEGROWTH IN SCOTLAND HANDBOOK, P. 90.

BENGI AKBULUT, 2017. **CAREWORK AS COMMONS: TOWARDS A FEMINIST DEGROWTH AGENDA**. IN: DEGROWTH IN SCOTLAND HANDBOOK, P. 93.

MARTA CONDE AND DIEGO ANDREUCCI, 2020. **CHALLENGING EXTRACTIVISM**.

Additional Readings:

HOFFMANN, M., PANTAZIDOU, M., & SMITH, T. (FORTHCOMING). **CRITIQUES OF WORK: THE RADICAL ROOTS OF DEGROWTH**. IN L. EASTWOOD & K. HERON (EDS.), DE GRUYTER HANDBOOK OF DEGROWTH: PROPOSITIONS AND PROSPECTS. BERLIN: DE GRUYTER.

STEVE GLIESSMAN, HARRIET FRIEDMANN AND PHILIP H. HOWARD, 2019. **AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**.

Session 7

Tuesday 28th Nov, online, 7pm – 9pm

Workshop: Different approaches to making change

Bronagh Gallagher and Gehan MacLeod

This will be a collective inquiry exploring some of the assumptions, worldviews and understandings of power that are baked into degrowth. This will not be a polished session where we provide certainty (and we're trying to not fall into the trap of great descriptions that don't deliver), but we hope to interrogate/disrupt the cycle of radical ideas destined to become policy rhetoric while nothing changes. We would like to grapple with the tensions and contradictions of dealing with radical change. How deep are we really trying to go? What are the traps and how might we sidestep them? How do we avoid inadvertently becoming consumers of radical ideas and unleash greater agency for transformative change? We hope to uncover a few clues together through a workshop format.

This is a workshop format. Any supplementary or preparatory resources will be made available via Moodle.

Session 8

Tuesday 5th November, online, 7pm – 9pm

Cultivating Places: Towards Greater Community Autonomy and Resilience

Roland Playle

The challenge for communities of developing greater self-sufficiency and resilience is also one of fostering greater autonomy and collective self-determination. How do we make collective decisions about local places which involve all who want to contribute, taking into consideration the broad range of views and concerns that people living in a place might have?

The idea of 'Place' is an often forgotten factor in community decision-making. Place encompasses a range of aspects important to people's well-being and livelihoods, including social, cultural and economic factors, local ecosystems, and questions about land use and ownership. Place can be a unifying idea that all residents of a community can contribute to and come to agreement around, informed by the perspective of their personal lived experiences.

Places can also hold sway over people and communities, not only through the shared histories and culture which reflect local climates, geographies, ecologies etc., but also in less tangible ways. Many communities around the world talk of their landscapes, land or territories as having a voice, as if Place were an entity which has a say in or can guide communities' ethical choices and decision-making.

What might such an earth-centric and holistic way of thinking about and being in our local Places look like, and what differences might it make? Given the many challenges communities face, the idea of responding to or being led by our local Places, may be something we want to give greater attention and credence to.

Suggested Reading/Resources:

KAPLAN, ALLAN & DAVIDOFF, SUE (2014). **DELICATE ACTIVISM, A RADICAL APPROACH TO CHANGE**, PROTEUS INITIATIVE

TALBOTT, STEVE (2002). **TOWARD AN ECOLOGICAL CONVERSATION**, BIOLOGY WORTHY OF LIFE, NATURE INSTITUTE

BARFIELD, OWEN (1977). **THE REDISCOVERY OF MEANING**, MIDDLETOWN CT: WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY PRESS.

RIDDOCH, LESLEY (2023). **STATE OF SCOTTISH DEMOCRACY**, ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY, ANNUAL LECTURE.

Session 9:

Saturday 9th December, 10am - 6pm, in person
Pearce Institute - Govan, Glasgow

Co-learning Lab and Gathering

This is where we put what we've learned together into practice.

The Co-learning Lab will be the final gathering of the DE/GROWTH: Human Ecology, Solidarity and Community course, held at CHE's home, the Pearce Institute in Govan-known for the ancient cultural and natural heritage of the Clyde waterscape, as well as formerly Scotland's industrial shipbuilding heartland. It will be an experimental, self-organised and appreciative space for course participants to present, discuss, and perform their learning and knowledge around the action inquiry they have conducted. At least part of the day will be open to any interested members of the public who would like to join us.

Course participants will be free to determine the structure, format and content of the Lab, and you will have time during the residential to collaborate around the organisation of the day. We see the course organisers' role as being largely a supportive one for the event, taking care of logistics, communication with the venue and with former course participants who may participate, and technical requirements.

We invite you to view this day as a radical space of co-operative learning in action: an entangled exploration of what we've uncovered together in the course. This should flow naturally from the peer groups and action inquiries conducted during the course, and could take many forms: text, artwork, talks, workshops, discussion in groups, music and other performance, or anything else the space can reasonably hold.

We trust in the emergent wisdom of the group: there is no expectation for any of the content to be polished or even complete, but to demonstrate engagement with and understanding of the content of the course. Nothing will be assessed or judged, but held appreciatively for convivial feedback.

We will discuss the Lab in more detail during the programme, including your collective willingness and availability to take a more pro-active role in the event.

Contributors

Below you find information about contributors to the course, and the contact details of the core team. The main way to get in touch with the course contributors is via their session forum on the Moodle Online Learning Environment.

Svenja Meyerricks

Svenja is a human ecologist who works as a freelance educator and researcher. She's part of the Centre for Human Ecology and Enough! Scotland, and has worked in community food growing projects in Glasgow and elsewhere. She holds a PhD from the University of St Andrews on community climate action, and her academic background is in Human Ecology (MSc) and Social Anthropology (MA). She grew up in Germany and lives in Lochwinnoch with her partner and daughter.

Contact Svenja at svenja@enough.scot

Luke Devlin

Luke is a human ecologist, broadcaster and researcher based in Glasgow. He is Executive Director of the Centre for Human Ecology, and a member of the Enough! Scotland collective. You can follow him at @geopoetic

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Roland Playle

Roland runs Aiteas, an environmental education initiative focussed on phenomenon-centred learning and holistic thinking, and is a co-director of the [Community Chartering Network](#) (CCN), an organisation supporting communities to make collective decisions about the future of their places. Roland is also a member of the Centre for Human Ecology. He currently lives in Gartocharn near Loch Lomond.

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Mairi McFadyen

Mairi is an independent creative collaborator working across the interlinked roles of researcher, educator, writer and facilitator. Her work engages with themes connecting across folk culture, heritage, land, environment, geopolitics, climate justice, degrowth and hopeful futures. Mairi's practice is informed by an academic background in creative ethnology and a radical human ecology; both share an emphasis on active engagement and change-making informed by critical scholarship. She holds an award-winning PhD from the University of Edinburgh where she taught for several years in the Department of Celtic & Scottish Studies. She lives in Abriachan by Loch Ness with her partner and daughter. Mairi's website is www.mairimcfadyen.scot.

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Lorenzo Velotti

Lorenzo is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the Scuola Normale Superiore. He is also a member of the Centre on Social Movement Studies (COSMOS) and of Research & Degrowth International. His current research is on commons' movements and care, with an ethnographic approach, in Barcelona and Naples. He holds a Msc with Distinction in Anthropology and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a bachelor's with honors in Political, Social and International Sciences from the University of Bologna, during which he completed exchange periods in Buenos Aires and San Diego (University of California). Since his masters, during which he researched degrowth social currencies in Catalunya, he has seen degrowth as a very powerful tool to envision a way out of present interrelated crises, as well as to connect different struggles for such socioecological transformation.

Gabriela Cabaña

Gabriela Cabana is an anthropologist, PhD researcher at the London School of Economics and Political Science, also part of the Centro de Análisis Socioambiental - Centre for Social-environmental Analysis (CASA) an organization based in Chile. She has done research on commoning in natural resources and the conflicts emerging from energy transitions in Chile, engaging with feminist and decolonial critiques to the economy. She is also interested in basic income and participates in the degrowth movement.

Ewan Gibbs

Ewan is an historian of energy, industry, work and protest with established expertise in oral history methods and archival research. His interests include heritage and memorialisation and uses of history in emotive and politically charged contexts such as the current debate over how to build a fairer and greener economy. Ewan joined the University of Glasgow in 2020 where he contributes to teaching on both the Global Economy and GLOCAL masters programmes as well as the undergraduate Economic and Social History degree. He is presently developing projects based around understanding energy transitions, decarbonisation and connections between fuel sources, arguments for Scottish independence and economic justice. His monograph, Coal Country: The Meaning and Memory of Deindustrialization in Postwar Scotland, was published by the University of London Press as part of the Institute of Historical Research and the Royal Historical Society's 'New Historical Perspectives' series in 2021.

Mike Small

Mike Small is a freelance writer and publisher. He is a member of the Enough! Collective and has worked on climate research and investigative journalism. Mike is the editor of Bella Caledonia, an online and occasional print magazine publishing social, political and cultural commentary, launched in 2007. He is currently working on a book on Patrick Geddes.

Alastair McIntosh

Alastair is a pioneer of modern land reform in Scotland; he helped bring the Isle of Eigg into community ownership. On the Isle of Harris he negotiated withdrawal of the world's biggest cement company (Lafarge) from a devastating "superquarry" plan. Alastair guest lectures on nonviolence at military staff colleges. His books include Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power (Aurum), Spiritual Activism: Leadership as Service (Green Books), Poacher's Pilgrimage: an Island Journey (Birlinn 2016, Cascade USA 2018) and Riders on the Storm (Birlinn 2020) which was long-listed for the Wainwright Prize in Global Conservation 2021. A Quaker with an interfaith outlook, focusing much of his work around spirituality, he lives in Glasgow with his wife, Vérène Nicolas. There he is a founding trustee of the GalGael Trust which works with poverty, community and human potential, and an honorary professor in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow. His website is www.AlastairMcIntosh.com.

Maria Latumahina

Maria Latumahina is an adult educator focusing on strengthening community based organizations among the indigenous Papuans. She is currently based in Glasgow but she remains working on Papua sustainable development issues. Her experience in nurturing multi stakeholder dialogue on Papua sustainable resource management led to her to learn that as one of the main stakeholders, indigenous Papuans have been silenced by oppressive vis a vis dehumanizing power structures. She is a founder of Papua Training for Transformation (YP3SP) dedicated to leadership development for social change in Papua particularly in tackling internalized oppressions among the oppressed indigenous communities. Since 2012 she has been facilitating the emergence of community homestay association of Raja Ampat, one of the biggest community business groups of West Papua and is now sitting in the advisory committee. She has a diploma in development education from Training for Transformation in South Africa and an MA in International Development from Maynooth University in Ireland.

Bronagh Gallagher

Bronagh has a background in community and voluntary sector work in Glasgow which led her to recognise the systems and structures of capitalism as the core driver of the problems being faced by communities. Understanding what to do about this has taken her in many directions including designing and running participatory and democratic processes and supporting the learning and evaluation of experimental change work, all while remembering that the basics of building relationships are the foundation of it all. She is currently studying the Degrowth and Political Ecology Masters at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Gehan MacLeod

With roots in 90s activism, Gehan found herself caught up with GalGael - a community organisation that originated around a protest fire at an anti motorway camp in Pollok. GalGael are currently exploring the capabilities communities need to reclaim their agency, amidst increasing uncertainty. Some of this stems from endless insights, mistakes and sharp learning curves over near on thirty years - including how not to be charity and how to flip some of the default patterns within the so-called 'poverty industry'. Working from this position, Gehan is curious about how to make and sustain community in difficult contexts, how we collectively interrogate the wider crises we're experiencing and as importantly how we respond so as to get past rearranging deck chairs. This took her to work within Enough.



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