COURSE DETAIL

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE GREEN TRANSITIONS
Country Denmark
Host Institution University of Copenhagen
Program(s) University of Copenhagen
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Environmental Studies
UCEAP Course Number 170
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE GREEN TRANSITIONS
UCEAP Transcript Title SOC/GREEN TRANSITNS
UCEAP Quarter Units 12.00
UCEAP Semester Units 8.00

Course Description

This course provides the conceptual tools needed to understand, analyze, and critically and constructively engage with ongoing societal transformations induced by climate change, biodiversity, and other ecological crises, colloquially known as green transition. It builds on scholarship and meso-level theories founded in environmental and climate sociology, branching also into other literatures to ask foundational questions about society-wide change towards sustainability: how much of it is currently happening across societal sectors, domains, and levels; how it has or is currently being brought about; and what shapes, conditions, or hampers more of it. The course begins by reviewing debates on two contrasting diagnoses: the risk society diagnosis of Ulrich Beck and the ecological modernization diagnosis of Maarten Hajer, John Dryzek, and others. At stake is the question of the place of environmental concern, policy, and practice in reworking (late) modernity. From here, the course delves into the main institutional vectors of green social change, covering in turn questions of socio-technical change (green technological innovation, changing infrastructures); political-economic change (shifting modes of governance and politics, new circular market models); mobilization-driven change (environmental social movements, urban green communities); changing North-South relations (new globalized inequalities, climate justice activism); everyday practice change (emerging consumptions habits, new social distinctions and divisions); and cultural value change (continuity and change in moral valuations of ‘nature’ in the Anthropocene). Throughout, the focus is on understanding present-day green social change in light of historical experience and meso-level sociological theory, with a view to taking stock of what near-future changes lie ahead. Alongside examining the various substantive dimensions of green transition, it also discusses adequate methodological strategies affiliated with the different problem complexes and vectors of social change. Throughout, students work on aligning analytical and methodological strategies via case analyses.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ASOK22206U

Host Institution Course Title
SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE GREEN TRANSITIONS

Host Institution Course Details
https://kurser.ku.dk/course/asok22206u/2022-2023

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Social Sciences

Host Institution Degree
Master

Host Institution Department
Sociology

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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