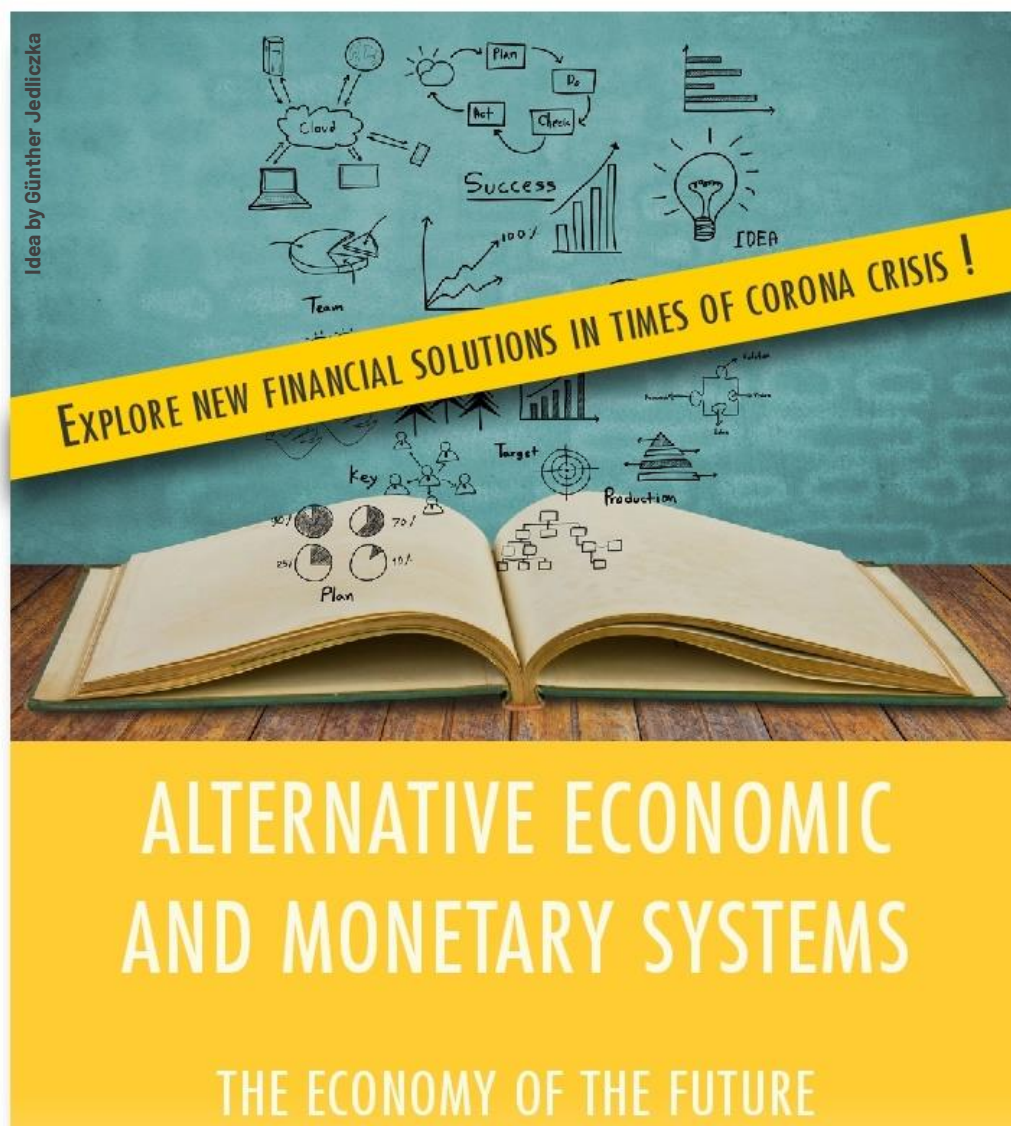


ONLINE – SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2021



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With the kind support of our sponsors



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

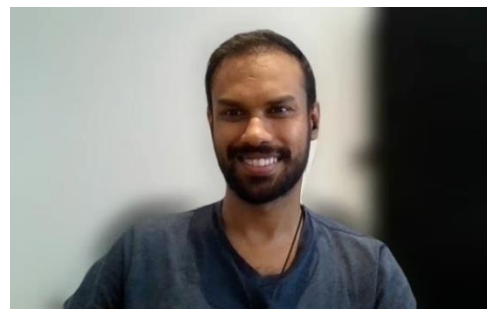


“What attracted me the most on the summer school this year was to have the opportunity to learn something different from my field. I'm an architect and an urbanist. I am constantly speaking about economics and politics, the system and what to do about climate change, so it was perfect to study the AEMS course this summer.”

Natana Char da Silva, Brazilian

“I would definitely recommend AEMS for any future students. Particularly because I think it gives you a diverse perspective on how you can think about various issues and crises that we're facing.”

Nikhil Kulkarni, Indian



“I definitely recommend AEMS summer university for other students around the globe because this is a great opportunity not just to learn, but also to connect with other people, to contribute and to develop your knowledge and ideas.”

Sara Andrea Vaca Sanchez, Ecuadorian

“I have joined several summer schools from different countries. This one surprised me because not only was there different ages, but there are lots of students from different countries, different regions, and from different disciplines and it's great to connect with other likeminded students.”

Alifia Marina Syarfi, Indonesian



“I would definitely recommend AEMS summer university to other students and professionals. It's urgent what we are studying and it affects everybody, so I would love for more people to access this content.”

Raul de Lima, Brazilian

INTRODUCTION

"It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning." Henry Ford

Floodings, forest fires, storms. As a year of weather extremes, 2021 provided us with a wake up call in light of the imminent climate emergency. It has shown, with unmistakable clarity, that this crisis concerns all of us and will not simply pass us by. Why then are we so reluctant to make a change?

The second year in a global pandemic, 2021 has also given us insights into living in a state of constant alert: it is uncomfortable, it is tiring, it is worrying, and it is frightening. And it might happen even more often in the future, as our ecological systems continuously degrade. Should this not make us re-consider the road we are currently on?

The time for change is NOW – and changing the path must begin with understanding the problem and looking at the alternatives at hand. Our economic system has far-reaching negative impacts on our natural environment and acts as a driving force for climate change. It leads to resource depletion, pollution and ultimately the destruction of ecosystems. While many of us already know this and are eager to change it, an important element within our economy often remains overlooked: money. As a tool to create wealth, money was originally purposed to serve society. Instead, it has become the embodiment of wealth itself. Money has become the ruling instrument, dominating society with the strive to maximize profits. The financial system, with its unregulated speculative practices and the dynamics of compound interest, contributes to ecological degradation as well as social inequality. However:

There are alternatives! This is what the summer school "Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems" wants to shed a light on.

The program highlights necessary changes in both the economic and financial systems and additionally addresses what can be done on an individual level. This year, AEMS took place from 19th July to 6th August and welcomed 35 participants from 22 nations, located in 10 different time zones. Our students explored mainstream and alternative economic and monetary models. They engaged with the interactions between society, the economy and environment and understanding why a drastic change is needed. But more importantly, they are aware of alternative approaches for both economy and finance!

The program featured simulations and workshops alongside numerous video-lectures, as well as an interdisciplinary group project on the topics of limits to growth, financial crises, climate change, ecosystem boundaries, demographic change and other developments of high global and national relevance.

We would like to thank all participants, speakers, partners and sponsors for making AEMS a continuing success. All your support in realizing our ideas for a more sustainable future is much appreciated!

Best wishes from the AEMS Steering Committee,

Guenther Jedliczka (OeAD student housing),
Carina Kamptner (OeAD student housing),
Petra Isepp (OeAD student housing),
Helga Kromp-Kolb (BOKU University),
Nathalie Spittler (BOKU University),
Kurt Bayer (WIIW),
Halliki Kreinin (WU Vienna), and
Christina Buczko (Academy for the Common Good).

ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Albert Einstein

The AEMS summer school was born out of the ever more pressing need for a change in thought surrounding our economic and financial systems and the importance they hold in the global climate crisis. The program is organized as a cooperation project between OeAD student housing, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) and representatives of the Economy for the Common Good (ECG). Contrary to the dominating dogma of "There is no alternative!", we firmly believe that "There is no alternative for alternatives!".

The aim is to raise awareness for the necessary shift in our economic system. In this, we are supported by the vast understanding of the climate crisis and knowledge on alternative economic and monetary systems of Helga Kromp-Kolb and Nathalie Spittler (both BOKU), Kurt Bayer (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies), Halliki Kreinin (Vienna University of Economics and Business) and Christina Buczko (Academy for the Common Good). Furthermore, the numerous academic and scientific partners of the AEMS provide valuable input from the latest publications in their respective fields.

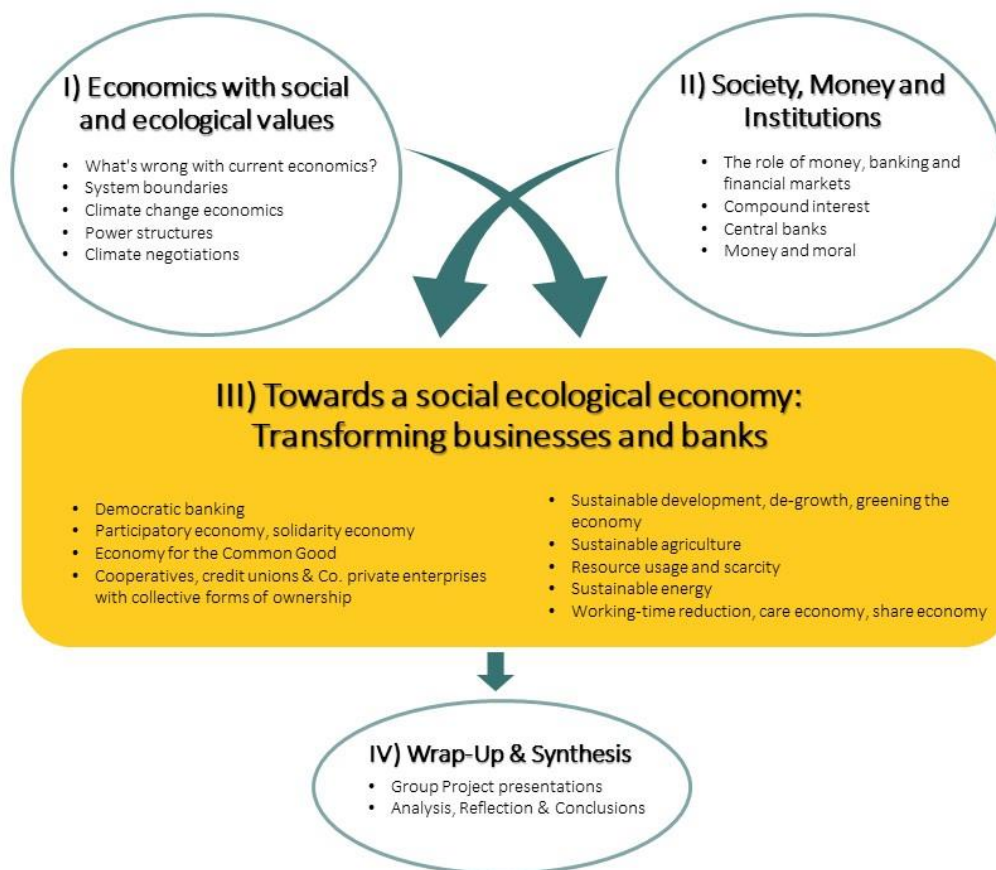
AEMS is a combined effort to create an academically open event for students and professionals from all walks of life, to gain knowledge on the current socio-economic climate and to explore real alternatives. Participants are guided through the summer program by Helga, Kurt, Halliki and Nathalie. They support the participants in getting a

clear picture of the connections between the various topics and speakers' views.

AEMS is a pioneering project in terms of sustainability, education, and international cooperation and wants to lead by example. That is why we take many measures, as set out below, to make the program itself as climate friendly as possible.

Certified as an EcoEvent in accordance with the criteria of the City of Vienna, the summer school focuses particularly on environmental-friendly behavior. Measures taken therefore include exclusively vegan and vegetarian catering with regional and seasonal products at the grand opening event; exclusive use of environmentally certified paper for all print materials and print-on-demand only; information for participants on the availability of public transport and proper waste separation, or waste avoidance etc.

Digital media offers unprecedented possibilities for changemakers and pioneers from all around the world to foster connections and collectively engage with the political agenda, with no spatial and/or time limitations. Therefore, the summer school also strives to offer a platform for international exchange and global networks to share ideas – even beyond the summer program. Our alumni often stay in touch or re-connect with each other to share new ideas or insights from their work and some also aim to implement their own initiatives for a more sustainable future.



CURRICULUM

"Dare to know! Have the courage to use your own intelligence!"

Immanuel Kant

The program of the AEMS summer school is adapted continuously to guarantee state of the art knowledge in terms of content and to offer the best possible experience regarding the format of the summer school. This year, the online-summer school was structured so that the virtual live-sessions took place in the afternoons of Central European Time. This allowed students from the Americas or Asia to attend in their respective mornings or evenings.

During the preparatory phase, students read introductory literature and completed a preparatory exercise. This allowed for easier participation during the program.

The course is split into four modules spread over three weeks, building up from the preparatory work. The main part of the

summer school includes self-study periods with pre-recorded video-lectures, as well as live-sessions with time for questions and discussion. Workshops such as simulation games are also featured to enable a deeper understanding of complex interrelationships.

Economics with social and ecological values. The first module gives an overview of the current global socio-economic situation and examines what makes a transformation necessary. Students understand the connections between the idea of endless economic growth, system boundaries and climate change.

Society, Money and Institutions. Module 2 focuses on economic systems, analysing the role of money, international banking

systems, financial markets and ethics in the economy. The main question here is “how can financial markets serve the broader interests of society rather than dominating them?”. Alternatives such as complementary and regional currencies are discussed in this module.

Towards a social, ecological economy.

Module 3 is where the essence of the summer school lies. It enables students to view available alternatives for reforming the economic and financial systems from a holistic perspective. Areas discussed include democratic banking, de-growth, work reduction and sustainable agriculture.

Bringing about change is not an easy

endeavour and cooperation is essential. As a part of module 3, students therefore work on interdisciplinary group projects with the aim to propose a solution for a social, ecological or economic challenge chosen by the respective group. The project should engage with challenges discussed during the summer school. Additionally, all participants write blog posts that are published on the AEMS website: <http://www.summer-university.net>

Wrap-up and synthesis. Module 4 gives students an opportunity to reflect and consolidate the many issues and concepts they have heard of and experienced over the previous three weeks.



World Climate Simulation Game during the AEMS 2021 (Screenshot)

Week I: Economics with Social and Ecological Values

Day	Time (CEST)		Type		Lecturer	Format
MON, 19 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Check-in</i>	AEMS participants Get-together	AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	16:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Value Brainstorming: A Good Life for All?	AEMS academic team	Workshop
	17:00	20:00		Public Opening Event: Climate Change – is there a new dynamic? For more info click here	Helga Kromp-Kolb, Gabu Heindl, Anika Dafert	Lecture & Discussion
TUE, 20 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:30	<i>Session 1</i>	Philosophy of sciences & history of economic thought	Clive Spash & AEMS academic team	Discussion
	15:30	17:00	<i>Group session</i>	Explanations about group work and students work	AEMS academic team	Workshop
WED, 21 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Alternatives to Mainstream Economics	Tone Smith	Lecture & Discussion
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>	Finding project ideas	AEMS academic team	Workshop
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Monetary System Basics	Kurt Bayer	Lecture & Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
THU, 22 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Climate change & Biodiversity loss	Helga Kromp-Kolb	Discussion
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Climate change in relation to current economies	Karl Steininger	Discussion
				Ecological problems in relation to current economies	Brian Fath	
17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop	
FRI, 23 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	The problem of work in contemporary societies	Juliet Schor	Lecture & Discussion
	15:00	16:00	<i>Reflection & Group Work</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop

Week II: Society, Money and Institutions

	Time (CEST)	Type		Lecturer	Format	
MON, 26 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Perspectives on basic economic concepts	Ernest Aigner	Interactive exercise
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Realizing change and building movements	Mira Kapfinger, Patrick Scherhauser	Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop

TUE, 27 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:30	<i>Session 1</i>	Understanding Money, Banking and Financial Markets Money and moral	Peter Wahl Bernd Villhauer	Discussion & Money Game
	15:30	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	International monetary institutions Central banking for a social-ecological transformation	Kurt Bayer Louison Cahen-Fourot	Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop

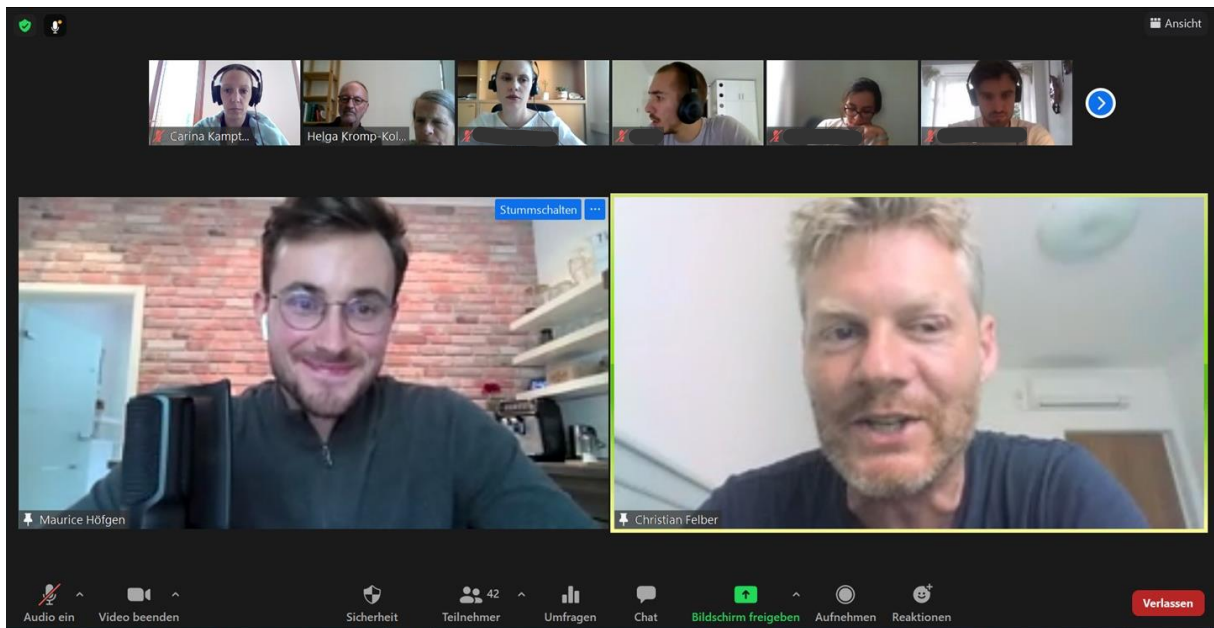
WED, 28 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Interest rates, accumulation and inequality	Thomas Kubo	Discussion
	15:30	19:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Climate Negotiations Simulation	Helga Kromp-Kolb, Mathias Kirchner	Role-playing exercise

THU, 29 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	New thinking on money and finance - sovereign money New thinking on money and finance - modern monetary theory	Christian Felber Maurice Höfgen	Discussion
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Communal politics for alternative businesses and banks	Gwen Hallsmith	Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop

FRI, 30 July	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Climate Assemblies	Brigitte Grahl	Discussion
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Regulating international finance for social progress and to protect the environment	Daniela Gabor and Frederice Hache	Lecture & Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop

Week III: Towards a social-ecological economy

	Time (CEST)	Type		Lecturer	Format	
MON, 2 August	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	The political trilemma of contemporary social-ecological transformation	Andreas Novy	Lecture & Discussion
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Universal Basic Income Universal Basic Services	Maximilian Kasy Anna Coote	Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
TUE, 3 August	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Harvest Game	AEMS academic team	Workshop
	15:00	16:00	<i>Group session</i>			Group Work
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Economic democracy	Alexandra Strickner	Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
WED, 4 August	13:30	14:00	<i>Reflection & Preparation</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
	14:00	15:00	<i>Session 1</i>	Alternative Foodways: Community Supported Agriculture and Foodcoops	Friedrich Leitgeb	
	15:00	16:00	<i>Session 2</i>	Economy for the Common Good	Christian Felber	Discussion
	16:00	17:00	<i>Session 3</i>	Limitations and potentials of circular (bio-)economy Degrowth	Gillian Foster Julia Steinberger & Halliki Kreinin	Discussion
	17:00	17:30	<i>Reflection</i>		AEMS academic team	Workshop
THU, 5 August	Group Work with feedback sessions					
FRI, 6 August	14:30	17:30	Group Work Presentations			



Maurice Höfgen and Christian Felber discussing new ways in money and finance (Screenshot)

AEMS GOES DIGITAL 2.0

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

Lily Tomlin

Continuing the successful format of the previous year's program, the AEMS summer school went online again for the second time. It thereby enabled students and professionals from all over the world to join without worrying about travel restrictions and keeping the ecological impact at a low level.

The course consisted of virtual live-sessions with discussions, educational games and workshops, as well as self-study periods and online group projects. Most lecturers recorded a short and on-point 30-minute presentation on their respective topic. Others gave a live lecture and provided the students with additional material such as scientific articles, newspaper clippings, blog posts, videos, etc. before their scheduled session.

In the mornings, students had time to listen to the recorded presentations and work through the additional material. Afterwards,

they evaluated the lectures based on three questions they needed to answer before going into the live-sessions:

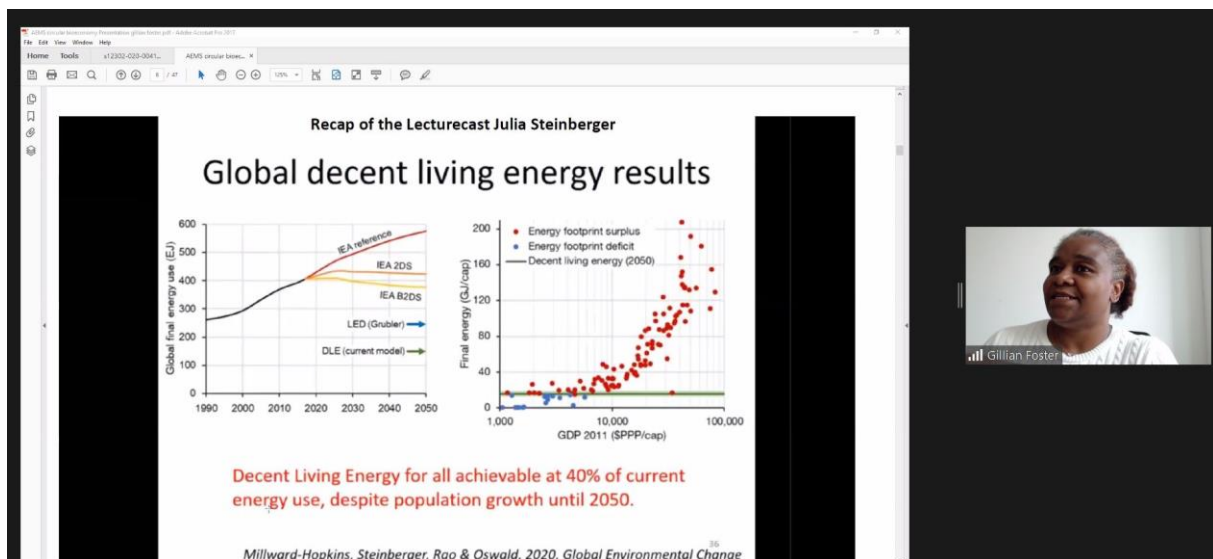
- What are the main messages of the lecture?
- What was new to you in the lecture?
- Is there anything you did not understand?

Getting into the topics already before the scheduled live-sessions with the lecturers allowed our students to make the best possible use of the online discussions: asking specific questions or bringing interesting arguments and perspectives to the forefront.

The online live-sessions of each day started off with a time slot for reflection and preparation via Zoom, during which the AEMS academic team addressed the above-mentioned questions. After that, the respective two lecturers of the day joined the Zoom call. Students could then discuss directly with them and ask their questions,

either by speaking over the microphone or writing in the chat function. Additionally, students could also ask their questions during the preparation phase of the material and post their inputs on Discord. The AEMS academic heads kept track of questions raised and arguments made and forwarded them to the speakers, as well as moderated the live-interactions.

Each day concluded with a session for reflection, which enabled the students to see the topics raised from a holistic perspective and place the individual sessions from each day within the overall big picture of the AEMS program. For this purpose, they often created a MURAL to graphically summarize the key points learned. MURAL is a digital workspace for visual collaboration.



Lecture by Gillian Foster, WU (Screenshot)



Lecture by Brian Fath, IIASA (Screenshot)

CLIMATE CHANGE – IS THERE A NEW DYNAMIC?

“And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us.”

Amanda Gorman

The public opening event of the AEMS summer school took place at the Vienna University of Technology on July 19th, 2021. The event provided insights into the title question "Climate change – is there a new dynamic?" with keynote speeches presented to the audience by Fridays for Future-activist Anika Dafert, Austria's leading climatologist Helga Kromp-Kolb and well-known architect and urban planner Gabu Heindl.

In her heartfelt speech, Anika Dafert illustrated the already noticeable and far-reaching consequences of the climate crisis and addressed the audience directly in her closing words. She appealed to them to make a contribution to shaping our future. Picking up from there, Helga Kromp-Kolb went deeper into not only new dynamics within the global climate system, she also opened the view for changes in political constellations, as well as the shift in priorities during the Corona crisis – both of which can be seen as positive signals. In the concluding presentation, Gabu Heindl

expanded on the topics of solidarity and justice in the housing sector. She also spoke about future possibilities for meeting the energy demand of buildings and the people living there. After the presentations, the audience – both online and in-person – were invited to join the speakers in a panel discussion via the online-tool Slido.

Of special interest for the audience were the big questions on how to convince companies and political changemakers to shift from the current predominant focus on solely profitmaking and making “popular” political choices, to operating in a socially and ecologically sustainable way in the long term. Other topics discussed included climate action and the crucial role communication and awareness play, but also the importance financial stability holds in getting active, which highlighted the social perspective of the climate dimension.

In addition to the in-person event at the Kuppelsaal, an online live-stream was in place for all interested viewers from all over the world to freely follow the important



Audience of the opening event at the Kuppelsaal, TU Vienna
© Nina Hainfellner



Nora Laufer, der Standard
© Nina Hainfellner

topics presented and discussed. A recording of the event was also made available on YouTube in order to satisfy the great interest of the public and to spread the urgent need for change.

Participants of the AEMS summer school together with the GBS students were introduced to the audience via personal video messages during the event. This way the guests, as well as students, were able to

get to know our participants, their motivations, goals and expectations of the program.

The buffet after the event was organized under strict COVID-19 measures. All food and beverages were vegetarian or vegan and of organic quality, as well as regional and seasonal.

The event is available for [rewatch online](#).



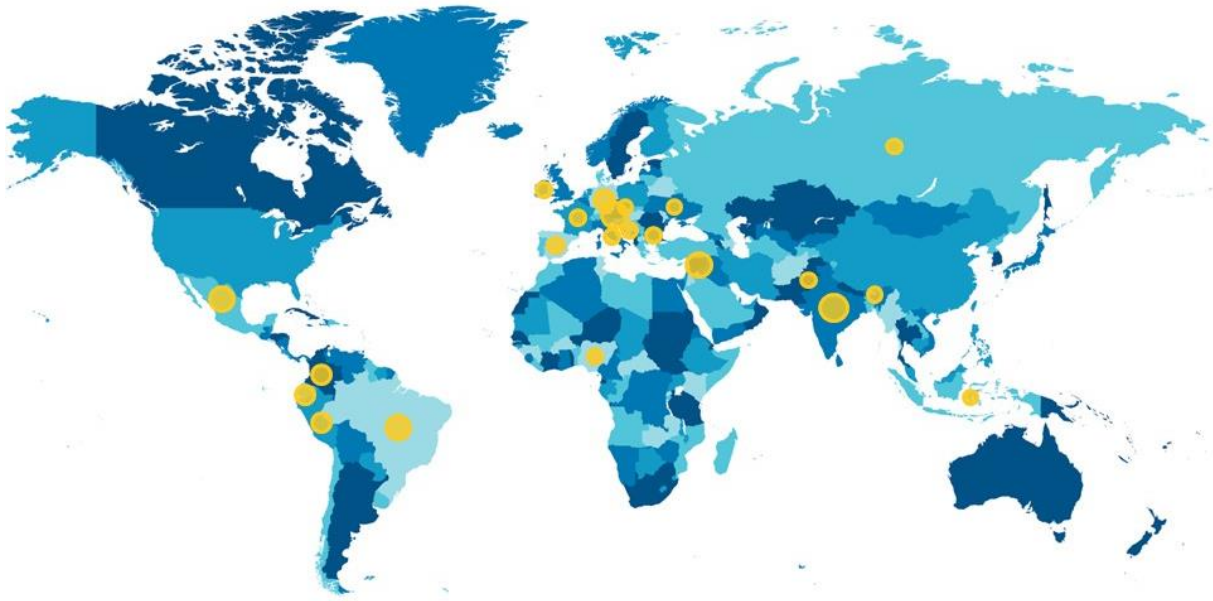
Anika Dafert, FFF, speaking about the climate crisis © Nina Hainfellner



Guests of the opening event © Nina Hainfellner



Students of the AEMS and GBS after the opening event © Nina Hainfellner



THE PARTICIPANTS

"I am not an Athenian nor a Greek, but a citizen of the world."

Socrates

35 people from 22 nations, located in 10 different time zones immersed themselves in the online-AEMS summer school 2021. They came from countries such as Bhutan, Mexico, Indonesia, Russia, Nigeria, Ecuador, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and many other European countries. The image above shows the nationalities of this year's students, with the size of the bubbles indicating the number of students from the respective region.

Bringing people together. The topics addressed during the AEMS concern everyone, everywhere. As a result, our group of students is not only rich in cultural diversity, but also in terms of their (life) experience. From 20 to 42 years of age, the program brought people from different disciplines together – be it economics, natural and sustainability research, social

studies and engineering sciences. But there's more to it: the AEMS not only bridges diversity - but thrives on it. The manifold interests, academic and professional backgrounds of its students enable a discussion from different perspectives and contribute to a holistic understanding, therefore making it even more eye-opening. Students not only learn from renowned experts in their fields, but also grow through the personal exchange amongst each other, which contributes to the unique character of the summer school.

It is not necessary to have an economic background in order to participate in the program. Anyone with an interest in learning more about the impact of our economic and monetary systems in relation to our limited natural resources is welcome to join!



Group pictures of the AEMS participants on Zoom (Screenshots)

THE LECTURERS

"Those who have seen through their existence cannot be stopped."

Confucius

Thanks to the digital implementation of this year's summer program, we were able to attract even more international speakers to provide contributions and discussions. The experts are mainly from the academic world and/or activists. Their names in alphabetical order:

Ernest Aigner (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Kurt Bayer (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Louison Cahen-Fourot (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Anna Coote (New Economics Foundation)

Anika Dafert (Fridays for Future Austria)

Gillian Foster (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Brian Fath (IIASA)

Christian Felber (Economy for the Common Good)

Brigitte Grahl (Klimavolksbegehren)

Frederic Hache (Green Finance Observatory)

Gwendolyn Hallsmith (Global Community Initiatives)

Gabu Heindl (GABU Heindl Architektur)

Maurice Höfgen (economist and book author)

Mira Kapfinger (Stay Grounded)

Maximilian Kasy (University of Oxford)

Mathias Kirchner (BOKU Wien)

Halliki Kreinin (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Helga Kromp-Kolb (BOKU Wien)

Thomas Kubo (writer and publisher)

Friedrich Leitgeb (BOKU Wien)

Andreas Novy (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Patrick Scherhauser (BOKU Wien)

Juliet Schor (Boston College)

Tone Smith (Rethinking Economics Norway)

Clive Spash (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Julia Steinberger (University of Leeds)

Karl Steininger (University of Graz)

Alexandra Strickner (Attac Austria)

Bernd Villhauer (Global Ethic Institute)

Peter Wahl (World Economy, Ecology & Development Association)



Karl Steininger's lecture (Screenshot)



Gwen Hallsmith's lecture

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

"An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come."

Victor Hugo

The AEMS summer school provides not only insights into the most pressing topics of our time. The program thrives on intercultural exchange and new perspectives being brought into it by our international participants. That's why AEMS is keen on fostering intercultural exchange and networking – during the program itself, but also via extra-curricular activities.

Students who participated in the program from Vienna got to meet up and dine at a **typical Austrian restaurant**, tasting traditional dishes such as Wiener Schnitzel or Apfelstrudel, as well as vegetarian and vegan specialties. They also spent a **sports-evening** together playing tennis or volleyball and having dinner afterwards. On a **bike-tour** across the city of Vienna to the urban development area "Seestadt Aspern", the students could mingle with participants from the "Green.Building.Solutions. (GBS)" summer university, which focusses on ecological buildings and took place in parallel to the AEMS. The guided **tour to the BOKU University campus** provided another

opportunity to witness sustainable architecture and building design first-hand.

In an exciting virtual **Pub-Quiz** AEMS and GBS students were invited to form mixed groups and solve tricky questions together. All members of the winning team received Christian Felber's book "Money – the new rules of the game". Another highlight of this year's social activities was the **collective cooking** of the Austrian sweet dish "Kaiserschmarrn", with a possible vegan option offered. Students were provided with the recipe and information on ingredients beforehand and had fun joining a live cook-along taking place via video call. AEMS participants also followed the online **Tiny-House Workshop** offered by an alumnus of GBS with special interest.

Meeting the great demand and interest in the topic of Cryptocurrencies, the AEMS team organized an extra-curricular lecture on this subject. The majority of AEMS students attended and were glad that their many questions were answered.



AEMS and GBS students at a bike-tour across Vienna © Luiza Puiu



Diner at an Austrian restaurant with students and the AEMS and GBS team
© Parimal Vikrant



Visiting the newly built wooden house Ilse-Wallentin-House at the BOKU University campus
© OeAD-WVGmbH



Visit to the photovoltaic system at Schwackhöfer House at the BOKU University Campus
© OeAD-WVGmbH



Instagram post about the online cooking course (Screenshot)



Danny Murphy, a former GBS students, tells his story how he and his wife built their own tiny house (Screenshot)

THE SPIRIT OF AEMS

"Enlighten yourself, and then influence others by what you are."

Wilhelm von Humboldt

The online-AEMS 2021 was a huge success! It left its students with new perspectives and a spark of inspiration – what we call the spirit of AEMS!

Participants from all over the world learned about the flaws and problems of our economic and financial systems and got to understand how they influence not only our daily lives, but also the environment and natural systems on a large scale. They are aware of the important role of political measures in our interconnected world, all the while witnessing a global pandemic which led to a shift in priorities from the economy to the people and their health.

But most importantly, they were inspired by the many ideas and innovative solutions that already exist. Following the mindset of "there is no alternative for alternatives", they are keen on contributing to making a difference and take this approach with them to their respective home countries, their families and friends, their workplaces and universities. Many of them are inspired to

initiate their own projects in order to make a difference in the world.

Even though the summer school is over, students remain connected and exchange information about their ambitious project ideas and initiatives. Many have found new friends as well as potential partners for their projects within the community during the three-week long program.

Changing the world is not an endeavor for one person alone to undertake – but we can do it together. Following this train of thought, we are planning to foster the connection between all the current and preceding participants of AEMS and to give room to the many ideas created – maybe even online, as we now know how to.

Become a part of our AEMS community!

www.facebook.com/AEMSVienna

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AEMS 2021 students, who were in Vienna, the organizational team and speakers of the opening event © Nina Hainfellner



Peter Victor, Veronika Winter and Lino Zeddies were some of our experts who discussed alternatives to our current economic and monetary systems (Screenshots)

EXPERT TALKS

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

Climate change and its consequences are not only becoming increasingly noticeable on a global scale, but it is also becoming ever more urgent to act. A key factor for solving this crisis in the long-term lies in raising awareness on a broad societal level – because people will only act if they understand the problem.

Following this approach, the AEMS Summer School hosted three digital "**Expert Talks**" on the topic of alternative ideas for our economic and financial systems this year between January and May. All three are available online for rewatching:

- **Rethinking Monetary Policy - Ways out of the Financial and Climate Crisis** with Christian Felber (founder of the Common Good Economy) and Thomas Kubo (writer and publisher) and moderated by Christina Buczko (Academy for the Common Good) on January 20th. Addressed were the instabilities of the global financial system and got to the bottom of the core question of an ecologically sustainable economy. [Link to recording](#) (in German)
- **Economic Growth vs. Climate Change - How can we prosper within the boundaries of our planet?** with Helga Kromp-Kolb (climatologist) and Peter Victor (ecological economist), moderated by Halliki Kreinin (ecological economics PhD student) on March 10th. The focus here was on prosperity within our ecological boundaries. It also dealt with the question of why it is so important to act now to get a grip on the far-reaching consequences of climate change. [Link to recording](#)
- **Let's talk future! - Visions of a world after the social-ecological transformation** with Lino Zeddies (author "Utopia 2048") and Veronika Winter (activist with Fridays for Future Austria) moderated by Halliki Kreinin on May 27th. The event focused on ideas and innovative approaches for a social-ecological transformation and long-term sustainable future. [Link to recording](#)

OUR GRATITUDE

"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way."

Napoleon Hill

We would like to thank **all participants, partners, sponsors and contributors** who made this event possible and an outstanding experience!

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AEMS academic and organisational team. F.I.t.r. First row: Carina Kamptner, Elisabeth Laa, Helga Kromp-Kolb, Kurt Bayer, Petra Isepp; Second row: Sarah Motte-Marconnès, Halliki Kreinin, Nathalie Spittler ©OeAD-WVGmbH

AEMS will be back next year!
Stay tuned for more information to come!

E-Mail us: aems@oead.at

Visit us: www.summer-university.net

Watch us: www.youtube.com/oeadhousing

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