Descriptif d’enseignement / Course descriptions
Cycle master 1 (4ème année) / 4th year
Semestre 2

Titre du cours - Course title
Sustainability and Justice: Concepts, Tensions and Solutions

Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – Professor(s)
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Résumé du cours – Objectifs - Course description – Targets
At first sight, sustainability and justice seem to constitute a harmonic relationship. A closer look very soon shows the tensions and cleavages establishing a complex and difficult field significant not only to policy making but also for research. This seminar takes on an interdisciplinary lens and focuses on solutions to the challenging inter-connections between inequality, environmental problems and goals of sustainability. In a first step, it clarifies the social-scientific concept of (strong) sustainability. Secondly, we elaborate on the connections between sustainability and environmental justice using literature with environmentalist, feminist, and post-colonial perspectives. By doing so, the course develops a set of insights and categories. These insights and categories will be needed for, fourthly, critically analysing potential solutions to the tensions to sustainability and justice.

Intended outcomes of the course:
• Elaboration of core readings and concepts (selection) in the field of sustainability and environmental justice
• Learning about the complex inter-connections between social (in)justice, environmental problems, questions of (un)sustainability and potential solutions
• Applying appropriate conceptual tools to the analysis of local and global environmental justice issues

Format
To participate successfully students are urged to read the literature provided on the learn-server. Access will be provided via email. The seminar consists of 6 three-hour sessions, which will typically be organised as follows: there will be a mini-lecture providing issue overviews and frameworks for thinking about the main concepts and themes raised in the module syllabus and required readings. After this introduction, students will be asked to elaborate on specific questions in working groups to deepen their readings and to prepare collective discussion and debate.

Evaluation - Assessment
Students will have to write a paper of 3000 words max. Unless otherwise agreed students analyse a case study of their choice using criteria and references developed in the course. They will have to outline the tensions between sustainability and justice in a specific case (of their choice) and apply criteria for analysis to potential solutions. The paper will be about the question in how far and why a specific solution might help to temper the tension between sustainability and justice or not.
Plan – Séances - Course outline

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1) April 1st, 9:30-12:30
The basics of just sustainability

- Course structure
- Organisational matters
- Sustainability in the Anthropocene – A short introduction to the key contents

Mandatory readings (MR):
- Walker (2012) Understanding environmental justice (15 p.)
- Pattberg & Zelli (2016) Global Environmental Governance in the Anthropocene (p. 1-6)

2) April 1st, 14:30-17:00
The concepts of just sustainability

- Strong vs. weak sustainability
- Environmental justice
- Intersectionality
- Framing and claim-making

Mandatory readings (MR):
- Kaijser & Kronsell (2014) Climate change through the lens of intersectionality (15 p.)
- Davies (2013) Appraising Weak and Strong Sustainability (9 p.)

3) April 2nd, 9:30-12:00
The problems of just sustainability

- EJ Atlas
- From MDGs to SDGs
- Energy/Mobility as a sample case for strong and intersectional sustainability analysis

Mandatory readings (MR):
- Martinez-Alier et al. (2014) Between activism and science, p. 19-45 (~30 p.)
- Mullen & Mardsen (2016) Mobility justice in low carbon energy transitions (7 p.)
- Walker (2012) Analysing environmental justice (8 p.)

4) April 2nd, 14:00-17:00
Just sustainabilities I? - Prizing & Calculating
• Ecosystem services
• Ecological debt

Mandatory readings (MR):
• Marshall & Meller (2016) Can ecosystem services be part of the solution to environmental justice (2 p.)
• Pascual et al. (2014) Social Equity Matters in Payments for Ecosystem Services (10 p.)
• Warlenius (2015) Reversing the arrow of arrears - The concept of “ecological debt” (9 p.)

5) April 4th, 9:00-12:00
Just sustainabilities II? – Consuming & Sharing

• Sustainable consumption corridors
• Sharing economy
• De-growth

Mandatory readings (MR):
• Heindl & Kanschik (2016) Ecological sufficiency, individual liberties, and distributive justice (8 p.)
• Martin (2016) The sharing economy A pathway to sustainability or a nightmarish form (11 p.)

6) April 4th, 13:30-16:30
Just sustainabilities III? – Localising

• Time-banks
• Buen vivir
• Ecovillages

Mandatory readings (MR):
• Caria & Dominguez (2015) Ecuador’s Buen vivir (13 p.)
• Lockyer (2017) Community, commons, and degrowth at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage (19 p.)
• Valek & Jasikova (2013) Time Bank and Sustainability - The Permaculture Approach (6 p.)

Bibliographie - Bibliography :

Davies, George Randal (2013): Appraising Weak and Strong Sustainability: Searching for a Middle Ground.
Silva, Verónica; Gallegos, Franklin Ramírez; Caria, Sara; Domínguez, Rafael (2015): Ecuador’s Buen vivir. In: Latin American Perspectives 43 (1), S. 18–33. DOI: 10.1177/0094582X15611126.


Sumi Cho; Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw; and Leslie McCall (2013): Toward a Field of Intersectionality Studies: Theory, Applications, and Praxis.

Temper et al. (2015): Mapping the frontiers and front lines of global environmental justice - the EJAtlas.


