

## **Sub-theme session at the joint conference of the International Degrowth Research Network and the International Society for Ecological Economics in 2021**

The **Degrowth for an Ecological Economy - Building Alternative Livelihoods in times of ecological and political crisis** conference takes place from 5 - 8 July, organised by the University of Manchester. You can find more information on their website: <http://www.conferecare.manchester.ac.uk/events/degrowth2020/>

### **Session title: The Scottish Degrowth Commission: work, livelihoods and a 'just transition'**

This session will be convened by **Enough! Scotland**, a collective that exists to develop project ideas in response to the frames of degrowth and decolonisation.  
<https://enough.scot/>

#### **Main contacts:**

[Dr Svenja Meyerricks](#) & [Dr Ewan Mackenzie](#)

#### **The Session:**

'The Scottish Degrowth Commission' is a panel discussion to explore how degrowth ideas and practices can influence ideas to restore people's work and livelihoods in Scotland in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic fallout. The concept of a 'just transition', used by climate justice campaigns in relation to the pandemic and its aftermath, is useful when considering ways forward to restore and reconfigure people's livelihoods by redistributing work and shifting industries towards those compatible with ecological restoration and zero carbon practices. Scotland's political and social landscape differs significantly from the rest of the UK: constitutional issues (in particular the heterogeneous pro-independence campaign in the run-up to the referendum in 2014) have stood in contrast to the UK Government's austerity policies that have been further increasing the already high levels of inequality in Scotland. Environmental and social campaign groups are currently gearing up for a counter-summit to the planned COP26 summit in Glasgow in 2021.

In Scotland's social and political landscape, there could be more scope for a 'just' recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic fall out than in a UK-wide context, but there is work to be done: much of the independence discourse is still dominated by a pro-growth agenda. This is a unique point in time to inquire into degrowth and ecological economics in relation to economic and social recovery in Scotland. Our session aims to take stock of existing conversations, and also will turn up the dial around degrowth in Scotland by stimulating new conversation and debate.

We are putting out a call for papers from which three to four presentations will be accepted. We will then invite contributors to imagine joining a 'Scottish Degrowth Commission' to critique the premises used by the Scottish Government's Growth Commission, and to explore topics in relation to degrowth and a 'just' transition in Scotland, such as:

- What is essential work and how do we make it fair, ecologically sustainable and meaningful?
- The Scottish independence movement and lessons for degrowth: What have we learned? What's left to learn?
- Don't make Scotland great again - make it good enough! Sufficiency, sustaining livelihoods and post pandemic futures
- Indigenous livelihoods and post-development: crofting and food sovereignty
- Brexit and its challenges for migrant workers
- Feminist economies: care work, decolonisation, intersectionality and the future of work
- Resisting authoritarianism, building collectives and cooperatives
- Decentralisation, bioregionalism and (agro)ecologies of the land
- Learning from post-industrial communities

The session will be 90 minutes long, and we will invite 3-4 contributors to deliver 15 minute presentations, followed by questions and answers.

### **Submission guidelines:**

Please send abstracts to [svenja@enough.scot](mailto:svenja@enough.scot) and [ewan.mackenzie@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:ewan.mackenzie@newcastle.ac.uk) by the 31st of May 2021.

Contributions are welcomed from anyone with experience or ideas in the above topics. We invite the sharing of ideas in any form - creative and innovative forms of presentation are welcome. We will also have two additional online sessions: a warming up session where presenters can meet, and a follow-up 'meet and greet' session where participants will be invited after the main event.

Each presenter will be funded by Enough! to cover the conference fees in order to attend the online conference.

