

Synergia MOOC

Towards Co-operative Commonwealth: Module Outline

Starts January 29, 2023.

Tuition: Free or make a donation

System change and transition to a political economy that is socially just and environmentally sustainable are central concerns of social movements the world over. Climate change has added an unprecedented layer of complexity to the work of these movements.

Transition to a just and sustainable future requires realistic, practical perspectives. This is the starting point for the transition work we envisage at Synergia, and that is embodied in the content of our 2023 version of the MOOC.

After completing the Synergia course, you will be able to

- Support provision of basic needs in ways that advance fairness and resilience while contributing to the restoration of ecosystems and reducing GHG emissions.
- Advance the shift away from endless growth towards an economics of well-being, sufficiency, solidarity, and living within the natural limits of the planet
- Identify tactical ways and means for citizens, communities, organizations, institutions, movements, and progressive businesses to craft and execute democratic strategies, build resilient solutions, and counter the status quo.
- Amplify and spread the impacts of alternatives that advance system change, energy descent and at the same time adapt to climate disruptions.

Our invitation to the 2023 MOOC embodies these principles and aims across the following modules.

Module 1: Framing the Journey: Capitalism, Planetary Limits and the Making of New Commons

The ideology of endless growth, consumption, and 'free' markets are driving climate, environmental, social, and economic breakdown. Yet at the same time changemakers are forging new pathways for change and expanding the reach of solutions. Module 1 frames the learning journey ahead, and raises some key climate, energy and justice challenges for changemakers.

Module 2: Stewarding Land and Resources for the Common Good

Land, water, and air – how are these commons being reclaimed for the common good? Alternative ways of owning and governing land are central to innovations – large and small – for achieving affordable shelter, clean water, transition to organic agriculture, the restoration of desecrated areas, and climate adaptation. As a result, both poverty and carbon emissions have been radically reduced.

Module 3: Towards Ecologically Resilient and Just Food Systems

This module explores models, strategies, and popular movements that resist corporate, chemical, and commodity-based agriculture while cultivating regenerative and resilient food systems, and making food security strategic to climate adaptation.

Module 4: Forging Pathways to Energy Democracy and Just Transition

Is it possible to wrest control from the energy giants? This module says, “yes” – but it won’t happen without organizing and advocating for policies that make it possible. In particular realistic policies focussed on supporting community energy generation alongside energy descent, and climate justice.

Module 5: Precarious Livelihoods: Pathways from Precarity to Solidarity

Job precarity is being challenged by solidarity-based solutions that range from democratic ownership to such major policy initiatives as Universal Basic Income. This module introduces systemic approaches to meeting the challenge of livelihood in an age of job precarity, just transition in the energy sector, and climate disruption.

Module 6: Broadening and Democratizing Care: From Welfare State to Partner State to EarthCare

Can rule-based, top-down, bureaucratic systems of social care be transformed? This module demonstrates that local, multi-stakeholder, democratic social care models can radically improve the quality of care while reducing costs. Further, it explains the importance of a partner state that enable systemic change and explores feminist and commoning perspectives on community care and earthcare.

Module 7: Democratizing Money and Finance for the Great Transition

It’s time to demystify the world of money creation – to recognize how debt-free money was created in the past to address enormous challenges, and why it is crucial to do so again. This module also introduces a series of practical financing alternatives and their positive social and economic impacts. It engages how we finance energy descent, degrowth, climate justice and the green new deal.

Module 8: Constructing your Synthesis: Purpose, Priorities, and Pathways (Optional)

This is an opportunity for you and other MOOC participants to review what you have learned and to synthesize the implications for your own priorities and their contribution to transition work in these perilous times.

For further information and registration details
[Synergia MOOC 2023 – Synergia Institute](#)