CANSEE 2026 : Changing Tides
SCANÉÉ 2026 : Vagues de changement

Program and schedule | Programmation et horaire

7–9 October | octobre 2026 Membertou, NS

Canadian Society for Ecological Economics

Société canadienne d'économie écologique

Land Acknowledgement

Our conference takes place on Unama'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, who we acknowledge as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. Relations here are based on a series of Peace and Friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to the early 18th century. We recognize that "We are All Treaty People." We also acknowledge that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years, and we honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land.

Reconnaissance du territoire

Notre congrès se tient sur le territoire d'Unama'ki, territoire ancestral et non cédé du peuple Mi'kmaq, que nous reconnaissons comme les gardiens passés, présents et futurs de cette terre. Les relations ici reposent sur une série de traités de paix et d'amitié conclus entre la nation Mi'kmaq et la Couronne, qui remontent au début du XVIIIe siècle. Nous reconnaissons que « nous sommes tous des peuples des traités ». Nous reconnaissons également que les personnes d'ascendance africaine sont présentes en Nouvelle-Écosse depuis plus de 400 ans, et nous rendons hommage et exprimons notre gratitude envers ces ancêtres d'ascendance africaine qui sont venus avant nous sur cette terre.

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A Note on Translations for CANSEE 2026

As is CANSEE custom, presenters are encouraged to present in whatever language they are most comfortable with. This is usually English and French. To facilitate this, for each session, there will be a zoom account associated with each room that participants can access to see real-time subtitles of what the speakers are saying. There will be instructions in each room as to how this will work, and AV support people to help when needed. This function is an AI service offered by Zoom and assisted by AV services at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, and is noted here because CANSEE has a full transparency policy when it come to the use of generative AI.

Note concernant les traductions pour la SCANÉÉ 2026

Conformément à la tradition de la SCANÉÉ, les conférenciers sont encouragés à s'exprimer dans la langue dans laquelle ils se sentent le plus à l'aise. Il s'agit généralement de l'anglais et du français. Pour faciliter cela, chaque séance sera associée à un compte Zoom correspondant à chaque salle, auquel les participants pourront accéder pour voir en temps réel les sous-titres de ce que disent les conférenciers. Des instructions sur le fonctionnement de ce service seront disponibles dans chaque salle, et du personnel de soutien audiovisuel sera présent pour aider au besoin. Cette fonctionnalité est un service d'IA offert par Zoom et pris en charge par les services audiovisuels du Membertou Trade and Convention Centre; elle est mentionnée ici, car la SCANÉÉ applique une politique de transparence totale en ce qui concerne l'utilisation de l'IA générative.

A Note on the Use of AI in this Program

A small number of summaries in this program have been converted to a 100-word summary from a full length abstract using generative AI. A very small quantity of French translations were made using AI translators to supplement the excellent and robust human translations that CANSEE board members worked on. This is being noted because CANSEE has a full transparency policy when it comes to the use of AI.

Remarque concernant l'utilisation de l'IA dans ce programme

Un petit nombre de résumés figurant dans ce programme ont été convertis en résumés de 100 mots à partir d'un résumé complet, à l'aide d'une IA générative. Une très faible quantité de traductions en français a été réalisée à l'aide de traducteurs IA afin de compléter les excellentes et solides traductions humaines effectuées par les membres du conseil d'administration de la SCANÉÉ. Nous tenons à le préciser, car la SCANÉÉ applique une politique de transparence totale en matière d'utilisation de l'IA.

CANSEE's Current Policy on the Use of Generative AI

CANSEE's policy on the use of AI is such that we endeavour to not use generative AI as a general rule, but if we do find ourselves in circumstances of using it as a tool, we will state when we are using it. As a 100% volunteer-run not-for-profit organization, CANSEE practices sometimes include AI for short-term cost-savings and accessibility, but this is done with the knowledge that the use of this technology (and its associated provisoning systems) is politically and ecologically devastating. This policy is, like any other policy at CANSEE, up for debate.

Politique actuelle de la SCANÉÉ concernant l'utilisation de l'IA générative

La politique de la SCANÉÉ en matière d'utilisation de l'IA est la suivante : nous nous efforçons, en règle générale, de ne pas recourir à l'IA générative; toutefois, si nous nous trouvons dans une situation où nous devons l'utiliser comme outil, nous le signalerons clairement. En tant qu'organisme sans but lucratif géré à 100 % par des bénévoles, la SCANÉÉ recourt parfois à l'IA pour réaliser des économies à court terme et améliorer l'accessibilité, mais ce faisant, nous sommes conscients que l'utilisation de cette technologie (et des systèmes d'approvisionnement qui y sont associés) a des conséquences désastreuses sur les plans politique et écologique. Cette politique, comme toute autre politique de la SCANÉÉ, est sujette à débat.

Message from the CANSEE President

This is the 15th Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE). Founded in 1993 as the first regional chapter of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), CANSEE has fostered a scholarly community across Canada that has engaged in critical research, scholarship, and transformational work for over thirty years. This work is challenging, inspiring, emotional, and has proven to be politically complicated over time, but CANSEE has always strived to be a grounding community for the transdisciplinary work of ecological economics and the fields that meaningfully overlap across academia and beyond.

This year, in 2026, we gather in Unama'ki, on Membertou First Nation reserve in what is also known as Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. For three days, we will hear from keynote panelists, listen to lightning talks, participate in workshops and special sessions, learn from paper presentations, share meals and conversations, reconnect with colleagues and friends from across the country, and meet new friends and colleagues. We will continue to co-create a CANSEE community that is a place of inspiration, knowledge co-production, networking, creativity, and conviviality. We are all working towards just, livable futures amidst times of escalating crisis, and this is not easy. This conference is meant to be as much a time for delight and jovial rejuvenation and as it is for deep synthesis or getting rigorous feedback on an article you're writing.

We are doing it in-person, on-reserve, and without zooming speakers in for talks. This is intentional, but is not meant to be a universal statement on conference logistics. It is no coincidence that so many solutions to global ecological problems are place-based and relational, and we are centreing in-person conversations, stories, and voices from the maritimes and Unama'ki this year. Whether you are from here, a frequent visitor, or new to this place, there is much to learn from the uniqueness of Cape Breton, and much we may offer in return through our attention, consideration, and advocacy.

Everyone attending this conference knows that the work of social transformation towards livable, desirable futures is difficult and meaningful. Here at the CANSEE 2026 Changing Tides conference, may you find new ideas, solidarity, and belonging. And may you keep up the good work.

Your CANSEE president,

Shaun Sellers

Message de la présidente de la SCANÉÉ

Il s'agit du 15e colloque biennal de la Société canadienne d'économie écologique (SCANÉE). Fondée en 1993 en tant que première section régionale de la Société internationale d'économie écologique (ISEE), la SCANÉÉ a favorisé l'essor, partout au Canada, d'une communauté universitaire engagée depuis plus de trente ans dans la recherche critique, les travaux savants et les actions transformatrices. Ce travail est exigeant, inspirant et profondément humain, et il s'est avéré politiquement complexe au fil du temps ; pourtant, la SCANÉE s'est toujours efforcée d'être un point d'ancrage pour la démarche transdisciplinaire de l'économie écologique et pour les domaines connexes au sein du milieu universitaire et au-delà.

Cette année, en 2026, nous nous réunissons à Unama'ki, sur le territoire de la Première Nation de Membertou, au Cap-Breton, en Nouvelle-Écosse. Pendant trois jours, nous entendrons des panélistes invités et assisterons à des présentations éclair ; nous participerons à des ateliers et à des séances spéciales, nous enrichirons nos discussions grâce aux présentations d'articles, nous partagerons des repas et des conversations, nous renouerons avec des collègues et des amis venus de partout au pays, et nous ferons de nouvelles rencontres. Nous continuerons à bâtir ensemble une communauté SCANÉE qui soit un lieu d'inspiration, de cocréation de connaissances, de réseautage, de créativité et de convivialité. Nous œuvrons tous et toutes pour un avenir juste et viable en cette période de crises croissantes, et ce n'est pas une mince affaire. Cette conférence se veut tout autant un moment de plaisir et de ressourcement qu'une occasion de pousser nos réflexions plus loin ou de recevoir des rétroactions constructives sur un article en cours de rédaction.

Nous avons choisi de tenir cet événement en présentiel, sur le territoire de la Première Nation, sans recourir à la visioconférence pour les interventions. Ce choix est délibéré, sans pour autant constituer une prise de position universelle sur l'organisation des conférences. Ce n'est pas un hasard si tant de solutions aux problèmes écologiques mondiaux sont ancrées dans un lieu et fondées sur les relations ; c'est pourquoi nous mettons cette année à l'honneur les échanges en personne, les récits et les voix des Maritimes et d'Unama'ki. Que vous soyez d'ici, un visiteur régulier ou que vous découvriez les lieux pour la première fois, le caractère unique du Cap-Breton offre un riche apprentissage, tout comme nous pouvons apporter notre contribution en retour grâce à notre attention, notre considération et notre engagement.

Toutes les personnes présentes à cette conférence savent que le travail de transformation sociale visant un avenir viable et souhaitable est à la fois ardu et porteur de sens. À l'occasion de la conférence SCANÉE 2026 « Vagues de changement », puissiez-vous trouver de nouvelles idées, de la solidarité et un sentiment d'appartenance. Et puissiez-vous poursuivre votre excellent travail.

Votre présidente de la SCANÉÉ,

Shaun Sellers

Conference themes / *Thèmes du colloque*

Changing Tides: Transdisciplinary Reflections and Emerging Horizons: This sub-theme invites critical reflection on the evolving nature of ecological economics itself. As social, environmental, and economic systems shift, so too must our theories, methods, and practices. Contributions may explore post-normal governance, methodological innovation, and the potential of change as a catalyst for renewal, creativity, and collective progress.

***Vagues de changement : Réflexions transdisciplinaires et horizons émergents**: Ce sous-thème invite à une réflexion critique sur l'évolution de l'économie écologique elle-même. Au fur et à mesure que les systèmes sociaux, environnementaux et économiques se transforment, nos théories, méthodes et pratiques doivent également évoluer. Les contributions peuvent explorer la gouvernance post-normale, l'innovation méthodologique et le potentiel du changement comme catalyseur de renouvellement, de créativité et de progrès collectif.*

Rooted Communities: Identity, Culture, and Place: This sub-theme highlights the importance of place, context, and long-standing relationships between communities and their territories. We invite work that explores enduring economies, territories of life, regional identities, community-engaged scholarship, and efforts to rebuild social and ecological ties where communities have been disrupted.

***Communautés enracinées : Identité, culture et territoire:** Ce sous-thème met en lumière l'importance du lieu, du contexte et des relations de longue date entre les communautés et leurs territoires. Nous invitons des travaux portant sur les économies durables, les territoires de vie, les identités régionales, la recherche engagée avec les communautés et les efforts visant à reconstruire les liens sociaux et écologiques là où les communautés ont été perturbées.*

Local Action, Global Impact: Place-Based Solutions to Global Challenges: This sub-theme welcomes contributions examining questions of scale and local-to-global dynamics, including how local actions aggregate to regional and global impacts, how global metrics translate into meaningful local action, and how inter-local and translocal networks respond to complex socio-ecological challenges. Modeling of materials and energy dynamics across scales from economic and related perspectives is also relevant to this sub-theme.

***Action locale, impact mondial : Solutions territoriales aux défis planétaires:** Ce sous-thème accueille des contributions examinant les questions d'échelle et les dynamiques local-mondial, notamment la manière dont les actions locales s'agrègent pour produire des impacts régionaux et mondiaux, comment les indicateurs mondiaux se traduisent en actions locales significatives, et comment les réseaux inter-locaux et translocaux répondent aux défis socio-écologiques complexes. La modélisation des flux de matière et d'énergie à différentes échelles, dans une perspective économique ou connexe, relève également de ce sous-thème.*

Relational Economies and Technologies: Connections Between Peoples and Planet: This sub-theme explores economic systems and technologies that center relationships, care, and interdependence. Topics may include solidarity economies, cooperatives, non-market practices, economies of care, convivial and regenerative technologies, circular design, and the social and ecological implications of digitization, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies with disruptive potential.

***Économies et technologies relationnelles : Liens entre les peuples et la planète:** Ce sous-thème explore les systèmes économiques et les technologies qui placent les relations, le soin et l'interdépendance au centre. Les sujets peuvent inclure les économies solidaires, les coopératives, les pratiques non marchandes, les économies du soin, les technologies conviviales et régénératrices, la conception circulaire, ainsi que les implications sociales et écologiques de la numérisation, de l'intelligence artificielle et d'autres technologies émergentes au potentiel perturbateur.*

Transitions and Transformations: Mitigation, Adaptation, and Systems Change: We invite contributions that examine the political, social, and material dimensions of transformation. Topics may include energy and sustainability transitions, post-capitalist and degrowth imaginaries, prefigurative politics, mitigation and adaptation strategies, modeling transitions, challenges related to polarization, militarization, and entrenched power structures, and future-oriented research.

***Transitions et transformations : Atténuation, adaptation et changement systémique:** Nous invitons des contributions qui examinent les dimensions politiques, sociales et matérielles de la transformation. Les sujets peuvent inclure les transitions énergétiques et de durabilité, les imaginaires post-capitalistes et de décroissance, les politiques préfiguratives, les stratégies d'atténuation et d'adaptation, la modélisation des transitions, les défis liés à la polarisation, la militarisation et les structures de pouvoir enracinées, ainsi que la recherche orientée vers l'avenir.*

The Difficult Century Ahead: Governance, Democracy, and Politics: This sub-theme focuses on governance and political economy in the context of 21st-century crises. We welcome work on Indigenous governance, governing the commons, innovative institutions, geopolitics, fiscal and monetary policy, welfare and environmental policy, and the evolving roles of markets, law, and the state.

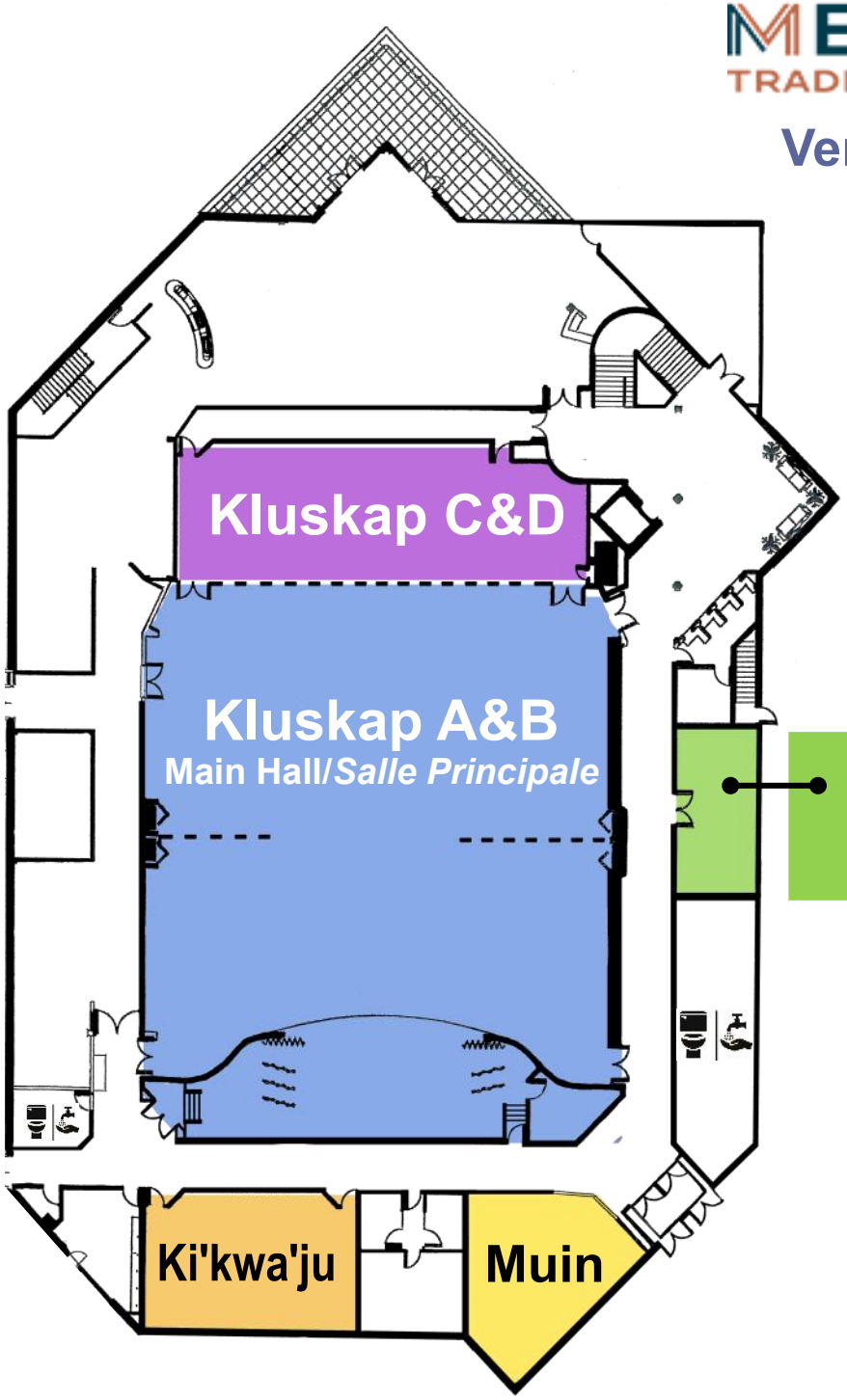
***Le siècle difficile à venir : Gouvernance, démocratie et politique:** Ce sous-thème porte sur la gouvernance et l'économie politique dans le contexte des crises du XXIe siècle. Nous accueillons des travaux sur la gouvernance autochtone, la gestion des communs, les institutions novatrices, la géopolitique, les politiques budgétaires et monétaires, les politiques sociales et environnementales, ainsi que les rôles évolutifs des marchés, du droit et de l'État.*

Anchoring the Future: Youth, Education, and Innovation: This sub-theme centers the transformative role of youth, education, and pedagogy in advancing ecological economics. Topics may include decolonizing curricula, youth leadership, social movements, educational innovation, and teaching approaches that empower future generations to engage in systems change.

***Ancrer l'avenir : Jeunesse, éducation et innovation:** Ce sous-thème met au centre le rôle transformateur de la jeunesse, de l'éducation et de la pédagogie dans l'avancement de l'économie écologique. Les sujets peuvent inclure la décolonisation des programmes d'études, le leadership des jeunes, les mouvements sociaux, l'innovation pédagogique et les approches éducatives qui outillent les générations futures pour s'engager dans le changement systémique.*

MEMBERTOU
TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE

Venue map / *Plan du lieu*



CANSEE 2026 features a quiet room for when you need to take a break, sit for a moment, and collect your thoughts. This room has low lighting, couches, and a cozy but uncluttered decor to let you recharge, meditate, rest your body and mind, and centre yourself. Everyone is free to use this room whenever they want to, as long as they understand it is meant to be a quiet space and can respect this intended atmosphere.

Mi'kmuesu
Quiet room
Salle de détente

SCANEE2026 met à votre disposition une salle de repos pour les moments où vous avez besoin de faire une pause, de vous asseoir un instant et de rassembler vos pensées. Cette salle est dotée d'un éclairage tamisé, de divans et d'un décor chaleureux mais épuré, afin de vous permettre de vous ressourcer, de méditer, de reposer votre corps et votre esprit, et de vous recentrer. Chacun est libre d'utiliser cette salle quand il le souhaite, à condition de comprendre qu'il s'agit d'un espace de calme et de respecter l'atmosphère qui y règne.



CAPE BRETON GUIDE / *GUIDE DU CAP-BRETON*

Here's a helpful visitors' guide for Cape Breton, including a calendar of events:
https://www.cbisland.com/en

Voici un guide pratique pour les visiteurs du Cap-Breton, comprenant un calendrier des événements:
https://www.cbisland.com/fr

Program at a glance:

3 keynote panels
1 Special talk
8 Parallel sessions
7 Workshops and special sessions
3 Lightning talk panel sessions
1 Film Premiere
1 Video conversation starter
1 All-conference power mapping activity
1 networking event
1 Annual General Assembly

Le programme en un clin d'œil:

3 Séance plénière
3 Séance special
8 Sessions parallèles
7 Ateliers et sessions spéciales
3 Sessions parallèles de communications éclair
1 Première du film
1 Activité de cartographie du pouvoir
1 Sujet de conversation vidéo
1 Activité de réseautage
1 Assemblée générale annuelle

Schedule at a glance | *L'horaire en un clin d'œil*

	**DAY 1	*Jour 1* Wednesday, Oct. 7 / *mercredi le 7 oct.***	**DAY 2	*Jour 2* Thursday, Oct.8 / *jeudi le 8 oct.***	**DAY 3	*Jour 3* Friday, Oct. 9 / *vendredi le 9 oct.***
8:00-9:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) Registration / *Inscription*	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) Morning coffee / *Café*	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) Morning coffee / *Café*
9:00-10:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 9:00-9:30 Welcoming remarks: Mi'kmaq Elder and CANSEE president	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 9:00-10:30 Keynote Panel 2: Joyful Resistance: Ecological Economics and the Practice of World-Building	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 9:00-10:30 Keynote Panel 3: Food systems for liveable futures
10:00-11:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 9:30 - 11:00 Keynote Panel 1: Justice and Anti-Colonial Practices: reflections from the community, the courtroom and the classroom	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK | PAUSE CAFÉ	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK | PAUSE CAFÉ
11:00-12:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 11:00-12:00 Networking activity/coffee Évènement de réseautage /*café*	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 11:00-11:45 Lightning talks Various locations 11:45-12:45 Lighting talks parallel sessions	11:00-12:30 parallel sessions Kluskap C&D-**Local impacts, global implications** Ki'kwa'ju -**Political economies** Muin- **Communities and water**
12:00-13:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) LUNCH | DÎNER	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 12:45-13:45 LUNCH | DÎNER	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 12:30-13:30 LUNCH | DÎNER
13:00-14:00	Various locations 13:00-14:30 Workshops and special sessions	13:45–15:15 Parallel Sessions Kluskap C&D-**Modelling past trends and future options** Muin- **Reflections on Ecological Economics, Value and Valuation** Ki'kwa'ju-**Convivial technologies**	13:30-14:15 Ecological Economics in North America, a Discussion of Solidarity for Transnational Livable Futures
14:00-15:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 14:30–15:00 COFFEE BREAK | PAUSE CAFÉ		Kluskap A&B (Main Hall) 14:30 -15:00 Closing remarks: Mi'kmaq leader and storyteller Jeff Ward and CANSEE president Shaun Sellers
15:00-16:00	Various locations 15:00-16:30 Workshops and special sessions	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 15:15-15:45 COFFEE BREAK | PAUSE CAFÉ	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 15:00 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK | PAUSE CAFÉ
16:00-17:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall) 16:30-16:45 Leg stretcher and snacks	15:45-17:15 Parallel Sessions Kluskap C&D- **Degrowth in theory and in practice** Muin-**Pluralistic approaches to law and governance**	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall/*Salle Principale*) 16:00 - 17:30 **CANSEE Annual General Assembly**
17:00-18:00	Kluskap A&B (Main Hall) 16:45-18:30 **Film Premiere: Econoclast**: Herman Daly and the Doctrine of Growth Discussion Panel with Peter Victor	17:15–18:00 Variety Show	
18:00-19:00			18:00 - 20:00 Conference party in Sydney's downtown, location to be announced
19:00-20:00			

Keynote Panels / *Séances plénières*

Day 1 October 7, 9:30 – 11:00 Kluskap A&B (Main Hall / *Salle Principale)*

Keynote Panel 1: Justice and Anti-Colonial Practices: reflections from the community, the courtroom and the classroom

We are at a crossroads of multiple and complex social and ecological crises, driven largely by colonial ways of understanding the world and deeply rooted injustices. In this difficult context, how can we engender just and anti-colonial pathways towards a livable future? Brian Noble will share his experience on partnered actions over three decades with First Nations, each of which has sought to mobilize at the community level, typically by building out alliances of action rooted in reciprocity and relational economies of life. Camille Cameron will share her recent work on Global South and North climate litigation, how it's being used by governments and communities, and its outcomes - are they fair, effective, transformative? Ellie Perkins will share her perspectives on the role of socio-economic equity in shaping students' understanding of their own agency to address the climate crisis and advance the energy transition as a moral, economic, and political priority.

Panel 1: Justice et pratiques anticoloniales : réflexions de la communauté, du tribunal et de la salle de classe

Nous nous trouvons à la croisée de crises sociales et écologiques multiples et complexes, alimentées en grande partie par les visions coloniales du monde et par des injustices profondément enracinées. Dans ce contexte difficile, comment pouvons-nous tracer des voies justes et anticoloniales vers un avenir viable? Brian Noble partagera son expérience de partenariats noués sur trois décennies avec des Premières Nations, qui ont cherché à se mobiliser à l'échelle communautaire, généralement en tissant des alliances d'action ancrées dans la réciprocité et des économies relationnelles du vivant. Camille Cameron présentera ses travaux récents sur les litiges climatiques dans les pays du Sud et du Nord, la manière dont ils sont mobilisés par les gouvernements et les communautés, ainsi que leurs retombées : sont-ils justes, efficaces et transformateurs? Ellie Perkins partagera ses perspectives sur le rôle de l'équité socio-économique dans la perception qu'ont les étudiant·e·s de leur propre capacité d'action pour faire face à la crise climatique et faire progresser la transition énergétique en tant que priorité morale, économique et politique.



Brian E. Noble, PhD, is a Canadian eco-political anthropologist and Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University. His research bridges academics with real-world action, examining political and legal anthropology, STS, Indigenous-settler relations, relational economies, and multi-species political ecologies. His collaborations with Blackfoot, Mi'kmaq, Secwepemc, and Kwakwaka'wakw communities address treaty ecologies, repatriation, relational sovereignties, and anti-colonial research praxis. In 2024, as a Fulbright Canada Research Chair at the University of Hawai'i, he engaged with Kānaka Maoli people on land- and sea-based relationality and self-determination. He is the author of Articulating Dinosaurs: A Political Anthropology. His applied work spans museums, arts, heritage, and community eco-social renewal.

Brian E. Noble, *Ph. D., est un anthropologue écopolitique canadien et professeur agrégé de sociologie et d'anthropologie sociale à l'Université Dalhousie. Ses recherches relient le monde universitaire à l'action sur le terrain, en explorant l'anthropologie politique et juridique, les sciences, la technologie et la société (STS), les relations entre les Autochtones et le colonialisme d'implantation, les économies relationnelles et les écologies politiques multiespèces. Ses collaborations avec les communautés Blackfoot, Mi'kmaq, Secwepemc et Kwakwaka'wakw portent sur les écologies des traités, le rapatriement, les souverainetés relationnelles et la pratique de la recherche anticoloniale. En 2024, en tant que titulaire de la chaire de recherche Fulbright Canada à l'Université d'Hawai'i, il a collaboré avec le peuple Kānaka Maoli sur les relations terrestres et maritimes ainsi que sur l'autodétermination. Il est l'auteur de Articulating Dinosaurs: A Political Anthropology. Son travail appliqué couvre les musées, les arts, le patrimoine et le renouveau écosocial communautaire.*

Camille Cameron is Professor of Law at Dalhousie University. She began her career as a lawyer in private practice before entering academia and has held appointments at universities in Canada, Australia, and Hong Kong. During her career, she has worked in various countries with human rights groups and international development organisations, advising on legal reform and judicial training. She has served in numerous leadership and advisory roles, including on the Independent Advisory Board on Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments and the Advisory Board of the Law Commission of Canada. Her current research projects and interests include access to justice and climate change litigation.



***Camille Cameron** est professeure de droit à l'Université Dalhousie. Elle a amorcé sa carrière comme avocate en pratique privée avant de se tourner vers le milieu universitaire, occupant des postes dans des universités au Canada, en Australie et à Hong Kong. Au cours de sa carrière, elle a travaillé dans plusieurs pays auprès de groupes de défense des droits de la personne et d'organisations de développement international, offrant des conseils en matière de réforme juridique et de formation judiciaire. Elle a exercé de nombreuses fonctions de direction et de conseil, notamment au sein du Comité consultatif indépendant sur les nominations à la Cour suprême du Canada et du Conseil consultatif de la Commission du droit du Canada. Ses projets et intérêts de recherche actuels portent sur l'accès à la justice et les litiges liés aux changements climatiques.*



Patricia E. (Ellie) Perkins is Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University, Toronto. A leading scholar in feminist ecological economics, climate justice, the commons, and community-based watershed governance, her research spans Africa and Latin America through collaborations with academic and community partners. She is editor of several influential books on climate justice and participatory research, and served as a Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report.

***Patricia E. (Ellie) Perkins** est professeure à la Faculté des changements environnementaux et urbains de l'Université York, à Toronto. Chercheuse de premier plan en économie écologique féministe, en justice climatique, en biens communs et en gouvernance communautaire des bassins versants. Ses travaux de recherche incluent des projets en collaboration avec des partenaires communautaires et universitaires en Afrique et en Amérique latine.Elle a dirigé la publication de plusieurs ouvrages influents sur la justice climatique et la recherche participative, et a été auteure principale du sixième rapport d'évaluation du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC).*

Day 2 October 8, 9:00 – 10:30 Kluskap A&B (Main Hall / *Salle Principale)*

Keynote Panel 2: Joyful Resistance: Ecological Economics and the Practice of World-Building

Economies organized around place, relationships, reciprocity, and ecological limits long predate today's dominant growth-based paradigm. So why are these ways of organizing economic life treated as "alternatives", and what becomes possible when we refuse that framing? Bringing together perspectives from Indigenous business and community economic development, community-rooted food systems and re-localization, and ecological economics as a distinctive macroeconomic approach, this fireside conversation will explore what it means to practice world-building within a world already shaped by institutions that reward growth, profitability, scale, and narrow measures of value. Through stories, difficult questions, and audience participation, the conversation between Mary Beth Doucette, Justin Cantafio and Nathan Ayer will explore resistance as a practical, convivial, and joyful part of imagining, enacting, and defending different economic futures.

Panel 2: Résistance joyeuse : l'économie écologique et la pratique de la construction du monde

Les économies de proximité, axées sur les relations, la réciprocité et les limites écologiques, précèdent de loin le paradigme dominant basé sur la croissance que nous connaissons aujourd'hui. Pourquoi ces modes d'organisation de la vie économique sont-ils traités comme des « alternatives », et qu'est-ce qui devient possible lorsque nous rejetons ce cadre? Réunissant des perspectives issues de l'entrepreunariat autochtone et du développement économique communautaire, des systèmes alimentaires ancrés dans les communautés et de la relocalisation, ainsi que de l'économie écologique en tant que démarche macroéconomique distincte, cette séance plénière explorera ce que signifie pratiquer la co-création de mondes au sein d'une réalité déjà façonnée par des institutions qui récompensent la croissance, les rendements d'échelle et des mesures étroites de la valeur. À travers des récits, des questions pointues et la participation du public, la discussion entre Mary Beth Doucette, Justin Cantafio et Nathan Ayer abordera la résistance comme une dimension pratique, conviviale et joyeuse de l'imagination, de la mise en œuvre et de la défense d'avenirs économiques différents.



Justin Cantafio is a relocalization strategist, scholar-practitioner, and cooperative leader working to strengthen local food systems and regional economies in Atlantic Canada and beyond. As Director of Policy at the Centre for Local Prosperity, he leads work on relocalization, food sovereignty, community wealth building, and just transitions. A Nuffield Scholar and co-founder of several food system initiatives, Justin draws on extensive experience to explore how food systems can foster resilience, prosperity, and stronger communities.

Justin Cantafio *est stratège en relocalisation, chercheur-praticien et leader coopératif qui œuvre au renforcement des systèmes alimentaires locaux et des économies régionales au Canada atlantique et au-delà. À titre de directeur des politiques au Centre for Local Prosperity, il dirige des travaux sur la relocalisation, la souveraineté alimentaire, le développement de la richesse communautaire et les transitions justes. Boursier Nuffield et cofondateur de plusieurs initiatives en systèmes alimentaires, Justin s'appuie sur une vaste expérience pour explorer comment les systems alimentaires peuvent favoriser la résilience, la prospérité et le renforcement des communautés.*



Mary Beth Doucette is an Associate Professor in the Community Economics, Tourism, and Indigenous Business Department, and the Purdy Crawford Chair in Indigenous Business Studies at the Shannon School of Business, Cape Breton University. Mary Beth is Mi'kmaq/Canadian from Unama'ki' (Cape Breton, Nova Scotia) and a member of the Membertou Mi'kmaw community. Dr. Doucette's research relates to Indigenous-led business models and Indigenous Economic Development. She is interested in studying administrative policies using tools like NWAC's Culturally Relevant Gener-Based Analysis, applications of Etuaptmumk-Two-Eyed Seeing, and development of Indigenous centered business curricula.

Mary Beth Doucette *est professeure agrégée au département d'économie communautaire, du tourisme et des affaires autochtones, et titulaire de la Chaire Purdy Crawford en études des affaires autochtones à la Shannon School of Business de l'Université du Cap-Breton. Mi'kmaq et Canadienne originaire d'Unama'ki (Cap-Breton, Nouvelle-Écosse), elle est membre de la communauté Mi'kmaw de Membertou. Dr Doucette axe ses travaux sur les modèles d'affaires et le développement économique autochtones. Elle s'intéresse à l'étude des politiques administratives à l'aide d'outils tels que l'analyse comparative fondée sur le genre adaptée à la culture de l'ANFCA (NWAC), aux applications de l'approche du double regard (Etuaptmumk / Two-Eyed Seeing), ainsi qu'au développement de programmes d'études en gestion centrés sur les Autochtones.*



Nathan Ayer is an Instructor in the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University and Director of Research at EarthShift Global. An ecological economist and life cycle assessment specialist with more than 20 years of experience, his work focuses on the application of biophysical accounting tools for evaluating the environmental trade-offs of sustainability solutions and the role of technology in sustainability transitions. His research and applied work span forestry, aquaculture, bioenergy, and biomaterial systems.

Nathan Ayer est chargé de cours à la *School for Resource and Environmental Studies de l'Université Dalhousie et directeur de la recherche chez EarthShift Global. Économiste écologique et spécialiste de l'analyse du cycle de vie comptant plus de 20 ans d'expérience, ses travaux portent sur l'application d'outils de comptabilité biophysique pour évaluer les compromis environnementaux des solutions en développement durable et le rôle de la technologie dans les transitions vers la durabilité. Ses recherches et travaux appliqués couvrent la foresterie, l'aquaculture, la bioénergie et les systèmes de biomatériaux.*

Keynote Panel 2: Food Systems for a Livable Future

Food systems translate worldviews and societal and community values in concrete, on-the-ground ways, with tangible ecological, social and cultural impacts. They are intricately linked to individual and collective choices reflected in economics, law, trade, land and water use and more. This panel will explore ways to transition away from food systems that perpetuate social, ecological and cultural harm, toward increasing reliance on food systems that support livable futures. Peter Tyedmers, Karen Forster and Gabriel Leblanc will share their views on how a focus on improved relationships between people and place, and with each other, along with themes of community well-being, decoloniality, local-scale production, resistance to capitalist markets, and a broad commitment to commoning and community solidarity can be part of the transition to food systems for a livable future.

Panel 3: Systèmes alimentaires pour des avenirs vivables

Les systèmes alimentaires traduisent les visions du monde ainsi que des valeurs sociétales et communautaires de manière concrète, avec des impacts écologiques, sociaux et culturels tangibles. Ils façonnent les choix individuels et collectifs et sont façonnés par eux ; ils sont enracinés dans les réallités physiques et les systèmes économiques, juridiques, commerciaux et d'utilisation des ressources. Ce panel explorera les moyens de s'affranchir des systèmes alimentaires qui perpétuent les préjudices sociaux, écologiques et culturels, pour s'orienter vers une dépendance accrue envers des systèmes qui favorisent des avenirs viables et minimaliser la dégradation écologique. Peter Tyedmers, Karen Forster et Gabriel Leblanc partageront leurs points de vue sur la manière dont l'amélioration des relations entre les humains et les territoires, ainsi qu'entre les individus — conjuguée aux thèmes du bien-être communautaire, de la décolonialité, de la production à l'échelle locale, de la résistance aux marchés capitalistes et à un engagement partagé envers la mise en commun (commoning) et la solidarité communautaire — peut contribuer à la transition vers des systèmes alimentaires porteurs d'un avenir viable.



Gabriel Leblanc — is a co-founder of Ferme de la Dérive, an anti-capitalist, environmentalist nonprofit dedicated to promoting local food sovereignty. As a vegetable farmer and livestock raiser, he advocates for agriculture free from profit motives, focused on collective and communal subsistence. Opposed to private property, he offers a structured critique of agricultural capitalism and the false solutions associated with the "green transition." He holds a master's degree in environmental sciences (UQAM) and is a doctoral candidate in regional development (UQAR); he regularly contributes articles and gives lectures on agricultural, ecological, and post-capitalist issues.

***Gabriel Leblanc** est cofondateur de la Ferme de la Dérive, une OBNL anti-capitaliste et écologiste engagée dans les souverainetés alimentaires territoriales. Paysan maraîcher et éleveur, il milite pour une agriculture extraite des logiques du profit, orientée sur la subsistance collective et communalisée. Opposé à la propriété privée, il propose une critique structurée du capitalisme agricole et des fausses solutions associées à la « transition verte ». Titulaire d'une maîtrise en sciences de l'environnement (UQAM) et candidat au doctorat en développement régional (UQAR), il intervient régulièrement par l'écrit ou en conférence sur les enjeux agricoles, écologiques et post-capitalistes.*



Dr. Karen Foster is Professor of Sociology at Dalhousie University and former Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Rural Futures for Atlantic Canada. Her research examines rural life in Atlantic Canada, with a focus on economy, work and labour, food systems, and community development. She directs the Rural Futures Research Collaborative and leads community-engaged and scholarly research on topics including occupational succession in rural small businesses, care and work relations, disability inclusion, and meaningful work. She also directs the Common Ground Canada Network, bringing together researchers, communities, Indigenous leaders, and policymakers, working together to transform Canada's agriculture and food systems for a sustainable, net-zero future.

***Dre Karen Foster** est professeure de sociologie à l'Université Dalhousie et ancienne titulaire de la Chaire de recherche du Canada sur l'avenir durable des régions rurales du Canada atlantique. Ses recherches portent sur la vie rurale dans cette région, en mettant l'accent sur l'économie, le travail et la main-d'œuvre, les systèmes alimentaires et le développement communautaire. À la tête du Rural Futures Research Collaborative, elle mène des recherches à la fois communautaires et universitaires sur des thèmes tels que la relève professionnelle dans les petites entreprises rurales, les relations entre les soins et le travail, l'inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap et le travail porteur de sens. Elle dirige également le réseau Common Ground Canada, qui rassemble des chercheurs, des collectivités, des leaders autochtones et des décideurs politiques, travaillant ensemble pour transformer les systèmes agricoles et alimentaires du Canada en vue d'un avenir durable et à zéro émission nette.*



Dr. Peter Tyedmers is an ecological economist and Professor in the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University whose research examines the biophysical performance of food systems. Over more than 25 years, he has become an authority on the energy and environmental performance of seafood systems, applying energy analysis, ecological footprint accounting, and life cycle assessment across fisheries and aquaculture worldwide. His research has also advanced understanding of the environmental performance of agriculture and other food production systems.

***Dr Peter Tyedmers** est économiste écologique et professeur à la School for Resource and Environmental Studies de l'Université Dalhousie. Ses recherches portent sur la performance biophysique des systèmes alimentaires. Depuis plus de 25 ans, il s'est établi comme une autorité en matière de performance énergétique et environnementale de la filière des produits marins, appliquant l'analyse énergétique, la comptabilité de l'empreinte écologique et l'analyse du cycle de vie aux pêcheries et à l'aquaculture à l'échelle mondiale. Ses recherches ont également fait progresser la compréhension de la performance environnementale de l'agriculture et d'autres systèmes de production alimentaire.*

Special events | *Évènements spéciaux*

Day 1, Oct.7 11:00– 12:00pm | Jour 1, 7 oct. 11h–12h

Kluskap A&B (Main Hall / *Salle Principale)*

Networking activity /coffee (Bilingual) | *Évènement de réseautage/ café (Bilingue*)

Unwind and connect at our Networking event, where attendees can mingle and network in a relaxed atmosphere. Come engage in meaningful conversations with fellow conference participants. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a newcomer to environmental studies, this event offers the perfect opportunity to build new connections and foster collaborations.



Venez vous détendre et établir de nouvelles connexions lors de notre événement de réseautage, où les participants pourront se mêler et réseauter dans une ambiance informelle. Participez à des conversations stimulantes avec d'autres participants de la conférence. Que vous soyez un professionnel aguerri ou un novice dans les études environnementales, cet événement offre l'occasion idéale de tisser de nouveaux liens et de favoriser des collaborations.

Day 1 October 7, 16:45–18:30pm Kluskap A&B (Main Hall / *Salle Principale)*

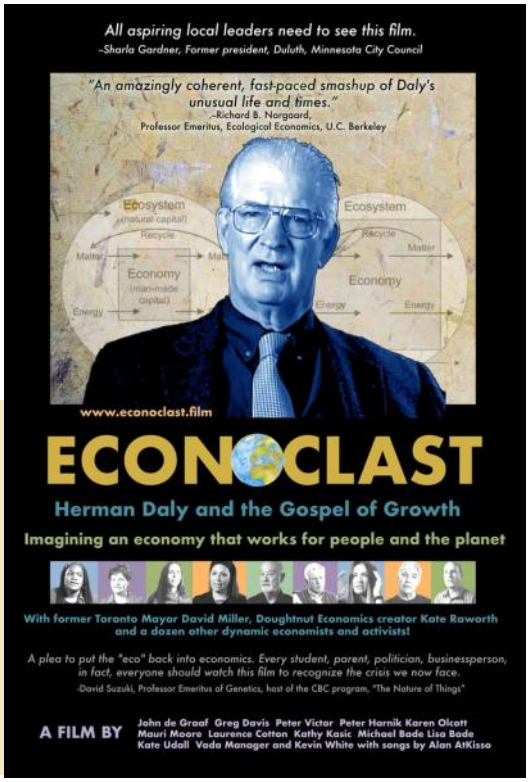
Film Premiere / *Première du film :*

Econoclast: Herman Daly and the Doctrine of Growth

Econoclast—Herman Daly et la doctrine de la croissance [ANGLAIS]

You are invited to the Canadian Premiere of *Econoclast: Herman Daly and the Gospel of Growth*, an acclaimed new film by veteran documentary producer John de Graaf. The film profiles the famous economist who challenged his discipline's focus on economic growth (as unsustainable on a finite planet, and resulting in great inequality) and launched the new field of Ecological Economists. The film will be followed by a discussion Panel with Peter Victor, Anders Hayden and Karen Foster.

Vous êtes invités à la première canadienne d'« Econoclast : Herman Daly and the Gospel of Growth », un nouveau film acclamé par la critique réalisé par John de Graaf, producteur de documentaires chevronné. Le film dresse le portrait de ce célèbre économiste qui a remis en question l'accent mis par sa discipline sur la croissance économique (qu'il jugeait non durable sur une planète aux ressources limitées et source de grandes inégalités) et qui a lancé le nouveau domaine de l'économie écologique. La première sera suivi par un panel de discussion avec Peter Victor, Anders Hayden et Karen Foster.



Day 2 October 8, 17:15–18:00pm TBC

Variety show (Depending on participant willingness and availability)

Soirée de variétés

Day 3 October 9, 13:30–14:15 Special Talk / *Discussion*

Ecological Economics in North America, a Discussion of Solidarity for Transnational Livable Futures

A conversation between Mesoamerican and Caribbean Society for Ecological Economics (SMCEE) president Salvador Peniche Camps, CANSEE president Shaun Sellers, others, and the audience, envisioning the role of regional Ecological Economics academic societies in social transformation, activism, and policy change.

L'économie écologique en Amérique du Nord : discussion sur la solidarité pour des avenirs transnationaux viables

Une conversation entre Salvador Peniche Camps, président de la Mesoamerican and Caribbean Society for Ecological Economics (SMCEE), Shaun Sellers, présidente de la SCANÉE/ CANSEE, d'autres intervenants et le public, portant sur le rôle visionnaire des sociétés régionales d'économie écologique dans la transformation sociale, l'activisme et l'évolution des politiques publiques.

Special Activities / *Activités spéciales*

Power Mapping for Degrowth - All Conference Activity (Kluskap A/B)
Vlad Bunea (Degrowth Collective)

As debate continues over how degrowth can enter the political Overton window, practical strategies for implementing degrowth policies are urgently needed. Power Mapping will invite the conference community to collectively identify the actors, institutions, and relationships needed to advance key degrowth policies in Canada, including free transportation, wealth caps, fossil fuel phase-out, resource-extraction limits, universal basic services and income, and limits on ecologically harmful production and imports. A shared Miro board will remain active throughout the conference, allowing participants to contribute to local, provincial, and federal matrices and identify decision-makers, organizations, research gaps, coalition opportunities, communications strategies, and potential campaigns. The facilitator may convene spontaneous discussions as interest emerges.

Cartographie du pouvoir pour la décroissance – Ensemble des activités de la conference *(Kluskap A/B)*
Vlad Bunea (Degrowth Collective)

Alors que le débat se poursuit sur la manière dont la décroissance peut s'insérer dans la fenêtre d'Overton politique, il est urgent de mettre en place des stratégies concrètes pour mettre en œuvre des politiques de décroissance. La cartographie du pouvoir invitera la communauté de la conférence à identifier collectivement les acteurs, les institutions et les relations nécessaires pour faire avancer les principales politiques de décroissance au Canada, notamment le transport gratuit, le plafonnement de la richesse, l'élimination progressive des combustibles fossiles, la limitation de l'extraction des ressources, les services et le revenu de base universels, ainsi que la limitation de la production et des importations nuisibles à l'environnement. Un tableau Miro partagé restera actif tout au long de la conférence, permettant aux participants de contribuer aux matrices locales, provinciales et fédérales et d'identifier les décideurs, les organisations, les lacunes en matière de recherche, les possibilités de coalitions, les stratégies de communication et les campagnes potentielles. L'animateur pourra organiser des discussions spontanées à mesure que des sujets d'intérêt émergeront.

Coming soon to a coffee break near you *Bientôt lors d'une pause-café près de chez vous*
Kluskap A&B (Main Hall / *Salle Principale)*

A special showing of the short video: **Three Wealthy People -** An Illustration of the Value Crisis. An animated video, comparing the lives and perspectives of three characters finding their way in the world. Each character represents a different kind of wealth. Through their contrasting ideas of success and happiness, we are introduced to the Value Crisis - a deceptively simple concept that actually underpins the world's greatest challenges.

*Projection spéciale de la courte vidéo : « **Trois personnes riches** – Une illustration de la crise des valeurs » Une vidéo d'animation qui compare la vie et les perspectives de trois personnages cherchant leur voie dans le monde. Chaque personnage incarne un type de richesse différent. À travers leurs conceptions contrastantes de la réussite et du bonheur, on nous présente la « crise des valeurs » – un concept d'une simplicité trompeuse qui sous-tend en réalité les plus grands défis mondiaux.*

Day 3 October 9, 16:00– 17:30 Kluskap A&B (Main Hall / *Salle Principale)*
CANSEE Annual General Assembly /*Assemblée générale annuelle de la SCANÉÉ*

Day 3 October 9, 18:00–20:00
Conference party in Sydney's downtown, location to be announced
Soirée de la conférence au centre-ville de Sydney (lieu à annoncer)

Workshops and Special Sessions /*Ateliers et sessions spéciales*

Day 1 October 7, 13:00 – 14:30

Kate Linden	Relational Economies and the Future of Rural Aging in Place: Synthesizing Well-Being Data in Cape Breton	Kluskap A&B
Lisa Ditschun	Translucent Cities: Commons-Based Mapping for Seven-Generation Futures	Muin
Vlad Bunea	Immersion into storytelling	Kluskap C&D
Kelly Gingrich	Unprofessional Development Workshop	Ki'kwa'ju

Relational Economies and the Future of Rural Aging in Place: Synthesizing Well-Being Data in Cape Breton

Johnie Han (Cape Breton University), Martin Sers (Cape Breton University), Kate Linden (Cape Breton University)

This session introduces Homeward Bound, a Research Nova Scotia-funded initiative based at Cape Breton University that reimagines aging in rural Cape Breton as a relational economy rather than a clinical or institutional burden. Focusing on Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, the project develops two connected tools: the Cape Breton Well-Being Dashboard, providing rural-specific measures of well-being, and a system dynamics model of Social Return on Investment that traces interventions across health and social systems over time. Together, these approaches seek to build evidence for non-market approaches to elder care and post-growth social safety nets. The session concludes with a participatory exercise to define meaningful measures.

Translucent Cities: Commons-Based Mapping for Seven-Generation Futures.

Lisa Ditschun (Trent University)

This interactive workshop invites participants to engage with a Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk) approach through commons-based mapping for Seven-Generation urban futures. Grounded in place-based research-creation, participants use translucent, tactile materials to explore lived experiences of care, resilience, and stewardship in cities. In dialogue with representational cartography, the session surfaces non-market values essential to ecological economics yet often overlooked in dominant governance frameworks. The workshop offers ecological economists, researchers, and practitioners an experiential, relational method for re-magining urban commons, value, and intergenerational responsibility.

Immersion into storytelling

Vlad Bunea (Degrowth Collective)

My novel “Degrowth of Humans and Sheep” will be published in June by May Fly Books. The novel features 33 characters of a wide variety of identities who become shrunken to the size of a cup by a mysterious phenomenon. The community of tiny people end up in a forest where they must adapt to survive against the elements. The story is a metaphor of an unplanned degrowth of society which becomes a positive learning experience.The workshop will consist of a participatory reading and acting out of scenes from the book. Participants will be offered to choose from one of the 33 characters. Scenes will take the form of short sketches that illustrate various aspects of a shrunken (degrown) society. The dialogue will touch on topics such as the role of production, money, material accumulation, social status, incentives to adopt a collective mindset, physical survival under challenging circumstances (they are attacked by squirrels and spiders which almost destroy their tiny village), the meaning of life, the creation of social rules, the choice of governance, and ecological symbiosis.

Unprofessional Development Workshop

Kelly Gingrich (York University)

Growthism has seeped into our institutions. A culture of bigger, better, faster came along with accelerated consumerism as neoliberal policies took shape to encourage economic growth at any cost. To challenge growthism and productivism in academia, I am exploring the idea of being unprofessional. In other words, degrowing academia. In this experimental workshop session, I will facilitate a co-exploration of practices, tactics and reflections to imagine what degrowth looks like in practice in research. This session invites attendees to share the practices that they use to be anti-productive, framed by a discussion of post-growth universities, slow research, and bringing degrowth into how we “do academia”. Come as you are.

Day 1 October 7, 15:00 – 16:30

Peri Dworatzek	Footprints from Coast to Coast: ecological footprint and biocapacity generated for the Canadian provinces	Ki'kwa'ju
David Ing	Ways That Meaning Comes Together: Root Metaphors, Relational Systems, and Enduring Economies	Kluskap C&D
Kate Linden	Co-Designing the Unama'ki Summer School: A Relational Approach to Regional Adaptation	Muin

Footprints from Coast to Coast: ecological footprint and biocapacity generated for the Canadian provinces

Peri Dworatzek (York University), Eric Miller (York University), Kiona Lo (York University), Andrew Reeves (York University), Neha Basnet (York University), Bumika Srikanthalingam (York University), Oleksandr Galychyn (York University, IEFLL Project)

This 1-hour paper/panel session to first showcase the data and analytical results of this research. The latter part of this session aims to engage with audience members about applying this data with local governments, community organizations, and civil society to address data gaps felt across the country. The session will be organized by a team of researchers from the Ecological Footprint Initiative at York University, who co-produced the data and research.

Ways That Meaning Comes Together: Root Metaphors, Relational Systems, and Enduring Economies

David Ing (OCAD University), David Mallery (Scotland's Rural College)

As communities navigate complex ecological and economic disruptions, our approaches to systemic transformation often stall because they rely on inherited, mechanistic 20th-century metaphors. Dominant economic models typically conceptualize the world through "analytic formism" or "mechanism"—viewing systems as straight lines, predictable machine parts, or structural-metabolic inputs/outputs. However, true sustainability transformations require embracing relational, processual, and pluralistic ways of knowing. This workshop introduces Stephen C. Pepper's (1942) four relatively adequate World Hypotheses (formism, mechanism, contextualism, and organicism) as foundational epistemological tools for ecological economics. It then explores David Ing's emerging contextual-dyadic thinking and a broader list of "Ways that Meaning Comes Together."

Co-Designing the Unama'ki Summer School: A Relational Approach to Regional Adaptation

Kate Linden (Cape Breton University), Mary Beth Doucette(Cape Breton University), Carrie Karsgaard (Cape Breton University),

The workshop follows a relational co-design process. Participants will conduct an audit of existing regional case studies, including initiatives ranging from Mi'kmaw-led energy sovereignty at Membertou to circular food economies in Sydney, to identify where initiatives naturally intersect. The session then moves into a collaborative design sprint to refine the Summer School's thematic modules and governance structure

Lightning Talks Parallel Sessions /*Sessions parallèles de communications éclair*

Day 2 October 8, 11:45 – 12:45 Muin

Session chair: Hannah Carey

Hannah Carey	Micro-festival Rhizome: Grassroots Event Design as a Site of Urban Ecological Reconnection
Zhiheng Han	Well-Being at the Margins: When Standardized Metrics Meet Rural Realities
Paul Bartlett	Ecovillage Collaborative Research: Co-creating Pathways Toward a Regenerative Future

Micro-festival Rhizome: Grassroots Event Design as a Site of Urban Ecological Reconnection

Hannah Carey (Invasives Canada)

Micro-festival Rhizome: Grassroots Event Design as a Site of Urban Ecological ReconnectionGrassroots, place-based events can function as sites of socio-ecological repair — building relational infrastructure between individuals, organizations, and urban ecosystems in ways that are often absent from municipal programming. Micro-festival Rhizome offers one example of a free, community event featuring a variety of activities to engage diverse audiences and participants such as guided nature walks, artistic workshops, a bike repair station, and environmental organization kiosks. This talk reflects on the experience of organizing and executing Rhizome's first edition and argues that hyperlocal, community-centred events create meaningful pathways for rebuilding social and ecological ties and catalyzing action.

Well-Being at the Margins: When Standardized Metrics Meet Rural Realities

Zhiheng Han, (Cape Breton University) Kate Linden (Cape Breton University)

Well-being dashboards are typically presented as neutral, technical tools that visually present data; however, they often rely on pre-defined standardized frameworks intended for urban or national scales. Reporting on a dashboard-style implementation of CSA R113:22 in Cape Breton, we argue that such standardized measurement is instead a form of governance work that redistributes rather than reduces the burden of evidence-based planning, and that tend to render rural communities more legible in their deficits than in their assets. Documenting the deficiencies and conflicts that arise applying a popular standardized framework to a rural edge-case, we identify where comparability is compromised and propose alternate design strategies that retain standardization while communicating its limits, contributing to dashboard scholarship and ongoing debates on rural data equity.

Ecovillage Collaborative Research: Co-creating Pathways Toward a Regenerative Future

Rosa Zubizarreta (Research Institute for Sustainability at GFZ Potsdam DE), Paul Bartlett (Research Institute for Sustainability at GFZ Potsdam DE, Fordham University, City University of New York)

Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) at GFZ Potsdam Germany is exploratory, transdisciplinary and transformative. This breakout session presents a cross-cutting work in progress of collaborative research of RIFS with diverse expertise engaged in discerning what can be learned from ecovillages (e.g. community building) and applied to other domains. We also will propose how sustainability research can aid the development of ecovillage resilience in these uncertain times facing an array of favorable and adverse scenarios (e.g. war in Ukraine). The investigation includes case study, participatory observation, interviews and project proposals, such as geothermal energy and heat, repair cooperatives, and natural building construction. This breakout session invites Ecological Economic research collaborations with RIFS, the Research Circle of the Global Ecovillage Network and the forthcoming International Ecovillage Research Institute.

Day 2 October 8, 11:45 – 12:45 Ki'kwa'ju

Session chair: Pascale Dufour

Pascale Dufour	*Cartographier les obstacles juridiques aux initiatives décroissantes sectorielles : un pas nécessaire au développement de leviers juridiques adaptés*
Yanyi Huang	Assessing the Feasibility of Green Hydrogen as a Sustainable Energy Supplement for Cape Breton
Ceileigh McAllister	Evaluating Degrowth Policy Proposals in the Canadian Context

Cartographier les obstacles juridiques aux initiatives décroissantes sectorielles : un pas nécessaire au développement de leviers juridiques adaptés

Pascale Dufour (Université de Montréal)

Le droit, dont les fondements demeurent généralement étrangers à la logique décroissantielle, peut poser des obstacles importants minant l'efficacité des leviers juridiques envisagés en recherche. Le projet de recherche vise à cartographier les obstacles juridiques, communs ou spécifiques, aux pratiques communautaires cohérentes avec un projet décroissant et ce, dans une variété de secteurs d'activité économique (alimentation, éducation, habitation, soins, etc.) et toutes branches de droit considérées. Les résultats permettront de développer des leviers juridiques transversaux et sectoriels véritablement cohérents avec la réalité des pratiques communautaires, favorisant ainsi l'essor d'initiatives décroissantes pérennes.

Assessing the Feasibility of Green Hydrogen as a Sustainable Energy Supplement for Cape Breton

Yanyi Huang (Cape Breton University)

Green hydrogen is vital to Canada's long-term decarbonization plan, but feasibility frameworks remain focused on large-scale, export-oriented markets, leaving remote communities such as Cape Breton underserved. Based on semi-structured interviews with eleven stakeholders, this study identifies four interconnected systemic barriers: the Export-Local Paradox, Scale-Demand Causality Trap, Grid-Carbon Paradox, and Trust Deficit. These paradoxes show that traditional techno-economic models fail to reflect the social realities of post-industrial remote communities. The findings suggest prioritizing grid decarbonization, with green hydrogen playing a supplementary role, and propose a place-based sustainability framework for remote energy transitions.

Evaluating Degrowth Policy Proposals in the Canadian Context

Ceileigh McAllister (University of Waterloo), Lauren Judge (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Under our current financial paradigm, growth is the primary objective of economic activity. Degrowth calls for a transition to an economy that centers the promotion of human and ecological wellbeing as the core objective of economic activity. At this time, the ideology of degrowth remains outside of the Overton Window® in the Canadian context, however, some degrowth-aligned policies are politically acceptable today and may be instrumental in the transition to degrowth. In this research, we analyzed 2025 federal election platforms from four major Canadian political parties against the degrowth policy proposals framework developed by Cosme et al. (2017) to evaluate which degrowth policy proposals are currently within the Canadian Overton Window®. We identified 11 policy proposals that appeared in all four platforms analysed. These 11 proposals are 'degrowth-aligned policies', which advance the objective of degrowth, while remaining acceptable under the current economic paradigm. This research presents a novel method for evaluating alignment between degrowth values and current political possibilities with potential implications for evaluating degrowth pathways and scenario building.

Day 2 October 8, 11:45 – 12:45 Kluskap C&D

Session chair: Amy Kay Partridge

Amy Kay Partridge	Between Commitment and Curriculum: Reconciliation and CED in an MBA Program
Vlad Bunea	The causal-scripted analysis of capitalism
Joel Brandenbarg	Toxic Liability or Circularity Asset? Examining Lithium-Ion Battery Accumulation in Indian Ocean SIDS.

Between Commitment and Curriculum: Reconciliation and CED in an MBA Program

Amy Kay Partridge(Cape Breton University), Thuy Mai Anh Nguyen (Cape Breton University)

Do business school curricula deliver on institutional commitments to Reconciliation? This paper presents findings from a mixed-methods audit of the MBA program at Cape Breton University's Shannon School of Business, examining the integration of Community Economic Development themes, Indigenous perspectives, and Reconciliation across course syllabi and pedagogical practice. Using a thematic weighting rubric and semi-structured faculty interviews, the study maps gaps between institutional commitments and curricular reality, identifies structural barriers to change, and proposes a framework for meaningful integration. The paper argues that curriculum review is not a technical exercise but a relational and political one, with particular stakes in Mi'kma'ki.

The causal-scripted analysis of capitalism

Vlad Bunea (Degrowth Collective)

Capitalism has a set of fundamental causal principles which determine all economic behavior under the system. I propose a causal-scripted theory which defines capitalism as an economic system of private and public agents where (1) property is linked to power by the principle of proportionality, (2) power is linked to capital by the principle of hierarchies, and (3) capital is linked to property by the principle of dispossession, while the growth incentive catalyzes all economic interactions. The three principles are jointly necessary and sufficient causal conditions.

Toxic Liability or Circularity Asset? Examining Lithium-Ion Battery Accumulation in Indian Ocean SIDS.

Joel Brandenbarg (University of Waterloo), Simron Singh (University of Waterloo), Elham Mohammadi (University of Waterloo)

Unmanaged lithium-ion battery accumulation threatens Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with toxic leaching and thermal runaway fires, yet offers circular economy opportunities via rare earth extraction and grid-stabilizing second-life applications. Grounded in industrial ecology, this study applies the Socio-Metabolic Risk framework through a dynamic Material Flow Analysis (1995-2025) across Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. By evaluating physical trade balances and Weibull lifespan distributions, the research bridges critical data gaps. Ultimately, it delivers an open-access regional dataset and a tailored circular roadmap, fostering South-to-South learning to transform battery waste liabilities into strategic assets for socio-metabolic resilience.

Modelling past trends and future options

Modélisation des tendances passées et des options futures

Day 2 October 8, 13:45 – 15:15 Kluskap C&D

Session chair: Andrew Reeves

Andrew Reeves	Modeling Canada's Path Beyond "Green Growth" to 2100
Kate Leung	Energy Security for the Maldives: An Investigation of Socio-metabolic Risks from 1995 to 2023
Gregory Mikkleson	Degrowing Fossil Fuel One Pipeline at a Time
Lina Brand Correa	Household Energy Footprints in Canada: a detailed view

Modeling Canada's Path Beyond "Green Growth" to 2100

Andrew Reeves, (York University)

Mainstream Canadian macroeconomic models often neglect biophysical limits, focusing narrowly on "green growth." This presentation introduces a major update to LowGrow SFC - a Stock-Flow Consistent model designed to explore Canada's transition toward a stable post-growth economy**.** By updating and extending the modeling horizon to 2100, I contrast growth scenarios through the lens of material and energy flows with planetary boundaries in mind. Crucially, our research also integrates climate damages, which we explore for different global cooperation scenarios, illustrating how Canada's future depends on international action. I will also identify the investment needed for damage mitigation for such scenarios.

Energy Security for the Maldives: An Investigation of Socio-metabolic Risks from 1995 to 2023

Kate Leung (University of Waterloo), Simron Singh (University of Waterloo), Jessie Ma (University of Waterloo), Ahmed Inaz (Maldives National University), Mohamed Shumais (Maldives National University)

What can the flow of energy resources through an island tell us about systemic risk? What factors drive systemic risk? This question is explored using an Energy Flow Analysis for the Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean. As a Small Island Developing State preparing for the energy transition, taking a systems approach can reveal significant linkages and interdependencies that can be leveraged to ensure a secure, just transition.

Degrowing Fossil Fuel One Pipeline at a Time

Gregory M. Mikkelson and Alain Mignault

No sector cries out for degrowth more than oil and gas - for obvious ecological reasons, but also economic and political reasons. Shrinking it will actually increase employment, since some of the public and private investment sustaining it will shift to other sectors, which create far more jobs per million dollars of "value added". Degrowing oil and gas will also protect and promote democracy, by disempowering some of its key enemies. To flesh out these points, we detail shutdown scenarios for two pipelines that carry oil from the Alberta tar sands through the heart of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence watershed.

Household Energy Footprints in Canada: a detailed view

Lina Brand-Correa (York University), Marta Baltruszewicz (Asplan Viak AS)

We present a comprehensive understanding of levels of inequality in home energy use in Canada, by income levels and other socio-demographic factors, using household expenditure survey data from Statistics Canada, International Energy Agency data and the FIGARO input-output model. The Canadian case reveals significant inequalities, driven mainly by transport emissions. Overall, our hope is that focusing on the demand side of energy transitions will shine a light on inequality and excess energy use, and so heighten understanding of how these circumstances act as one of the main drivers - and barriers - for just climate action.

Day 2 October 8, 13:45 – 15:15 Ki'kwa'ju

Session chair: Christopher Orr

Christopher Orr	Sustainability experiments for business ecosystem transformations: co-creating team-based experiments in Canada
Alessandra Aponte	Social media: Reconfiguring Information, Relationships, and Environmental Governance in a Digital Era
Nathan Ayer	Dismantling the Green Machine: Finding Higher Ground in the Technology Tidal Wave
Vincent Jean -Levesque	Data Centers and Mineral Extraction

Sustainability experiments for business ecosystem transformations: co-creating team-based experiments in Canada Christopher Orr (University of Waterloo), Sarah Burch (University of Waterloo)

The ability of businesses to adopt sustainable solutions is often impeded by their web of relationships. How do we enable transformations towards sustainable business ecosystems? We present a novel approach to co-create team-based sustainability experiments (TBSEs) and demonstrate its potential to transform business ecosystems. We co-created five TBSEs in Ontario, Canada, built capacities of teams, and supported teams in implementing their experiments. Using documents, interviews, and participant observations, we show how TBSEs can drive transformations of business ecosystems. Processes that supported learning and iteration enabled more successful or transformative, while more linear and static processes were less successful or transformative.

Social media: Reconfiguring Information, Relationships, and Environmental Governance in a Digital Era

Alessandra Aponte (University of Waterloo)

Environmental governance is increasingly shaped by digital technologies such as social media, which influence how Information circulates, how relationships form, and how environmental issues are interpreted across scales. This research examines how platforms such as Twitter (now X) mediate information flows, public engagement, and decision-making processes. Using a mixed-methods design, including a social network analysis of Line 5 discussions, interviews grounded in the IAD framework, and a scoping review of 49 studies, this study shows that social media steer conversations, elevate non-traditional brokers, expand outreach, and provide real-time insights.

Dismantling the Green Machine: Finding Higher Ground in the Technology Tidal Wave

Nathan Ayer (Dalhousie University)

In the lead article of the first issue of the journal Ecological Economics in 1989, Robert Costanza argued that the fundamental question underpinning the need for an Ecological Economics is whether or not technological innovation will allow humans to circumvent the biophysical limits of the planet. The mounting empirical evidence suggests that technologically optimistic policies have dominated and are pushing human society closer than ever to exceeding planetary boundaries. This presentation draws on principles from Ecological Economics and the Philosophy of Technology to provide a deep reflection on Costanza's early thoughts, and on the risks that biophysical accounting tools such as life cycle assessment may reinforce a flawed sustainability paradigm.

Data Centers and Mineral Extraction

Vincent Jean-Levesque (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Based on a social metabolism framework, this research examines the materiality of digital technology and artificial intelligence by quantifying the volumes of minerals required for the construction and expansion of AI-powered data centers (DC). While the energy and water impacts of this infrastructure are receiving increasing media attention, their dependence on mineral resources remains poorly documented and rarely quantified. AI-dedicated DCs, however, require power densities far higher than those of traditional centers which significantly increases their mineral intensity per unit of installed capacity. Based on projections from the International Energy Agency, which anticipate global data center capacity rising from approximately 100 GW today to 225 GW by 2030, and data from the World Economic Forum on the material intensity of these infrastructures, the study estimates the quantities of several minerals required for this growth and compares them to current global mining production. The results show that these volumes are far from negligible, particularly for graphite, gallium, and germanium.The research also highlights the importance of examining the environmental impacts specific to extraction processes, which cannot be fully captured by tonnage figures alone. A case study of a graphite mine in Quebec provides a concrete illustration of the scale of mining waste generated. From a political ecology perspective, this material analysis of the development of artificial intelligence helps put into perspective the discourse on economic growth and the associated productivity gains, reminding us that these promises are based on very real material extractions and externalities concentrated in the regions where extraction takes place.

Reflections on Ecological Economics, Value and Valuation

Réflexions sur l'économie écologique, la valeur et l'évaluation

Day 2 October 8, 13:45 – 15:15 Muin

Session chair: Andrew Welch

Andrew Welch	The Value Crisis underpinning ecological overshoot
Nicole Cammaert	Greeting Eco-Despair: Eco-Somatic Approaches to Ecological Belonging
Chia-Chun (Jim) Chou	Christianity for Sustainability? Levticus 25 and Ecological Economics
Stefano Menegat	Valuing Reproduction Across Scales: Cheapness, Ecological Economics, and the Geography of Capitalist Valuation

The Value Crisis underpinning ecological overshoot

Andrew Welch (Canadian Association for the Club of Rome, Merz Institute)

This talk will share a hypothesis of the values philosophy that underpins humanity's ecological economic challenges. This is a novel, science-based lens that explains the core driver of all aspects of ecological overshoot. The lens provides a rational binary filter for any possible solutions to our challenges - distinguishing qualitative and quantitative value systems. We'll explore the underlying fundamentals of natural values and how they can be applied to ecological conundrums. Also, a new model will be presented for understanding and managing qualitative values as polarities. This new paradigm is a changing tide - a transdisciplinary reflection and an emerging horizon.

Greeting Eco-Despair: Eco-Somatic Approaches to Ecological Belonging

Nicole Cammaert (Cape Breton University)

Greeting Eco-Despair: Eco-Somatic Approaches to Ecological BelongingAs ecological crises intensify, many people experience climate grief, eco-anxiety, and a growing sense of disconnection from the living world. This presentation explores how eco-somatic and embodied practices can deepen ecological belonging through sensory engagement with landscape. Drawing on arts-based inquiry, eco-somatics, and the work of Joanna Macy, the research challenges conventional understandings of landscape as something primarily viewed through sight and instead considers how sound, touch, smell, movement, and felt experience can cultivate relationship with a more-than-human world. The presentation invites reflection on how embodied ways of knowing may support ecological awareness, care, and transformation in a time of profound environmental change.

Christianity for Sustainability? Levticus 25 and Ecological Economics

Chia-Chun (Jim) Chou (Regent College)

This article examines the connections between Christian faith and Ecological Economics, arguing that biblical teachings provide important foundations for ecological sustainability. It challenges interpretations that place primary responsibility for the ecological crisis on Christianity's human-centric worldview, suggesting instead that the economic and environmental laws of the Bible have often been overlooked. Leviticus 25's sabbatical year, which requires land to rest and limits economic activity, is presented as an example of principles supporting ecological regeneration and limits to economic growth. The article connects these ideas to Kenneth Boulding and Herman Daly and argues that Christianity can contribute to a shared ecological vision for sustainability.

Valuing Reproduction Across Scales: Cheapness, Ecological Economics, and the Geography of Capitalist Valuation

Stefano Menegat (University of Turin)

This paper examines cheapness as a geographical problem in ecological political economy. It argues that cheap food, energy, labour, and raw materials are not simply low-price inputs, but socio-metabolic achievements produced through trade, infrastructure, extraction, monetary power, and geopolitical hierarchy. Building on ecological economics, social metabolism, and world-ecology, the paper develops the concept of valuation regimes to explain how capitalist societies coordinate reproduction across scales. It shows why ecological transition becomes politically difficult when desirable forms of life depend on distant territories, hidden labour, and externalized ecological costs.

Degrowth in theory and in practice

La décroissance en théorie et en pratique

Day 2 October 8, 15:45 – 17:15 Kluskap C&D

Session chair: Sayeh Dastgheib-Beheshti

Sayeh Dastgheib-Beheshti	Repair as a post-capitalist practice of care and community-building towards degrowth
Roy Woodbridge	The Two Economies: is de-growth missing the mark?
Kelly Gingrich	Imagining Beyond Growth: Degrowth in Environmental Studies Curriculum

Repair as a post-capitalist practice of care and community-building towards degrowth

Sayeh Dastgheib-Beheshti (York University, Toronto)

My PhD dissertation studies the ways that a collaborative and shared practice of mending and repairing belongings with care can build and repair personal and community relationships. The research is being conducted through workshops, surveys and interviews. This pedagogy creates opportunities for participants to develop a deep understanding of imaginary social constructs and processes that lead to the acceptability of commodification, disposability and obsolescence of belongings, understand their environmental and social impact, and develop strategies to overcome the hegemonic control of capitalism to build practices of solidarity. I will be sharing some preliminary findings.

The Two Economies: is de-growth missing the mark?

Roy Woodbridge (CANSEE)

There are two economies: A basic provisioning economy that produces “real” consumer goods and services, and a second-tier economy of “virtual” investment products that operate one or more steps apart from direct investment in the basic economy. The second-tier economy attracts roughly six times the investment supporting the production of real goods and services, and its Big Tech leaders control the coming impact of AI on the basic economy. Ecological economics has been primarily concerned with inequity, overshoot, and climate change within the basic provisioning economy. Can the juggernaut of second-tier wealth and AI be redirected to address these concerns?

Imagining Beyond Growth: Degrowth in Environmental Studies Curriculum

Elaine Howarth (York University), Kelly Gingrich (York University)

While degrowth is increasingly present in scholarly and activist circles, its integration into university curriculum is not well understood. This presentation shares findings from a syllabus analysis project which audited undergraduate courses to explore the presence of degrowth. It offers a snapshot of how degrowth currently circulates within a well-established interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program in Canada. We identify possibilities where degrowth content could be deepened across a variety of courses. We also think through how knowledge about ecological crisis is produced, highlighting curriculum as a place where crisis narratives can be either reinforced, or reimagined in more creative and justice-oriented directions.

Pluralistic approaches to law and governance

Approches pluralistes du droit et de la gouvernance

Day 2 October 8, 15:45 – 17:15 Muin

Session chair: Emille Boulot

Emille Boulot	Reimagining Nature Positive Law Reform - Commoning and ecological restoration
Geoffrey Garver	Applying ecological law case study approach to degrowth/postgrowth situations
Christopher Orr	Shifting Political Terrain and the Prospects for Ecological Transformation: Exploring the Influence of Disruptive Dynamics on Canadian Climate Policy

Reimagining Nature Positive Law Reform - Commoning and ecological restoration

Emille Boulot (University of Tasmania)

Recent environmental law and policy has marked a shift away from simply preventing harm to actively reversing biodiversity loss through the promotion of concepts such as 'nature positive'. Problematically the reforms remain trapped in neoliberal logic, often relying on private property boundaries and tradable offset markets. These fragment ecosystems into units that ignore species movement, watersheds, and connectivity, legitimise destruction through offsetting, and let wealthy actors buy their way out of responsibility. Full recovery demands a new logic. This paper outlines a research agenda to identify governance structures that enable communities and legislators to scale restoration across landscapes, in ways that promote commoning and escape the confines of neoliberal logics.

Applying ecological law case study approach to degrowth/postgrowth situations

Geoffrey Garver (McGill University, Leadership for the Ecozoic)

This presentation explores how the methodology used in Ecological Law in Practice: Case Studies for a Transformative Approach (Routledge 2025) can be adapted to reveal possible pathways to degrowth/post-growth futures, with emphasis on applications to place-based or bioregional contexts in Canada. Moving from theory to ecological law in practice remains an enormous challenge, as is steering human society more broadly onto degrowth/post-growth pathways. Ecological law case studies link theory and action and resonate with the theme of transitions and transformations. The core methodology can be adapted to broader degrowth/post-growth themes and future-building that transcend the intersection of law and degrowth.

Shifting Political Terrain and the Prospects for Ecological Transformation: Exploring the Influence of Disruptive Dynamics on Canadian Climate Policy

Christopher Orr (University of Waterloo and McGill University)

How are political-economic systems shifting and what dynamics must be navigated to realize sustainable outcomes? This paper synthesizes insights about shifting political-economic dynamics and analyzes the prospects for transformative environmental policy using Canadian climate policy as a case study. Building on recent research on political discord and backlash, the paper presents the political-economic dynamics that must be navigated. It discusses how those dynamics present opportunities and risks for ecological transformation and uses examples from Canadian federal climate policy to illustrate those dynamics. This analysis reveals the changing and perilous prospects of environmental projects such as decarbonization, ecological transformation, and post-growth.

Local impacts, global implications

Impacts locaux, implications mondiales

Day 3 October 9, 11:00 – 12:30 Kluskap C&D

Session chair: Riley Bertoncini

Riley Bertoncini	The Economy of Essence: Natural Places in the City
Bumika Srikanthalingam	A Disposal Capacity Crisis: Evaluating the Ecological Footprint of Ontario's Major Landfills
Shubhi Singh	Local Climate Stressors, Global Implications: A Socio-Metabolic Assessment of Seychelles' Coastal Systems
Rupinder Kaur	Green Streets: An Equity-Based Social Enterprise Model for Energy Poverty Reduction and Workforce Development in Cape Breton

The Economy of Essence: Natural Places in the City

Riley Bertoncini (McGill University)

This presentation builds on ethnographic research on the Island of Montreal to develop a theory of natural place as connection to essence. Participants' descriptions and drawings of natural places suggest that these places are not defined by their contents, but by the connections they create, including connections to something immaterial or essential. Drawing on Deleuzian semiotics and theories of embodied place, the presentation argues for shifting from a contents-based to a process-based understanding of natural places. It explores how people connect to and belong to places, and what this means for understanding nature, meaning, and the economies of public and private urban space.

A Disposal Capacity Crisis: Evaluating the Ecological Footprint of Ontario's Major Landfills

Bumika Srikanthalingam (York University, Ecological Footprint Initiative)

Ontario is facing a landfill capacity crisis, and current responses, such as landfill expansion, do little to address the underlying causes of depletion, including weak waste diversion and reduction. This paper advances sustainability transitions within Ontario's waste systems by estimating the ecological footprint of the province's six largest landfills by disposal capacity. Through quantifying the ecological footprint consumed by landfill operations and recoverable landfill materials, this work reveals the unsustainable biophysical demands of excessive landfilling on Ontario's natural capital. This analysis demonstrates the value of ecological footprint assessments in waste management research, providing a comprehensive indicator for communicating ecological overshoot.

Local Climate Stressors, Global Implications: A Socio-Metabolic Assessment of Seychelles' Coastal Systems

Shubhi Singh(University of Waterloo), Dr. Simron Singh (University of Waterloo), Dr. Simon Courtenay (University of Waterloo)

Small Island Developing States face disproportionate climate impacts despite minimal emissions. In Seychelles, climate stressors such as ocean warming, shifting precipitation patterns, and sea-level rise, interact with stressors originating from heavy economic dependence on fisheries and tourism, to heighten vulnerability. This study assesses socio-metabolic risk - the potential for social systems to destabilize when critical resource flows and ecosystem services are disrupted. Using a mixed-methods approach combining a scoping review, expert-informed fuzzy cognitive mapping, and the DAPSIWRM framework, the research identifies key stressor interactions and leverage points. Findings highlight opportunities for nature-based solutions and governance interventions to strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience in SIDS

Green Streets: An Equity-Based Social Enterprise Model for Energy Poverty Reduction and Workforce Development in Cape Breton

Rupinder kaur (Ecology Action Center)

Green Streets is an Ecology Action Centre pilot exploring how energy efficiency can address both energy poverty and workforce development in Cape Breton. The project is currently developing a community-based social enterprise model that connects households experiencing energy poverty with retrofit navigation while creating accessible pathways into energy and building-efficiency careers for equity-deserving communities. This presentation will share our progress to date, including community and partner consultations, market and feasibility research, and development of potential service-delivery models. It will also highlight key opportunities, challenges, and lessons emerging as we explore a locally rooted approach connecting climate action, housing, and inclusive employment.

Political economies / *Économies politiques*

Day 3 October 9, 11:00 – 12:30 Ki'kwa'ju

Session chair: Jonathan Goyette

Jonathan Goyette	Low agricultural potential exacerbates the effect of temperature on civil conflicts
Salvador Peniche Camps	Geopolitics of Ecological Economics: Confronting Transnational Violence with Citizen Internationalism
Roy Woodbridge	Post Trump: The Patterns and Rules of Existence
Leslie Anderson	The Historical Influence of Economic Principles on Nation to Nation Relations in Canada: Applying a Racial-Settler-Capitalism Lens

Low agricultural potential exacerbates the effect of temperature on civil conflicts

Maroua Smaoui (Université de Sherbrooke), Jonathan Goyette (Université de Sherbrooke)

In this paper, we show that initial agricultural conditions play a significant role in the climate-conflict linkages on a global scale. Using data for 172 countries from 1946 until 2014, we conduct a natural experiment and identify the effect of the interaction between time-wise variations in temperature within a country and the cross-country variation in agricultural potential on conflict incidence. There is a significantly higher probability to be in conflict when annual temperature deviates from its mean in a country with lower agricultural potential. The results are robust to decennial averages, various heterogeneity checks and a high resolution grid analysis.

Geopolitics of Ecological Economics: Confronting Transnational Violence with Citizen Internationalism

Salvador Peniche Camps (University of Guadalajara), Bernardo Jaén (University of Guadalajara)

The central argument is that one of the drivers of environmental collapse in poor countries is the impact of the productive activities of transnational corporations' plants. The paper explores the responsibility of both the corporations and the host governments of foreign investment. The hypothesis is that it is not possible to counter the destructive dynamics of this system with local strategies alone. We point out that international solidarity and citizen action are indispensable. This is of great relevance to the international Ecological Economics movement since the dominant discourse of the discipline has abandoned this discussion, implying geopolitically sterile explanations.

Post Trump: The Patterns and Rules of Existence

Roy Woodbridge (CANSEE)

Trump's tax and deregulation policies have enriched top-tier wealth through public debt, while ignoring the ecological harm caused by the profligate consumption of the super-rich. Breaking with this entrenched management system requires re-visioning the human future through "provisioning": to exist, everything must draw sustenance from surrounding environments. All human societies have been organized to meet their provisioning needs, but our economic management systems are not specifically managed to achieve this purpose. Rising inequity, ecological overshoot, and climate change presage the collapse of our economic order. Collapse can be avoided if our economies replace the quest for "More" with achieving balance between human provisioning demands and nature's changing capacities.

The Historical Influence of Economic Principles on Nation to Nation Relations in Canada: Applying a Racial-Settler-Capitalism Lens

Leslie Anderson (University of Victoria)

Trump's "51st state" rhetoric evokes criticism of American exceptionalism and the threats to impose U.S. economic beliefs and interests on the Canadian economy. While Canadians value the right to manage our economy in a manner consistent with our own principles, a lack of awareness persists concerning how Indigenous economic sovereignty has been, and continues to be, undermined by settler governments using the same tactics and logics. Fulfilling our commitment to meaningful reconciliation requires shedding light on how current policymaking continues to embed colonial economic constructs and how the path forward can be different.

Communties and water / *Communautés et eau*

Day 3 October 9, 11:00 – 12:30 Muin

Session chair: Emily Voigt

Emily Voigt	Tracing Risk and Resilience in Water Systems: Insights from a Hydro-Socio-Metabolic-Risk (Hydro-SMR) analysis of Malé, Maldives
Kate Linden	Symbolic Inclusion to Shared Authority: A Comparative Study of Island Self-Governance
Maryam Vakilbashi	Coastal Adaptation in Small Island Developing States: A Systematic Literature Review of Academic Research

Tracing Risk and Resilience in Water Systems: Insights from a Hydro-Socio-Metabolic-Risk (Hydro-SMR) analysis of Malé, Maldives

Emily Voigt (University of Waterloo), Simron Singh(University of Waterloo), Kumaraswamy Ponnambalam (University of Waterloo), Nadhiya Abdulla (The Maldives National University), Shazla Mohamed (The Maldives National University), Shuaib Rasheed (The Maldives National University)

This study investigates Hydro-Socio-Metabolic Risks, defined as systemic risks associated with the availability, circulation and equitable distribution of water resources. Maldives, a severely water stressed Small Island Developing State is taken as a case study, with particular focus on its capital city of Malé. Water accounting, household surveys and expert consultations were applied to characterise system dynamics from 1998 - 2024 including indicators of consumption, self-sufficiency, availability, and access. Findings reveal how the dynamics of water systems shape risk and resilience over time. Empirical evidence of trends, including low self-sufficiency and high costs, can be leveraged to inform place-based climate adaptation.

Symbolic Inclusion to Shared Authority: A Comparative Study of Island Self-Governance

Kate Linden (Cape Breton University), David Mallery (Scotland's Rural College)

What allows island communities to grow their own answers rather than have answers imposed from elsewhere? This paper presents findings from Growing Our Own Answers, a SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis comparing five island regions across Canada, the United States, and Scotland. Drawing on seventy source documents and 2,000-plus coded evidence segments, the synthesis finds that sustainable island futures depend less on specific policy tools than on whether communities hold genuine authority over land, economy, and culture. Presented at CANSEE's home in Cape Breton, one of the five cases, the paper offers a comparative learning set for island and coastal regions navigating tourism dependence, demographic change, and decolonisation.

Coastal Adaptation in Small Island Developing States: A Systematic Literature Review of Academic Research

Maryam Vakilbashi (University of Waterloo), Simron Jit Singh (University of Waterloo), Rob Feick (University of Waterloo)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face increasing coastal climate risks as settlements, infrastructure, and economic assets remain highly exposed to sea-level rise, storm surges, and coastal flooding. This systematic literature review examines peer-reviewed research on coastal adaptation in SIDS with a built-environment focus (n = 60), assessing thematic, geographic, temporal, and effectiveness framings. Findings reveal strong Pacific dominance, the prominence of relocation and retreat strategy, and limited use of explicit outcome indicators. Effectiveness is mainly framed through governance, contextual fit, social legitimacy, and resources. The review argues for multi-criteria, multi-measure adaptation that negotiates trade-offs and sequences interventions over time across contexts.

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