

ESEE2026

Looking for (the) Just Judges

Promoting Sustainable
and Inclusive Well-Being
in Turbulent Times

16th Conference
of the European
Society for Ecological
Economics

30 June –
3 July 2026

Ghent
(Belgium)

fwo



CONFERENCE GUIDE



Programme



The Ghent Altarpiece: The Just Judges

Copy by Jef Van der Veken, after the original by Jan and Hubert van Eyck

Collection and location: Saint Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent

Photograph: Dominique Provost

Source: Art in Flanders (www.artinlanders.be)

contractual restrictions

TUESDAY JUNE 30

15:00 - 16:30

Registrations

Registration Desks - Garden of Sint-Pietersplein 7 (entry from Tweekerkenstraat 2-side)

16:30 - 19:00

OPENING CEREMONY

Auditorium Quetelet, Tweekerken

WELCOME ADDRESSES

Petra De Sutter

Rector of Ghent University

Carine Smolders

Research Director, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Ghent University

Alexandra Köves

President of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE)

OPENING OF ESEE2026

Brent Bleys

co-chair of ESEE2026

KEYNOTE

Lucas Chancel (Sciences Po Paris):

Energy: a Capital Problem

Discussant(s): Milena Büchs - Leeds University | Chair: Bart Defloor, Ghent University

ESEE2026 OUTREACH AND PRACTICALITIES

Bart Defloor

co-chair of ESEE2026

19:00- 21:00

Welcome Reception

Foyer (Tweekerken) and Garden of Sint-Pietersplein 7

TRACK 1

Beyond GDP: Rethinking Well-being and Prosperity

TRACK 2

Ecological Boundaries, Biophysical Realities and the Commons

TRACK 3

Justice, Equity, and Inclusive Futures

TRACK 4

Socio-Ecological Transformation in Times of Crisis

TRACK 5

Technology, Work and Care

TRACK 6

Institutional Innovation and Governance

TRACK 7

Ecological Macroeconomics, Public Finance, and Money

TRACK 8

Sufficiency, Values, and Behavioral Change

TRACK 9

Reimagining Places and the Urban-Rural Divide

TRACK 10

Rethinking Business and Finance

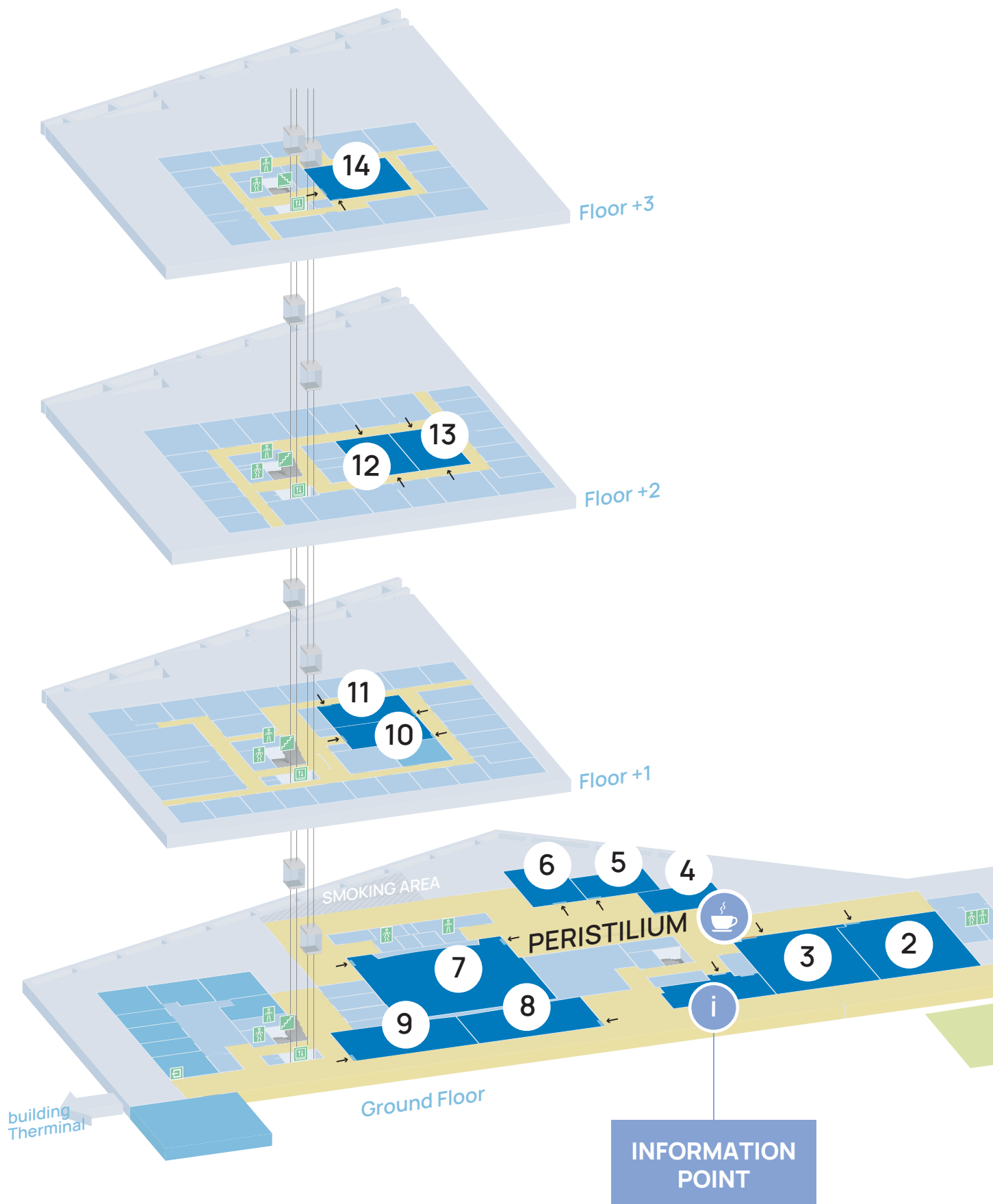
TRACK 11

Developments in Ecological Economics as a Scientific Field

Closed Special Sessions
Best Student Papers

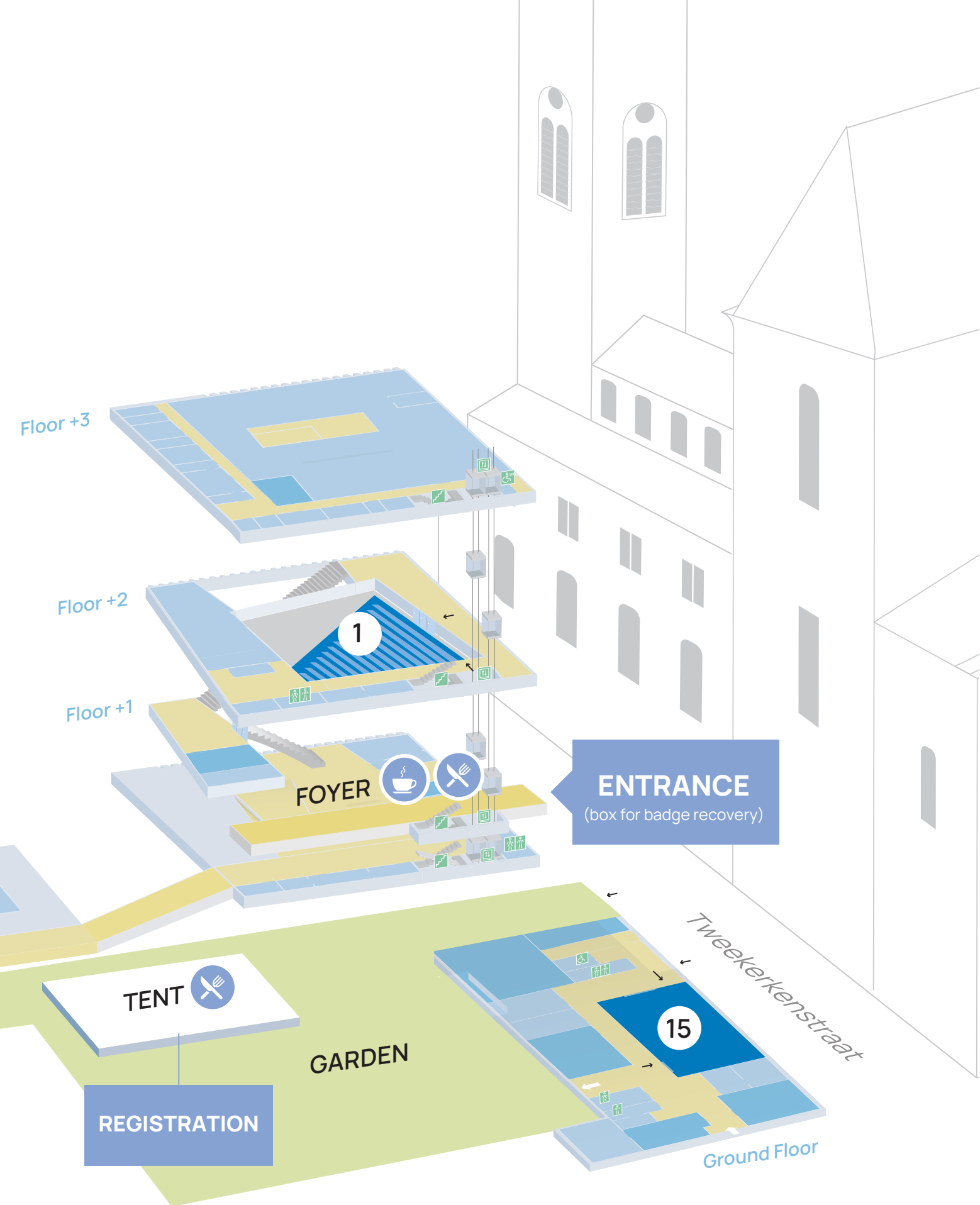
WEDNESDAY JULY 1

9:00 - 10:30	1.1 Well-Being and Prosperity: Theoretical Foundations Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	10.2.B Post-Growth Business Models and Mission-Driven Enterprises Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)	10.5 Impact of Environmental Crises on Financial and Insurance Markets Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)	11.2.B Methodological Questions in Ecological Economics Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken	2.2.B Nature Conservation, Ecosystem Services, and the Commons Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)
	3.6 Interspecies Justice and Rights for the Non-Human Lives Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	4.2 Mediatization and the Science-Policy Interface Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	5.2.B The Future of Work and Work-Time Reduction Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	7.1.F Post-Growth Macroeconomic Frameworks Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	8.2.B Social Norms, Identity, and Values: Well-Being Beyond Consumerism Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)
	9.3.A Food Systems, Rural Regeneration and Agroecological Futures Auditorium A, SPP7	OSS 1.8.A Providing a Good Life for All Within Planetary Boundaries Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	OSS 6.7.B Exploring Degrowth Societies: Future Scenarios and Policy Mixes Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)		
10:30	Coffee Break				
11:00 - 12:30	KEYNOTE Naomi Oreskes (Harvard): External Costs: The Achilles Heel of Laissez-Faire Capitalism Discussant: Erik Gomez-Baggethun (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) Chair: Tom Bauler (Université Libre de Bruxelles) Auditorium Quetelet, Tweekerken				
12:30	Lunch Break				
13:30 - 15:00	1.2.B Beyond GDP Indicators and Metrics Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	11.1 Philosophical Considerations in Ecological Economics Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)	2.3.E Transitions in Energy, Materials, and Circularity Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	6.1.B Deliberative Democracy, Participation, and Citizen Assemblies Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)	7.1.A Post-Growth Macroeconomic Frameworks Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)
	8.1 The Ethics and Politics of Sufficiency Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	9.1 Designing the land: Sustainable Land Use and Regional Planning Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	BSP Best Student Papers Auditorium A, SPP7	CSS 1 A political economy discussion on Beyond GDP processes towards Sustainable Human Development Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)	CSS 2 Co-creating narratives for post-growth scenarios Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)
	CSS 3 Putting squared pegs into round holes: are ecological economic approaches fit for geological resource use? Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	OSS 1.7.B Temporal Dimensions of Sustainability: Time as a Key to Just Social-Ecological Futures? Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)			
15:00	Coffee Break				
15:30 - 17:00	1.3.B Measurement and Drivers of Well-Being Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	10.1.A Impact Investing, ESG, and Greenwashing Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	11.4 Critical Reflections and Future Developments in Ecological Economics Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)	2.3.D Transitions in Energy, Materials, and Circularity Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	3.2.B Intersectional Justice in Sustainability Transitions Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken
	4.5.A Social Movements, Collective Action, and Grassroots Resilience Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)	7.1.D Post-Growth Macroeconomic Frameworks Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	7.5.B Public Finance for a Just and Sustainable Transition Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	8.2.A Social Norms, Identity, and Values: Well-Being Beyond Consumerism Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	9.3.B Food Systems, Rural Regeneration and Agroecological Futures Auditorium A, SPP7
	OSS 1.6.A Rethinking Circular Economy Metrics: Towards Greater Societal and Policy Relevance Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)	OSS 3.7 Reclaiming Voices: Traditional Arts Reshaping Environmental Governance Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)	OSS 6.7.A Exploring Degrowth Societies: Future Scenarios and Policy Mixes Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken Policies		
17:30 - ...	ESEE General Assembly Auditorium D, Tweekerken (Devreker)		Screening of <i>The Cost of Growth</i> hosted by the EEB Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)		Pension Plan Game Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)



Tweakerken

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Auditorium Quetelet | 5 Lokaal 0.2 (De Smet) | 9 Auditorium F (Denduyver) | 13 Lokaal 2.2 |
| 2 Lokaal 0.4 (Vlerick) | 6 Lokaal 0.3 | 10 Lokaal 1.3 (Rogiers) | 14 Lokaal 3.2 (Van Acker) |
| 3 Auditorium C (Picard) | 7 Auditorium D (Devreker) | 11 Lokaal 1.4 | |
| 4 Lokaal 0.1 (De Pelsmaeker) | 8 Auditorium E (Van Vaerenbergh) | 12 Lokaal 2.1 | |



Sint-Pietersplein 7

15 Auditorium A (SPP7)

THURSDAY JULY 2

9:00 - 10:30	1.4 Beyond GDP Frameworks at Regional and Local Scales Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)	10.1.B Impact Investing, ESG, and Greenwashing Auditorium A, SPP7	2.3.B Transitions in Energy, Materials, and Circularity Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	3.1.C Unequal Exchange and Global Power Relations Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	4.5.B Social Movements, Collective Action, and Grassroots Resilience Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)
	5.2.A The Future of Work and Work-Time Reduction Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken	7.1.E Post-Growth Macroeconomic Frameworks Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	8.3.A Demand Side Measures and Consumption Corridors Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	9.4.A Urban Metabolism, Ecological Cities and lifestyle change Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	OSS 1.6.B Rethinking Circular Economy Metrics: Towards Greater Societal and Policy Relevance Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)
	OSS 11.5 Teaching and Learning Ecological Economics Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)	OSS 6.6.A Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	4.1 (Geo)Politics, Polarization, and the Green Agenda Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken		
10:30	Coffee Break				
11:00 - 12:30	KEYNOTE Christina Eckes (Amsterdam University): How Democratic is Climate Litigation? Political Underreach and the Role of Courts in European Climate Governance Discussant: Arild Vatn (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) Chair: Philippe Roman (ICHEC Brussels Management School) Auditorium Quetelet, Tweekerken				
12:30	Lunch Break				
13:30 - 15:00	2.2.C Nature Conservation, Ecosystem Services, and the Commons Auditorium A, SPP7	3.5.A Tackling Income, Wealth and Carbon Inequalities Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	4.4 Crises as Catalysts? Transformative Potential and Risk of System Shocks Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)	6.4.A Institutional Path Dependency and System Change Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	7.3.B Rethinking Monetary Policy and Money Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)
	7.4.A Work and Income Distribution in Ecological Macroeconomics Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	8.2.C Social Norms, Identity, and Values: Well-Being Beyond Consumerism Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	9.4.B Urban Metabolism, Ecological Cities and lifestyle change Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	CSS 5 Ecological Macroeconomic Modelling: state of the art, research gaps and future perspectives Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	CSS 6 Innovative research tools for ecological economists Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken
	CSS 7 Listening to the Land. Transformative Potential of Flat Relational Ontologies and Spirituality for Durable Ecologizing of the Economics Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	CSS 8 Using Beyond GDP indicators to support policy implementation in the EU: learnings, challenges and future directions Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)	OSS 1.7.C Temporal Dimensions of Sustainability: Time as a Key to Just Social-Ecological Futures? Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)		
15:00	Coffee Break				
15:30 - 17:00	10.4 Ownership, Power, and the Democratization of the Economy Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	2.2.A Nature Conservation, Ecosystem Services, and the Commons Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)	2.3.A Transitions in Energy, Materials, and Circularity Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	3.5.B Tackling Income, Wealth and Carbon Inequalities Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	4.6.A Research in Action: Science-Practice Interface and Extended Knowledge for Transformation Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)
	6.2 Legal Innovations: Rights of Nature, Commons Law, and Beyond Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken	6.4.B Institutional Path Dependency and System Change Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	7.4.B Work and Income Distribution in Ecological Macroeconomics Auditorium A, SPP7	8.3.C Demand Side Measures and Consumption Corridors Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)	9.3.C Food Systems, Rural Regeneration and Agroecological Futures Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)
	OSS 1.7.A Temporal Dimensions of Sustainability: Time as a Key to Just Social-Ecological Futures? Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)	OSS 11.6 Learning from Non-Capitalist Economies Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	OSS 3.8.A Towards Non-Anthropocentric Nature-Based Solutions (NBS): Theories and Policy Implications Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)		
18:30 - 00:00	Conference Walking Dinner and After-Party Concert Hall @ VierNulVier - entry via Parijsberg (see map on back cover)				

FRIDAY JULY 3

9:00 - 10:30	1.5 History and Critique of GDP and its Hegemony Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	10.2.A Post-Growth Business Models and Mission-Driven Enterprises Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)	2.3.C Transitions in Energy, Materials, and Circularity Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	3.1.B Unequal Exchange and Global Power Relations Auditorium A, SPP7	
	4.3 Imaginarities of Collapse and Hope: Navigating Uncertainty and Futures Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)	5.4 Universal Basic Services and the Right to Provisioning Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	6.3 The Role of Markets, Law, and States in Post- Growth Societies Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken	7.3.A Rethinking Monetary Policy and Money Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	8.2.D Social Norms, Identity, and Values: Well- Being Beyond Consumerism Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)
	OSS 1.8.C Providing a Good Life for All Within Planetary Boundaries Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	OSS 3.8.B Towards Non-Anthropocentric Nature-Based Solutions (NBS): Theories and Policy Implications Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	OSS 8.6 Challenges of Micro-Behavioral Methods for Macro-modelling and Policy Assessment Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)		
10:30	Coffee Break				
11:00 - 12:30	1.2.A Beyond GDP Indicators and Metrics Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)	11.2.A Methodological Questions in Ecological Economics Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)	2.1.B Planetary Boundaries and Material Footprints Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	2.4 Promises and Pitfalls of the Bioeconomy Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	3.1.A Unequal Exchange and Global Power Relations Auditorium A, SPP7
	3.3 Intergenerational Equity and Rights of Future Generations Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	4.6.B Research in Action: Science-Practice Interface and Extended Knowledge for Transformation Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)	6.1.A Deliberative Democracy, Participation, and Citizen Assemblies Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken	7.1.C Post-Growth Macroeconomic Frameworks Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	7.5.A Public Finance for a Just and Sustainable Transition Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)
	8.5 Narratives, Learning and Cultural Change for Sufficiency Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	OSS 1.8.B Providing a Good Life for All Within Planetary Boundaries Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	OSS 6.6.B Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)		
12:30	Lunch Break				
13:30 - 15:00	1.3.A Measurement and Drivers of Well-Being Lokaal 0.2, Tweekerken (De Smet)	2.1.A Planetary Boundaries and Material Footprints Auditorium A, SPP7	3.2.A Intersectional Justice in Sustainability Transitions Lokaal 0.3, Tweekerken	5.5 Automation, AI, and the Politics of Technological Change Lokaal 1.4, Tweekerken	6.4.C Institutional Path Dependency and System Change Auditorium F, Tweekerken (Denduyver)
	7.1.B Post-Growth Macroeconomic Frameworks Auditorium C, Tweekerken (Picard)	8.3.B Demand Side Measures and Consumption Corridors Auditorium E, Tweekerken (Van Vaerenbergh)	8.4 Lifestyle transformation, Frugality, and Voluntary Simplicity Lokaal 0.1, Tweekerken (De Pelsmaecker)	CSS 9 Building bridges across disciplines: Ecological economics in action Lokaal 2.2, Tweekerken	CSS 10 Beyond Crisis Management: Challenges and Opportunities for Ecological Economics and Policy in the Current Polycrisis Lokaal 3.2, Tweekerken (Van Acker)
	CSS 11 From tensions to interested pluralism: engaging perspectives in sufficiency research. Lokaal 0.4, Tweekerken (Vlerick)	CSS 12 Value pluralism, law and governance: how Institutions encode, filter, promote or suppress plural values in environmental decisionmaking Lokaal 2.1, Tweekerken	CSS 13 Values and Worldviews in Climate Models Lokaal 1.3, Tweekerken (Rogiers)		
15:00	Coffee Break				
15:30 - 17:00	CLOSING CEREMONY Auditorium Quetelet, Tweekerken KEYNOTE Olivier De Schutter (UCLouvain): Escaping Growth Dependencies: the UN Roadmap Project Discussant(s) : Alexandra Köves (Corvinus University of Budapest), PhD student (TBA) Chair: Brent Bleys, Ghent University BSP PRIZES, ESEE UPDATES (including announcement on ESEE2028)				



ESEE2026

Badges and lanyards will be re-used after ESEE2026

Please deposit them in the box
at the entrance of Tweekerken
(see inside map) at the end of
the conference.



WhatsApp

You can join the
ESEE2026 WhatsApp
community for
informal meetups and
gatherings



SINT-BAAFS

Visit the
Mystic Lamb
in the St. Bavo
Cathedral



Check out
the full ESEE2026
programme in
ConfTool



WIFI

Eduroam is available
everywhere on the
campus

Or, alternatively, you can join the "guest wifi" via:

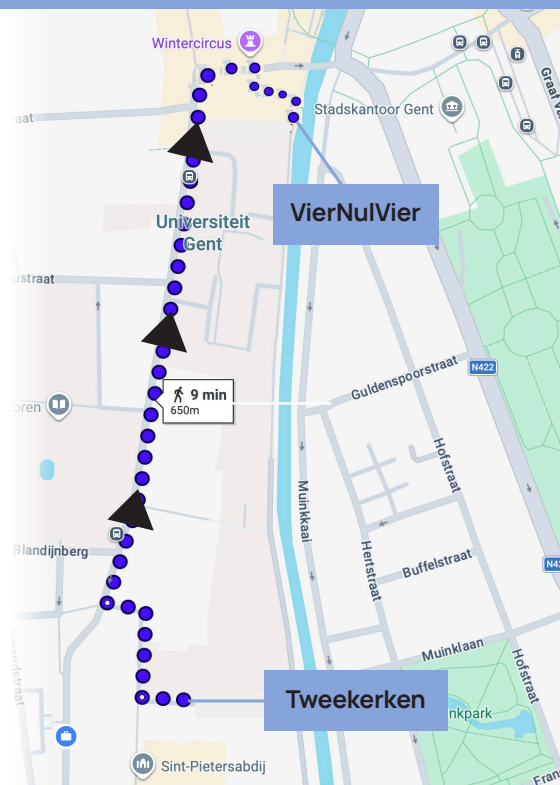
Network: UGentGuest
Login: guestEsee20
Password: gsRW7wRx

vierNulvier

Conference Walking Dinner @ VierNulVier

Thursday July 2nd
from 18:30 onwards

Entry via Parijsberg



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