

VICE VERSA

Masterclass on Power, the Environment and Globalisation



The development problems of our time can seem truly bewildering: extreme inequality, dangerous levels of environmental and climate change, a rise of conflict and violence, and depleting natural resources are just some of the urgent issues we face in the 21st century.

Clearly then, the promises of 'globalisation' have gone off track and lost most of their initial glow. What is more: these enormous challenges need to be tackled in a global political context that is becoming increasingly unstable, populist and reactionary, with the election of Trump in the US as the latest manifestation of a simmering political crisis. At the same time, there appears to be an opposing global trend of people organising and taking action for issues of

justice and sustainability; ranging from locally-sourced energy grids and food systems, to international solidarity efforts such as the recent outpouring of support for Standing Rock.

How can we understand these trends? How can we move beyond the many 'easy' superficial explanations to understand these issues on a deeper level? And how can this new understanding help us achieve environmental and social justice?

In this Vice Versa masterclass on power, the environment and globalisation, three young leaders with much professional experience will work with you to look beyond the surface and do justice to contemporary problems; as well as how to confront them and work towards developing solutions.

Master Class Guest Speakers

The three speakers come from different professional backgrounds, allowing for a multi-faceted approach to complex global issues.



Bram Büscher works as a

Professor and Chair of the Sociology of Development and Change group at Wageningen University and holds visiting positions at the Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies of the University of Johannesburg and the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology of Stellenbosch University, in South Africa. He will bring a scientific approach to the discussions.



Barbara van Paassen works

as head of Policy & Campaigns at ActionAid, and will discuss globalisation from the point of view of civil society organisations.



Dirk-Jan Koch is the Special

Envoy Natural Resources at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dirk-Jan will give a governmental perspective on current developmental issues.

By contrasting and combining

their views, a fresh understanding on key themes such as inequality, climate change and public action is developed and applied.

Learning objectives

The first and overarching aim is that participants at the end of the masterclass have a deepened constructive and critical look on power, the environment and globalisation. This enables them to look beyond surface solutions to develop a deeper understanding of contemporary development problems and how they affect everyday life in the 21st century.

Secondly, the participants will be able to situate themselves in relation to these new insights and apply them to their fields of work and personal lives, as well as develop broader possibilities for political and practical action. Important throughout the course is the interaction between lecturers and participants to share knowledge and experiences in relation to the course material.

Specific topics:

This master class consists of 8 sessions of 2 hours and will focus amongst others on the following themes. The three speakers will present the first and the last lectures.

1. The history of power, environment and development: understanding the 'politics of life' in the 21st century, *by Prof. Bram Büscher.*

2. The future of power: environment and development in a 'Trumpian', runaway climate change, 'war-on-terror' world (and how to deal with this), *by Prof. Bram Büscher.*

3. The power of the people: from marginalisation to empowerment and its backlashes, *by Barbara van Paassen.*

4. Where power, the environment and globalisation: the fight for equitable land rights across the globe, *by Barbara van Paassen.*

5. The unintended effects of public action to save the planet, *by Dirk-Jan Koch.*

6. Power and globalisation: the role of the Netherlands in the 21st century struggles for natural resources, *by Dirk-Jan Koch.*

Where & When

Location: Plantage Middenlaan 27, second floor.

1018 DB Amsterdam

Requirements

- The Master Class is open for professionals and students in the field of development cooperation, economy and social science.
- Excellent knowledge of the English language is required
- Application fee €300.

How to apply (deadline 13 feb.)

Send your CV and a short motivation letter to

info@viceversaonline.nl

Dates

16, 23 March, 6, 13, 20 April,

11, 18 May and 15 June.

From 19.00-21.30

For information & inquiries

info@viceversaonline.nl

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Mauritskade 63
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