

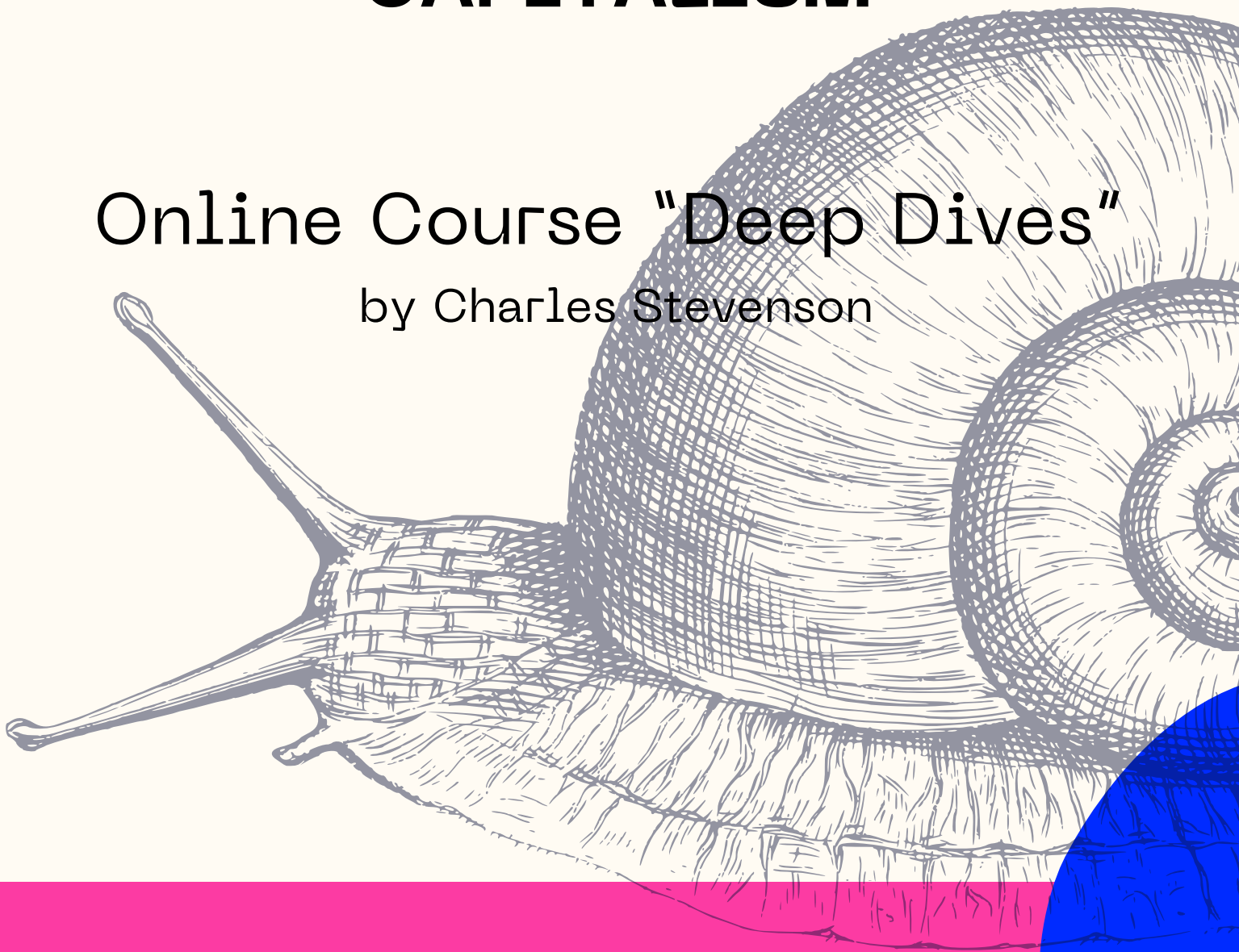


Research & Degrowth International

POLICIES FOR DEGROWTH: PATHWAYS BEYOND CAPITALISM

Online Course "Deep Dives"

by Charles Stevenson



First Edition Oct / Nov 2025

Syllabus

Amb el suport de



"INTRODUCTION TO THE ONLINE DEEP DIVES COURSES"

The Deep Dive Online Courses offered by Research & Degrowth (R&Di) are an educational initiative designed to explore focused themes through the lens of degrowth — such as policies and degrowth, the sea and degrowth, agriculture and degrowth, and more. These high-intensity courses are created for those who seek more than an introduction: researchers, activists, professionals, and curious minds ready to engage critically with the challenges and possibilities of social-ecological transformation.

Each Deep Dive consists of five live online sessions (2.5 hours each, totaling 12.5 hours) with no more than 25 students.

Research & Degrowth is a think-and-act-tank dedicated to the radical transformation of our economies and societies through research, advocacy, education, training and events around degrowth. For more than fifteen years, R&Di has successfully organized summer schools and university master's programs focused on degrowth. The online course represents a new educational format to reach out to a broader audience. Upon successfully completing the online course, all participants will receive an **official certificate** issued by R&Di.



We have been working hard to create this online course and are excited to be launching it to you. We're looking forward to this educational journey together!

Amb el suport de:





COURSE DETAILS

The first Deep dive we are offering is **Policies for Degrowth: Pathways Beyond Capitalism** taught by **Charles Stevenson**, with classes of 2.5 hours each monday starting on **October 13th** till **November 15th**, from **4pm** to **6.30 pm**.



Instructor: Charles Stevenson is a doctoral activist-scholar based at ICTA-UAB. He conducts research on European degrowth transition pathways informed by Modern Monetary Theory. Within the Post-Growth Deals project, he works to formalise the policies that constitute the core proposals for a European social-ecological transformation and to outline how European institutions would need to change to implement these policies. For him, degrowth is inseparable from the political confrontation required to achieve it.

Timeline

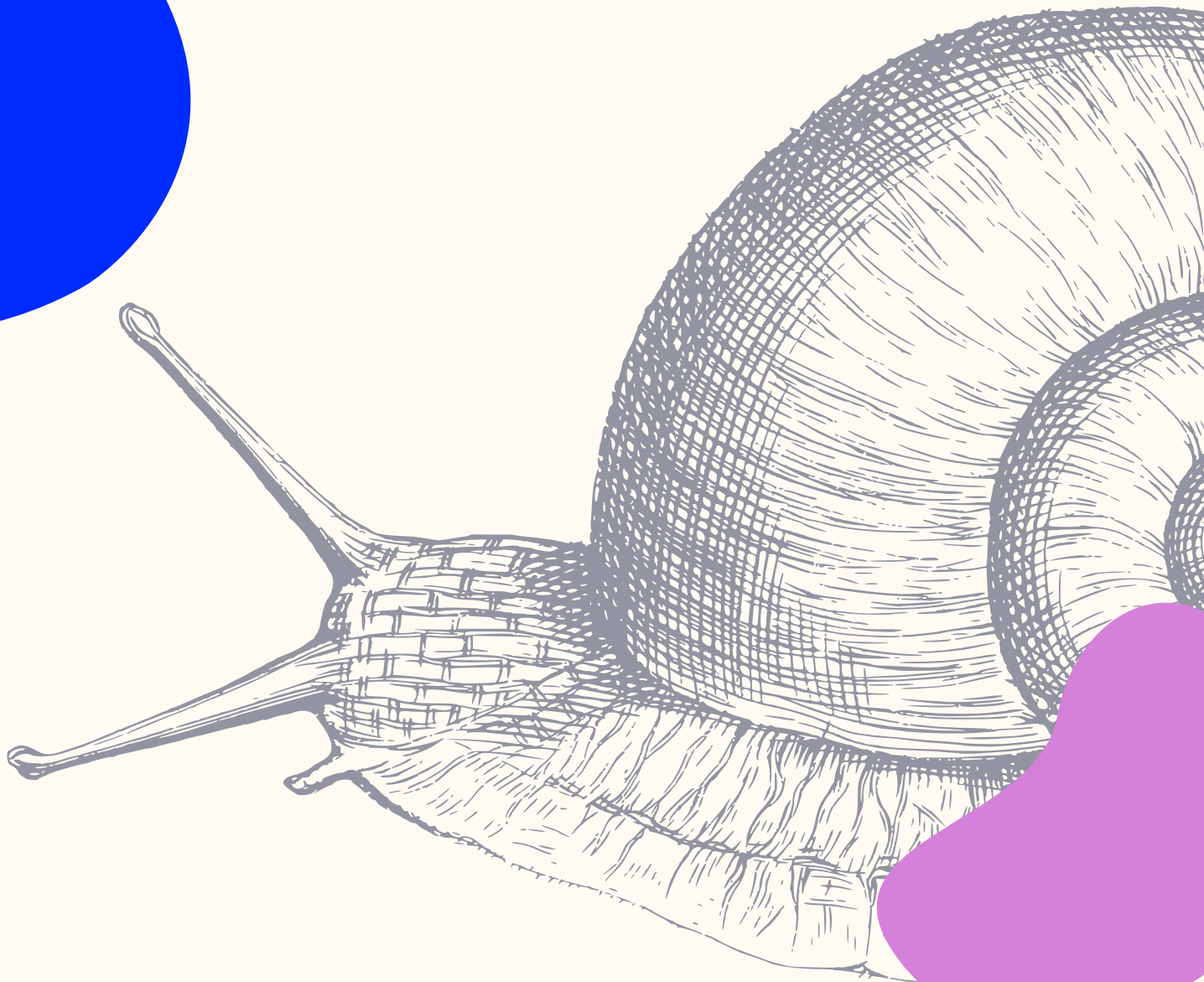
- Oct 13th** - Policies as non-reformist reforms in a post-capitalist transition
- Oct 20th** - A job guarantee with working-time reductions as catalyst for social-ecological transformation
- Oct 27th** - Universal Public Services as gateway to an economy of commons
- Nov 3rd** - Universal Care Income: halberd against the patriarchy
- Nov 10th** - From credit guidance to nationalisation: how can we scale down damaging forms of production



PRICE

250 Euros

The basic fee of 250 Euros covers all costs for the course. This consist in five classes of 2.5 hours with a maximum capacity of 25 people. Classes allow interaction and exercise between lecturer and peers.





Session 1 - Oct 13, 2025 4 pm CET

Policies as non-reformist reforms in a post-capitalist transition

Description of the class: In this session, we will discuss the importance of developing a robust theory of transition from capitalism to ecosocialist degrowth, and the role that policies play in that theory – drawing on Rosa Luxembourgh, André Gorz, Bertie Russell, Kai Heron, Keir Milburn.

We should not be naive about the threat that the policies outlined in this course pose to the capitalist class. At any scale, winning any of them will depend on building a coalition of working people ready to fight for their implementation.

Once enacted, these policies will face substantial backlash which should inform the way we consider transition. Can non-reformist reforms act as a rallying cry for ordinary people struggling to come to terms with a cost-of-living crisis exacerbated by ecological breakdown, rising fascism, an epidemic of femicides, etc.?



Readings prior to class:

Mandatory reading: Chapter 2, Radical Abundance: How to Win a Green Democratic Future – The Necessity of Transition

Going deeper: Step by radical step: the macroeconomics of a degrowth transition

Session 2 - Oct 20th , 2025 4 pm CET

A job guarantee with working-time reductions as catalyst for social-ecological transformation

Description of the class: In this session, we will discuss the power of the job guarantee both to eradicate involuntary unemployment and alleviate social deprivation, as well as to provide the labour required for social-ecological transformation – drawing on Pavlina Tcherneva, Ndongo Samba Sylla, Michał Kalecki.

Achieving full employment transfers power from capital to workers and sets standards across the economy – in terms of pay, working conditions, workplace democracy, and working time. Job guarantees have been enacted around the world at a variety of scales – from India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to France's Territoires zéro chômeur de longue durée.

How should our vision for a job guarantee expand from a temporary sponge for the involuntarily unemployed to a key tool for building an economy in which human needs are fulfilled within planetary boundaries?

Readings prior to class:

Mandatory readings: For a Full and Decent Employment in Africa: The Role of a Job Guarantee

Going deeper: The Case for the Job Guarantee;
Political Aspects of Full Employment;
Americans Across the Political Divide Want a Federal Job



Session 3 - Oct 27th , 2025 4 pm CET

Universal Public Services as gateway to an economy of commons

Description of the class: In this session, we will discuss how we can deploy the labour provided by the job guarantee to roll out world-class public services for all. The aim is to expand our consideration of public services from education and healthcare to food and housing – drawing on Anna Coote, Andrew Percy, Jason Hickel, Colleen Schneider, Christopher Olk.

Rolling out universal public services is a long-term project. In many parts of the global North it involves bringing privatised and semi-privatised services such as water and energy provisioning into public ownership and making them free at the point of use.

This socialisation constitutes the first step in a transition from markets to commoning – as a governance practice for managing transport, healthcare, and more. What would food and housing as a basic right and public services resemble in various contexts??

Readings prior to class:

Mandatory reading: How universal public services can end the cost-of-living crisis

Going deeper: The Case for Universal Basic Services Chapter 5, Radical Abundance: How to Win a Green Democratic Future – Public-Common Partnerships

Session 4 - Nov 3rd, 2025 4 pm CET

Universal Care Income: halberd against the patriarchy

Description of the class: In this session, building on the legacy of the wages for housework campaign, we will discuss how we can face the undervaluation of care work in our societies head on while creating space for everyone to achieve their full potential – starting with working-class racialised womxn – drawing on Selma James, Silvia Federici, Filka Sekulova, Giacomo D’Alisa.

Unlike its basic cousin, Universal Care Income is not designed to prop up struggling capitalist economies, but to subvert their core logics as a non-reformist reform. We will discuss the merits of the various proposals that have been put forward, and their potential both to valorise the care of human and non-human nature, and to create space for everyone to explore parts of themselves beyond waged labour.

Should a Universal Care Income be means tested? Differentiated by gender? What is its political potential?

Readings prior to class:

Mandatory reading: [R&Di UCI policy brief](#)

Going deeper: Universal basic income, services, or time politics? A critical realist analysis of (potentially) transformative responses to the care crisis

Session 5 - Nov 10th , 2025 4 pm CET

From credit guidance to nationalisation: how can we scale down damaging forms of production

Description of the class: In this session, we will discuss how – with caps on resource use nowhere on the horizon – we can actually achieve degrowth – drawing on Eric Monnet, Katie Kedward, Daniela Gabor, Josh Ryan-Collins, Climate Vanguard, Chinese monetary policy.

Credit guidance involves setting strict limits on the volume and kinds of loans made by banks to private firms. It constitutes a means of steering production away from the damaging sectors that must be phased out towards those that must be scaled up. Credit controls have been implemented everywhere from postwar France to modern-day China, Bangladesh, and Brazil.

Drawing on this history, we explore how they could provide a transformational alternative to mainstream monetary policy – failing on its own terms to maintain price stability, as well as to contribute to social-ecological transformation. What other policies are required to end the fossil fuel era, phase out industrial agriculture, and scale down aviation?

Readings prior to class:

Mandatory readings:

- [How to Force Capitalism to Stop Climate Change.](#)
- [The Emergency Brake: Nationalising and Dismantling the Fossil Fuel Industry in the Global North](#)

Going deeper:

- Controlling Credit. Central Banking and the Planned Economy in Postwar France, 1948-1973
- Carrots with(out) sticks: credit policy and the limits of green central banking
- [Une finance aux ordres: Comment le pouvoir chinois met le secteur financier au service de ses ambitions](#)

Contact

Course coordinators



Lorenzo Lonardi is a project coordinator at Research and Degrowth with a master's degree in Political Ecology, Degrowth, and Environmental Justice from ICTA-UAB. He is passionate about promoting degrowth ideas and creating accessible educational programs. As the coordinator of the "Introduction to Degrowth" online course and the "Deep Dives" online courses, Lorenzo focuses on organizing and delivering a program that supports learning and collaboration around sustainable and just alternatives to growth-focused economics.



Federico Arcuri is a project coordinator at Research and Degrowth. He is also an alumnus of the master's in Political Ecology at ICTA-UAB, with a thesis on a "Post-growth deal for Italy". He is interested in environmental conflicts, post-growth policy and geopolitics, especially with respect to EU-China relations. He co-organized the last two editions of the Degrowth Summer School, coordinating the bike caravan weeks and facilitating counter-cartography workshops. Co-organizer of the Beyond Growth conference Italia (April 2024), he is active in the Italian degrowth movement.

If you have questions about the "Deep Dives" Online Course feel free to contact Lorenzo or Federico:

✉ Email: project@degrowth.org; fede.arcuri@degrowth.org

☎ Discord: [lorenzol._57084_23912](https://discord.com/users/lorenzol._57084_23912); +39 3884236592

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*Amb el suport de
l'Ajuntament de
Barcelona*



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