

## **Degrowth and Technology – Technological-social-ecological systems in co-evolution**

*Chair: Petra Wächter*

Organizers:

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This special session represents some of the themes of a special issue on Degrowth and Technology, which is currently being edited for the Journal of Cleaner Production. The aim of this special session is to bring together different theoretical and practical perspectives on technology, technological development and innovation from various academic disciplines (e.g. Philosophy, Political Science, Science and Technology Studies, Innovation Studies, Technology Assessment, Anthropology, History). This way the session draws a broader picture of what is of particular importance, when thinking about technology and innovations in a Degrowth society. As technological development and the use of technologies are currently guided by the principles of economic growth, new values and institutions are needed, which are compatible with normative visions for a Degrowth society. The contributions shed light on diverse views of how technology comes into play in Degrowth contexts. Different theoretical approaches and research methods are deployed to develop and discuss frameworks capturing the role of technology and innovation in a Degrowth society. In particular, theories of democratization of technology are scrutinised with respect to their practical relevance. The session focuses on practical implementation of technological development and innovation, which is guided by Degrowth principles such as non-profit orientation, democratic distribution of power and open access. Potentials of selected technologies for a Degrowth society are being discussed involving analysis of participatory governance and assessment of technologies. To hedge against false optimism, the dangers and pitfalls of alternative and currently advocated technologies and practices will be addressed. In addition, the session presents new ways of seeing innovation and technologies, well-elaborated critiques of mainstream technological optimism and economic efficiency improvements.