

Transitions towards an ecological economy

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This panel session on the *transitions towards an ecological economy* aims to stimulate discussion on institutional changes and social transformations that would be needed to achieve attuned economy-environment relationships. It is now trivial to state that *the economy of tomorrow* will be ecological or will not be, but this implies a need to determine what an ecological economy is as well as to begin to sketch out the path(s) to be followed to attain it. This also requires providing a clear account of the systemic social and economic causes of the global ecological crisis. While ecological economists agree about the urgent need for change there are a range of interpretations and proposed solutions. Approaches differ with regard to the nature, the forms (e.g., avoidance or adaptation in face of climate change?) and the extent of change needed to jointly achieve an ecologically sensitive economy and human well-being.

We invite scholars with different backgrounds to submit proposals that develop the range and depth of research addressing issues related to the ecological economy theme. Our goal is to provide a forum for fruitful discussion between researchers of *different schools of thought*, e.g., representative of:

- Green Growth
- Sustainable Development/Ecological Modernization
- Ecological Economics
- Neo/Classical Marxism
- Green Economics
- Institutional Economics/Regulation Theory
- Sustainable De-Growth, etc.

and researchers dealing with potential *tools for the transition(s)* and their related issues, e.g.:

- Innovation dynamics, eco-innovation, long-term investment, R&D transfer
- Consumption dynamics and ethic, greening life-styles, ‘prosperity without growth’
- Social metabolism, energy analysis, material-flows analysis
- Internalization instruments, ecological regulations, governance of the commons
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Measures of sustainability and well-being
- North-South relationships
- Institutional and structural changes (socio-economic dynamics as they would be influenced by sustainability issues, while at the same time influencing the latter’s formulations)
- Conceptions of environmental values in decision-making
- Inequalities (income, gender, social), work-time, etc.

We expect both empirically driven and theoretically informed papers, both studies of past and present experiences and prospective exercises. These can span all analytical levels and all geographical scales.

The guidelines for submission follow the general call of the AHE Conference.

Please visit the site www.hetecon.net and follow the instructions there.

Papers selected for inclusion in this theme will be peer reviewed by the theme organisers. All papers will be double reviewed by two anonymous referees who are experts in the field. Participants should also be prepared to serve as referees, discussants and/or session chairs.