

Syllabus Studying Local Rural Systems (HEN 633)

Teachers:

Mgr. Eva Fraňková, Ph.D., Dr. Simron Jit Singh, Dipl. Ing. Willi Haas

Description:

During the first week of the spring semester there will be an information meeting for all the students registered for the course. If there are more than 3 students registered in the course, we will decide together who is going to take part (hence, if you are interested in the course, please do register it even if the limit of 3 is already filled up - usually some people drop off once the full course information is provided and the dates are settled). • The course itself begins with a one day pre-seminar in March (**March 23rd**) at the Institute of Social Ecology in Vienna with an overview of the theoretical and operational framework of social ecology and societal metabolism (it will be possible to participate via Skype call from Brno) • The actual seminar takes place as a 5-day block in May (**May 14th – 18th**) in a culturally challenging environment of Třeboňsko (Františkov village, near Třeboň, Czech Republic) where further inputs are given and actual field work is undertaken. Here we learn and experience how to establish contact, build rapport and interact in a culturally sensitive way. We also learn to design innovative field methods of generating data that provides relevant information on the functioning of local rural systems such as material and energy flows, time use, land-use, and to estimate quantities of society's stocks such as population, livestock, land, and artefacts. The seminar concludes with reflection on our experiences and results, and makes an attempt to interpret them within the framework of sustainability and development interventions. • Main topics: • Material and energy flow analysis • Land use • Functional time use analysis • Institutional aspects

Additional information:

The course schedule details: • 1-day theoretical seminar in Vienna (**March 23rd**) • 5-day field course in South Bohemia (Třeboňsko, **May 14th – 18th**) • The course is organized by the Institute of Social Ecology (Vienna) in collaboration with the University of South Bohemia and Masaryk University, Brno. The number of students is limited to 15 participants from Austria, 3 from University of South Bohemia and 3 from Masaryk University. • The field part of the course will take place in the village of Františkov. • The students are supposed to cover all the costs related to the course (traveling, accommodation and meal expenses, approx. 2000 CZK) by themselves. Students of the Department of Environmental Studies can apply for small department and faculty grants to cover these costs, but these are not guaranteed in advance.

Literature:

- Fraňková, E., Haas, W. and Singh, J.S. (Eds.) 2018. Socio-Metabolic Perspectives on the Sustainability of Local Food Systems - Insights for Science, Policy and Practice. Springer, Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London, p. 364
- Fraňková, E., Haas, W. and Singh, J.S. 2018. Introduction. In: Socio-Metabolic Perspectives on the Sustainability of Local Food Systems - Insights for Science, Policy and Practice. (Eds.) Fraňková, E., Haas, W. and Singh, J.S., Springer, Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London, p. 1-24
- Haas, W. and Andarge, H.B. 2017. More Energy and Less Work, but New Crises: How the Societal Metabolism-Labour Nexus Changes from Agrarian to Industrial Societies. Sustainability 9, p. 1041, doi:10.3390/su9071041
- Singh, J.S. and Haas W. 2016. Complex Disasters on the Nicobar Islands. In: Social Ecology: Society-nature Relations across Time and Space (Eds.) Haberl, H., Fischer-Kowalski, M., Krausmann, F. and Winiwarter V., Springer, Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London
- Singh, J.S. and Haas W. 2016. Method Précis: A Methodological Guide to Local Studies. In: Social Ecology: Society-nature Relations across Time and Space (Eds.) Haberl, H., Fischer-Kowalski, M., Krausmann, F. and Winiwarter V., Springer, Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

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