

**Thematic Doctoral Programme
„Doctoral School Social Ecology (DSSE)“
Founding Declaration**

Decision

According to this founding declaration and in accordance with **§ 19 paragraph 4c, part B** of the statutes of Alpen-Adria-Universität¹ the Thematic Doctoral Programme „Doctoral School Social Ecology (DSSE)“ will be established as from the 2016/17 academic year.

Faculty members (potential supervisors)

- Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Karlheinz Erb** (Institute of Social Ecology)
- Univ.-Prof.ⁱⁿ Dr.ⁱⁿ **Marina Fischer-Kowalski** (Institute of Social Ecology)
- Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. **Fridolin Krausmann** (Institute of Social Ecology)
- Ao.Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. **Helmut Haberl** (Institute of Social Ecology)
- Assoc.-Prof. Mag. Dr. **Martin Schmid** (Institute of Social Ecology)
- Univ.-Prof.ⁱⁿ Ing.ⁱⁿ Dr.ⁱⁿ phil. **Verena Winiwarter** (Institute of Social Ecology)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Christoph Görg** (Institute of Social Ecology)

Potential external supervisors

- Univ.-Doz. Dr. **Kurt Kratena** (Austrian Institute of Economic Research)
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- Univ.-Doz.ⁱⁿ Dr.ⁱⁿ **Helga Weisz** (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research)
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Speaker

Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Karlheinz Erb**
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Academic degree

Dr. rer nat., Dr. rer. soc. oec., Dr. phil.

Duration of studies

3 years

Language of instruction

English and German

Profile

The Thematic Doctoral Programme „Doctoral School Social Ecology (DSSE)“ is an interdisciplinary doctoral programme offered at the Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies (IFF) of Alpen-Adria-Universität (AAU) in Vienna. The 3-year programme offers cutting edge research and excellent supervision in an international and interdisciplinary environment. Individual doctoral research is complemented by a variety of courses and seminars which deepen the understanding of society-nature relations and facilitate interdisciplinary communication among students and faculty. Regular courses by renowned international scholars add to the teaching portfolio. SEC provides infrastructure and resources for a self-organized doctoral colloquium to support communication and scholarly exchange among doctoral students. The programme strongly encourages self-organization among

¹ See the relevant statutory provision in: Mitteilungsblatt, 6. Stück, issued on 16.12.2015 (Beilage 3, <https://www.aau.at/universitaet/service-kontakt/mitteilungsblaetter/mitteilungsblaetter-2015-2016/>)

doctoral students, and student members have access to resources for inviting guests and to support the participation in international scientific meetings and conferences. Doctoral students in Social Ecology acquire experience in socio-ecological theories, concepts and methods, preparing them for international professional careers in academia and beyond.

Aims

Sustainable development represents a one of the grand societal challenges gaining momentum within science, politics and public discourse. Inter- and transdisciplinary approaches are essential for the design, development and implementation of sustainability strategies, in order to be able to integrate the social, economic and ecological dimensions adequately. The scholarly field of Social Ecology (SEC) integrates approaches from the humanities, social and natural sciences and focuses on co-evolutionary interactions between social and natural systems across temporal and spatial scales.

Research areas

Research at the Institute of Social Ecology is organized around five major thematic fields:

- a) Social metabolism,
- b) Land use and colonization of ecosystems,
- c) Long term socio-ecological research and environmental history,
- d) Socio-ecological transformation,
- e) Integrated socio-ecological modelling.

Methods used in these fields of research include, for instance, material and energy flow analysis (MFA and EFA), geographic information system (GIS) based research and analysis, systemic actor-oriented and organizational analyses, integrated modelling, as well as qualitative and quantitative methods of the social sciences, and including those of history and other humanities.

Admission prerequisites

- Candidates holding a Master's degree in natural sciences, social sciences or humanities can apply for admission to the Doctoral Program in Social Ecology. Also an entry from previous doctoral studies is possible.
- Admission to Doctoral Studies of Economics and Social Sciences, Philosophy or Natural Sciences at AAU.
- Confirmation of supervision by one of the potential supervisors (faculty members of the DSSE).

Graduation requirements

Doctoral students in Social Ecology are required to obtain a minimum of 32 ECTS in courses during a period of 6 semesters (3 years) in addition to their doctoral thesis. The specific course programme is developed with the supervisor.

Admission procedure

For the admission to the doctoral programme the current curriculum for doctoral studies of Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt has to be taken into account.

Applicants are invited to send:

- Documents (certificates, letter of motivation and/or evidence of skills in two or more of the research fields of this DP)
- Specifications of the envisaged dissertation topic
- Confirmation of supervision by one of the faculty members of the programme

to the contact address below.

The decision about admission will be taken jointly by the faculty members of the programme.

The admission of current doctoral students from the former Doctoral School „Social Ecology“ is possible without this procedure.

Deadlines

- Applications from prospective doctoral students for winter semester 2016/17 will be accepted until November 11th, 2016.
- Applications from prospective doctoral students for summer semester 2017 will be accepted until April 30th, 2017.

Contact

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