Description

The first summer school - ***Analysing Complexity*** - will be organised by Joan Martinez-Alier, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, 07 -17 June 2006.

This training course is based on the observation that the effects of technological changes and the pressures of the economy on the environment cannot be assessed on a single scale. Complexity theory has emerged from the works of scholars in both economics and ecology and has changed the focus of how to study human-environment interactions. The participants will acquire insights into the following issues through theoretical seminars: a) The concepts of risk, uncertainty and ignorance in the management of the environment; b) Policy models under conditions of uncertainty and complexity; c) Biophysical analyses of the economic process; d) Multiple scales and non-equivalent descriptions of reality; e) Multi-criteria and scenario approaches to problems of complexity. The workshops will take the form of case studies focusing on methods and theoretical framework for the study of complexity. They will cover: i) Urban systems; ii) Ethnoecology and Agroecology; iii) Climate Change; iv) Energy systems; Social Metabolism; v) Water use; vi) Biological invasions.

Before the course, the participants are required to read the pre-submitted material, such as articles and references. This represents a condition to the participation to the course. After the course, the participants will have to write an essay (about 3000 words), either individually or in groups of up to three maximum. The essays must be handed in until the 7th of July 2006 (More information in regards to this will be provided during the course). The essays will be evaluated during the following 2 weeks after submission. Finally, the participants will be issued a Certificate acknowledging 7,5 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).

For information on who could apply click here and for information on how to apply click here.