

LERU Doctoral Summer School 2027: Approaching Climate Change - Different Perspectives and Methods

Dates: 13 June-18 June 2027

Location: Lund University, Sweden

Theme

Climate change is not only a scientific and technological challenge but also a societal, political and cultural transformation process. Addressing it requires interdisciplinary perspectives, methodological pluralism and critical reflection on the role of universities and researchers in shaping sustainable futures.

This Doctoral Summer School explores how different disciplines approach climate change and sustainability transitions, with particular attention to urban governance, sustainable consumption, degrowth, energy communities, industrial transformation and inner–outer dimensions of sustainability. By combining theoretical reflection, interactive learning formats, games, field visits and panel discussions, the programme creates space for doctoral researchers to critically examine assumptions, methods and normative positions embedded in their own work.

The course is designed as an intellectually challenging and collaborative learning environment in line with the LERU Doctoral Summer School concept of fostering creative, critical and autonomous intellectual development

Objectives

The summer school aims to:

1. Facilitate interdisciplinary exchange on climate change and sustainability transitions across natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities.
2. Introduce participants to a range of analytical, methodological and systems-oriented approaches to understanding and addressing climate change and sustainability transitions
3. Encourage reflection on the wider implications of sustainability transformations, including technical, social and political dimensions, and their relevance to participants' own research.
4. Create lasting networks among doctoral researchers across LERU and CE7 universities.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the summer school, participants will be able to:

- Compare how different disciplines frame and approach complex challenges related to climate change and sustainability transitions.
- Identify how different analytical, methodological and systems-oriented approaches can contribute to understanding climate and sustainability challenges.
- Reflect on the interactions between technical, social and political dimensions of sustainability transformations and relate these to their own research
- Relate interdisciplinary perspectives to their own doctoral research and communicate their research across different academic fields.

Participants who complete the required preparation and attend the full programme may receive 3 ECTS credits, subject to recognition by their home institution.

The course corresponds to 3 ECTS credits:

- 1.5 ECTS for active participation during the summer school week
- 1.5 ECTS for preparatory work

Preparation includes:

- Reading 5 selected academic publication or the related popular science publications (each paper has a related popular science publication and the participants can choose to read either the academic paper or the popular science publication)

Participant Requirements

The summer school is open to doctoral researchers from LERU and CE7 universities.

Participants must:

- Be registered doctoral candidates at a LERU or CE7 university.
- Participate in the preparatory work.
- Attend the full programme.
- Actively engage in discussions, group work and field visits.

Provisional Schedule

Sunday 13 June

Arrival and check-in

Monday 14 June – Framing Climate Change Research

Morning:

Welcome and introduction

Interactive group activity linking research themes to urban space

Keynote lecture

Afternoon:

Serious games: participants play and reflect upon *1.5 Degree Game* and *Naturescapes*

Tuesday 15 June – Action research and stakeholder involvements

Reflection and discussion around mobile research lab approach

Seminar: Action research and stakeholder involvement

Field visit Malmö

Wednesday 16 June Linking Inner and Outer Transformation (will require some reading as preparation)

Sustainability and climate work have invested substantial effort in addressing the external dimensions of socio-environmental change, including ecosystems, economic systems, governance structures, policies, patterns of social behaviour, and institutions. Comparatively less attention has been given to the inner dimensions that shape these external realities—including our individual and collective beliefs, values, worldviews, and the capacities through which these are formed and expressed. To address this gap, this session explores how these inner dimensions interact with technological change, human behaviour, collective action, and broader societal and systemic processes to support transformation.

Thursday 17 June – Futuring industrial transformations

Participants will jointly explore pathways for industrial decarbonisation and alternative futures. Drawing on research on industrial transformation and futures studies, the day will combine interactive discussions in a workshop with a study visit in the Skåne region.

Friday 18 June – Reflection on crossing disciplinary boundaries

Reflective workshop: *Crossing disciplinary boundaries: What has changed in how I see my research?*

Participants revisit their own doctoral research in light of the perspectives and approaches encountered during the week. Through individual reflection, interdisciplinary group discussion and research mapping, participants consider what new perspectives have challenged, reinforced or complicated their understanding of their research problem, methods and assumptions.

Farewell, end by lunchtime.

Venue: Most of the teaching will be held in Lund city centre, in venue AF-borgen.

Core Organising Team***Academic Lead***

Professor Jenny Palm

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Co-organiser

Associate Professor Yuliya Voytenko Palgan

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Core Faculty Contributors

Prof Oksana Mont, IIIEE

Dr Vera Sadovska, IIIEE

Dr Jessica Richter, IIIEE

Prof Christine Wamsler, LUCSUS

Associate Prof Jamil Khan, IMES

Prof Max Åhman, IMES

Dr Alexandra Nikoleris, IMES

Administrative coordination will be supported by Lund University's Division of Global Engagement (Isabelle Nilsson, leru@global.lu.se).

Approaching climate change: different perspectives and methods

13 June-18 June 2027: Programme

Sunday 13 June

Arrival

Monday 14 June: Framing Climate Change Research

Time	Content	Coordinating teacher
9.00-9.45	Welcome, introduction to the course Round of presentation	Jenny Palm and Yuliya Voytenko Palgan
9.45-10.45	Walking activity in Lund: “Climate perspectives in place” Walk in mixed groups	Jenny Palm and Yuliya Voytenko Palgan
10.45-11.00	Reflection and methodological linking	Jenny and Yuliya
11.00-12.00	Lecture/presentation/Reflection Per Mickwitz, LU vice vice-chancellor for Sustainability	Jenny and Yuliya
12.00-13.00	LUNCH	
13.00-16.00	Environmental Serious Game – Naturescape game AND/OR 1,5 degree (Jessica Richter, Matthias Lehner)	Yuliya
18.00	Dinner (tbc)	

Tuesday 15 June: Action research and stakeholder involvements

Time	Content	Coordinating teacher
9.00-10.00	Mobile research lab approach (Yuliya)	Jenny and Yuliya
10.00-10.15	Break	
10.15-11.00	Seminar: Action research and stakeholder involvement (Jenny)	Jenny and Yuliya
11.10	Bus to Malmö	Jenny and Yuliya
11.30-12.30	Lunch at Spill in Malmö	Jenny and Yuliya
12.40	Bus	
13.00-16.00	Sustainable Urban Mobility: Planning and Experimentation for Change (Site visits: The Summer Street & The Summer Square)	Jenny and Yuliya

	(Björn Wickenberg, the City of Malmö)	
16.00	Bus back to Lund (or stay in Malmö for those who want to)	Jenny and Yuliya

Wednesday 16 June: Linking Inner and Outer Transformation

Time	Content	Coordinating teacher
9.00-9.45	Introduction and check-in	Christine Wamsler
10.00-11.15	Scientific rationale and grounding: Linking inner and outer transformation from a sustainability perspective	Christine Wamsler
11.15-12.00	Individual and group work	Christine Wamsler
12.00-13.00	LUNCH	
13.00-16.00	Interactive workshop: A sequence of exercises and guided reflections to deepen understanding	Christine Wamsler

Preparations

Please bring your laptop and headphones to the session. There will be time for individual work, during which everyone will engage with and prepare certain aspects individually. These will then be discussed in small and larger groups and further explored through follow-up exercises.

In addition, please read the following articles before we meet in person. Note: You can choose to read the original academic articles, the related popular science articles, or both.

1. IPBES (2024). Transformative change assessment report - Thematic assessment report on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). O'Brien, K., Garibaldi, L., and Agrawal, A. (Eds.). IPBES secretariat. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11382215>

→ **Related popular science article:** [The UN's Quiet Admission: Saving Nature Requires Changing Ourselves](#)

2. Ives, C. D., Schäpke, N., Woiwode, C., & Wamsler, C. (2023). IMAGINE sustainability: integrated inner-outer transformation in research, education and practice. *Sustainability Science* 2023 18:6, 18(6), 2777–2786. <https://doi.org/10.1007/S11625-023-01368-3>.

→**Related popular science article:**

[From Fragmentation to Framework: How IMAGINE is Helping a Field to Find Itself](#)

3. Wamsler, C., Bristow, J. At the intersection of mind and climate change: integrating inner dimensions of climate change into policymaking and practice. *Climatic Change* **173**, 7 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-022-03398-9>.

→**Related popular science article:** [Insight: What the Mind Has to do with the Climate Crisis](#)

4. Wamsler, C., Osberg, G., Osika, W., Herndersson, H., & Mundaca, L. (2021). Linking internal and external transformation for sustainability and climate action: Towards a new research and policy agenda. *Global Environmental Change*, 71, 102373. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.GLOENVCHA.2021.102373>

→**Related popular science article:** [The Map We Needed. The First Systematic Review of Inner-Outer Transformation](#)

5. Wamsler, C. (2026). The Seeds We Sow: From Polycrisis and -Isms to Interbeing and Societal Transformation. *Journal of Awareness-Based Systems Change*, 6(1), 92–140. <https://doi.org/10.47061/jasc.v6i1.11335>

→**Related popular science article:** [The-essence-of-inner-transformation-for-sustainability](#)

Thursday 17 June: Futuring industrial transformations

Time	Content	Coordinating teacher
9.00-	TBD	Jamil Khan
		Jamil Khan
12.00-13.00	LUNCH	
13.00-16.00	TBD	Jamil Khan
18.00	Dinner (tbc)???	Jenny and Yuliya

Friday 18 June: Reflection on crossing disciplinary boundaries

Time	Content	Coordinating teacher
9.00-12.00	Reflective workshop: Crossing disciplinary boundaries: What has changed in how I see my research?	Jenny and Yuliya

12.00	Farewell	
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