

Ecological Macroeconomics and Food System Sustainability: Foundations and holistic modelling approaches

Date: Wednesday, October 1 | **Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. |

Location: 9th floor room, Social Sciences Complex (PUCP)

Speaker profiles

Prof. Tiziano Distefano - University of Florence

He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Florence (Italy). He serves on the board of two doctoral programs: Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing (S3W) and Urban Future Studies (UFS) by the Fondazione per il Futuro delle Città. He is the Executive Guest Editor of current the Special Issue in "Ecological Macroeconomics: Exploring Alternative Futures" in the journal Ecological Economics (deadline: 31st Jan., 2026) and served as Guest Editor in "Behavioural Ecological Economics" in the same journal.

Currently, he is the Principal Investigator of the PRIN PNRR Project "MUST4Water" (<https://www.must4water.unifi.it/>) and previously led the MIT-UNIPI MISTI Grant project "EMERITUS".

From 2024, he serves on the Board of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). He organized several workshops and Summer Schools and also served as Vice-Chair for the XIV European Society for Ecological Economics Conference (Pisa, 2022). In addition, he co-created the podcast "Back to the Future: Talks on Ecological Economics," in collaboration with Sofia Belardinelli and the University of Padua, which aims to disseminate ecological economics to a wider audience through interviews and comics.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/tdistefano/home?authuser=0>

Prof. Mauro Viccaro - University of Basilicata

Mauro Viccaro is an Associate Professor of Agricultural and Food Economics at the University of Basilicata (Italy), where he teaches courses on Agri-food Economics and Policy and Agri-food Marketing. He obtained his PhD in Agricultural, Forestry, and Food Sciences at the University of Basilicata (UNIBAS) in 2017, and carried out visiting research at IRPET (Italy) and NTNU (Norway), specializing in input–output analysis (IOA) and multicriteria decision making analysis (MCDA) in GIS environments.

He has collaborated with national and international institutions, including the United Nations Environment Programme (as Lead Author of the GEO for Youth – GEO-6 report), and has coordinated or contributed to several research projects funded under EU, PRIN, and PRIMA programmes. Currently, he is Principal Investigator of the PRIN project RUEESnexus on rural–urban linkages and sustainability. He also serves as Section Editor for Agriculture (MDPI) and Aestimum (Firenze University Press).

His research focuses on sustainable food systems, consumer behaviour, innovative agri-food supply chains, and the cost-effectiveness of innovative solutions in the agri-food sector, with emphasis on food waste reduction, water and energy use, and bioenergy promotion.

Moderator/commentator biography

Prof. Jose Carlos Silva - Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

Professor in the Department of Economics at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP). Program Director for the economics specialty. He holds a degree in Food Industry Engineering from the National Agrarian University of La Molina (UNALM). He holds a Master's degree in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He holds a PhD in Ecological Economics from the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA) at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Sociological, Economic, Political, and Anthropological Research (CISEPA) and the Institute of Nature, Land, and Energy (INTE). He is a member of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) and the Andean Society of Ecological Economics (SAEE). He is a researcher in environmental social sciences with studies on social metabolism at the extractive frontiers of the Andes and the Amazon.