

## LESS IS MORE: Imagining a good life beyond growth

09.11.2023 H14:30-18:45

10.11.2023 H10:30-18:00

### Biographies

**Maria Böhmer** is Head of Research, Science, and Innovation at Istituto Svizzero since September 2021. She studied History and German Literature at the Humboldt-University in Berlin and at Sapienza University in Rome. She completed the PhD programme 'History and Civilization' at the European University in Florence and received her PhD in 2013 with a thesis on 19th-century European Psychiatry. From 2014 to 2021, she was a researcher and lecturer in history of medicine and science at the University of Zurich. She was also a lecturer in Medical Humanities at the University of Freiburg (CH), and she participated to the interdisciplinary 'Center History of Knowledge' (ZGW) of the University of Zurich and ETH as associated researcher, speaker of associates and member of the enlarged directorship.

**Viviana Asara** is Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in Sociology at the Department of Humanities at the University of Ferrara and a 'research affiliate' at the Institute for Multi-Level Governance and Development of the Vienna University of Economics and Business, where she was based until 2021. Her research interests include the study of social-ecological transformation processes from a sociological and political ecology standpoint. This includes the study of democracy, participation, conflict and governance processes; culture of sustainability, critical and environmental political theory and degrowth; social policies and policies for the ecological transition in different fields. Her work has appeared in international journals such as *Environment and Planning C*, *Environmental Politics*, *Environmental Policy and Governance*, *Environmental Values*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Sustainability Science*, *Democratic Theory*, *Partecipazione e Conflitto*, *Culture della Sostenibilità* etc. Her books include the *Handbook of Critical Environmental Politics* (Edward Elgar, 2022) co-edited with L. Pellizzoni and E. Leonardi, and the monograph *Democrazia senza crescita: L'ecologia politica del movimento degli Indignados* (Aracne, 2020).

**Viktoria Cologna** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University, supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Her research focuses on public opinion of science, trust in science, and the determinants of individual and collective action on climate change. She is also the co-founder of Degrowth Switzerland.

**Christina Plank** is Senior Scientist at the Institute for Development Research at the Department of Sustainable Agricultural Systems at BOKU. She coordinates the Master's programme 'Climate Change and Societal Transformation'. Christina Plank studied International Cultural and Business Studies at the University of Passau, holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Vienna and works on political ecology, governance and social-ecological transformation with a focus on critical agrarian studies. She is one of the co-editors of the book *Degrowth & Strategy: how to bring about social-ecological transformation*.

**Matthias Schmelzer** is an economic historian and transformation researcher. He is currently substitute Professor for Social-Ecological Transformation at the University of Flensburg. He is author of the award-winning *The Hegemony of Growth: The OECD and the Making of the Growth Paradigm* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), co-edited *Degrowth in Movement(s): Exploring pathways for transformation* and is co-author of *The Future Is Degrowth: A Guide to a World beyond Capitalism* (Verso, 2022).

**Julia Steinberger** researches Ecological Economics at the University of Lausanne. After a PhD in experimental physics, Professor Steinberger moved to the interdisciplinary areas of industrial ecology and ecological economics, first as a postdoc at the universities of Lausanne and Zurich, then in Vienna at the Institute of Social Ecology, and subsequently as a professor at the University of Leeds in the UK. Her research examines the connections between resource use (energy and materials, greenhouse gas emissions) and societal performance (economic activity and human wellbeing). From 2017 to 2022, she was the recipient of a Leverhulme Research Leadership Award for her research project 'Living Well Within Limits', investigating how universal human well-being might be achieved within planetary boundaries. Since 2023, she co-leads the EU ERC Synergy grant 'REAL- A Post-Growth Deal' on post-growth societies.

**Ugo Bardi** has been teaching Physical Chemistry at the University of Florence, in Italy, up to 2022. He is currently a member of the Club of Rome, of the World Academy of Art and Science, and of other scientific international organizations. He is active in research in the theme of sustainability, climate science, and system dynamics. He is the author of numerous papers on sustainability, the most recent one being *How transpiration by forests and other vegetation determines alternate moisture regimes* (Global Change Biology, 2023). He is the author of several books, including *The Limits to Growth Revisited* (Springer 2011), *Extracted* (Chelsea Green, 2014), *The Seneca Effect* (Springer 2017), *Before Collapse* (Springer 2019) and *The Empty Sea* (Springer 2021). He is the editor and an author of the recent book *Limits and Beyond* (Exapt Press, 2022). His books have been translated into Chinese, Italian, French, German, Spanish, Rumanian, and Serbian. He is active in the dissemination of scientific results mainly with his blog *The Sunflower Paradigm* ([www.thesunflowerparadigm.blogspot.com](http://www.thesunflowerparadigm.blogspot.com)).

**Mamphela Ramphela** is a world-renowned figure with an outstanding career as an activist, medical doctor, academic, businesswoman, and political thinker. She has been Co-President of the Club of Rome since October 2018 and Global Brand Ambassador of ReimagineSA since 2016. Previously, she served as a Managing Director at the World Bank from 2000 to 2004 and as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, South Africa, from 1996 to 2000. She obtained a medical degree from the University of Natal in 1968, where she co-founded the Black Consciousness Movement with Steve Biko and became involved in the South African Students Association (SASO). She also holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cape Town, and a Bachelor of Commerce in Administration from the University of South Africa.

**Matteo Villa** is Associate Professor in Economic Sociology at University of Pisa, he teaches Sociology of Organization, Comparative Welfare Systems and Ecology of Socio-Economic Systems. Research topics concern the ecological crisis and transformation of welfare systems, the comparative analysis of social and labor policies and socio-economic exclusion processes, as well as the organization and participation studies. Research approaches integrate pragmatism and cybernetics, in particular through systemic action-research methods, which are implemented also for teaching, training and consulting with groups, non-profit and public organizations.

**Margaret Haderer** (PhD, Political Science, University of Toronto) is a university assistant (post doc) at TU Vienna's Faculty of Architecture and Planning. She works on urban experimentation, theories of socio-ecological transformation, (urban) climate governance, post-crisis city (re-)building. Her recent publications include the article *Experimental Climate Governance as Organized Irresponsibility* (2023) and the monograph *Rebuilding Cities and Citizens* (2023).

**Roberto De Vogli** is an Associate Professor in Global Health and Psychology of Power at the University of Padova. He is also Contract Professor in Social Epidemiology at the School of Medicine, University of Bologna. Previously, he worked as an Associate Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Michigan and Department of Public Health, University of California Davis. He also worked as Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London. His education includes a PhD and a Master in (Global) Public Health (minor in Public Policy) at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Prof. De Vogli worked internationally and consulted for UN agencies such as the World Health Organization and the World Bank as well as international non-governmental organizations in Guatemala, Mexico, Russia, Tanzania and Vietnam. He is a former member of the Globalization and Health Knowledge Network of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health, and UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Peer Review College. He is a member of the Alliance for Sustainability and Prosperity (ASAP) addressing the need to reorient economies and societies around the aim of promoting sustainable wellbeing. Prof. De Vogli is the author of numerous publications in the fields of socioeconomic determinants of health, globalization, and health and ecological economics.

**Manuela Zechner** is a researcher, facilitator and activist working at the intersections of earthcare and ecofeminism, social movements and commons infrastructures, micropolitics and subjectivity. She's co-founder of the Common Ecologies school, produces the Earthcare Fieldcast and builds the Future Archive, edits and writes as well as facilitating co-research processes. In 2021 she published *Commoning Care&Collective Power: Childcare Commons and the Micropolitics of Municipalism*.

**Oxana Lopatina** is a PhD student in environmental sustainability and wellbeing at the University of Ferrara. Informed by the degrowth, decolonial and Indigenous perspectives, her research focuses on the worldview changes needed for systemic transformation. As an activist, Oxana has also been involved in a range of educational and arts projects for system change.

**Timothée Parrique** is a researcher in ecological economics at Lund University in Sweden. Expert in degrowth, he is the author of *Ralenti ou périr, l'économie de la décroissance* (2022), a book based on his PhD thesis *The political economy of degrowth* (2019).

**Irmi Seidl**, Economist, is Head of the Research Unit Economic and Social Sciences at the Swiss Research Institute WSL ([http://www.wsl.ch/fe/wisoz/index\\_EN](http://www.wsl.ch/fe/wisoz/index_EN)), adjunct professor at the University of Zurich and teaching Ecological Economics at the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. She holds a Master in Science Economiques of Paris I, a graduation in Science Economiques of Aix-en-Provence, and has done her pre-degree studies in Munich. She earned her PhD at University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. In her career she has extensively worked on topics of Ecological and Sustainable Economics (e.g. Economics of land use and settlement dynamics; nature conservation and biodiversity; alpine agriculture in peripheral areas of Switzerland, collective financing of renewable energies, sufficiency in municipalities, Net-Zero transformation) mostly with inter- and transdisciplinary approaches. Since more than a decade she has worked on post-growth society and since recently she has focussed on the topic post-growth work.

**Francesca Gabbriellini** is PhD student in contemporary history at the University of Bologna currently working on the Italian cooperative movement in the 70s-80s crossing consumption and environmental history. She has been visiting scholar at Centre de Sociologie des Organisations - Sciences Po Paris working on cooperatives and consumers' movements in the French panorama in a comparative historical perspective. She is currently member of the GKN Solidarity Research Group, an independent interdisciplinary network of researchers born in 2021 to support the former GKN workers' struggle in Florence and their ecological conversion process from below. Among her latest publications: Massimiliano Andretta, Francesca Gabbriellini, Paola Imperatore, *Un ambientalismo di classe. Il caso GKN* in 'SOCIOLOGIA DEL LAVORO' 165/2023, pp 133-154, DOI: 10.3280/SL2023-165007 and AA.VV, *Un piano per il futuro della fabbrica di Firenze. Dall'ex GKN alla Fabbrica socialmente integrata*, Fondazione Feltrinelli, 2022. URL: <https://fondazionefeltrinelli.it/schede/ebook-piano-ex-gkn/>

**Giulio Mattioli** is postdoctoral research fellow at TU Dortmund University (Germany). He is the author of over 40 journal articles on sustainable transport and was contributing author to the IPCC AR6 WGIII report.

**Leonard Creutzburg** is a postdoc and project leader at the University of Zurich. He studied Political Science and Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy at Goethe University Frankfurt (Main) and the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Subsequently, he worked as a parliamentarian employee for the President of the Austrian National Council in Vienna. From 2018 to 2021, Leonard was a research assistant at ETH Zurich at the Natural Research Policy Group (NARP) and completed his PhD in Economic Geography (Dr. sc. nat.) at the University of Zurich. In his research as a postdoc, Leonard focuses on sufficiency and degrowth. In his role as a project leader, he especially deals with the reduction of air travel at the University of Zurich.

**Michel Cardito** is Co-President of Movimento Decrescita Felice since 2015, current member of the Organizing Circle of the International Degrowth Network; Medical Doctor, GP; Communities Facilitator and Social Movements organizer; Student at the Online Master's Degree in 'Degrowth: Ecology, Economics and Policy' at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

**Anastasia Linn** is a co-founding member of Degrowth Switzerland (DS), an association dedicated to improving wellbeing through fostering discussion of postgrowth possibilities within Switzerland. In addition to leading the 'Exploring Postgrowth Finance' project at DS and contributing to the recently founded International Degrowth Network (IDN), she is pursuing further studies in Psychology, Organizational Behavior, and Political Science at the University of Zurich. She is also affiliated with the Center for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth, a research and training organization that supports wealth holders and their advisors in moving resources towards impact.

**Paola Imperatore** is a researcher at the Department of Political Science, University of Pisa, and works on environmental justice, worker ecology and climate politics. She co-directs, together with Ilenia Iengo, the column 'Italian Political Ecologies' for the blog *Undisciplined Environment*. She recently published *Territori in lotta. Capitalismo globale e giustizia ambientale nell'era della crisi climatica* (Meltemi, 2023) and, together with Emanuele Leonardi, *L'era della giustizia climatica. Prospettive Politiche per una transizione ecologica dal basso* (Orthotes Editrice, 2023).

**Miriam Tola** teaches at John Cabot University in Rome. Her research explores the intersections between gender, race and the cultural politics of the environment. She is the co-editor of the book *Ecologie della cura* (2021) and the *Routledge Handbook of Ecomedia Studies* (2023). She is the co-applicant of COMMONPATHS, a large interdisciplinary project founded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, exploring the urban commons as a pathway toward post-growth societies.

**Marzio Chirico** was born in Tempio Pausania, Sardinia, and graduated from the master's program in Clinical Psychology at Sapienza University in Rome. He attended and passed the master's degree in Sport Psychology in 2023. She subsequently qualifies in July 2023 and enters the Order of Psychologists and Psychologists in September of the same year. A spokesperson for the Fridays For Future movement, he has been militating among its ranks since the very first strike he organized in his hometown.

**Onofrio Romano** is associate professor of Post-Development Sociology in the Dept. of Humanities of the University of Rome 3 (Italy). His research ranges over social theory, post-modernity, degrowth, Mediterranean societies. Among his recent works: *Towards a society of degrowth* (Routledge 2020), *The sociology of knowledge in a time of crisis* (Routledge 2018).

**Carlos Alvarez Pereira** is Vice President of The Club of Rome and one of the Hub Directors in the UNESCO BRIDGES Sustainability Science Coalition. He is an Aerospace Engineer and initiated his career as a lecturer and researcher in systems dynamics at the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM), to get later engaged for many years as an entrepreneur in the digital sector in Spain, Switzerland, France and Germany. He created and chaired until 2020 the Innaxis Foundation to develop research on complex systems and responsible innovation. He is now devoted to promoting the emergence of a civilizational shift towards equitable wellbeing within a healthy biosphere. Carlos advises the UNESCO Chair of Global Understanding for Sustainability at the University of Jena, and the International Bateson Institute, as well as the Sweet Edge project on transition to 100% renewables in Switzerland. He is a member of the Scientific Council of the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT), and a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS). He lectures on Circular Economy at EPFL (Switzerland).

Wi-Fi



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