

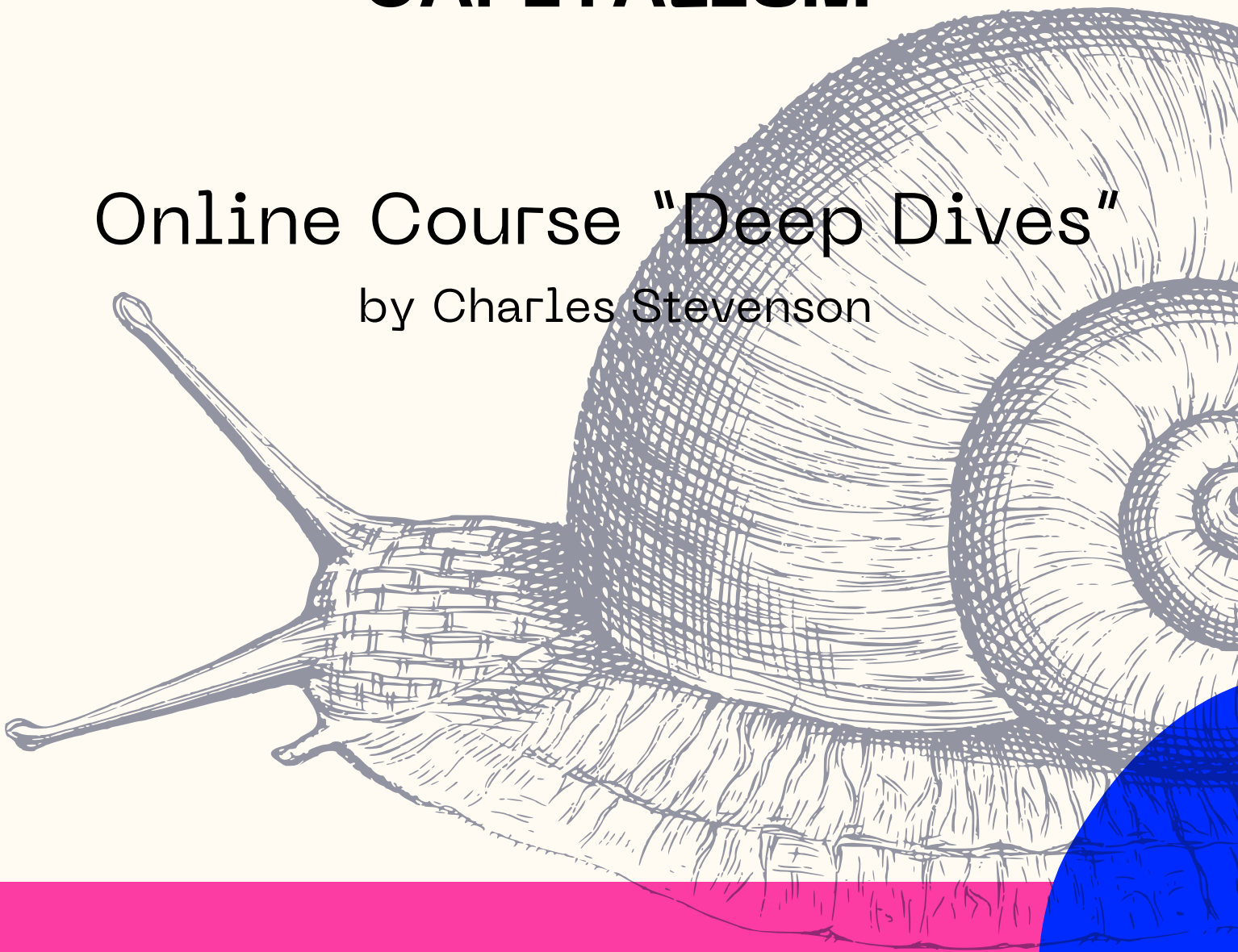


Research & Degrowth International

POLICIES FOR DEGROWTH: PATHWAYS BEYOND CAPITALISM

Online Course "Deep Dives"

by Charles Stevenson



Second Edition Jun/ Jul

2026

Syllabus

"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 ocean 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. To join this course, you should have already attended a previous course on degrowth (such as "Intro to Degrowth" or the master course), or have read a full book on the subject—for example, *Less Is More* by Jason Hickel.

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!

COURSE DETAILS

After the successful completion of the first edition, we are happy to offer the **Second edition of "Policies for Degrowth: Pathways Beyond Capitalism"** taught by **Charles Stevenson**, with classes of 2.5 hours each Wednesday's starting on **June 3rd till July 8th, from 4pm to 6.30 pm CEST (10 am east coast)**.



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

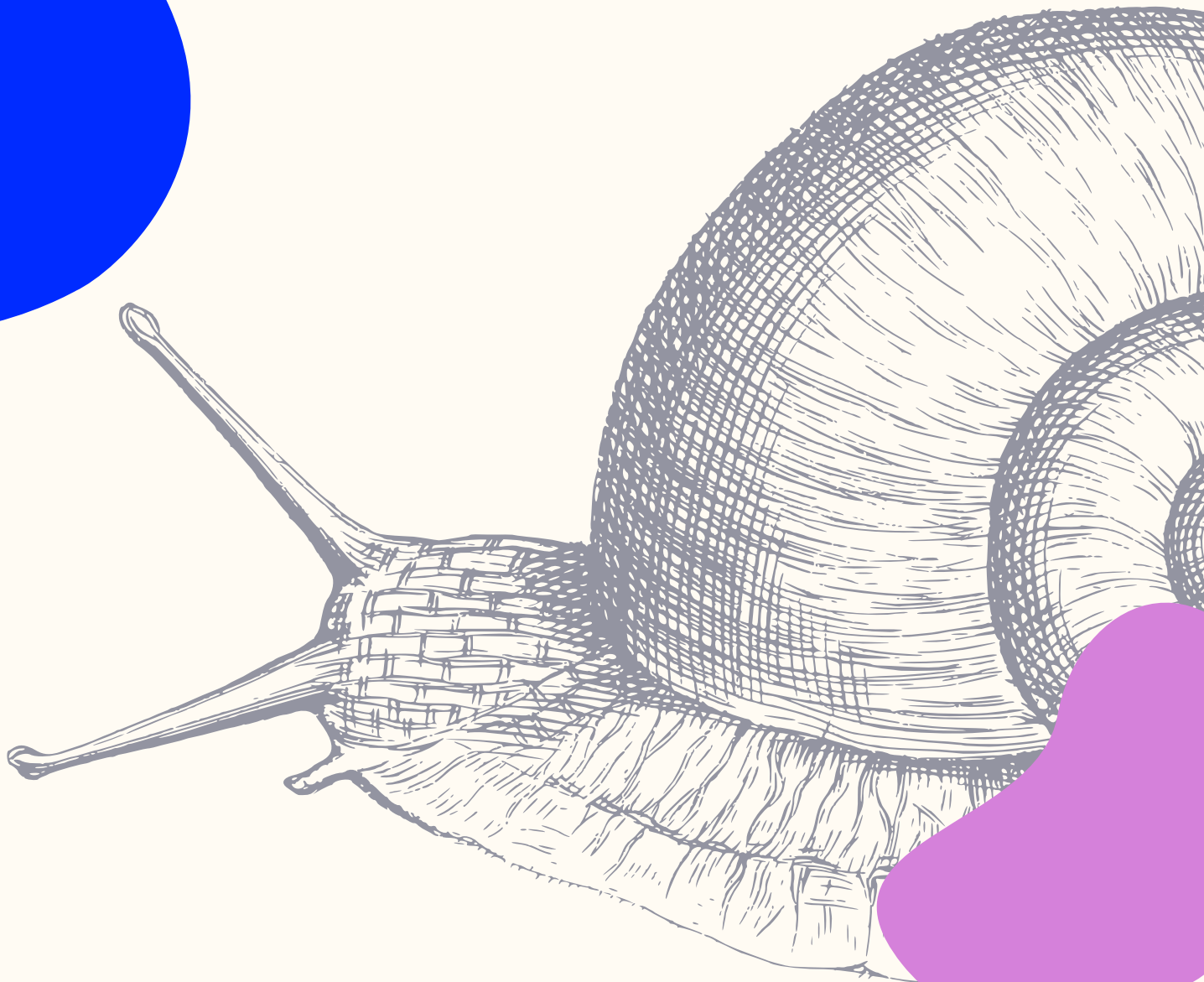
- Jun 3th** - Policies as non-reformist reforms in a post-capitalist transition
- Jun 10th** - A job guarantee with working-time reductions as catalyst for social-ecological transformation
- Jun 17th** - Universal Public Services and the macrofinance of transition
- Jul 1st** - Universal Care Income: halberd against the patriarchy
- Jul 8th** - 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 30 people. Classes allow interaction and exercise between lecturer and peers.

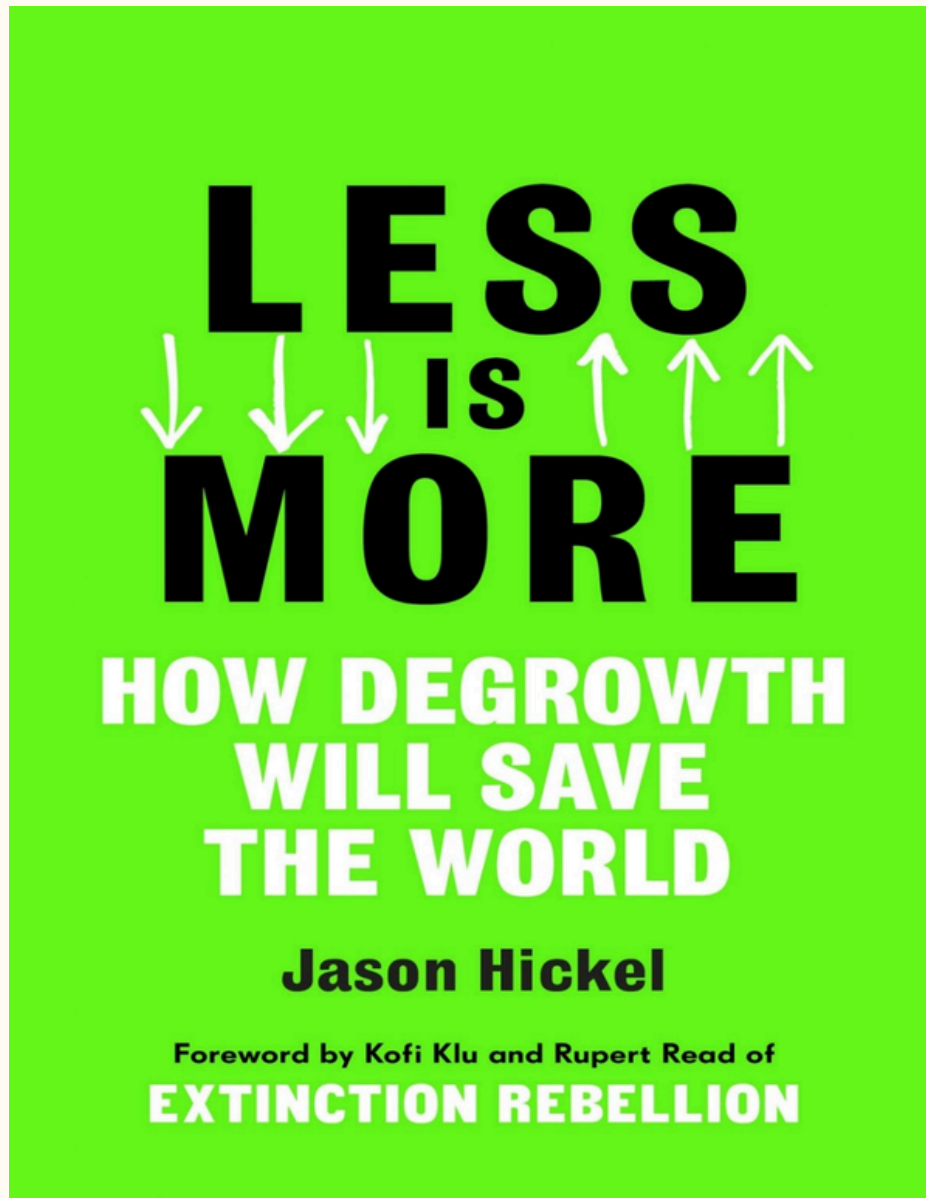
R&Di offers **two scholarship** per course.



Pre-course reading

Jason Hickel, *Less is more*

If you don't have a previous knowledge of degrowth, this reading is mandatory before the course starts:



Session 1 - June 3rd, 2026 3:20 pm CEST

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 Luxembour, 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 every 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: Less Is More by Jason Hickel

Going deeper:

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

Step by radical step: the macroeconomics of a degrowth transition

Session 2 - Jun 10th , 2026 4 pm CEST

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 reading : Stevenson, C. (2025, October). Public works for a degrowth transformation: Jobs for all who want them [Policy brief n.3]. Research & Degrowth International

Going Deeper:

- [For a Full and Decent Employment in Africa: The Role of a Job Guarantee](#)
- [The Case for the Job Guarantee; Political Aspects of Full Employment; Americans Across the Political Divide Want a Federal Job](#)

Session 3 - Jun 17th , 2026 4 pm CEST

Universal Public Services and the macrofinance of transition

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.

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?

We will also explore the macrofinancial questions of a degrowth transition. How do we pay for the high-quality public services required for us all to live life with dignity? What does macroeconomic stability look like without growth? How do we combat inflation in an economy in which some sectors are being phased out while others are scaled up?

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 - Jul 1st, 2026 4 pm CEST

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 we 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:

Dengler C. Rereading the Wages for Housework Campaign: Feminist Degrowth Reflections on Social Reproduction, Commons, and a Care Income.

Going deeper:

- Universal basic income, services, or time politics? A critical realist analysis of (potentially) transformative responses to the care crisis
- [R&Di UCI policy brief](#)

Session 5 - Jul 8th , 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:

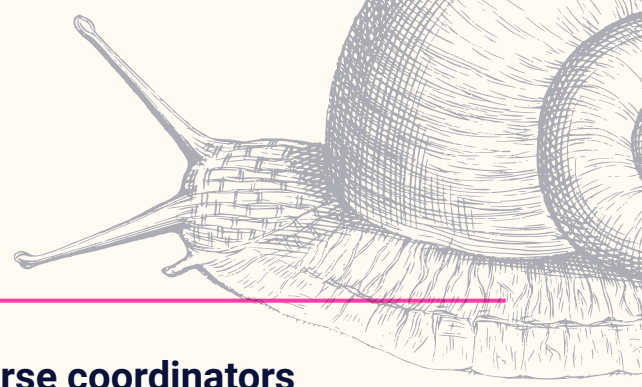
Mandatory readings:

- How to Force Capitalism to Stop Climate Change.

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
- [The Emergency Brake: Nationalising and Dismantling the Fossil Fuel Industry in the Global North](#)

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