

New interdisciplinary courses



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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

Fall semester 2023

Where and when?

Climate Change Mitigation

Date: Start date 29/9/2023

Time: Friday, 10:15 to 12:00 (Every week)

ECTS: 6

Registrations via ILIAS

Registration Period: 15/8/2023 – 06/10/2023

Commons, Social Reproduction, and the City

Date: Start date: 19/9/2023

Time: Tuesday, 12:15 – 14:00 (Every week)

ECTS: 5

Registrations via KSL

Deadline Period: 14/8/2023 - 27/8/2023

MCID Colloquium: what is pandemic preparedness?

Date: Start date: 20/09/2023

Time: Wednesday, 10:15 to 12:00 (every week in the 1st half of the semester; Final session 3-4 hours in the 2nd half, date to be determined)

ECTS: 2

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: 17/7/2023 – 20/9/2023

Climate Change Mitigation (KSL Number 472496)

Lecturer: Sebastian Mader-Eiler, Department of Social Sciences

Anthropogenic climate change is the most demanding challenge humanity has to face in the ongoing 21st century and beyond. Since “The Limits to Growth”, the seminal report of the Club of Rome in the early 1970s, global concern for anthropogenic climate change (ACC), and its impacts on ecosystems and humanity has steadily increased – so has the awareness to reconcile human development with environmental protection. Thus, it was only recently that the world community has agreed upon the limitation of global warming to well below 2 °C relative to preindustrial levels in the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. To prevent dangerous climate change fast and forceful measures of mitigation are inevitable. However, limiting carbon emissions to current levels or even abating them to be in line with the climate target seems a tremendous challenge in the light of steadily increasing global carbon emissions. Hence, this seminar deals with the description and explanation of ACC, its impacts on societies, and various aspects of its mitigation.

Commons, Social Reproduction, and the City (KSL Number 483856)

Lecturer: Deniz Ay, Institute of Geography

This seminar explores different meanings, functions, and organizations of commons as an alternative institution beyond private property and market-based economic systems. Commons is a self-governance system that facilitates sustainable use and maintenance of resources. Although the commons is a self-organized community-based institution that preexisted the capitalist mode of production, there is growing scholarly and policy interest in the concept due to the rollback of the state with austerity measures and the limited capacity of the markets to ensure sustainable resource use. This seminar uses the lens of social reproduction theory as an analytical framework to discuss the condition (availability, accessibility, quality) of the natural and human-made resources in cities that are essential to maintain "life" on a daily basis and intergenerationally. Using a resource-based approach, we will discuss the institutional, political, and economic potential of the commoning social reproduction as a mechanism for sustainability transitions.

MCID Colloquium: what is pandemic preparedness? (KSL Number 485489)

Lecturer: Multiple lecturers from the Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases

The interactive course seeks to answer this question from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Seven sessions will consist of a 45 minute seminar from a subject expert from the MCID, to be followed by a 45 minute practical exercise (computer or discussion-based). The seven sessions will cover aspects such as, but not limited to: Microbiology - can we predict which pathogens might cause a pandemic? Neglected Diseases - are there currently neglected diseases that pose a pandemic threat? Epidemiology - how can we analyse the effect of intervention measures on disease spread? Immunity - how can a new and effective vaccine be developed and tested quickly? Economics - how can critical supply chains be maintained in a pandemic? Patient-Focused Research - how can healthcare services be optimally delivered during a pandemic? Society and Law - how can scientific findings best be translated into policy during a pandemic emergency? What are some of the ethical dilemmas that might need to be considered?