

WTF Can I Do?

Developing your agency while facing the ecological crisis

What change is needed? How does transformation succeed? Who can have real impact and how? How can I be both, agent of change and keep my head up high? What skills and tools can help me?

What?

The oikos Winterschool 2023 is about exploring ways towards empowered and impactful action for a sustainable society. We will enrich our understanding of the larger picture to then ask ask: What is my role in that story? What is my work? Throughout the conference we will focus on skills, that matter in a complex world – that are relevant to our personal work.

How?

Our in-depth 5-days conference will be a mixture of lectures, workshops and open spaces for reflection and consolidation. Ensuring a very personal setting, we will be a small group of students who learn from pioneers of change and cutting edge researchers. Workshops, space for personal reflection and conversation will provide us with the framework to learn from each other.

Where?

A couchsurfing system will make sure that you will be hosted in one of the shared flats of students from Witten/Herdecke University and throughout the week our wonderful caterers will make sure you never go hungry.

DAY 1 THE STATE OF THE WORLD AND AGENCY

We start off with digging into the complexity of Climate Change by delving into various narratives around the issue. Our experts from both the Global North and South will set us up for the week, providing a holistic view of climate action from the beginning.

DAY 2 THE INDIVIDUAL

On the second day, we explore "the individual". Experts in Climate Psychology share their key insights and uncover mental pitfalls. We learn about our personal strengths and interests and acquire tools for personal empowerment.

DAY 3 EXCURSION AND REFLECTIONS

On the 3rd day, we rediscover nature and reflect on our role within it. Our mid-week journey will be a day of excursion, where we go on a little hike in the Ruhrgebiet, play games and remind ourselves of all that we have learnt so far.

DAY 4 THE COLLECTIVE INSTITUTIONS AND THE SYSTEMIC

The world is shaped by collective formations interacting with each other. Keeping this in mind, on Day 4, we will deep dive into significant topics like democracy and its role in climate action, we explore global south perspectives, climate justice and systemic issues that make climate action so complex.

DAY 5 CONNECTING THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVISM FOR AGENCY CREATION

On the final day of our Winter School, we explore how to make sense of agency in the "real world". We will deal with more practical cases of how individuals take actions in organizations, the hurdles and the power moments.

