



Module Description

| Module name: Cooperative Economics | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|----------|
| Course form | Credit | Duration | Language |
| Workshop (online) | 5 ECTS | 1 week block course | English |

1) Qualification goals / Outcome:

Participants should be able to distinguish the strictly non-cooperative (methodological individualist) foundations of traditional neoclassical economics as being couched in self-interested individuals, as well as having basic knowledge of an alternative set of theories based on the primacy cooperation and social norms and extending the breadth of economic analysis beyond exchange. Moreover, participants should be able to apply the latter theories to real-world situations. They should be able to explain behaviors that deviate significantly from the predictions of neoclassical theory, e.g., with reference to examples of successful long-term cooperation and management of common pool resources (CPRs).

2) Course content:

Beginning with the theories of Karl Polanyi, the course intends to view the domain of cooperation as a natural and inherent space within the social sphere. We move on to critically engaging with one of neoclassical economics' workhorse models: the Prisoner's Dilemma. To it, we juxtapose Aumann's "coordinated equilibrium", with norms acting as choreographers of individual behavior. We thus attempt to extend the analysis of behavior beyond mere cost-benefit analysis to interpret morality as a mechanism for preference formation. Applications in the contemporary cooperative movement will present important examples.

3) Teaching methods:

Workshop - Mixture of new content as lecture, discussion of lecture and prepared reading. Interaction and working tasks during the session. Students are encouraged to write short reflections throughout the workshop and will develop a final presentation for the whole summer academy.

4) Kind of module:

This Module can either be accomplished in a compulsory or elective module, depending on the degree programme. In every degree programme it might be suited for elective or transdisciplinary modules. In degree programmes in economics or with parts in economics, it might be suited for advanced courses, too.



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5) Requirements for participation:

No formal educational requirements are necessary to participate, but participants with a background in social science (sociology, economics, anthropology, political science) and related fields will find the material easier to understand. Some mathematical models will be discussed, but knowledge of formal mathematics is not necessary to understand the arguments. Knowledge of English is mandatory.

6) Requirements for granting credit points

| a) contact times | b) self-study | c) exam preparation | d) marking |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 30 h | 30 h | 90 h | yes (pass/fail) |

e) assessment pattern

One Essay is required of no more than 2,500 words. The essay should connect with one of the required or suggested readings and develop an argument applying the theories discussed in the workshop.

7) Module coordinator

The module is carried out by the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik e.V.
Responsible staff: Janina Urban, M.Sc. (janina.urban@plurale-oekonomik.de)
and Anita Lehner, M.A. (a.lehner@plurale-oekonomik.de)

8) Module teaching staff

Jerome Warren, B.A., B.Sc., M.A.,
Doctoral Candidate, University of Cologne,
Department of Social Policy and Applied Qualitative Research
Seminar for Cooperative Studies