

Open Space – Divergent Thinking for Sustainable Development

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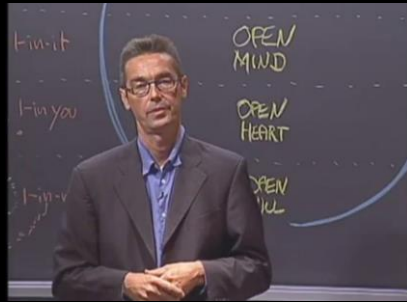
Business School/ Nord University





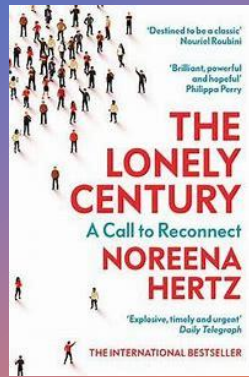
Thomas Piketty

- In the long run, society has moved towards a fairer distribution of economic benefits, reduction of racial and gender differences and better access to health services, education and democratic rights.
- Development has been an endless struggle against injustice.
- But he also shows that after 1980 the development has accelerated in a negative direction; injustice has increased dramatically.



That today's leaders seek solutions with the methods and experiences of the past represents the core of the challenges we face
(Otto Scharmer)





To deal with the new challenges, we must ask questions that challenge and contradict well-established knowledge

- It is necessary to redefine our role in society from being an observer to becoming a participant, from being a consumer to becoming a citizen, and from being a recipient of support to becoming an active contributor in society.

(Noreena Hertz 2021)



Ecological Economics answers the following questions

Sustainable scale

The physical throughput, the flow of matter-energy from the ecosystems and back to the ecosystems

Fair distribution

Distribution of wealth allows a society to flourish and an important determinant of quality of life

Efficient allocation

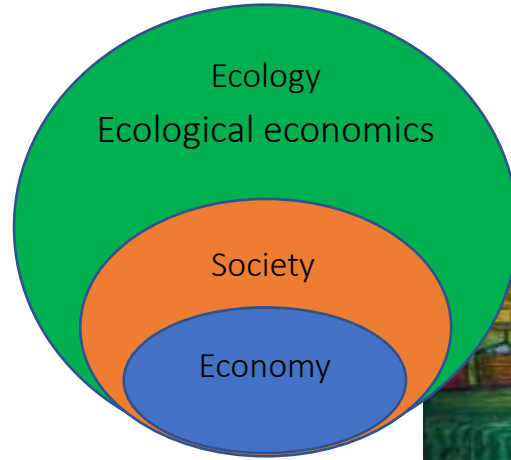
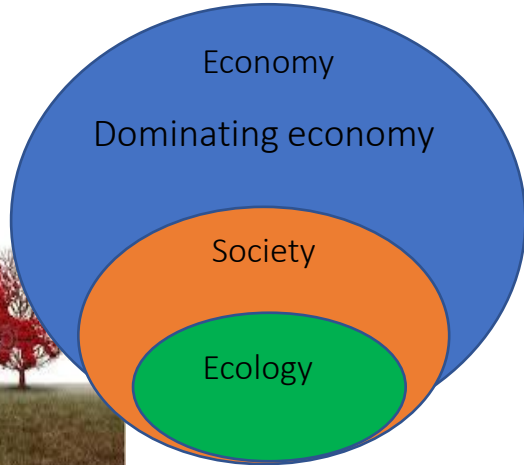
The relative division of the resource flow among alternative product uses

A Copernican turn from Green to Ecological Economics

Formulated a model of the universe that placed the sun rather than earth at its center.



(1473-1543)



Growth	→	Development
Competition	→	Cooperation
Strategy	→	Partnership approach
Egocentrism	→	Ecocentrism

Bodø – European Capital of Culture 2024

From the application:

- We believe Bodø 2024 will be an arena where ecological economy can function in real life.
- Ecological economy will be a method within the Bodø2024 organization, inspiring to explore sustainability and ecology. (p.21)

From the EU panel's report:

- The bid-book highlights that Bodø 2024 intends to build on the research done by Nord university and become an arena to test ways promoting ecological economy, which is extremely topical (In the panels view, this is forward-looking and a strong element of the bid)





Sustainable development

Sustainable development is mainly about taking care of the individual person, society and the environment in a way that is not harmful or degrading, but which on the contrary is more stimulating, life-giving and developing

(Kvammen & Tellnes 2019)

Open Space:

- The method was developed by Harrison Owen in the 1980s.
 - Owen discovered that when he organized conferences with lectures and panel debates, the response was that the most important things happened during the coffee breaks
 - He took this seriously, and developed a targeted framework around a long "coffee break"
 - The method can be used for groups of 5 - 1,000 people, and is in active use in 139 countries worldwide
 - A prerequisite is that the leaders/management will let loose their power in the organization/society and allow participation
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Prerequisites

There is a challenge

Great complexity

Many different perspectives and points of view

Commitment and accountability

Action oriented

Process



Everyone is given the task of formulating a question/project idea that they want to develop



One by one go in the circle, tell the group about their question/project, write their name on a sheet of paper and hang it on the wall



The marketplace is opened and everyone can choose to participate in the dialogue they want



If some questions are almost similar, they can be merged



If there are a lot of participants under one question, the group can be split into two

Summing up

The groups write what they came up with on a flip-over sheet

The person who formulated the project gives an oral briefing in plenary

Give a description of how the project will be followed up in practice, who does what

Challenge:

- Develop concrete suggestions how youth perspectives / wishes / opinions should be better included in the future NPA projects and help to co-create attractive and thriving communities
- Develop suggestions how young people can be more involved in the development and execution of NPA projects
- Spark interest among young people and youth organizations to use the NPA programme as a tool to make their communities a better place