Transformations towards sustainability: Responsible consumption and production, 7,5 credits

Course conveners and teachers:
Susanne Arvidsson, Business Administration, LUSEM
Ellen Hillbom, Economic History, LUSEM

Additional teachers:
Emily Boyd, LUCSUS
Lea Funischiller, LTH
Mina Islar, LUCSUS
Johan Jansson, LUSEM

This course revolves around the system transformations needed to achieve SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production in a globalized world. We provide students with perspectives from a variety of disciplines such as economics and business administration, innovation studies, development studies, etc. to understand the opportunities and challenges of the transformation process. We cover different levels of analysis from individuals and organizations to industries and global systems. Illustrations come from a variety of areas like food production and consumption, energy and mobility; from both the Global North and the Global South. The course is strongly based on readings and discussions and it gives an introduction to topics that the students can further explore.

The course is structured around five modules:

1. Conceptual foundations - Introduction to the course
We introduce the basic economic concepts we use throughout the course, for example, circular economy, sustainable and inclusive innovations. In addition, the students present their own research interests and expectations on the current course.

2. Micro perspective – Responsible consumers and producers
We discuss challenges for businesses of incorporating social and environmental sustainability in their activities. Students learn about current practices regarding transformation of production systems, sustainable value chains and sustainability reporting. Students also analyze different motivations for consumers to take in environmental and social issues when making consumer decisions. Environmental communication and the way marketing affects consumer behavior is also analyzed.
3. Meso perspective – Responsible industries, cities and communities
We introduce theories of transition to understand processes of industrial transformation towards sustainable futures. We focus on transformations of particular socio-technical systems (e.g. energy, mobility, food) involving simultaneously changes in producers, consumers and the socio-technical and economic system in which they are embedded. We introduce the students to economic geography discussions on regional transformations towards sustainability and the understanding that the context in which transformations take place matters for the direction and speed of the transformation.

4. Macro perspective – Responsible consumption and production in a globalized world –
We acknowledge that production and consumption systems are highly globalized and that changes in one company, industry, region or country can have important implications globally. We focus on understanding how trade and other global economic processes affect the possibilities of countries to address SDG12 through structural change. We also discuss global inequality in terms of outcomes of production and opportunities for consumption.

5. Workshop
The final module consists of a workshop where each students present their course paper. The topic of the course paper is flexible. It has to fall within the framework of the course topic, but each student can decide on a topic that corresponds with their research interests.

Participation and examination
The course is organized around lectures, seminars, readings and presentation of students own research. Before each seminar students are expected to read and prepare to discuss the course literature. Finally, the course ends with each student writing and presenting an individual course paper based on their own research interests. Participation in the various course activities is mandatory (minimum 80 percent). This is something to consider before applying to the course. Students are expected to read the course literature and participate actively in the discussions at each seminar. The written assignment consists of a course paper that is graded Pass/Fail.
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| Intro         | **Introduction**  
Introduction to course  
Presentation of doctoral students and their research project | 4 Nov  
9.15-12  
Zoom | Susanne Arvidsson,  
LUSEM  
Ellen Hillbom,  
LUSEM |
| Lecture 1     | **Micro perspective: Responsible consumers and producers** | 5 Nov  
14.15-16  
Zoom | Susanne Arvidsson,  
LUSEM |
| Seminar 1     | **Micro perspective: Sustainability reporting and corporate behaviour: Legitimacy, stakeholder and value perspectives** | 11 Nov 10.15-12  
Zoom | Susanne Arvidsson,  
LUSEM |
| Lecture 2     | **Micro perspective: Consumers and sustainability: Attitudes, behaviors and influence** | 12 Nov 10.15-12  
Zoom | Johan Jansson,  
LUSEM |
| Seminar 2     | **Micro perspective: Consumers and sustainability: Attitudes, behaviors and influence** | 18 Nov 10.15-12  
Zoom | Johan Jansson,  
LUSEM |
| Lecture 3     | **Meso perspective – Responsible industries, cities and communities** | 19 Nov 10.15-12  
Zoom | Mine Islar,  
LUCSUS |
|               | **Panel discussion**                                                    | 23 Nov 9.15-12  
Zoom | Mine Islar,  
LUCSUS |
| Seminar 3     | **Meso perspective – Cities and communities**                            | 25 Nov 10.15-12  
Zoom | Mine Islar,  
LUCSUS |
| Lecture 4     | **Meso perspective – Responsible industries and industrial transformations** | 26 Nov 10.15-12  
Zoom | Lea Funfschilling,  
LTH |
| Seminar 4     | **Meso perspective – Responsible industries and industrial transformations** | 2 Dec 10.15-12  
Zoom | Lea Funfschilling,  
LTH |
| Lecture 5     | **Macro perspective – Transition dynamics in a globalized world**         | 3 Dec 10.15-12  
Zoom | Emily Boyd,  
LUCSUS |
| Seminar 5     | **Macro perspective – Transition dynamics in a globalized world**         | 9 Dec 10.15-12  
Zoom | Emily Boyd,  
LUCSUS |
| Lecture 6     | **Macro perspective – Global inequality**                                | 10 Dec 10.15-12  
Zoom | Ellen Hillbom,  
LUSEM |
| Seminar 6     | **Macro perspective – Global inequality**                                | 16 Dec 10.15-12  
Zoom | Ellen Hillbom,  
LUSEM |
| Workshop      | **Course paper presentations**                                           | 14 Jan 9.15-15  
Zoom | Susanne Arvidsson,  
LUSEM  
Ellen Hillbom,  
LUSEM |