

HGO4302 - Transformations to Sustainability

Course content

This course explores some of the theories, paradigms and processes related to transformations to sustainability. It provides students with an in-depth analysis of traditional and contemporary theories about individual change, collective change, and systems change, situating them within current research on transitions, transformations, social tipping points, and paradigms shifts. The course contextualizes research on transformation within the Anthropocene, an epoch where global environmental changes are challenging models of socio-economic organization and the mental models and worldviews associated with them. The course will consider the dynamics and drivers of transformation from multiple perspectives and explore alternative ways of thinking about humanity's relationship with the environment. Seminars will focus on links between theory and practice, drawing attention to both the challenges of and potentials for transformation in a changing climate.

Learning outcome

Knowledge goals

You will be able to:

- account for and discuss key concepts and theories related to transformations towards sustainability in the era of the Anthropocene
- explain the distinctions and relationships between different perspectives on transitions and transformations to sustainability

Skills attainment goals

- account for, discuss and critique concepts and theories covered in lectures in a sophisticated manner.
- connect these theories, and critiques thereof, to specific cases and concrete settings in the field.
- write a research paper that links transformation in theory with transformations in practice

General competences

You will be able to:

- assess specific situations, challenges and openings related to transformations to sustainability based on theoretically grounded knowledge on this field.
- communicate knowledge-based insights and analysis both verbally and in writing.
- contribute to the new creative and independent thinking about the potential for transformative change.

Teaching

The course consists of ten lectures and two seminars. The lectures will be linked to the readings and students are expected to discuss them. The seminars will focus on practical examples of transformation and help students to develop ideas for their term papers.

Examination

The examination will take the form of a term paper, and students are free to choose a topic that is relevant to the themes and literature covered in the course. The length of the paper will be maximum 6000 words, not including references.