



Joint Workshop  
Shiv Nadar University and Heidelberg University  
in collaboration with the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE)

on

"Socio-ecological Transformations - Perspectives from Ecological  
Economics and the MINE-Framework"

**11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Greta Thunberg has given the protest for the environment and against the climate crisis a personal face. Her central statement is: "Politics is doing far too little for climate protection. This is irresponsible towards young people." Something new has happened with this: The school strike of the *Fridays for Future* movement represents a new stage in the struggle to protect and care for the natural foundations of life: Who would have expected the emergence of such a strong and high-profile protest movement before 2019? Suddenly, the youth has emerged as an addressee and promoter, indeed as a driving force for a socio-ecological transformation. But what are the characteristics of the much demanded "socio-ecological transformation"? What is being transformed and where is the transformation leading?

This workshop aims to approach these questions step by step and from an interdisciplinary perspective based on the approach of Ecological Economics.

- What are socio-ecological transformations?
- Why is it useful to analyse these transformation processes using an interdisciplinary framework?
- How can such an interdisciplinary framework be developed?
- What perspectives and theoretical dimensions are opened by this approach?

By bringing together perspectives and experiences from interdisciplinary environmental research from India and Germany, the workshop presents options for scholarship and decision making for a sustainable future. In India, the domestic and international experience of being a leader in environmental policy making from the early 1970s, and promoting environmental research, demand a deeper understanding of the relationships between knowledge and policy. In particular, it is important to understand the political underpinnings of concepts and parameters used, and the evolution of the environmental social sciences, ecological economics in particular. In Heidelberg, the project *MINE – Mapping the Interplay between Nature and Economy* ([www.nature-economy](http://www.nature-economy)) brings a compilation of 40 years of interdisciplinary research. Concepts such as thermodynamics, scarcity, and irreversibility allow us to get to the bottom of the scientific foundations of environmental problems. Philosophical concepts such as judgment, responsibility, and justice make it possible to ask how a good life in community can be designed and what direction transformation processes must take to achieve such a state. The reflection on social and ecological change is held together by the overarching concept of time. The youth, demanding answers right now, have the opportunity to engage with inter-and trans-disciplinary scholarship available but not considered politically acceptable for over four decades. There are options for sustainable socio-ecological transformations.



### Workshop Conducted by

Prof. em. Dr. Malte Faber, Alfred-Weber-Institut for Economics, Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Rajeswari S. Raina, Dept. of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR

Prof. Dr. N. C. Narayanan, Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay

Assistant Professor Dr. Reiner Manstetten, Philosophical Seminar, Heidelberg University

Dr. Marc Frick, ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim

### Workshop Schedule

#### First Day: Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

8am-2pm/11.30am-5.30pm

Time	Topic
8 am (Germany)/11:30 am (India)	Introduction and short presentation of the speakers and the participants
8:15 am/ 11.45 am	MINE – A bridge between Nature and Economy. Insights from interdisciplinary environmental research over the past 40 years.
9 am/0.30 pm	Discussion
9.30 am /1.00 pm	Break
9.45 am/1.15 pm	Conceptual and political foundations for examining the interaction between nature and the economy (see Ruth Editor 2020)
10.30 am/ 2.00 pm	Discussion
11 am/ 2.30 pm	Lunch break
12.00/3.30 pm	Inter- and trans-disciplinary environmental research in India: Opportunities and Constraints
0.15 pm /4.15 pm	Discussion
1.45 pm /5.15 pm	End of the first day

#### Second day: Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

8am-2pm/11.30am-5.30pm

Time	Topic
8 am (Germany)/11:30 am (India)	Sustainability and Resilience: Options in India's environmental discourse
8.45am/0.15pm	Discussion
9 am/0.30 pm	Break
9.30 am /1.00 pm	Two geographical and cultural contexts - one common concern? Fundamental insights into the dimensions of social and ecological sustainability
10.15 am/1.15 pm	Discussion
10.30 am/ 2.00 pm	Lunch break
11 am/ 2.30 pm	Transformational processes and the notion of time (Foundation of social ecological transformation)
12.00/3.30 pm	Discussion
0.15 pm /4.15 pm	Final round and feedback
1.45 pm /5.15 pm	End of the second Day



Reading Material:

- Faber, Malte and Marc Frick, Conceptual and political foundations for examining the interaction between nature and economy (2019), Heidelberg University, Department of Economics Discussion Paper Series, No. 659, Heidelberg. Published in Matthias Ruth (editor) (2020) "Research Agenda for Environmental Economics", Chapter 3: 34-55, Edward Elgar,
- Faber, Malte, Marc Frick and Reiner Manstetten (2021), Greta Thunberg und das Klimaproblem, Heidelberg University, Department of Economics Discussion Paper Series, No. 681, Heidelberg.
- Manstetten, Reiner, Andreas Kuhlmann, Malte Faber und Marc Frick (2021), Groundwork for Social-Ecological Transformations: The Social Contract, Global Governance and the Meaning of Time, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 21-043, Mannheim. [Download.](#)
- Manstetten, Reiner, Andreas Kuhlmann, Malte Faber und Marc Frick (2021), Grundlagen sozial-ökologischer Transformationen: Gesellschaftsvertrag, Global Governance und die Bedeutung der Zeit, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 21-034, Mannheim. [Download.](#)
- Faber, Malte, Marc Frick und Reiner Manstetten (2021), Die Online-Plattform MINE - eine Brücke zwischen Umwelt und Wirtschaft, Heidelberg University, Department of Economics Discussion Paper Series, No. 701, Heidelberg. [Download.](#)
- Chopra, K. 2017. Development and Environmental Policy in India- The last few decades, Springer Briefs in Economics, Springer: Heidelberg  
( <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811037603> )
- Lele, S., Brondizio, E.S., Byrne, J., Mace, G. M., Martinez-Alier, J. 2018. Framing the Environment in Lele et al (Eds.) Rethinking Environmentalism: Linking Justice, Sustainability and Diversity, Strungmann Forum Reports, Vol. 23. (series editor Lupp, J.) MIT Press.  
(<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/rethinking-environmentalism>)

See the MINE Website: [www.nature-economy.de](http://www.nature-economy.de)

The workshop is limited to 25 participants.

Postgraduate/PhD students and faculty are encouraged to **REGISTER** in advance.

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/iBm7gvTG44wssLRH7>

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