

Transformation: Food systems, agroecology, and the web of life

PhD course 16-20 October 2017 (5 credits), University of Helsinki

Target Group

The course is intended for doctoral students working with issues related to systems thinking, world-ecology, political ecology, food and agricultural systems, and for students who want to food and agriculture perspectives to their research. If the course is oversubscribed, participants will be selected using motivation statements submitted during their registration of interest (please note that preference will be given to DENVI and PYAM students).

Course outline:

The aim of this PhD course is to explore food and agricultural systems from a social, cultural, and ecological perspective. This course will emphasize transformative, transdisciplinary systems research and sustainability science. We will be joined for October 16 and 17 by Jason W. Moore from University of Binghamton in New York State.

Course structure:

The course will take place on 16-20 October, 2017. It will include lectures, workshops, a field trip and group activities. The workshops will include discussions and some practical exercises. The 18 will be a mandatory seminar day with keynotes and parallel session which will be open for people beyond the course, but will provide a forum for course participants to present their own research. In order to participate in the course, students must complete a small pre-assignment, attend all lectures and course activities, present on their own research at the seminar on the 18th, and submit a post-course writing assignment. Thursday the 19 we will have a field trip to a case example of a (re)localized food system and a methods clinic on integrating visual methodology. Friday the 20 we will have workshops and group work reflecting on the themes of the week.

Guest speakers include:

Dr. Jason W. Moore, Binghamton University, New York, presenting the world-ecology framework and thoughts on the Capitalocene and the web of life, plus other presentations by researchers from the University of Helsinki.

Grading: pass/fail

Registration:

Please submit your registration by September 15, 2017 using this link
<https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/81474/lomake.html>.

The full course is intended for PhD students, while the keynote lectures on Wednesday, October 18, will be open to everyone. The number of participants in the full course is limited to 25 and 15 of the spots are for University of Helsinki students (please note that DENVI and PYAM students will be given priority). Students from other Universities are welcome to apply. There is no tuition fee for the course, but students are responsible for all costs related to their travel and accommodation.

Organisation:

This course is organized by Doctoral Programme in Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences (DENVI) and in collaboration with the PYAM Doctoral program. The supervising professor is Juha Helenius. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sophia Hagolani-Albov (sophia.hagolani-albov@helsinki.fi).