

40th Development Days of ATM
Toulouse, June 4, 5, 6, 2025

Ecological Economics and the Southern Countries: what's at stake?

Recent decades have seen the rise of ecological issues in development models, policies and studies, especially in particularly vulnerable regions. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, water pollution, water stress, socio-environmental conflicts and health risks are today of the utmost urgency. These challenges are having devastating effects on the countries of the South, which are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, even though they contribute less to greenhouse gas emissions than the countries of the North (Larrère, 2015). These countries are also characterized by their great heterogeneity, making it necessary to examine their different socio-ecological realities.

At the same time, we have to acknowledge the considerable and unprecedented acceleration in resource extraction and consumption rates, as well as the geographical expansion of massively destructive land-use practices that have characterized contemporary global capitalism since the industrial revolution. Moreover, contemporary environmental challenges are helping to reconfigure the action contours of multiple development actors at international, national and local levels (international organizations, multilateral, bilateral and decentralized cooperation, States and their various institutions, non-governmental organizations, private enterprise, civil society organizations), whose logics may diverge, even strongly. Ecological issues are thus likely to come up against different challenges (increasing employment, improving incomes and living conditions), with the interests of different social groups sometimes conflicting. Hierarchies, inequalities and relationships of domination can therefore affect their implementation.

Ecological economics, including several trends such as socio-ecological economics, not only addresses contemporary environmental challenges but also provides analytical insights into a wide range of specialized fields, including environmental sciences, sociology, anthropology, biology and, above all, is central and unifying in interdisciplinary theoretical and applied research dealing with sustainability issues (Petit et al., 2022 ; Spash, 2024).

Ecological economics draws on institutional economics (AFEP, 2023) to understand the diversity of economic systems and dynamics, and to better grasp the role of institutions in economic life. It can be applied at different scales. Ecological macroeconomics is concerned with aggregate dynamics on the scale of a country or group of countries, with particular attention paid to trends, dynamics and the historical and social context, in the field of society-nature relations, pioneered by Georgescu-Roegen (1971), Meadows et al. (1972), Boulding (1973), Daly (1977), Passet (1979) and Sachs (1980). Ecological mesoeconomics is concerned with a scale (or level of aggregation) intermediate between macro and micro, aiming to account for the plurality of socio-productive systems embedded in particular sectors of activity and territories, as well as their operating and evolutionary logics. This involves identifying institutions, actors, regularities, bifurcations and the dynamics of power relations and social compromises that reconfigure the space of meso relations embedded in that of the biosphere. Ecological microeconomics pays close attention to the behaviour of actors, developing an original micro-economy based on the reciprocal influence between individuals, institutions and organizations, and on the analysis of the social construction of markets such as the consumer market. It is also interested in the diversity of economic organizations, their internal workings and their dynamics, in relation to ecological concerns, with a diversity of business models relatively (in) adapted to institutional, social, competitive, territorial and ecological environments that are themselves diversified and evolving.

Ultimately, ecological economics attaches importance to institutional aspects, governance and sustainability. It devotes considerable space to the study of many relevant institutional dimensions, including the social conventions that set market boundaries, the unequal social distribution of pollution and environmental risks, the governance of common pool resources, the interaction between public regulation, practices and even endogenous knowledge established as community rules and market dynamics, as well as the role of indicators and the use of public and private decision-

making tools. In such a context, how is development action related to ecological economics? What shape does it take? What role do the political, economic and social logics of stakeholders and evaluation play in this landscape?

Given the scale of the current governance challenges, at different spatial and temporal scales, associated with the global environmental crisis, the institutional dimension is the hallmark of the 40th Development Days of the Association Tiers Monde (ATM), organized by Lereps Sciences Po Toulouse, with the support of the Francophone Society for Ecological Economics (Société Francophone d'Économie Écologique – SoFEE). This Symposium aims to bring together reflection on ecological economics development studies and actors, as well as the mechanisms developed within public policies and action, not forgetting sustainability assessment mechanisms for and in Southern countries.

This conference will include: a plenary conference for which Begüm Özkaynak, Professor of Economics at Istanbul's Boğaziçi University, will be welcomed as Keynote speaker; a round-table discussion on the theme of "Environmental Justice" hosted by SoFEE; a forum theater organized by Occitanie Coopération, and parallel workshops on 9 themes:

- 1/ Debates on ecological economics and the Southern countries
- 2/ Environmental commons and ecosystem services: What are the challenges for developing countries?
- 3/ The role of communities in the dynamics of ecological transition and adaptation to climate change
- 4/ Green microfinance and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations in developing countries
- 5/ Ecological economics and training
- 6/ Nature in territorial governance
- 7/ Corporate strategies in the South: continuities and changes?
- 8/ Ecological economics and demography: what's at stake for the South?
- 9/ Ecological economics, blue economy and sustainable development in the South

References

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Submit a proposal

You are invited to propose a paper and submit your abstracts from now until November 20, 2024.

Information, registration, program: <https://atmeconecol2025.sciencesconf.org/>

Those interested in submitting a contribution to the conference should follow these indications:

- Submission must be done before **November 20, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.** (CET time) through the Conference electronic submission system: <https://atmeconecol2025.sciencesconf.org/>

- The language of abstract submission shall be French but may be English

- Each contribution can have more than one presenter, but please be aware that contributions with multiple presenters will count on the same duration as contributions with a single presenter.

- Submitters whose proposal has been approved will be contacted by **January 15, 2025**, and shall deposit their paper **before April 10, 2025**.

- The presenting authors of the approved proposals shall register and pay for the Conference **before April 10, 2025, at 11.59 p.m. (CEST)**. If the registration has not been performed before that deadline, it will be understood that they are no longer interested in attending, and their presentations will not be included in the final programme. If there is any change regarding the presenting author of an approved proposal, it shall be communicated as soon as possible to the organizers, and the new presenter must register and pay within the same deadline.

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