

6th ESP Europe Conference

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T17d

Economist self-help group for a troubled economic system

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Abstract:

Transforming our economies for nature and equity is one of the strategies in need of pursuit to achieve a sustainable society. Ecosystem services (ES) have long been promoted as one of the frameworks trying to achieve this through making the connections and interdependencies of nature, society and economy explicit. However, the fundamental structures of the economy, including the very values, desires and needs of humans supposedly driving it as well as power structures behind it, are rarely questioned or regarded explicitly within ES research, calling into question if an actual transformation can be supported by this framework. In this session, we will listen to and discuss with each other to understand our varying ways in which we aim to (not) transform the economy and why. Importantly, we will also reflect on how our different strategies can be complementary or not, and as such, come together as a community of different kinds of economists to increase the impact of our work. The discussions held and connections formed contribute to work at the interface of economy, finance and biodiversity in the Knowledge Exchange Networks (KEN) that are being set up by the BioAgora project for a future Science Service on Biodiversity.

Goals and objectives of the session:

In this interactive session we want to bring together the community of environmental and ecological economists, political economists and ecologists, working in science, policy and practice, to connect, share and learn. We want to foster reflection in this community on the different strategies that are used and their merits, flaws and complementarity. Building on this, we open the discussion on how successful they are in affecting policies and societies, why, and how the impact could be enhanced. As a secondary objective, this session contributes to creating a Knowledge Exchange Network on economy and finance hosted by the BioAgora project in preparation of the launch of the Science Service for Biodiversity.

Planned output / Deliverables:

A first outcome will be an increased understanding of the different strategies that are pursued to change the economy, as well as the role that ES can or cannot play in this process. A second outcome will be the contribution to the Knowledge Exchange Network on economy and finance of the future Science Service, both in terms of insights we can further build on and people who will take active part in it.

Session format:

This two-hour session is divided into two parts. In the first part, we invite speakers to share in a speed talk their vision of how their work is contributing to transforming the economy and, importantly, how it is not. In the second part, we will foster a discussion with all participants through a fishbowl, reflecting on the different strategies' merits, flaws and complementarity, as well as their impact and how they could be enhanced.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

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