



Winter term 2021/22

Suitable for: Master Environmental Geography (Module Environment and Society),
Master P&E, Master GCE, Master Global History

Economic Geographies of the Anthropocene: Reading across Doughnut Economics

Prof. Dr. Stefan Ouma | stefan.ouma@uni-bayreuth.de | Wednesday 10:15-11:45 hrs | room: tbc

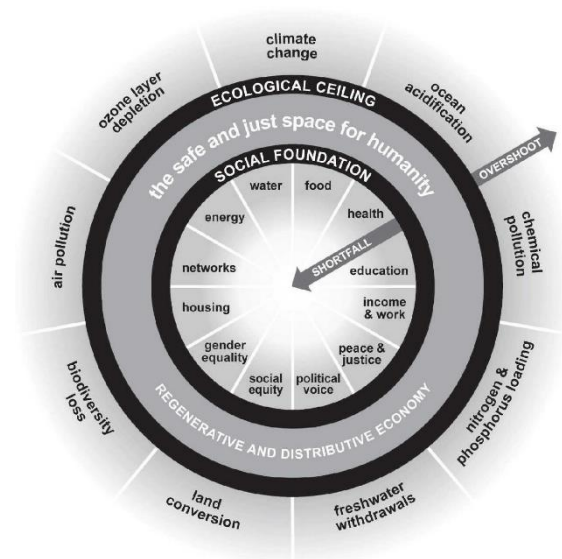
Max. 14 students, priority to Environmental Geography students, first come, first-served.

Please send an email to: stefan.ouma@uni-bayreuth.de by July 31st, indicating your study programme and wish to participate, before registering via CM Life/E-learning for the course

Contents

Natural resources and non-human organisms are the basis of any form of economy. They provide the material and biological foundations that allow the production of goods and services to satisfy human needs. Both the social form of this material-biological transformation and the quality of the needs are in principle changeable, a fact that often seems utopian in a system ("capitalism") that seems to have no alternative. The spread of this system has led to massive environmental changes over the last 500 years. This influence is so significant that scientists now speak of a new geological epoch - the "Anthropocene" (Crutzen 2002). The Anthropocene, with its manifold ecological and social challenges, requires a radical break with established economic ways of thinking, values, goals, indicators, representational practices, forms of organisation, relationships and practices. In her

best-selling book "Doughnut Economics: Thinking like a 21st Century Economist" (2018), British economist Kate Raworth explores these questions and provides powerful visual and narrative



tools to arrive at an economy that is in harmony with the planet's ecological limits while ensuring the equitable and broad-based satisfaction of (potentially mutable) human needs. In the seminar, we will read this book together and critically mirror it ("reading across") against other important books on the future of the planet. These books have been written by authors from various academic disciplines and geographical positionalities, but they are often transdisciplinary in nature. **Participants will moderate one chapter** from Raworth's book, provide a response paper on the chapter informed by their **reading of another book** and **provide a short written critique** of the assigned chapter as an end-of-course exam.

The "mirror" books are:

Anderson S (2019) One size fits none: A farm girl's search for the promise of regenerative agriculture. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Ajl M (2021) A people's Green New Deal. London: Pluto Press.

Gibson-Graham JK, Cameron J and Healy S (2013) Take back the economy: An ethical guide for transforming our communities. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.

Fioramonti L (2017) The world after GDP: Economics, politics and international relations in the post-growth era. Cambridge, UK, Malden, MA, USA: Polity Press.

Gaffney O and Rockström J (2021) Breaking boundaries: The science of our planet. New York, NY: DK, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.

Patel R and Moore JW (2017) A history of the world in seven cheap things: A guide to capitalism, nature, and the future of the

planet. Oakland, Calif: University of California Pres.

Sayer RA (2014) Why we can't afford the rich. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.