

Designing Sustainable Economies: Translating ideas and research into policy and practice

28-29 July 2016

University of Sheffield

This workshop brings together scholars, activists, policy practitioners, civil society, and representatives of intergovernmental institutions to discuss the challenge of aligning economic development and environmental sustainability in the 21st century. Debates feature a wide range of concepts: sustainable development, green economy, green growth, harmony with nature, degrowth, steady state economy, circular economy, and many others. There is evidently no single vision for a sustainable economy, and this workshop aims to promote fruitful dialogue by bringing together people with different perspectives. The event provides a setting to share our experiences of promoting ideas and agendas for more sustainable economic development, and to reflect on the value of collaboration across academia, civil society, and government institutions.

This event is generously funded by the
Economic and Social Research Council (UK)

Venue: Leopold Hotel | Leopold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GZ

THURSDAY 28 JULY

12:00 - LUNCH

13:00-13:15 - WELCOME ADDRESS (Hayley Stevenson, University of Sheffield)

13:15-15:00 - PANEL 1: WHAT IS A “GREEN ECONOMY”?

- This panel will examine how the idea of “green economy” is interpreted differently, by different people, and in different places. Speakers will examine how the idea relates to “sustainable development”, how understandings have changed over time, and whether it is a coherent and viable idea.
- Panelists:
 - John Barry, Queens University Belfast
 - Peter Ferguson, Deakin University (Melbourne, Australia)
 - Carl Death, University of Manchester
 - Hayley Stevenson, University of Sheffield

15:00-15:30 – REFRESHMENTS

15:30-17:15 - PANEL 2: BEYOND GROWTH-AS-USUAL

- This panel will examine the extent to which ideas like green growth, green economy, beyond-GDP indicators, and circular economy are shaping policy and practice in the global North and South. Speakers will discuss whether governments and the public have been receptive to these ideas, and the challenges of promoting particular concepts and agendas in a crowded “marketplace of ideas”. They will also address the extent to which the acceptance of these ideas is reducing the resource-intensity of economies.
- Panelists:
 - Claudia Assmann, UNEP
 - Ryan Parmenter, OECD
 - Oliver Zwirner, University of Leeds
 - Manfred Rosenstock, European Commission

19:00 – DINNER: Piccolino, 4 Millennium Square, Sheffield, S1 2JJ

FRIDAY 29 JULY

9:00-10:45 - PANEL 3: CHALLENGING GROWTH-BASED PARADIGMS OF DEVELOPMENT

- This panel will consider the role and value of more radical visions of sustainable economic development, such as degrowth and steady-state economy. They will consider whether it is feasible to discuss these ideas inside policy-making institutions or only outside in public debate. The panel will examine how these movements see their relationship with proponents of green economy and green growth, and consider whether there is value in engaging with non-like-minded others.
- Panelists:
 - Rupert Read, Green Party of England & Wales
 - Aseem Shrivastava, author of *Churning the Earth*
 - Christos Zografos, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
 - Daniel O'Neill, University of Leeds & Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy

10:45-11:15 – REFRESHMENTS

11:15-13:00 - PANEL 4: INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN SUSTAINABILITY DEBATES

- This panel will examine who does and does not get heard in debates and consultations about sustainable economic development. Speakers will consider the challenges to overcoming exclusion and ensuring that marginalized voices and perspectives are genuinely heard.
- Panelists:
 - Carole-Anne Senit, IDDRI (Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, Paris)
 - Dario Kenner, independent researcher and consultant
 - Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Stakeholder Forum
 - Emily Auckland, Bioregional / UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development

13:00-14:15 - LUNCH

14:15-16:00 - PANEL 5: ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- This panel will consider how and when social scientists can engage with civil society, government, and governmental institutions to advance ideas for sustainable economic development. The challenges and opportunities for making academic research relevant beyond the university will be explored.
- Panelists:
 - John Turnpenny, University of East Anglia
 - Phil Catney, Keele University
 - John O'Neill, University of Manchester
 - Karen Scott, University of Exeter

16:00-16:30 – CONCLUSIONS AND FAREWELL