Lectures 4 Future Summer 2026 (WU)

Climate Economics: Practical Relevance and Critical Reflection

Speaker: Dr. Mathias Kirchner

Date and Time: 11 March 2026, 14:00-16:00

Venue: Zoom (online)

https://wu-ac-at.zoom.us/j/68809035215?pwd=xoKRIK9q9fl1lmNbaABXIwoIVxv33b.1
Meeting-ID: 688 0903 5215
Kenncode: 076070

Abstract: The aim of this talk is to show that knowing about climate change economics is important because it influences real world politics and comes with a lot of uncertainties/caveats. First, the lecture will look at the importance of climate change to economics and vice versa. Then it will provide a critical discussion of the role of climate change economics with respect to methodological issues and policy implications.

Bio: Since 2018, Mathias Kirchner has been a senior scientist and ecological economist at the Centre of Global Change and Sustainability (gWN) at BOKU University, where he co-leads the Foresight Research Group (https://futures.boku.ac.at/). He began his academic career at BOKU, completing a PhD in Agricultural and Environmental Economics between 2011 and 2015 with focus on integrated land use modelling. Following a three-year period at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), with focus on environmental macro-economic modelling, he returned to BOKU in 2018 to specialize in transformative sustainability sciences.

Kirchner's current research combines modelling and stakeholder knowledge integration methods to identify socio-ecological transformation pathways. He has also led or co-led numerous research projects. His most recently concluded projects have focused on evaluating climate policy, particularly carbon tax reforms and modelling uncertainties, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). His current projects focus on aspects of transformation pathways relating to just transition and growth independence (https://agrowthpaths.boku.ac.at/).

CLIMATE ECONOMICS: PRACTICAL RELEVANCE AND CRITICAL REFLECTION

WITH MATHIAS KIRCHNER

MARCH 11 | WEDNESDAY
14:00-16:00 CEST

ACCESS THE ONLINE LECTURE HERE

MEETING-ID: 688 0903 5215

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A History of Maps in the Conservation and Environmentalist Movements

Speaker: Nicolás Martínez Heredia

Date and Time: 21 April 2026, 18:00-20:00

Venue: Hybrid: TC.2.02, WU (in-person) and Zoom (online)

https://wu-ac-at.zoom.us/j/61001099247?pwd=OBRbH2vR5Ckp5yTrnoINmjXfQTKQja.1
Meeting-ID: 610 0109 9247
Kenncode: 314280

Abstract: This lecture examines the historical role of cartographic representation in shaping conservation discourse and environmental advocacy. Drawing on the argument by historians Denis Wood and John Fels, who explain that maps are never mere representations but storytelling instruments, we explore how conservation cartographies have constructed narrative tropes about 'nature' itself. We will trace how maps have functioned as epistemic and political tools in environmentalist movements, analyzing key historical moments: early wilderness mapping that portrayed nature as pristine and separate from human presence, colonial conservation cartographies that erased indigenous land relationships, participatory counter-mapping that challenges extractivist views, and contemporary digital cartographies in climate science communication. The lecture will explore the aesthetic power of environmental maps and their role in shaping scientific and public discourse. It will offer students interested in history, geography, design, and ecology insights into the decisive role of maps in our relationship with the natural world, particularly in our moment of crisis.

Bio: Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Nicolás Martínez Heredia is now a Research Assistant and lecturer at the Research Unit of Cartography at the Technische Universität Wien. He holds a Bachelor's in History, as well as a Master's degree in Geography from Universidad de los Andes, graduating *cum laude* in both programs. In 2024, he completed the International Cartography Master's program with distinction.

DEEP SUSTAINABILITY: CONTEMPORARY DEBATES ON ANIMISM AND THE DECOLONIZATION OF SCIENCE

WITH FLORENTINE MAIER

MAY 13 | WEDNESDAY
12:30-14:30 CEST

IN-PERSON
D5 0.001
WU

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Deep Sustainability: Contemporary Debates on Animism and the Decolonization of Science

Speaker: Dr Florentine Maier

Date and Time: 13 May, 12:30-14:30

Venue: D5 0.001, WU (in-person)

Abstract: Numerous researchers from the fields of ecology, social sciences, economics, and the humanities identify the dualism between nature and culture, with its view of sustainability exclusively from the perspective of human benefit, as the root cause of the multiple crises of the anthropocene.

Current research findings from disciplines as diverse as animal and plant ethology and anthropology open up alternative perspectives on the relationship between humans and the other-than human world. At the same time, social and economic sciences are calling for the decolonization of knowledge and research methods. Dominant Western knowledge systems are to be questioned and space created for plural perspectives, especially indigenous knowledge systems based on a relational worldview in accord with other-than-human forms of life.

This lecture will trace the central lines of these current debates and develop a proposal for a fruitful coexistence of different modes of knowing.

Bio: Florentine Maier's research focuses on the impact of democratic and business-oriented forms of organizing, as well as the possibilities of integrating both to strengthen organizational and inter-organizational governance. Her research primarily centers on cooperatives and non-profit organizations. Within the Civic Life of Cities Lab, she investigates civil society in cities. She teaches students and practitioners on general and non-profit management topics, currently with a particular focus on sustainability transformation and psychosocial resilience in the face of multiple and ongoing crises.

Prior to her habilitation in business administration (2018), she completed a doctoral degree in social and economic sciences with a focus on human resource management, as well as a master's degree in business administration and Chinese language at WU Vienna. She also studied sinology and Chinese language at the University of Vienna and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen University (People's Republic of China) and was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Stanford University.

A HISTORY OF MAPS IN THE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTALIST MOVEMENTS

WITH NICOLÁS MARTÍNEZ HEREDIA

APRIL 21 | TUESDAY
18:00-20:00 CEST

HYBRID EVENT!

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