

Alternative Economies

25. Oktober 2022

Dr. Bianca Elzenbaumer (*Center for Other Worlds,
Lusofona University, PT*)

**Alpine Community Economies Lab: co-creating theory-practice
relays for eco-social futures**

22. November 2022

Dr. Rahel Meili (*Institute of Sustainable Business,
University of Applied Sciences, Bern*)

Regional drivers of the circular economy

13. Dezember 2022

Dr. Andrea Vetter (*Vertretungsprofessur an der
Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig*)

Degrowth und Care

(**Nur online per Zoom:** <https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/65818493290>)

Organized by the Research Units Social and Cultural Geography, Economic
Geography, Critical Sustainability Studies and Political Urbanism and
Sustainable Spatial Development in cooperation with the mLAB of the Institute
of Geography, University of Bern.

www.geography.unibe.ch

12:15h – 13.45h

GIUB, Hallerstr. 12, Raum 002

25. Oktober 2022

Dr. Bianca Elzenbaumer | Alpine Community Economies Lab: co-creating theory-practice relays for eco-social futures

The *Alpine Community Economies Lab* is a research space embedded in the Vallagarina valley (TN) in the Italian Alps. In the *Lab* researchers from the field of design and architecture come together with practitioners from fields such as agroecology, social work and environmental education to create projects which center issues of climate crisis and rapid biodiversity loss, while experimenting with the co-creation of socio-economic initiatives that center the well-being of people and earth. To do so they create relays between theory and practice that mobilize feminist knowledge practices, diverse economies frameworks and co-design methods. These relays are participatory research formats that strive to connect local action with global issues and currently take the form of a community academy at the local train station, a participatory drinks enterprise, a forest school, a bread oven on wheels and a mental health laboratory. In my contribution to the colloquium series, I will open up windows into the work of the *Lab* and share our core methodological and conceptual tools, such as co-design, convivial imperfection, interdependence and the underlying community economies framework.

22. November 2022

Dr. Rahel Meili | Regional drivers of the circular economy

A survey by the BFH Wirtschaft and KOF (ETH) shows that only 10% of companies in Switzerland are substantially active in the circular economy (CE). However, if we look at this on a regional level, we see that there are ultimately some regions in Switzerland that already have a high intensity of CE activities. We want to start at this point and investigate the framework conditions of these regions and what other regions can learn from them. After all, the transformation from a linear to a circular business model is complex and requires adjustments to existing supply chains, the establishment of new networks, the consideration of new technologies and organisational adjustments. In this respect, the regional framework conditions seem to play a central role: Regional networks, infrastructure, political framework conditions, purchasing power, etc. are likely to have a direct impact on the CE transformation. However, whether and to what extent this is the case has not yet been investigated. The scientific literature on the Geography of Sustainability Transition and the approaches of Evolutionary Economic Geography can provide explanatory approaches but have not yet been applied to the specific case of the CE. The current research project is intended to provide initial pointers and initiate the debate on the development of the circular economy at the regional level.

13. Dezember 2022 (Nur online Zoom: <https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/65818493290>)

Dr. Andrea Vetter | Degrowth und Care

Care und Fragen einer Transformation sozialer Reproduktionsarbeit bilden einen wichtigen Pfeiler in den Debatten und Visionen hin zu einer zukünftigen Degrowth Gesellschaft. Dennoch sind die derzeitigen Vorschläge vielseitig und reichen von einer Vergütung von Care-Tätigkeiten in Familien, über die Kollektivierung von Care in lokalen Gemeinschaften bis hin zu einer Ausweitung professioneller aber besser bezahlter Care Arbeit als Alternative zum extraktiven fossilen Kapitalismus. In jedem Fall aber muss die Verteilung und gesellschaftliche Organisation von Arbeit und speziell Care-Arbeit aus einer Degrowth Perspektive von Grund auf neu gedacht werden. Andrea Vetter ist Mitautorin des Buchs „The future is degrowth: A Guide to a World beyond Capitalism“ und derzeit an der Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Braunschweig (HBK) in der Vertretungsprofessur für Transportation Design. Sie wird in Ihrem Vortrag auf diese Fragen und mögliche Auswege aus der Care-Krise aus einer Degrowth-Perspektive Stellung nehmen.