

## International Workshop Programme

### Bridging Schools of Thought: New Frontiers in the Research on Commons and Commoning

#### Day 1 – 21 October

**9.00-9.30**

Registration and Coffee

**9.30-10.30**

Welcome and Keynote:

1. Institutional Welcome by Prof. Esteve Corbera (ICREA, ICTA/UAB)
2. Welcome and opening by Dr. Angelos Varvarousis (Ramon y Cajal, ICTA/UAB)
3. Keynote by Prof. Arun Agrawal (University of Michigan) followed by a discussion with Prof. Panagiota Kotsila (ICTA/UAB)

**10.30-10.45**

Break

**10.45 – 12.00**

Track 3: Commoning and Transformative Change (Part 1)

**12.00- 13.00**

Lunch break

**13.00 – 14.15**

Track 1: Natural Commons and Politics (Part 1)

**14.15 – 14.45**

Coffee break

**14.45 – 16.00**

Parallel Sessions:

1. Track 5: Commons and Culture
2. Track 1: Natural Commons and Politics (Part 2)

16:00-16:15

Break

**16:15-17:30: Discussion**

Discussion: a. Future plans; b. Working in common (special feature); c. suggestions for topic/theme for papers; d. teaching/doing commoning

## Day 2 – 22 October

**9.00 – 10.00**

Keynote by Prof. Mara Ferreri (Assistant Professor, Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), Polytechnic of Turin, Italy) followed by a discussion with Dr Sergio Villamayor (Ramon y Cajal, ICTA/UAB)

**10.00-10.15**

Break

**10.15 – 11.30**

Parallel Sessions:

1. Track 3: Commoning and Transformative Change (Part 2)

**11.30- 12.45**

Track 4: Commons and Social Movements

**12:45-14:00**

Lunch break

**14.00 – 15.45**

Parallel Sessions:

1. Track 2: Commons and the State
2. Track 6: Multiscalar Commoning

**15:45-16:00**

Coffee break

**16.00 – 17.30**

Commoning speed chats (form groups of 5-6, write down two insights to share with the plenary on doing, researching, teaching commoning). After 30 minutes report to full group – 3 minutes per group)

**17.30 – 17.45**

Break

**17.45 – 18.30**

Closing Panel and Next Steps

## Day 3 – 23 October

Organizers and keynote speakers internal meeting deciding next steps

## **Track 1: Natural Commons and Politics**

### **1. Authors:** Dell'Angelo Jampel

**Title:** Water commons grabbing

**Abstract:**

Water commons are water resources collectively managed and utilized by communities as common property to support their food security, traditions, and livelihoods. Water commons are under increasing pressure of acquisition, privatization, and grabbing. This Comment analytically defines the water commons, examines their vulnerability to grabbing, and discusses the associated water justice and environmental implications.

### **2. Authors:** Silvia Gomez

**Title:** Transformative community-based initiatives in Catalonia at the era of new "commons"

**Abstract:**

Over the past 15 years, cooperative efforts have emerged in Catalonia in both the agricultural and fishing sectors with the intention of moving beyond purely capitalist economics, seeking an alternative to generate transformative community-based changes that ensure equity, justice, wellbeing and care in socio-ecological relationships. In the interest of sustainability and in defense of their livelihoods and culture, these environmental stewards lead ecosystem restoration and recovery, short supply chains and wellness initiatives at the interface of reciprocity, mutual aid and market exchange. Through a "systems thinking" perspective, these efforts trigger a pooling approach to the defense of small producers in the face of grabbing, resource deprivation and deprivation of basic needs by large corporations. Drawing on ethnography and historical records, we highlight the potential of community economies that empower the degrowth agenda.

### **3. Authors:** Jia Xiangyu

**Title:** Privatization against Decommonisation? Cases of Rangeland Commons under Household-contract System on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau

**Abstract:**

Challenges of privatization and marketization necessitate a deeper understanding of how commons adapt to changes and achieve sustainability. In this study, we examine the institutional evolution of 26 rangeland commons cases over two decades on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau (QTP). Through lens of individual property exclusivity and alienability, we classify six institutional patterns and reveal the internal privatization process characterized by progressive definition of individual property rights while maintaining the commons. We employ a fuzzy set Qualitative Comparative Analysis to understand the impacts of individual rights in various social-ecological context. Our findings demonstrate the adaptability and limitation of individual property rights in commons governance. We contribute to the CPR property rights framework by emphasizing the role of alienability in interest distributive equity and commons maintenance. Presenting the institutional diversity from the QTP, we provide insights into global rangeland management and commons governance.

#### 4. **Authors:** Laurent Camille

**Title:** Thinking the political communitarian horizon in the Argentinian Chaco Forest. Understanding the entanglement of commons production between the village “intimate”

**Abstract:**

The article aims to analyze commons production (commoning) by indigenous and peasant groups in the Chaco forest in Argentina through the lens of the political communitarian horizon conceptualized by Raquel Gutierrez. The Chaco forest is a dry forest that covers 1.000.000 km<sup>2</sup> in Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay. It is a global deforestation spot due to the agricultural commodities frontier expansion (especially for soy production). It is home to ten different indigenous ethnic groups and many peasant communities. Our long-term fieldwork in the Salado Norte region, in the Santiago del Estero province, in Argentina shows that to understand commons production in this area of the Chaco forest, we need to expand the scope of the relationship taken into account beyond forest management. Following Gutierrez, we think of the political communitarian horizon as a re-appropriation of the available material collective wealth and the capacity to make decisions over it. We analyze, on one side, the “intimate” practices at the village scale that are a starting point for daily life reproduction. It sheds light on the solidarity habits surging from care for the territory, or the animals; mutual aids in case of illness or death; or informal organizing for football tournaments, religious celebrations, or school building maintenance. However, these intimate solidarity practices are not without hierarchies and inequalities. Secondly, we study the “general matters” where the intimate reproduction process is expanded and politicized. The second part of the demonstration highlights, how both solidarity practices and inequalities impact the answers to local general issues especially the threats of land grab, eviction, and deforestation. The article concludes that commoning practices exist at the intimate level of the village. They support local political action and movements in defense of the territory at the general level. But these movements are also undermined by an invisibilisation of the hierarchies and inequalities yet fundamental to neighbors' everyday interactions. This conclusion bridges a gap between commoning and environmental justice scholarship, and in this context, questions the image of homogeneous and harmonious local peasant and indigenous communities. Furthermore, it shows that studies of commoning require a focus on the way it can be used to foster a political communitarian horizon rather than revolving around a definition of what is a commons or not.

#### 5. **Authors:** Grace Wright-Arora

**Title:** Female governance and water commoning? The case of urban water futurity in Mexico City

**Abstract:**

Theories of commoning provide a framework to analyse how experiments in world-building in Mexico move from a critique or ‘understanding of the “present state of things” to the identification of other “possible worlds”’ (Jeffrey, McFarlane and Vasudevan, 2012:1263). Not only do theories of the commons have much to offer an analytical exploration of alternative world-building in Mexico, but the case of water futures in Mexico City contributes to a development of current theorisations of the commons. In particular looking to the community of mayor Clara Brugada’s Utopias project as a case study, questions are raised regarding both the role of women and social reproduction in Latin American urban commoning projects, and, relatedly, the connection that Mexican urban commoning projects may have with nature-society relations. The present study contributes to this, bringing together Latin American critical ecological feminist scholarship on worldbuilding which has infrequently, if at all, been translated or considered in Anglophone literature.

#### 6. **Authors:** Oona Morrow

**Title:** Growing Urban Food Commons

**Abstract:**

This paper describes the development and governance of diverse urban food commons - that are stewarding land, organic waste, surplus food, and edible landscapes in Europe and North America. Drawing together more than a decade of ethnographic research and findings from two EU projects, the paper seeks to explore the ways in which materiality, scale, power, and place come to matter in the evolution of different forms of food commons - and affect how durable, inclusive, and transformative they become. Ultimately the paper seeks to answer what role different urban food commons can play in transitioning from a commons extractive food system to a pluriverse of commons regenerative food systems.

7. **Authors:** Frank Moulaert, Pavlos-Marinos Delladetsimas, Ide Hiergens, Liana Simmons

**Title:** Beyond dualities in understanding the Commons: debates and practices

**Abstract:**

This paper reflects on different dualities that have emerged from both historical and contemporary Landed Commons (LCs) literature that often tend to neglect the social, political, institutional, and 'natural' complexity of LCs and to jump to simplistic conclusions. It identifies five distinct yet interconnected analytical dualities in the understanding of LCs in contemporary literature: population growth and land scarcity of common assets; Commons and enclosures; commodification and decommodification; Commons property and possession; Commons and commoning. It covers three contemporary Commons 'streams' that in their own - but often shared - way manage to overrule these dualities and offer syntheses of features and conditions essential to workable Commons: 1) Ostrom's approach to the governance of common pool resources. Ostrom managed to distil a useful synthesis for analyzing and building LCs from institutional debates, anthropological studies, and policy-instructed analysis of (socio)ecological systems. (2) Political ecology allows approaching LCs as part of a 'complex human-ecological system' by interrelating environmental issues with socio-political and economic ones, paying particular attention to power relations. (3) Anarchism's approach to commoning in search of remaking local democracy from a social ecology and communitarian perspective validates the role of human relations in commoning and rebuilding socio-political governance. The paper thus lays the groundwork for understanding the dimensions of Commons and commoning that should be considered in studying and designing LCs: recognizing the complexity of their physical features (avoiding simplistic dualistic analyses) and their politico-institutional conditions, and pointing to the social dynamics that drive them.

8. **Authors:** Wijermans, Nanda (Stockholm University), Schill, Caroline (The Beijer institute of Ecological Economics), Lindahl, Therese (The Beijer institute of Ecological Economics), Schlüter, Maja (Stockholm University)

**Title:** Attribution of change and collective resource use

**Abstract:**

Common pool resources are vital for food, income, and raw materials. Sustainable practices for these resources face collective challenges due to social and ecological uncertainties, which are exacerbated by climate impacts. Understanding how resource users adapt to changes in availability is key to sustainable collective use. The few existing empirical studies reveal that resource users interpret ecological changes differently, affecting collective resource use behaviour. However little attention has gone to the heterogeneous role of individual perceptions of ecological change in collective sustainable resource use. Our project aims to understand how these perceptions can possibly

influence collective sustainability. We will develop possible explanations based on available theories and on an exploratory empirical study - through controlled behavioural field experiments complemented with interviews, and observations - and test them using agent-based modeling.

9. **Authors:** Eve Devillers ([ed566@cornell.edu](mailto:ed566@cornell.edu)), Seongmin Shin ([ss3584@cornell.edu](mailto:ss3584@cornell.edu)), Chuan Liao ([cl824@cornell.edu](mailto:cl824@cornell.edu)), Department of Global Development, Cornell University

**Title:** Commoning VS Voluntary Carbon Market in Achieving Equitable Climate Action

**Abstract:**

As the urgency to mitigate climate change intensifies, market-based mechanisms like Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) have gained prominence as tools for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While VCM provides financial incentives for emissions reduction, it are often critiqued for their limitations, including commodifying nature, reinforcing inequalities, and lacking long-term sustainability. This paper argues that commoning—a collective, community-driven approach to managing resources—offers a superior alternative to market-based carbon solutions. Unlike VCM, which rely on financial exchanges and external governance, commoning empowers communities to govern their own resources, ensuring that benefits are equitably distributed and aligned with local needs. By focusing on long-term stewardship, social justice, and the decommodification of nature, commoning addresses the root causes of ecological degradation while fostering collective responsibility and inclusivity. Through a comparative analysis, we demonstrate that commoning not only offers a viable alternative to market-driven mechanisms but also represents a transformational model for achieving multi-dimensional sustainability in the face of global climate challenges.

## Track 2: Commons and the State

1. **Authors:** Bertie Russell

**Title:** A Politics of Transition: Public-Common Partnerships and the Conjuncture

**Abstract:**

This paper makes the case for commons-based initiatives – and public-common partnerships in particular – as a tool in the transition towards a new commons-based metabolic order. Beginning through clarifying what is meant by capital’s ‘metabolic control’ (Mészáros 2010), the paper outlines three principles critical in conceptualising a transition towards a commons-based metabolism: transition as a protracted dismantling of capital’s metabolic control on multiple fronts, the necessity of composing new political subjects, and recognition of the non-linearity and reversibility of transition. The paper’s second half shifts from the abstract to a conjunctural analysis of the imperial core within which we situate our own work. Emphasising the role of the ‘derisking state’ (Gabor 2023) in capital’s response to compounding economic, social and ecological crises, we propose Public-Common Partnerships as one appropriate conjunctural wager among many that could carve out spaces of common democratic reproduction in, against and beyond capital’s metabolic control.

2. **Authors:** Sara Lorenzini

**Title:** Can spatial planning be transformative? Regenerating a common and commoning regeneration.

**Abstract:**

Several pressing challenges impacting territorial governance, including land and buildings abandonment, soil consumption, environmental contamination, and landscape degradation, have brought regeneration projects to the fore. However, such projects often result in gentrification, housing crises, and the disappearance of common spaces in favour of club or private ones. Thus, there is a pressing need for a revised approach to spatial planning and the instruments that guide these projects. In particular, traditional planning agreement models fail to support democratic and multi-stakeholder processes, instead protecting elitist interests or serving political purposes and consensus-building initiatives that may not necessarily align with or prioritize the broader public interest. In doing so, they promote urban regeneration as a purely technical issue, deprived of substantial normative implications. In this paper, we suggest that spatial planning for urban regeneration should instead be a process of democratic co-production between local authorities, communities, and developers. The purpose should be that of (re)generating a common that serves broader communities and their reproduction as subjectivities. With this perspective in mind, research on commoning can provide a good informational basis to rethink spatial planning as a social and political practice directed at this objective. The urban regeneration process of the abandoned area where the Isotta Fraschini factory is located in Italy (Municipality of Saronno, Varese Province, Lombardy Region) is studied as an example. The regeneration project of this lot is driven by the intent to return the area to the community as a common, preserve its memory, and reintegrate it into the city territory.

### 3. **Authors:** Markus Kip

**Title:** Double Amputation of the Commons: Assessing Municipalist Politics to Foster Commoning in Barcelona

#### **Abstract:**

This presentation evaluates the politics of fostering a commons-oriented environment in Barcelona during Ada Colau's mayoral tenure from 2015 to 2023. Initially, there was great enthusiasm among academics and activists, who focused on the promise of such governance. However, far fewer works have examined the actual achievements and challenges. Besides recognizing the municipalists' failures to 'commonify' important public services and foster commoning efforts across class divides, valuable lessons can be learned for future rethinking of a politics of commoning. A key finding from our empirical research is the 'double amputation of the commons,' which captures how promoted commons initiatives had to sacrifice either socioeconomic functions or their embeddedness in democratic governance in order to fit within multi-scalar legal constraints. The municipalists refrained from politicizing the underlying questions of property that these constraints raised, mostly for electoral reasons, weakening the transformative potential of a commons-oriented politics beyond the state and market.

### 4. **Authors:** Alexandros Kioupkiolis

**Title:** Left populism, commons, and radical democracy

#### **Abstract:**

This presentation advances the thesis that democratic populism and the commons can and should complement each other in counter-hegemonic interventions promoting egalitarian and ecological democracy in our times. After elucidating its key terms, discussion makes, first, a theoretical case for the combination of populism and the commons by debunking arguments which highlight the conflicts between them and by explaining the political significance of their conjugation. Subsequently, it builds an empirical argument for the real possibility and the democratic promises of such a convergence by considering three ways in which populist politics and the commons merge and recompose each other in contemporary social movements, from the Spanish 15M and new

municipalism to Occupy and other collective contestation in the Americas over the last two decades. These cases will illustrate how late social activism has effectively blended populist mobilization with the spirit of the commons, engendering a hybrid figure of 'common populism' that fosters grassroots processes of democratization.

**5. Authors:** Lena Verena

**Title:** The publicness of urban commons and welfare as a societal project

**Abstract:**

In the framework of my ongoing research project, I am studying spatial urban commons from the angle of their contribution to the ongoing transformation of existing welfare systems and the welfare space in the direction of what I define as ecological welfare. In particular, on the background of the more recent multiplication of policies and programs supporting the commons and urban commoning, a new crucial question to ask is about the publicness of urban commons as their capability to contribute to the making of welfare and care apparatuses as a societal project, as advocated by Fraser (1989), Tronto(1998), De Leonardis (1998) amongst others. Given the operational modalities of those policies, the risk is the emergence of a contractual approach to welfare, exclusivity, privatism, deresponsibilization, and de-politicisation. My working hypothesis is that it is precisely the spatial nature and origin of many urban commons that preserve their political nature and publicness.

**6. Authors:** Lana-Berasain José-Miguel

**Title:** Local communities, state building and social practices in Spanish villages from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century: commons and commoning from a historical perspective.

**Abstract:**

The dominant narrative in history textbooks traces a linear sequence from a supposedly original community of goods to an undisputed triumph of private property. In this scheme, the emergence of the modern state would have abolished the communal regime as a necessary condition for the development of capitalism.

This paper will propose a different reading, made up of advances and setbacks and by no means linear. To begin with, it will be proposed that the history of the communal follows a complex dynamic, with processes of articulation and reinforcement of communal ties (commoning) and processes of communal disarticulation that, depending on the circumstances, could be reversible. It will also be argued that the process of modern state-building was not an alien and separate process from the dynamics of the evolution of communal regimes, but that, on the contrary, they constituted a fundamental part of the process of state-building from below. It was at the end of the Middle Ages that the configuration of an institutional framework took shape at various scales that would last, with changes and adjustments, until the 19th century. The offensive against the communal regime that took place during the 19th century was not complete and gave rise, paradoxically, to responses of communal rearticulation by local communities in the form of collective purchases in disentanglement (montes de socios) and struggles for the rescue of privatised communal lands.

## **Track 3: Commoning and Transformative Change**

1. **Authors:** Bossenbroek, Lisa, Kaiserslautern-Landau, Kadiri Zakaria, Ftouhi Hind, Kuper Marcel

**Title:** The everyday practices of commoning groundwater resources in the Moroccan Desert

**Abstract:**

In recent years, renewed scholarly attention has focused on the becoming of the commons as they face ever greater pressures and over-exploitation. This body of work has paid more attention to the activities involved in creating the commons, referred to as 'commoning'. So far, few case studies illustrate how commoning practices evolve. Drawing on 89 interviews conducted from 2019 until 2023 in the Middle Draa Valley, Southeast Morocco, we demonstrate how the process of commoning is pushed forward by a commoner, consisting of an assemblage that includes humans, non-humans, institutions, and different state actors. The commoner attempts to foster new ways of resource use, in our case, groundwater. The practices of commoning consist of 1) representing the aquifer as a degraded resource that should be protected; 2) defining rules to control groundwater access and use; and 3) managing conflicts. Yet, the process of commoning is marked by power struggles and new exclusions. Finally, our analysis illustrates how commoning processes can produce transformative change. Yet, the course of change cannot be known ex-ante but appears through the social practices of commoning on the ground.

2. **Authors:** Vangelis Papadimitropoulos

**Title:** The Model of Open Cooperativism

**Abstract:**

The presentation builds on on-going theoretical and empirical research to elaborate on the foundations of the model of open cooperativism (Bauwens et al. 2019; Kostakis and Bauwens 2014). The model of open cooperativism places commons-based peer production (Bauwens et al. 2019; Bollier 2014; Benkler 2006; De Angelis 2017; Ostrom 1990) at the centre of multi-stakeholder collaboration between civil society organisations producing immaterial and material commons, ethical market entities adding exchange value on top of the commons use value and a partner state enabling commons-based peer production through funding, legislation, infrastructures, education, and so on. The presentation lays out the economics and politics of the commons as the foundational stones of the counter-hegemony of open cooperativism vis-à-vis neoliberalism. The presentation backs its theoretical claims by providing snapshots of the case studies of P2PLab/Tzoumakers (Greece), Open Food Network (Global), CoopCycle (France) and Circles UBI (Germany) examined in the context of the research project Techno-Social Innovation in the Collaborative Economy, funded by the Hellenic Foundation of Research and Innovation for the years 2022-2024 (<https://collabecon.gr/>).

3. **Authors:** Alex Pazaitis

**Title:** Value (in) commoning

**Abstract:**

The commons is a vital sector of the economy generating value that is often taken for granted. Yet value is broadly understood as an abstract, quantifiable, and depersonalised attribute of things only expressed in their exchange with each other. As such, it is at the core of the extractive practices that exploit people and ecosystems alike. A critical engagement with a political economy exempt from exploitation needs a new definition of value: Value as a commons. This exploratory concept serves to radically re-imagine how we value, care for, and nurture our collective affairs through commoning. From the identification and covering of social needs; to the employment of knowledge, technology, skills, and capabilities; to our relations with our emotions and bodies, our time, effort, and affect beyond economic production. The commons provides a pervasive framework bringing together diverse theory and practice on commons-based ways of understanding, acting, and being.

**4. Authors:** Tilley, Kobe, Ghent University; Devos, Tim, Ghent University

**Title:** Temporary uses as degrowth commons? Hovering between liminal experiences and neoliberal spaces

**Abstract:**

Temporary use has become a commonplace practice in urban development, often associated with grassroots or citizen initiatives, but also often appropriated by other actors such as municipalities and project developers. Much research argues for a contradiction between a transformative potential and the risk for co-optation within neoliberal, growth driven development.

Following a growing field of research that is turning towards ‘degrowth perspectives’ to provide new answers to today’s crises, we argue how practices of temporary use often already move beyond growth-oriented approaches by applying characteristics of commoning.

Within this contribution, we argue that temporary use practices offer insightful prefigurations which remain yet to be studied from a degrowth perspective. Through investigating ongoing Flemish case studies, we aim to conceptually explore how ‘temporary practices’ can be seen as ‘liminal practices’: allowing to emphasise the transitional strength of temporary practices as commons, whilst remaining vigilant against the risks of neoliberal co-optation.

**5. Authors:** Irina Velicu, CES-Uni of Coimbra

**Title:** Unbearable Commons: Caring for Partition of Sensible

**Abstract:**

Entanglements, attachments and interconnectivity are repetitive themes of environmental constructivists, a science of relations among beings with imaginaries of future good-life centered on sustainable and caring commoning. We are building on this body of literature with the aim to challenge what counts as ‘commons’ in such proposals. In conversation with feminist queer literature, we propose to theoretically advance a commons relational politics that ontologically embraces negativity and separation as conditions of livable lives. We question the tendency to stabilize and harmonize frameworks of collective (self)-coherence as de-politicizing ecological thinking and propose to critically elaborate the theme of ‘care’. This paper aims to expand commoning theories focused on affective politics and performativity making an argument for ‘undoing’ the subject of commoning as a preconceived category.

**6. Authors:** Pantazidou Maro, University of York

**Title:** Time as Commons: methodological, imaginative and political possibilities

**Abstract:**

In contrast to other foundational analytical categories – namely space and identity – time has received limited attention in the study of the commons. Previous research has meaningfully explored the question of temporalities within processes of commoning, yet commoning of time itself remains underexamined as a pathway towards socio-ecological transformation. This contribution approaches time as both material and psychosocial struggle (time’s distribution and affect) to explore the temporal architectures that make caring environments possible within un-caring modern urban contexts. Based on multi-month empirical fieldwork in Athens and through exploring the temporal resources that sustain citizen-led care initiatives, the research provides preliminary answers to these questions: What methodological innovations can help us study time as a collective rather than an individual resource? How can alternative conceptualisations of time and processes of time commoning enable the formation of more just communities? This is more than a question of a fairer distribution of time as resource, but of time recast as a shared project.

**7. Authors:** Ruiz Cayuela, Sergio, ICTA-UAB

**Title:** Urban food commons: towards a new research agenda

**Abstract:**

The study of commons and commoning as tools for social transformation has become increasingly articulated in relation to urban environments, where the tensions of capitalism are extremely apparent. Starting from the premise that reproductive commons are central elements of an emancipatory strategy, food(s) becomes an obvious point of attention. A vast and diverse set of practices of food commoning has emerged in reaction to the urban metabolic rift produced by the agrifood industry and its associated socioenvironmental injustices. Food has become a crucial vehicle for experimental and alternative value practices in cities, which reflects the emergence of an urban food commons. These urban food initiatives rely on collective resources, community-based responsibility and solidarity, and can challenge/resist the politics of individualisation and marketisation of the neoliberal era. In my contribution, I will examine the different trends that urban food commons scholarship is currently taking and present an integrated research agenda that can contribute to wider commons and commoning debates.

**8. Authors:** Blau, Jill Philine; Adventist University Friedensau

**Title:** Commoning, affect and injustice: a question of how?

**Abstract:**

The hope of commoning lies within the collective striving on the basis of reciprocity, as this workshop points out. Commoning thereby becomes both a real – and an utopian space - in which transformations can be realized. Yet within this space, we are confronted with the messiness and ambivalences of commoners and commoning. Both theory and practice hereby have shown how caring for the commons and caring commoners are both oppressive and reinventing social (in)justices at the same time. (Blau 2023; Velicu & Garcia 2018). This confronts us with potentials and limitations that commoning poses with regards to understanding “life, being, and place differently” (Gumbs 2020: ix). Posing questions around intersectionality hereby requires going into the nitty-gritty of commoning in order to understand the bigger contradictions around social justice better. Looking at patterns within the “how” of commoning, I reflect on working methodologies among commoners such as sociocracy and consent. Via exploring the realm between affect and injustice, I present first findings on failures and successes to dismantle intersectional power dynamics within the strive towards fai(rer) co-becoming.

**9. Authors:** Exner, Andreas, University Graz

**Title:** Commoning social ecological transformations through solidarity economies

**Abstract:**

The concept of the commons has initially been primarily applied to natural resource governance arrangements that are self-management by users. Increasingly, scholars have included other governance fields such as solidarity economy enterprises hoping to elucidate the distinctive features of such heterodox organizational forms. Still, commons research regarding alternative ways of doing economy is underrepresented. Moreover, it not often investigates fields of action beyond the scale of the single enterprise. Recently, scholars have turned their attention more to the social practices that constitute commons going beyond analyzing such arrangements in terms of abstract rules and models, or general principles of successful design. This contribution will explore the potential of Maussian gift theory to conceptualize commoning in view of better understanding the distinctiveness of solidarity economy practices, including specific requirements, constraints and potentials. Equipped with a gift-oriented reconceptualization of the commons, I will discuss how solidarity economy commoning relates to issues and challenges of social ecological transformation.

**10. Authors:** Almazán, Adrián, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid; Muñoz Sueiro, Lucía, ICTA-UAB

**Title:** Returning forward: bringing together communalisms, degrowth and traditional popular culture studies

**Abstract:**

In anthropology, a recent comeback of traditional popular culture studies emphasizes their subversive aspects, contrasting with the institutionalized view in intangible heritage studies. Amidst the socio-ecological crisis, the degrowth movement and literature are expanding, increasingly intersecting with commons studies, as the recent workshop “Commoning Beyond Growth” in Nottingham testifies. However, the role of popular traditions in expanding the commons for a degrowth future has been underexplored. This presentation examines the work of Gustav Landauer, Edward Carpenter, and Simone Weil to shed light into these intersections. Drawing on their ideas, we propose the concept of “returning forward,” a theoretical and political framework recognizing the crucial role of traditional popular culture in advancing the commons. Their recovery, reinterpretation and expansion challenge the unilinear conception of time in the ideology of Progress, allowing for a remix of temporalities and mobilizing communitarian traditions for a post-capitalist, degrowth future.

**11. Authors:** Velotti, Lorenzo, Scuola Normale Superiore; Ruiz Cayuela, Sergio, ICTA-UAB

**Title:** Commoning and degrowth: a strategic alliance

**Abstract:**

Degrowth literature’s main focus has gradually shifted from grassroots proposals to an increasingly institutionalized policy-oriented approach in the last decade. This shift raises concerns about the movement’s ability to maintain its anticapitalist stance, as degrowth is fundamentally incompatible with capitalist institutions built for ensuring continued accumulation. To address this, we propose the expansion of commons and commoning as the primary strategy for degrowth. Hence, we develop this proposal across three dimensions connected to different conceptualisations of commons: commons as political substance, commons as socio-ecological systems, and commons as common sense. Through these frameworks, we explore the practical outcomes of a commons

degrowth strategy, such as overcoming the production/reproduction dichotomy and centering the caring (or reproductive) classes as the degrowth revolutionary subjects. Finally, we suggest strategic tools for organized mobilization around commons and degrowth, such as existing practices that connect radical unions with social reproduction.

**12. Authors:** Mookerjea, Sourayan, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

**Title:** Commoning and Common-being

**Abstract:**

This presentation interrogates North-centric theories of the commons (Ostrom 2015, Bollier and Helfrich 2019, Kostakis and Bauwens 2014, Hardt and Negri 2009) from the perspective of the *longue durée* of Indigenous and subaltern resistance against development dispossession and environmental racism. Drawing on my research on oil sands development in Alberta, Canada and smart city development in Kolkata, India, I argue against claims which position commons/commoning/common between the market and the state. I argue that such claims are based on uncritical, liberal and Eurocentric conceptions of markets and states which fail to grasp their historical inter-relations and which ignore their formation through multiple colonialisms involving the construction and exhaustion of commodity frontiers and the enclosure (and destruction) of subsistence commons. Bringing together the thought of Ranajit Guha, Maria Mies and Veronica Bennholdt Thomsen and Massimo De Angelis (2017), I argue that commoning is best understood as both the social metabolic possibility of a racial capitalist world-economy and the contemporary inter-state system as well as an autonomous domain of subaltern politics (and self-government) based on the metabolism of social reproduction. This argument is illustrated through reflections on the contradictions of renewable energy commoning in the context of the politics of energy system change.

**13. Authors:** Soto-Alarcón, Jozelin María (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo. México), Sato, Chizu (Wageningen University, The Netherland), Figueredo-Urbina, Carmen Julia (Investigadora por México, CONAHCYT), Castañeda-Ovando, Araceli (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo. México), González-Gómez, Diana Xóchitl (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo. México).

**Title:** Multispecies care in pulque-agave commoning in Mexico: A transdisciplinary perspective

**Abstract:**

Agave plants have long existed in interaction with humans. Previous studies on these plants have centered on human agency by looking at their domestication for human purposes but have not framed the multispecies interdependent survival. Our study examined more-than-human agency enacted in the collective management, that is commoning, of pulque-agave in Singuilucan, Hidalgo Mexico with the help of a transdisciplinary hybrid collective of researchers from natural and social sciences, together with a group of mestizo growers, called Ometoxtloctli, and public officers. We found three entangled layers of caring relationships. The first layer is founded on more-than-human relationships between pulque-agave, worms, soil, climate, water and fungi. The second layer connects human and more-than-human practices that involve the establishment of protocols in plots and university laboratories expanding the benefits of commoning. The third layer recognizes a diversity of forms of care performed by diverse human actors. To conclude, we discuss what our research members, each from their own location, seeing through different standpoints, learn from this transdisciplinary interactive exploration that may improve our collective capacity for multispecies survival.

#### 14. **Authors:** Angelos Varvarousis (ICTA-UAB)

**Title:** Liminal Commons: On the limits and merits of temporary commoning

**Abstract:**

Time is hardly ever explicitly concerned in the study of the commons. Research on the commons is focused on enduring, long-lived systems, from centuries-long institutions managing aquifers or forests to years-long community gardens or open software. Stability and reproduction over time are seen as a marker of the 'success' of the commons. From Ostrom's rules for managing the commons to Bollier's and Helfrich's patterns of commoning, researchers search for fundamental attributes that contribute to the sustainability of a commons over time. What about commons, though, that are short-lived yet have significant impacts on commoners and environments? How do we make sense of such commons?

Refugee camps, climate camps or summer camps, symbolic occupations, self-organized street parties and festivals, grassroots artistic interventions, and temporary commoning practices in disaster zones; these are sites that involve intense moments of commoning, people collaborating and sharing resources and efforts for a limited time. What outcomes and effects do such commons have? What attributes and processes determine the effectiveness of such temporary commons?

In order to answer these questions, this paper develops an original conceptual and theoretical framework called "liminal commons". It draws a parallel between the rituals of passage observed by anthropologists in archaic societies, in which participants went through a phase of liminality, and the transitional dynamics of the new commons that often develop in conditions of polycrisis

### Track 4: Commons and Social Movements

#### 1. **Authors:** Masek, Vaclav ICTA-UAB

**Title:** Commoning the Movements.

**Abstract:**

Social movements can help create and strengthen commons institutions and discourses. Movements can rescale commons horizontally and vertically, made evident in rural community-rights movements in the global South and new water, food, and community energy commons movements in both the global South and North.

Commons institutions can serve as the basis for social mobilization and become a key frame for social movements, as seen in local environmental justice, livelihoods conflicts, and anti-privatization struggles. Movement studies offer insights into the context of mobilization and collective claim-making, while the commons literature emphasizes bottom-up, rhizomatic practices of shared ownership, self-management, and social co-production that move beyond institutional solutions. Participation in the decision-making and administration of commoning and solidarity projects engenders civic learning against social exclusions. I seek to describe the existing tensions and contradictions in commons-movement dynamics in Latin America, reflecting trade-offs between diversity versus uniformization and organizational closure versus expansion of discourses and practices.

2. **Authors:** Salzer, Anja, unibz, Menendez Blanco, Maria, unibz, Palmieri Teresa, unibz, Krois Kris, unibz

**Title:** Climate Citizen Assemblies – Designing Patterns for Deliberative Democracies through the Lenses of Commoning

**Abstract:**

One promising approach to future-making in response to the challenges of the climate crisis are Climate Citizen Assemblies (CCAs), the number of which has been steadily increasing in recent years. Climate Citizen Assemblies (CCAs) bring together a diverse group of citizens, randomly selected through a lottery process, to learn, deliberate and make decisions together. As such, they embody the essence of Commoning and offer extraordinary emancipatory and transformative possibilities. Reflecting on examples of participatory democracies such as CCAs through the lenses of common(-ing) can contribute to developing instruments for social change and justice.

Inspired by the pattern language of Commoning (Helfrich & Bollier 2017), our research group explores patterns of CCAs.

For the upcoming event, we propose a joint exploration of patterns in CCAs and discuss, refine, and possibly extend them to new ones in a lab-like workshop.

3. **Authors:** Juárez López, Bia'ni Madsa, Indigenous Medicine Conservation Fund; Gladstone, Fiona, Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Title:** Communities for Autonomy: Building local institutions for territorial defense and self-determination in Indigenous Mexico

**Abstract:**

Contemporary social movements often realize power as they “scale up” –convincing ever-larger swathes of population to unite in actions and demands for change from powerful entities. This outward-facing action contrasts with another kind of social movement activity: building and sustaining local institutions for self-determination and self-governance. We call this work commoning. Commoning is particularly relevant for structurally marginalized communities in a neo-colonial world. Comunidades por la Autonomía (Communities for Autonomy) is an informal, volunteer organization founded in 2023 in Merida, Mexico by Indigenous Mexican activists to assist Indigenous communities in developing robust institutions as a form of territorial defense and self-determination. In this research, we (self-) examine the inward-focused commoning work of Comunidades por la Autonomia and its engagement of insights from the Ostrom school of commons research. We then relate this inward-focused commoning activism to the outward facing work of social movement power-building and policy change.

4. **Authors:** Rockwell, Neal, freelance journalist, Vansintjan, Aaron, Food Secure Canada

**Title:** Peripheral perspectives: A methodology for seeing the commons

**Abstract:**

The commons are being challenged both by financialized capitalism, for example through real estate speculation, as well as financialized ways of seeing. This “technical vision” was developed to enclose the commons, rendering them invisible (Blomley, 2008). This presentation builds on the authors’ experiences researching gentrification in primarily migrant communities in Canada and peri-urban villagers in Vietnam. We present a methodology developed for seeing the commons, the web of living wealth and culture practiced by these communities. It was this wealth that these communities drew

on to build resistance to gentrification. The development of this methodology required a process of defamiliarization, making strange through exposure, both on sensorial and corporeal levels. Drawing from Aymara sociologist Silvia Riviera Cusicanqui, we propose a “peripheral perspective” (Gago, 2016) as an antidote to technical vision, a methodology that uses tactics like the derive, multi-media collage, memory walks, photovoice, iterative communication, and community exhibitions, to develop an understanding of the commons and strategies of resistance. As a result, this method helps to make space for (sub)alternative visions of value itself.

**5. Authors:** Dragović, Sonja, Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon

**Title:** Commoning is Necessary, and also Exhausting: Mapping the Challenges and Envisioning the Future of Creating and Sustaining the Commons

**Abstract:**

The practices of commoning are proving to be an important part of working towards better social, political, and economic systems around the world. Unsurprisingly, this work demands significant organizational effort from those participating in it. This paper examines some of the inherent challenges of commoning, particularly the lack of support structures, the exhaustion stemming from prolonged engagement, and the often unfulfilled need for knowledge sharing and transfer, which is of vital importance in ensuring continuity and advancement in both the theory and practice of the commons. In the context of urbanization pressures driven by real estate financialization and speculation, these challenges intensify, exacerbating the difficulties in maintaining and strengthening the commons. By connecting research on commoning with social movements and spatial justice, this paper explores these issues and poses questions as to how to arrive at the future of commoning where the work of transforming society for the better is at least a bit easier to do.

**6. Authors:** DAlisa Giacomo; Massimo De Angelis

**Title:** Commons and degrowth: a dialogue of radical companionship

**Abstract:**

Generally, being radical in the social sciences and political life involves advocating for significant, fundamental change in the actual order of things to address social and environmental issues, transform existing institutional structures and challenge specific power distribution and asymmetries. Yet, in our biographies as radical scholars and activists and throughout our lives, we also realise that stirring fundamental change is a matter of how we see the world, interrogate it, and relate to it. In this paper, we initiate a dialogue of radical companionship envisaging horizons of radical transformation beyond a world centred on capitalist growth. We redefine growth not simply as the quantitative accumulation of money and stuff but as the functionalisation of every aspect of life to the reproduction of capital. We refer to this as commodification, although in a broader and looser sense, it means turning something into a commodity. We will argue, in turn, that by looking at “growth” in this way, the outer and inner limits necessary for social reproduction in the broad sense are not separated in an ecological and social realm but are deeply interlaced. In the fourth section, we will explore how thinking in terms of decommodification allows consolidation of companionship between commons and degrowth to challenge growth and capital effectively.

**7. Authors:** Giuseppe Micciarelli, University of Naples Federico II

**Title:** Collective advocacy, academic extractivism and critical theories. Methodological issues in the research on and for the commons

**Abstract:**

Researching on the commons is not a neutral research. We will question how academic skills intersect and impact on certain aspects of participation and democratic innovation concerning the commons. Scientific research plays a peculiar, role in the commons debate. Consider the approach of Elinor Ostrom, whose design principles are the result of the comparative analysis of successes and failures of numerous case studies of self-organisation and use of common resources, identified in different parts of the world. Despite some readings on her “moderate” political approach, her analysis also explicitly oriented towards the development of strategies for the advocacy of the commons, the identification of mechanisms for successful self-organisation and their defense from the State and the market. Consider even the contribution of critical theorists who have supported or in some cases been part of commoning experiences, trying to legitimise their collective actions without compromising their research integrity. An interesting aspect, as we shall see which is not isolated, is that this type of case-based research tends to develop: 1) a militant looking to the selected case studies, in order to intervene, and influence, how they can be “successful” collective research paths, thus said network of scholars where homogeneity of theoretical perspectives and references is not a requirement. I will reflect on a special point of intersection between commoners and researchers: the relationship with the institutions and the expertise needed to hack their procedures and rules. Starting from the Italian experience from Rodotà Commission (2007-08) I will show how legal-political expertise was crucial for the implementation of policies for urban commons.

The considerations that emerge will lead us to a node that I believe to be relevant. It concerns the ways in which research networks, i.e. forms of activist research, interact with the processes they study and at the same time support them, addressing problems of cognitive bias in different ways. We will highlight a particularly pressing issue in studies on the participatory macro-world: academic extractivism. I will then mention some approaches that can counter it, such as co-research, strategy of avocation, radical imagination, creative use of law, and political and legal hacking.

## Track 4: Commons and Culture

### 1. Authors: Bastian Lange

**Title:** Institutional expansion in cultural commons: commoning practices and the management of paradoxical obstacles in GLAMs

**Abstract:**

So far, cultural commons are defined here as GLAMs (galleries, library, archives, and museums). They are widely associated on the one hand with institutional instability, socio-economic precarity, project-based temporary financing, and intrinsic motivations. On the other, they are perceived as emancipatory cultural and social movements against public austerity and are considered as alternative commoning organizational models against top-down managed cultural institutions. Their efforts in alternative public, participatory engagement with commoners makes them interesting also for established administrative cultural policies.

Based on our EU Horizon 2020 funded project GLAMMONS (2022-2025), we have shed light on a case in Berlin, where a queer institution gained worldwide attention, increasing public funding, and wide public notice. Its recent post-pandemic institutional expansion has two challenges: First, practically, the institution strongly emphasizes its commoning practices, horizontal managements structures, and the involvement of its volunteering community. Furthermore, they have engaged

management help to cope with increasing internal diversity, expanded cultural profiles and infrastructural demands (digitization).

Second, academically, the case offers a provoking though instructive perspective when commoning institution expand (not to say grow) and how they are able to cope with professionalization and internal conflicts to remain loyal to the mutual engagement and dependance with its commoners.

The paper therefore discusses the paradoxical moment when cultural commonly run institution expand and diversify its profiles and how they can keep track to their “political emancipatory project” where they are origine and stem from. The paper will contribute to better understand organizational insights how commonly run cultural institutions can deal with paradoxical moments when there is thematic expansion on the one hand and efforts to be loyal to its common practices as a political project.

2. **Authors:** Dragouni, Mina; Pettas, Dimitris; Avdikos, Vasilis; Michailidou, Martha (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)

**Title:** Cultural heritage as a commons: exploring oral and social history archives in Greece.

**Abstract:**

Despite growing interest in cultural heritage as commons (see inter alia Gould 2017; Barrère, 2018; Bertacchini, 2020; Lekakis, 2020), there is still limited research in governance and management arrangements of related initiatives and their networks, such as community museums, oral history projects and archives from below. In our presentation, we will explore the rules and challenges of horizontal governance, autonomy and openness of heritage-making in collective projects that engage with people’s history and memory. We will draw on our empirical data from two related cases in Greece; the ‘Contemporary Social History Archives’ (Archeía Synchronis Koinonikís Istorías), a small non-profit organisation led by a community of young professionals, and the ‘Oral History Groups’ (Omádes Proforikís Istorías), a citizens’ network of amateur historians, to discuss how these groups organise their archives as a ‘commons’. This work is part of our Horizon Europe project ‘Resilient, sustainable and participatory practices: Towards the GLAMs of the commons’ which explores the potential of commoning practices in the sector (glammons.eu).

3. **Authors:** Pera, Marina. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**Title:** Governance and Social Inclusion: The Internal Dynamics of Barcelona’s Civic Managed Commons

**Abstract:**

Neo-institutional and critical perspectives on the commons have explored the norms that sustain them (Ostrom’s perspective) and the deliberative processes for collective decision-making (as emphasized by Laval and Dardot). However, the internal governance of the commons as spaces for social emancipatory politics has received comparatively limited scholarly attention. Although existing research indicates that social inequalities—stemming from social structures and their intersections—are often reproduced within the commons (Kotsila et al., 2020; Zechner, 2023), mechanisms also exist to counteract these inequalities. This paper examines the social composition and internal governance of civic-managed facilities in Barcelona during the period from 2019 to 2022. These facilities consist of municipal community and cultural spaces managed by local grassroots organizations. The findings indicate a trend towards social homogeneity and the perpetuation of existing societal power dynamics. Nonetheless, the study also identifies mechanisms within these commons that aim to mitigate such inequalities. Consequently, this paper seeks to address existing gaps among different perspectives in commons research.

4. **Authors:** Kunysz, Pavel, Université de Liège, Poteete, Amy, Concordia University, Nik, Luka, McGill University

**Title:** Caring with and against commoning: urban social mobilizations at the convergence of conceptual frameworks.

**Abstract:**

Care has been increasingly recognized as important in commoning, and commoning as 'care-full' (e.g., Dombrowski et al. 2019; Sciarelli 2024; Trogal 2017). Inequalities that bedevil care work also occur within commoning (e.g., Anderson & Huron 2023; Blau 2021). To explore the relations between commoning and caring, we consider the 'phases' of care acknowledged in the literature (e.g., Fisher & Tronto 1990; Tronto 2013) and observed in settings involving strangers (e.g., Huron 2015) through two movements associated with contested urban green spaces in Montréal (Les Amis du Champ des Possibles and Mobilisation 6600). We demonstrate that only "caring with" necessarily supports commoning, as it arises from and (re)produces interdependency, fostering a sense of mutuality. We then suggest that "caring with" in socially open contexts depends on its visibility and organization. In these settings, the visibility of collective care supports recognition of interdependency, whereas inclusive and non-hierarchical organization of care fosters mutuality-based relationships.

5. **Authors:** Lekakis, Stelios, Newcastle University

**Title:** Heritage & culture as commons: People, states and enclosures

**Abstract:**

Although the consideration of cultural heritage and cultural creation as commons is beginning to gain ground in the last ten years—mainly within academic environments—the practical application of this concept is often intertwined with discussions regarding the economic sustainability of public resources and the shifting of management responsibilities from the state to citizens. In this paper, we will examine the latest trends in heritage management and cultural creation, discussing how these practices align with or diverge from the principles of the commons. By tracing an alternative ontological interpretation of culture through the theory of commons, we aim to highlight the potential for more inclusive and sustainable cultural heritage management. Our discussion will address key challenges and opportunities, providing insights into how these theoretical frameworks can be operationalized in various cultural contexts to enhance community engagement and stewardship.

6. **Authors:** Androniki Pappa

**Title:** Defining Neighborhood Commons Spaces: an architectural and urban placemaking perspective

**Abstract:**

Urban commons initiatives along with social processes of commoning transform urban spaces into places of co-production, resource sharing and collective governance. At the neighbourhood scale, these localities, whether permanent or ephemeral occupy open, closed and in-between spaces, taking multiple spatial and programmatic forms, including community gardens and open-air civic centres, community-managed social, artistic and cultural spaces, and temporal places activated through tactical interventions, such as community dinners and fairs. Among multiple phases entailed in transforming neighbourhood public spaces into places of commoning, -such as forming a group of commoners and addressing organisational, ideological and operational aspects-, activating a space,

often derelict or underused, and designing programmatic and spatial characteristics is of catalytic significance. In this sense, there is room for further theoretical elaboration from an architectural and urban design perspective on the definition of neighborhood commons spaces as realms of placemaking.

## **Track 5: Multiscalar Commoning**

### **1. Authors:** Esteves, Ana Margarida, Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon

**Title:** Approaches to Commoning and the Development of Pluri-local "Social Learning Spaces" by Transnational Networks of Community-led Initiatives

#### **Abstract:**

Transnational networks of community-led Initiatives (CLIs) have been performing, in recent decades, the role of pluri-local "social learning spaces" for the experimentation, performance and coordination of self-determined practices for socio-ecological transition through commoning. Based on a comparative, qualitative case study analysis, this presentation contextualizes such practices, by analysing how the normative and strategic foundations of such networks shape how they perform the following roles:

- organizational support through resource mobilization, movement-building and knowledge diffusion.
- promotion of institutional recognition through advocacy at the regional, national and supra-national levels of policymaking.

The contextualization is based on the comparative analysis of the European hubs of three major intercontinental networks of CLIs:

The Transition Network (hereby referred to as TN);

The Global Ecovillage Network - Europe (hereby referred to as GEN-Europe);

The European hub of the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (hereby referred to as RIPESS-Europe).

### **2. Authors:** Toursoglou Papalexandridou, Danai, Department of Spatial Planning and Development, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Thessaloniki, Greece), Ortiz Nuñez, Sagrario, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (Medellín, Colombia)

**Title:** Our territory as a common ground: Learning and acting with Moravia

#### **Abstract:**

Our intervention is based on processes, learnings and outcomes we co-created among 98 individuals inhabiting Moravia (Medellin, Colombia), a process we called "Mesas de Diálogo". Moravia is a multi-cultural territory created and managed by its inhabitants, currently facing the threat of relocation due to gentrification plans. Our collective work has the double objective of:

- creating learning that can inform global research and commoning practices

- supporting the fight of the neighborhood against relocation.

As a result of the process, we identified, documented and categorized 79 community initiatives and co-created a book, an exhibition and a song. The results reveal that this example of collective management is based on the way that initiatives with diverse characteristics co-exist, interact and transform through time, forming an ecosystem of community initiatives. In our intervention we will share the mechanisms and tools we identified and implemented and could inform future research and practice on the commons

**3. Authors:** Mazé, Armelle, INRAE-Université Paris-Saclay

**Title:** Agroecological transitions and the political ecology of Elinor Ostrom : the role of ontologies and epistemic power in commoning and polycentric governance.

**Abstract:**

The aim of this communication is to analyse, by proposing an extension of the IAD/SES frameworks (Ostrom (1990, 2009), to the polycentric governance of complex agroecosystems in the context of agroecological transitions. As stressed by Hess and Ostrom 2003 and Denzau and North (1993), It emphasizes the role of shared mental models and rationality involved in system thinking about the dynamics of polycentric governance (McGinnis and Ostrom 2014; Cole et al. 2019). A specific attention will be paid on the role of knowledge regimes involved in commoning, and especially on ontologies in setting the boundary systems and problem setting. To sustain our analysis, several case studies on seed commoning will be explored more precisely in relation to multi risk assesment in the context of climate change adaptation and agroecological transitions.

**4. Authors:** Khan, Feroz, ICTA-UAB

**Title:** Disasters, degrowth, and the liminal commons: exploring multiscalarity in crisis mobilizations

**Abstract:**

How do disasters challenge, invite, reconfigure, and transform commoning – and what might such transformations tell us about possibilities for degrowth? Recent scholarship – inspired by crises, disasters, and the Covid-19 pandemic – has advanced theories of liminal commons, arts of living amid damage, and collectivizing care. I take these efforts as a point of departure to argue for a research agenda that investigates the disaster-commons relationship in two ways. First, I argue for the urgency of investigating how mature, extant commons face disaster events. I outline the example of a long-term squatted rurban space (23 years) in Barcelona and its attempt to build a self-organized climate defense strategy against wildfires in the Mediterranean. Second, I argue for tracing emergent disaster commoning experiments in their longer life cycles, identifying if and how they transform the communities and individuals implicated in their efforts. Here I describe a case from New Orleans after Hurricane Ida. I conclude with early directions for further research in disaster commoning, and sketch briefly its relevance to degrowth and post-growth disaster strategy.