

ESEE 2015 Pre-Conference Summer School at Leeds, UK: Transformations

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS (ESEE) AND UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Sunday 28th June to Tuesday 30th June 2015

The Summer School is open to Masters and PhD students and early career researchers who are fully registered (fee paid) for the ESEE conference in Leeds. Entry to the summer school is free. Meals from Sunday evening to Tuesday will be provided by the University of Leeds. Low-cost accommodation will be arranged at on-site student residences.

The International Summer School entitled “**Transformations**” will take place in advance of the ESEE 2015 conference, which runs sequentially from 30th June to 3rd July 2015. The summer school will bring together 30 postgraduates and early career researchers with senior international ESEE researchers in a highly engaging and interactive format, providing space for discussion and exchange, as well as an opportunity to receive feedback on one’s own vision, research, and career plans. In parallel with the ESEE 2015 conference theme, the summer school will focus on the interrelations and interactions between the ecological, social, political, cultural and technological aspects of transformation to a sustainable society.

Provisional programme

| Date | Time | Event |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Sun 28 th June 2015 | 15.00-18.00 | Arrival, check in at Storm Jameson accommodation |
| | 18.30 | Leave for dinner from Storm Jameson reception |
| | 19.00-21.00 | Dinner in Leeds restaurant |
| Mon 29 th June 2015 | 09.00-10.30 | Session 1 - Welcome & key note speaker #1 |
| | 10.30-11.00 | Tea/coffee |
| | 11.00-12.30 | Session 2 – 3 Minute Thesis I |
| | 12.30-13.30 | Lunch |
| | 13.30-15.30 | Session 3 – “Transformations” I – Global MDG |
| | 15.30-16.00 | Tea/coffee |
| | 16.00-18.00 | Session 4 – 3 Minute Thesis II |
| | 18.00-19.30 | Dinner (@ University House) |
| | 19.30-20.30 | Key note speaker #2 (presenting at dinner) |
| Tues 30 th June 2015 | 09.00-10.30 | Session 5 – Career advice session for students and early career researchers |
| | 10.30-11.00 | Tea/coffee |
| | 11.00-13.00 | Session 6 – “Transformations” II – local actions |
| | 13.00-14.00 | Lunch |
| | 14.00-15.30 | Session 7 – Closing session |
| | 15.30 | Most leave for register for main ESEE 2015 conference |
| | 15.30-16.30 | Presenters stay to work on single set of plenary slides |
| | 16.45 | Presenters leave for main ESEE 2015 conference |

Key to events:

- **3 Minute Thesis (3MT):** Individual presentation in English of own research in just 3 minutes, using a single slide/graphic, then 2 minutes for questions. See for tips: <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/events/three-minute-thesis/3MT-tips.html>
- **Career advice session:** 3-4 speakers outlining their career paths with tips/tricks, followed by group/peer discussion on careers facilitated by speakers working in groups.
- **Transformations:** working in 5 groups, participants consider key Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in two contexts: global and local, to produce a series of practical policy recommendations to achieve smooth global transition to a socially and ecologically balanced future, as well as how their own personal research will contribute to that goal. In the closing sessions, ideas will be presented back to the group and collated to be **presented back at the Tuesday evening plenary session of the main conference.**

Transformations

Objectives:

- Discuss some of the key issues regarding to the international agenda for the global transition to a socially and ecologically balanced future.
- Stimulate the participants' perception and insights about the main transformational challenges to sustain a healthy planet and deliver benefits essential for all people;
- Develop abilities for the collective construction of approaches to discuss, agree and communicate complex sustainability issues in a short period of time;
- Encourage individual responsibility for the generation of collective transformations

Activity I - Global Transformation (2 hours)

- PhDs will be divided in 6 groups of 5 participants;
- Each group will consider the question of how to accomplish one of the Millennium Development Goals (or new Sustainable Development Goals if they are finalised in the near term) from the point of view of transformations (political, behavioural, legal, financial, technological etc.):
"This is your opportunity to solve one of the main problems in the world:"
 - Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
 - Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Activity II – Local Transformations and personal responsibilities (2 hours)

- Participants will work answer the following questions from their Millennium Development Goals:
 - What does my field of work need to achieve in order to help deliver the achievement of the MDG discussed in my group?
 - Which professional and personal transformation I need to do in order to contribute with the achievement of the MDG discussed in my group

Early career session

Objectives:

- Identify and advise on different career pathways in academia and civil society.
- Discuss the challenges faced at different career stages and the skills that aid in advancement.
- Allow for discussion on a small group and individual level with experienced persons representing each career pathway.
- Encourage the attending PhDs to consider and prepare for their own prospective career.

Format:

- The session will run for 1.5hours, comprising of 5 short 10 minute talks. There will be an opportunity in the remaining time to break out into groups with each speaker and discuss the specific topics raised by each.
- The speakers will be encouraged to talk about their own career progression and such skills and opportunities as have aided them in their respective goals. They will be chosen to ensure a diverse mix of (1) their chosen career pathways (both academic / non-academic), (2) the relative stages of their careers, (3) UK and non-UK based persons, (4) the focus of their research outputs.
- The attending PhDs will be encouraged to approach these persons throughout the remainder of the conference to discuss individual issues and their own prospective careers.

How to participate?

Students who wish to attend will apply to the organizing team. An application will consist of a **single MS Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF document** containing the following:

- **A cover letter (maximum 1 page)**, explaining the candidate's motivation (e.g. how could this summer school benefit you, what are your main interests regarding the theme of the summer school in general and in relation to your research topic, how could other students benefit from your participation).
- **A CV (maximum 1 page)**.
- Notification of any particular diets (e.g. vegan) or allergies, or any other requirements (e.g. disabled access).

Application deadline: MARCH 1st 2015

Notification of acceptance: APRIL 1st, 2015

Please email your application or any questions to esee2015@leeds.ac.uk

Practical information:

Location: Leeds is located in the north of England, approximately 2 hours 30 mins from London by train. The University of Leeds is in the city of Leeds, a short bus/taxi ride or 20 minutes walk from the train station.

Travel: Students need to travel to/from Leeds by their own means, though we are trying to arrange travel bursaries for students from Eastern Europe or developing countries. More information on this will be provided in due course.

Fees: the summer school is free, but participants **need to be registered at the main ESEE 2015 conference**. There is a discounted student rate available.

Accommodation: Students will book a room at the University of Leeds for 2 nights (from Sunday evening to Tuesday morning). More information in terms of costs and booking procedure will be provided in due course.

Membership: Membership of ESEE is free for students, and so students are encouraged to join ESEE in advance of the summer school at <http://www.euroecolecon.org/membership/>