

## ATA 582 – Selected Topics in Social Theory and History

### Alternative Economies

Fall 2025

Tue 678

***Irmak Ertör***

***E-mail: irmak.ertor@bogazici.edu.tr***

***Tel: 0212 359 66 45***

***Office hours: By appointment***

#### **Description:**

This course aims to introduce students to the foundational theoretical debates linked to alternative economies as well as to initiatives of social and solidarity economies. It will cover a wide range of theoretical lenses and provide an overview of key concepts around diverse economies. Part I will examine some key concepts such as market society, post-development and post-capitalist alternatives and will explore the roots of these discussions. Part II will discuss themes related to ecological economics, degrowth, circular economy, and doughnut economics, which aim to uncover the relations of economy, ecology, and society. Part III will focus on the literature on community economies, community-based economies, and diverse economies. Part IV will explore the economies of commons as well as social and solidarity economies both in theory and practice. In this part, a range of initiatives such as housing and energy cooperatives, alternative/local currencies, time banks, and digital commons will be discussed. Finally, Part V will emphasize gender economy, care economy, and feminist economics.

#### **Course objectives:**

The course has the objective of providing students with a critical lens to understand and analyze discussions on how the economy is designed and understood, as well as how it is related to society, environment and power relations. On completion of this course, the students will have a wide understanding of diverse economies and why there is a need for a paradigm shift. They will develop a critical perspective on the roots of economic and political problems and link them to current social and political debates.

#### **Evaluation:**

Students are expected to fulfill the following requirements of the course:

- 1) Regular attendance and participation in class discussions are expected. Additionally, each student will choose one week's readings and present them to the class (35%).
- 2) 3 response papers (approx. 2 pages) discussing the readings –the students will decide on which week's readings they prefer to write– will be sent to the instructor one day before the corresponding class (15%).
- 3) A final research paper will be written in a scientific paper format with appropriate referencing (40%). Students will choose a scientific journal linked to their research theme and follow its submission procedure for their paper. At the end of the semester, they are encouraged to submit their paper to the journal they have chosen.
- 4) A well-structured outline or a draft of the final paper is required by the end of November (10%).

### ***Week 1: Introduction to the class: Alternative economies***

- Healy, Stephen (2009) Alternative economies. In R. Kitchin & N. Thrift (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, vol. 3, 338-344. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-008044910-4.00132-2>
- Zanoni, Patrizia et al. (2017) Post-capitalistic politics in the making: The imaginary and praxis of alternative economies. *Organization*, 24(5), 575-588.

### **Part I - Foundational theoretical discussions: Market society, economic fallacy, moral economy, post-development and post-capitalist alternatives**

#### ***Week 2:***

- Mitchell, Timothy (1998) Fixing the Economy, *Cultural Studies*, 12(1), 82-101.
- Polanyi, Karl (1944[2001]) *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Beacon Press, 45-80 (Chapter 4: "Societies and Economic Systems", Chapter 5: "Evolution of the Market Pattern" & Chapter 6: "The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land and Money").
- Buğra, Ayşe (2021) "Two Lives of Developmentalism: A Polanyian View From Turkey". In *Development as A Battlefield*, Bono, I. & Hibou, B. (eds.). Brill: Leiden and Boston. Chapter 2, 37-60.

#### ***Week 3:***

- Nelson, Anitra (2022) "Ecosocialism from a Post-Development Perspective". In *Post-Capitalist Futures: Paradigms, Politics, and Prospects*, (eds.) Alexander, S., Chandrashekeran, S & Gleeson, B. Palgrave Macmillan, Chapter 3, 31-40.
- Polanyi, Karl (1977) "The Economic Fallacy". In *The Livelihood of Man*, (ed.) Harry Pearson. New York: Academic Press, Chapter 1, 5-17.
- Türker, Kaner Atakan (2022) Post-capitalist marketization in Northern Kurdistan. *Economy & Society*, 51(2), 259-282.

### **Part II - Week 4: Ecological economics and unequal exchange**

- Hickel, Jason et al. (2022) Imperialist appropriation in the world economy: Drain from the global South through unequal exchange, 1990–2015. *Global Environmental Change*, 73, 102467.
- Martinez-Alier, Joan; Kallis, Giorgos, Veuthey, S., Walter, Mariana & Temper, Leah. (2010) Social metabolism, ecological distribution conflicts, and valuation languages. *Ecological Economics*, 70(2), 153–158.

- Acar, Sevil & Aşıcı, Ahmet Atıl (2017) Nature and economic growth in Turkey: what does ecological footprint imply? *Middle East Development Journal*, 9(1), 101-115.
- Melgar-Melgar, Rigo-E. & Hall, Charles A.S. (2020) Why ecological economics needs to return to its roots: The biophysical foundation of socio-economic systems. *Ecological Economics*, 169, 106567.

### ***Week 5: Circular economy, degrowth and 'doughnut' economy***

- Haas, W., Krausmann, F., Wiedenhofer, D. and Heinz, M. (2015) How circular is the global economy?: An assessment of material flows, waste production, and recycling in the European Union and the world in 2005. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, 19(5), 765-777.  
(for a shorter version, see: <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2018-11-12/how-circular-is-the-circular-economy/>)
- Kallis, Giorgos et al. (2018) Research on Degrowth. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 43, 291-316.
- DEAL. (2022b) *Doughnut Unrolled: Dimensions of the four lenses*. <https://doughnuteconomics.org/tools-and-stories/146>
- \*\*Martinez-Alier, Joan. (2022) Circularity, entropy, ecological conflicts and LFFU. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, 27(10-11), 1182-1207.
- \*\*Mastini, Ricardo; Kallis, Giorgos & Hickel, Jason (2021) A Green New Deal without growth? *Ecological Economics*, 179, 106832.
- \*\*Andreucci, Diego & Engel-Di Mauro, S. (2019) Capitalism, Socialism and the Challenge of Degrowth: Introduction to the Symposium. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 30(2), 176-188.
- \*\*Akbulut, Bengi (2019) The 'state' of degrowth: Economic growth and the making of state hegemony in Turkey. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 2(3), 513-527.

**\*\*Please choose two from the four optional readings.**

### **Additional material to be checked before the class:**

- DEAL. (2022a) *Doughnut Economics Action Lab*. <https://doughnuteconomics.org/>
- **New Economics Foundation:** <https://neweconomics.org>  
<https://neweconomics.org/2010/01/growth-isnt-possible/>
- **Rethinking Economics:** international network of students and recent graduates - <https://www.rethinkeconomics.org/re-group/pces/>
- **Research and Degrowth:** <https://degrowth.org/>
- **The Post-Crash Economics Society** at Manchester University: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/oct/24/students-post-crash-economics>

### **Part III - Week 6: Theory of commons & Social and solidarity economies - I**

- Akbulut, Bengi (2017) "Commons". In *Routledge Handbook of Ecological Economics*, Chapter 38, 395-403.
  - Villamayor-Tomas, Sergio & Garcia-Lopez, Gustavo A. (2021) Commons Movements: Old and New Trends in Rural and Urban Contexts. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 46, 511-543.
  - Kalogeraki, Stefania et al. (2018) Exploring the Social and Solidarity Economy Sector in Greece, Spain, and Switzerland in Times of Crisis. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 1-19.
  - \*\*Bozdoğan, Melike (2019) Solidarity Economies and Solidarity Networks among Green Consumers in Turkey. *Sharing Society, Conference Proceedings*, 102-111.
  - \*\*Özınanır, Can Irmak (2018) Where do the Solidarity Economies Stand in Relation to the Commons? In "The Politics of the Commons: from Theory to the Struggle", 99-112.
  - \*\*Özbay, Cenk & Savcı, Evren (2018) Queering Commons in Turkey. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 24(4), 516-521.
  - \*\*Öztürk, Murat, Jongerden, Joost & Hilton, Andy (2015) Commodification and Social Commons: Smallholder Autonomy and Rural-Urban Kinship Communalism in Turkey. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 3(3), 337-367.
- \*\*Please choose two from the four optional readings

### **Week 7: Social and solidarity economies - II**

- Miller, E. (2010) "Solidarity Economy: Key Concepts and Issues", In E. Kawano and T. Masterson and J. Teller-Ellsberg (eds), *Solidarity Economy I: Building Alternatives for People and Planet*. Center for Popular Economics: Amherst, MA. 1-12.
  - Calvo, Sara; Morales, Andres & Zikidis, Yannis (eds.) (2017) "Introduction: Unravelling the Global Terms of the Social and Solidarity Economy". In *Social and Solidarity Economy: The World's Economy with a Social Face*. 1-6.
  - \*\*Petropoulou, Eugenia A. (2018) Social and Solidarity Economy: The case of an Urban Consumption Co-operative in Greece. *Partecipazione e Conflitto*, 11(1), 70-94.
  - \*\*Balaguer Rasillo, Xavier & Wirth, Manuel (2022) Alternative Economies and Commoning Practices in Catalonia: Unpacking Ecoarxes from a Social Studies of Economisation Perspective. *Antipode*, 54(6), 1694-1714.
  - \*\*Narin, Özgür. (2014) Türkiye İşçi Sınıfı Tarihinde İşçi Özyönetim Deneyimleri ve Kriz Dönemlerinde Özyönetimin Olanakları. *DISK-AR Dergisi*, 3, 48-61.
- \*\*Please choose two from the three optional readings.

***Week 8: Social & Solidarity Economies in Practice - Housing and energy cooperatives, alternative/ local currencies, time banks, digital commons***

- Doğan, P, Ertör, I. and Külebi, B. (2016) Katalunya kooperatifçilik tarihinden güncel sosyal ekonomi ve dayanışma ekonomisi pratiklerine: Mücadeleler arası köprü kurmak. *Birikim*, 321, 67-79.
- Interview by Öztürk, Özgür Güneş (2019) *A future where energy is not a commodity*. <https://birartibir.org/a-future-where-energy-is-not-a-commodity/>
- \*\*North, Peter (2014) Ten Square Miles Surrounded By Reality? Materialising Alternative Economies Using Local Currencies. *Antipode*, 46(1), 246-265.
- \*\*Meyer, Camille & Hudon, Marek (2017) Alternative organizations in finance: Commoning in complementary currencies, *Organization*, 24(5), 629-647.
- \*\*Akbulut, Bengi (2020). Cooperative Economies as Commons: Labour and production in solidarity. In *Commoning the City: Empirical Perspectives on Urban Ecology, Economics and Ethics*, Chapter 11.
- \*\*Lynch, Casey R. (2019). Contesting Digital Futures: Urban Politics, Alternative Economies, and the Movement for Technological Sovereignty in Barcelona. *Antipode*, 52(3), 660-680.

\*\*Please choose two from the four optional readings.

**Additional material (optional):**

- Coop57: <https://coop57.coop/>  
<https://birartibir.org/the-capital-of-labour/>
- La Borda housing cooperative: <http://www.laborda.coop/en/>
- Dayanışma Ekonomileri Special Issue:  
<https://birartibir.org/disiplinler/hal-ve-gidis/dayanisma/>

**Part IV - Community, community-based and diverse economies**

***Week 9: Community economy & community-based economy***

- Gibson-Graham, J.K. (2003) Enabling ethical economies: cooperativism and class. *Critical Sociology*, 29(2), 1-39.
- St Martin, Kevin (2007) The Difference that Class Makes: Neoliberalization and Non-Capitalism in the Fishing Industry of New England. *Antipode*, 39(3), 527-549.
- Gibson-Graham, J.K. (2006) *The Community Economy*. In *A Postcapitalist Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Türker, Kaner Atakan (2022) *Alternatif Ekonomi Arayışı: Kürt Hareketi ve Demokratik Ekonomi*. Yahya Madra ve Ceren Özselçuk ile Söyleşi. Şemsa Özar'a Armağan: Feminizm, Ekoloji, Toplumsal Direniş içinde, s. 211-233.

### **Additional material:**

- **CERN, Community Economies Network:**  
<http://www.communityeconomies.org/about/ce-research-network-cern>

### ***Week 10:***

- Gibson-Graham, J.K. (1996) "Strategies". In *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*, Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1-23.
- Community Economies Collective (2001) "Imagining and Enacting Noncapitalist Futures," *Socialist Review* Vol. 28, Nos. 3+4: 93-135.
- Kaya, Alp Yücel (2020) Yeni Kurumsal İktisat, İktisat Tarihini Nasıl Yazıyor? Eleştirel Bir Bakış. *Praksis*, 54, 29-60.

### **Additional materials:**

- **Inter-Change Value:** <https://vimeo.com/159060233>
- **Decolonial diverse economies:**  
[https://cambalache.noblogs.org/files/2022/07/taller-enlinea-version2022\\_ingles.pdf](https://cambalache.noblogs.org/files/2022/07/taller-enlinea-version2022_ingles.pdf)

### **Part V - Week 11: Gender economy, feminist economics**

- Gibson-Graham, J.K. (2006) Imagining and Enacting a Postcapitalist Feminist Economic Politics. *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 34(1-2). 72-78.
- Mellor, Mary (2006) Ecofeminist political economy. *Int. J. Green Economics*, 1(1-2), 139-150.
- J.K. Gibson-Graham, Esra Erdem, Ceren Özselçuk (2013) Thinking with Marx For a Feminist Postcapitalist Politics. In *Marx' Kritik der Gesellschaft*, Berlin: Akademie Verlag.
- Yeniev, Gökçe & Kocagöz, Umut (2019) Urfa Mezopotamya Kadın Kooperatifi ile Söyleşi: "Kadınların dertleri ortak". <https://birartibir.org/kadinlarin-dertleri-ortak/>

### ***Week 12: Care economy and feminist ecological economics***

- Paulson, Susan (2020) Degrowth and feminisms ally to forge care-full paths beyond pandemic. *Interface: A journal for and about social movements*, 12(1), 232-246.

- İlkaracan, İpek (2016) *The Purple Economy Complementing the Green: Towards Sustainable and Caring Economies*.
- \*\*Harcourt, Wendy & Bauhardt, Christine. (2019) "Introduction: Conversations on care in Feminist Political Economy and Ecology" In *Feminist Political Ecology and the Economics of Care: In Search of Economic Alternatives*, Bauhardt & Harcourt (eds.), 1-15.
- \*\*Dombroski, Kelly et al. (2019) Care-full Community Economies, In *Feminist Political Ecology and the Economics of Care: In Search of Economic Alternatives*, Bauhardt, C. & Harcourt, W.(eds.), Chapter 6, 99-115.
- \*\*Basa, Charito, Harcourt, Wendy & Zarro Angela (2011) Remittances and transnational families in Italy and the Philippines: breaking the global care chain. *Gender & Development*, 19(1), 11-22.
- \*\*Interview by Kocagöz, U. (2019) Commoning sorrow, joy and labour. Interview with the Devrek Sun Cooperative. <https://birartibir.org/commoning-sorrow-joy-and-labour/>

\*\*Please choose two from the four optional readings.

### ***Week 13: Evaluation and closing session***