



# SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Aurora European Universities Alliance

Universität Innsbruck

Winter semester 2021/2022, course number: 800.725

**Field of study:** Interdisciplinary course  
**ECTS Credits:** 5  
**Level:** Master  
**Type of course:** elective, VU 2h  
(lecture with exercises)  
**Mode of delivery:** online

**Language :** English  
**Academic/course directory:**  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gina Moseley  
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[Gina.Moseley@uibk.ac.at](mailto:Gina.Moseley@uibk.ac.at)



## Course Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- think critically about their own lives and situations with respect to climate change and sustainability
- improve their knowledge of sustainability and climate change with respect to other cultures and be able to enter into discussion on the topic with people of other cultures
- understand the background and structure of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- improve their knowledge of sustainable earth systems, lifestyles and mobility with respect to SDGs and be able to reflect critically with respect to their own lifestyles
- engage with a real business and undertake a sustainability assessment for a business
- understand communication strategies with respect to communicating research to the public and implementing policy changes



## Contents

This Sustainability and Climate Change course will comprise five key components.

1. Introduction (22.10.2021)
2. Frontal lectures and small discussion groups on sustainability and climate change (29.10.2021; 5.11.2021; 12.11.2021; 19.11.2021)
3. Workshop on undertaking a sustainability assessment for a business (26.11.2021; 10.12.2021)
4. Seminars and discussions with external experts on communication and policy implementation (3.12.2021)
5. Synthesis and critical thinking of topics covered (17.12.2021)

All sessions are taught online on Zoom on Friday mornings between 0900-1230 (Central European Time) Participants will be admitted to a waiting room. Please ensure you can be identified by your full name otherwise you will not be admitted to the live session. Admittance to the live session begins 15 minutes before the start from 0845.



## Lecturing Staff

Simon Bunchuay-Peth (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Coosje Dijkstra (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Irma Eloff (Universiteit van Pretoria, South Africa/University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Vincenza Faraco (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Alice Elliott (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Robert Hafner (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Christa Henze (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Jordi Jaria (University of Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Clara Esteve Jordà (University of Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Laura Lieto (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Ani Melkonyan-Gottsckalk (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Dario Minervini (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Gina Moseley (Course director) (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Jaap Seidell (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)



# Sustainability & Climate Change



## External Speakers

Fergal Byrne

Prof. Georg Kaser

Kalkidan Legesse

Sumit Paul-Choudhury

Kristin Siegel

Diplomat/Politician TBC



## Assessment

Successful participation in the course is assessed with "mit Erfolg teilgenommen" (passed with success), unsuccessful participation is assessed with "ohne Erfolg teilgenommen" (without success).

The assessment consists of several parts (cooperation, regular contributions, exercises) some of which are compulsory.



## Assessment

Specific tasks to achieve a positive assessment:

After each lecture (0900-1030 or 1100-1230 CET), students are asked to:

- I. write down a summary (minimum 250 words) of what they have learned and add this to their participant folder on OLAT
  - II. make a note of open questions (these will be addressed in the synthesis on 17.12.2021) and add these to their participant folder on OLAT
- **These two exercises must be completed for at least 4 out of 8 lectures (29. Oct; 5. Nov; 12. Nov; 19. Nov)**
  - **This exercise must also be completed for the communication seminar (3. Dec)**
  - **Deadline 10. Dec**

Additionally, for the business sustainability workshop, students are asked to:

- Write 400 words about the business that they have been working on. Discuss how the BCorp Impact Assessment could help the business and identify where the business could authentically improve.
- **This exercise is compulsory. Deadline 14. Jan.**



## Beliefs Events and Values Inventory

Participants are invited to voluntarily take part in a BEVI survey (Beliefs, Events, and Values Inventory)

The online participation takes place right before and after the course and requires about 2x30 min

<https://thebevi.com/>





## Introduction to the course (icebreaker)

22.10.2021 – 0900-1230

Lecturers: Alice Elliott, Robert Hafner and Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria) plus additional staff from main lecture series

Learning Objectives:

- i) to consider ones own position with respect to climate change and sustainability and be able to put that in the context of other cultures
- ii) to be able to engage in discussion regarding climate change and sustainability with other cultures

Relevant SDGs: All



## Introduction to Sustainability Lecture 1 Orientation Towards Sustainability

29.10.2021 – 0900-1030

Lecturers: Christa Henze (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany) & Irma Eloff (Universiteit van Pretoria, South Africa/University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students will be able to understand the basic requirements of the concept of sustainable development.
- ii) Students will be able to amplify the interplay between the global relevance and local realities of sustainability.

Relevant SDGs: selected range of SDGs, according to pillars of sustainability



## Introduction to Sustainability Lecture 2

### Exploring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

29.10.2021 – 1100-1230

Lecturers: Irma Eloff (Universiteit van Pretoria, South Africa/University of Innsbruck, Austria) & Christa Henze (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students will be able to identify the comprehensive structure of Agenda 2030, e.g. 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.
- ii) Students will be able to detect (exemplary) interconnectedness and contradictions of the SDGs.

Relevant SDGs: All



## Sustainable Earth Systems Lecture 1

5.11.2021 – 0900-1030

Lecturers: Jordi Jaria & Clara Esteve Jordà (University of Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Learning Objectives:

- i) to identify the fundamental assumptions of hegemonic governance processes and institutions and its implications in terms of sustainability and justice (particularly with reference to women)
- ii) to assess its adequacy regarding to the governance in the Anthropocene and, particularly, climate action, bringing into the analysis climate justice issues (particularly with reference to women)

Relevant SDGs: 5, 10, 13, 16



## Sustainable Earth Systems Lecture 2

5.11.2021 – 1100-1230

Lecturers: Anne-Karen Hueske & Lavinia-Cristina Josif-Lazar (Copenhagen Business School)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students will be able to know different actions to climate change on different level of analysis (personal/consumer, organization/industry, policymaker)
- ii) Students will be able to reflect on scenarios related to different strategies responding to climate change

Relevant SDGs: 13 and related SDGs



## Sustainable Mobility Systems Lecture 1

12.11.2021 – 0900-1030

Lecturer: Ani Melkonyan-Gottschalk (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Understanding of foundational concepts: Develop a way of thinking in inter-disciplinary fields, finding out the linkages between environmental and socio-economic sciences with focus on urban systems and mobility, Circular Economy, Industrial Symbiosis, sustainability policy, innovation management, mitigation and adaptation strategies, resilient infrastructures (including energy and mobility).
- ii) Development of intercultural, multidisciplinary competences: Develop skills to work interdisciplinary and internationally. Integration of theoretical knowledge into practical application.

Relevant SDGs: 7, 9, 11, 12, 17



## Sustainable Mobility Systems Lecture 2

12.11.2021 – 1100-1230

Lecturer: Simon Bunchuay-Peth (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) students will get to know different case studies and sustainability challenges which cities (on different continents) face and understand the multi-scalar dimensions of these challenges
- ii) students will be able to transfer the concept of urban sustainability on different cases and situations and reflect on the question of how an ideal future city should look like.

Relevant SDGs: 3,9,10,11



## Sustainable Lifestyles Lecture 1

19.11.2021 – 0900-1030

Lecturers: Vincenza Faraco, Laura Lieto, Dario Minervini (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Assemblage thinking. Students will be able to identify and reconstruct the heterogeneous network of social and material entities performing sustainable practices in urban everyday life.
- ii) Critical thinking. Students will be able to detect contradictions in the chain of “orders of worths” informing sustainable lifestyles and practices in the urban context.

Relevant SDGs: 11, 12, 17





## Sustainable Lifestyles Lecture 2

19.11.2021 – 1100-1230

Lecturer: Jaap Seidell & Dr. Coosje Dijkstra (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)

### Learning Objectives:

Understanding of: the global syndemic; the role of food systems in relation to non-communicable diseases and malnutrition; the impact of food systems on biodiversity, climate change, environmental degradation; the concept of triple duty action policies; the concept of transition of food systems; the barriers for the transition to healthy and sustainable food systems; the role of the life-course approach to health; the critical role of the first 1000 days after conception; the role of determinants of health inequalities; the importance of health and food literacy.

Relevant SDGs: Nutrition is a vital precondition to achieve SDG's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 14, 16; Achieving SDG's 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17 supports nutrition



## Business Sustainability Workshop

26.11.2021 – 0900-1230

Lecturer: Alice Elliott (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students are able to apply a framework of comprehensive sustainability criteria to any business
- ii) Students are able to critically assess those criteria and the overall validity of the criteria

Relevant SDGs: All



## Communication Seminar

03.12.2021 – 0900-1230

Lecturer: Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students appreciate the challenges and difficulties faced by different stakeholders with respect to communicating climate change and sustainability to the public
- ii) Students appreciate the motivations of different stakeholders with respect to communicating climate change and sustainability to the public

Relevant SDGs: All



## Communication Seminar - Speakers



Fergal Byrne is the Executive Producer and Host of the podcast, The Sustainability Agenda. Fergal is a seasoned researcher, writer and interviewer. A long-time contributor to The Financial Times, he has written many reports for the Economist Group, and his writing has appeared in other newspapers including The Guardian, The Evening Standard and The LA Times. He also worked in research and production for British television (BBC and Channel 4). Fergal also hosts Inspiring Social Entrepreneurs, a popular podcast interviewing leading social entrepreneurs and innovators on the challenges and lessons building a successful social business.



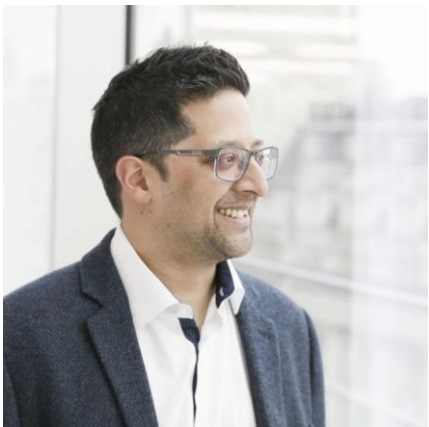
Kalkidan Legesse is a social entrepreneur who creates businesses aimed at doing social good. In 2015, she founded Sancho's Shop, a market place of ethical brands, operating as one of the largest solely ethical and sustainable fashion retailers in the United Kingdom. In 2020, she developed Shwap, a digital resale platform for sustainable fashion brands. Alongside ethical business, she advocates for anti-racist strategy and intersectional environmentalism through writing, social media and interactive study.



## Communication Seminar - Speakers



Kristin Siegel is Head of EMEA at Toniic, a network of around 500 high net worth individuals, family office, and foundation asset owners working in sustainable impact investing. Their purpose is to deepen their impact across the spectrum of capital and personal resources in more than 25 countries around the world.



Sumit Paul-Choudhury is a “Writer, editor, thinker and maker.” Trained as a physicist, Sumit turned his hand to journalism, working in London and New York, and spent fifteen years writing about finance and technology before returning to science in 2008. Between 2011 and 2017, Sumit edited New Scientist, the world’s most popular science weekly. In addition to the day job, he was editor-in-chief of Arc, an acclaimed digital publication dedicated to the future, between 2012 and 2014; and in 2016 he served as the founding creative director for New Scientist Live, the world’s most exciting festival of ideas and discovery.



# Sustainability & Climate Change



## Communication Seminar - Speakers



Prof. Georg Kaser is Vice President of the Austrian Science Fund and an IPCC Lead Author with research interests in ice and climate.



Diplomat/politician  
TBC



## Business Sustainability Workshop

10.12.2021 – 0900-1230

Lecturer: Alice Elliott (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students are able to apply a framework of comprehensive sustainability criteria to any business
- ii) Students are able to critically assess those criteria and the overall validity of the criteria

Relevant SDGs: All



## Synthesis

17.12.2021 – 0900-1230

Lecturers: Alice Elliott, Robert Hafner and Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria) plus additional staff from main lecture series

Learning Objectives:

- i) to reconsider one's own position with respect to climate change and sustainability and be able to put that in the context of other cultures
- ii) to be able to engage in discussion regarding climate change and sustainability with other cultures

Relevant SDGs: All