



ESEE2026

16th Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics

Looking for (the) Just Judges

Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Well-Being
in Turbulent Times

Closing Ceremony

We're waiting for everyone to enter and take a seat
before we start... bear with us



ESEE2026 – Closing Ceremony

- Closing Keynote
 - “Escaping Growth Dependencies: The UN Roadmap Project ” by Olivier De Schutter (UCLouvain)
 - Q&A with the audience
 - Reflection: Alexandra Köves (ESEE president) + Joseph Eastoe (University College London)
 - Chair: Brent Bleys (Ghent University)
- ESEE and other Announcements
 - BSP award
 - Renaissance in Economics
 - ESEE2028
- One more thing... (Brent Bleys and Bart Defloor, co-chairs)



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Session Chair Prof. Brent Bleys

3 July 2026





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Keynote speech by prof. Olivier De Schutter

(separate slideset)

3 July 2026





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Questions and Answers





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Reflection

prof. Alexandra Köves
ESEE President

3 July 2026





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Reflection

Joseph Eastoe
PhD candidate UCL

3 July 2026





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BSP winners

prof. Tommaso Luzzati

3 July 2026



The non winner FINALISTS

Jane Torbert

Tobias Riepl

Kilian Rouge

WINNERS

Felix Barbour, Jefim Vogel, Milena Büchs, Jason Hickel, Diana Ivanova
Imperialist constraints on the energy efficiency of human need satisfaction

Henri Chevalier

The Treadmill of Farming: Cost-Price Squeeze, Growth Imperatives and the Political Economy of Canadian Agriculture

Martin Francois, Fanny Dethier, Kevin Maréchal

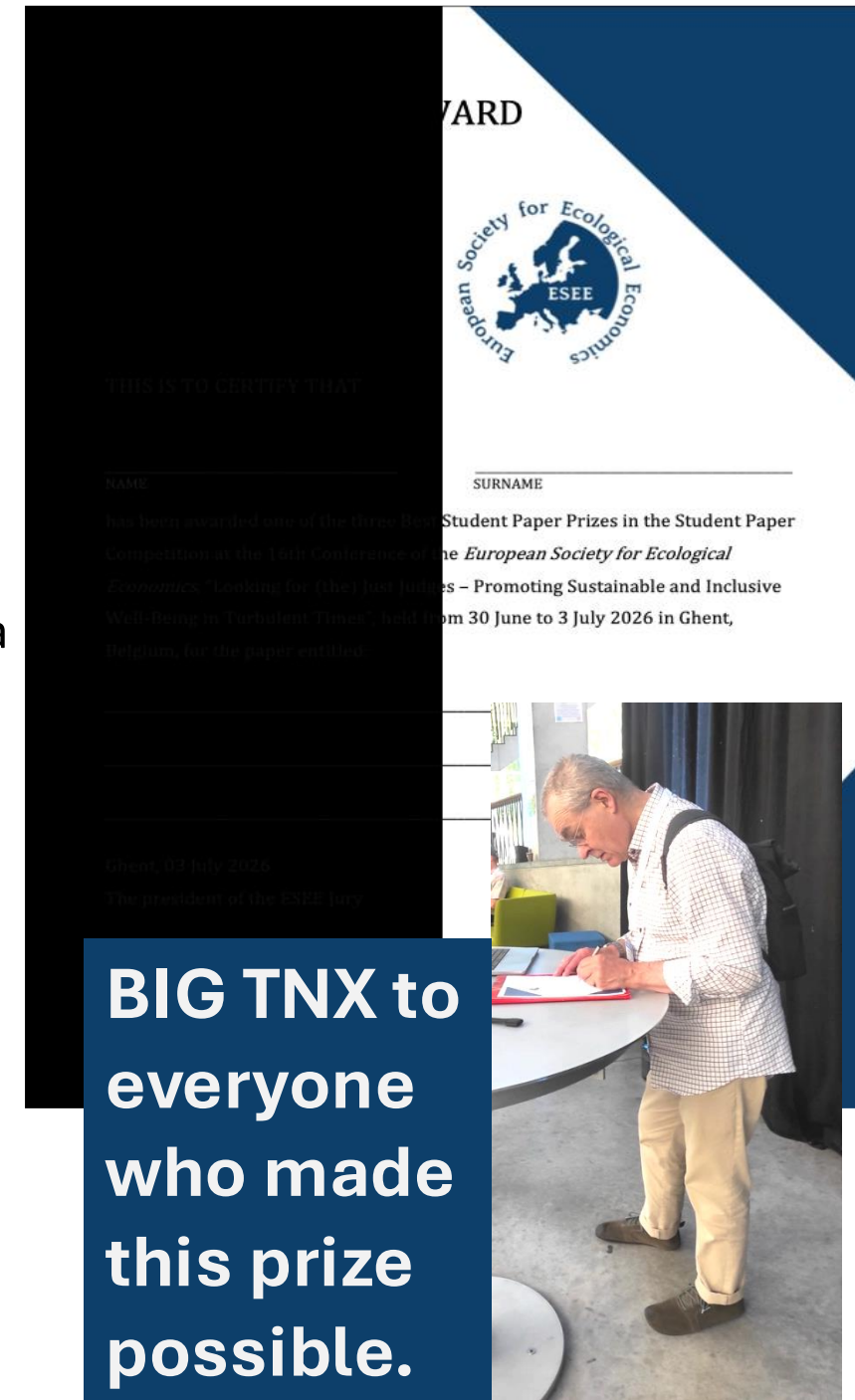
Designing majority support for maximum income policies: evidence from a vignette survey experiment in Belgium

BEST STUDENT PAPER PRIZES COMPETITION

60 applicants (less than
1/3 women ☹️)

17 shortlisted

6 finalists





RENAISSANCE IN: ECONOMICS

MANIFESTO FOR THE NEW ECONOMY



Manifesto for a Global Economic Renaissance

Join the manifesto!

[Sign](#)

[Italian version](#)

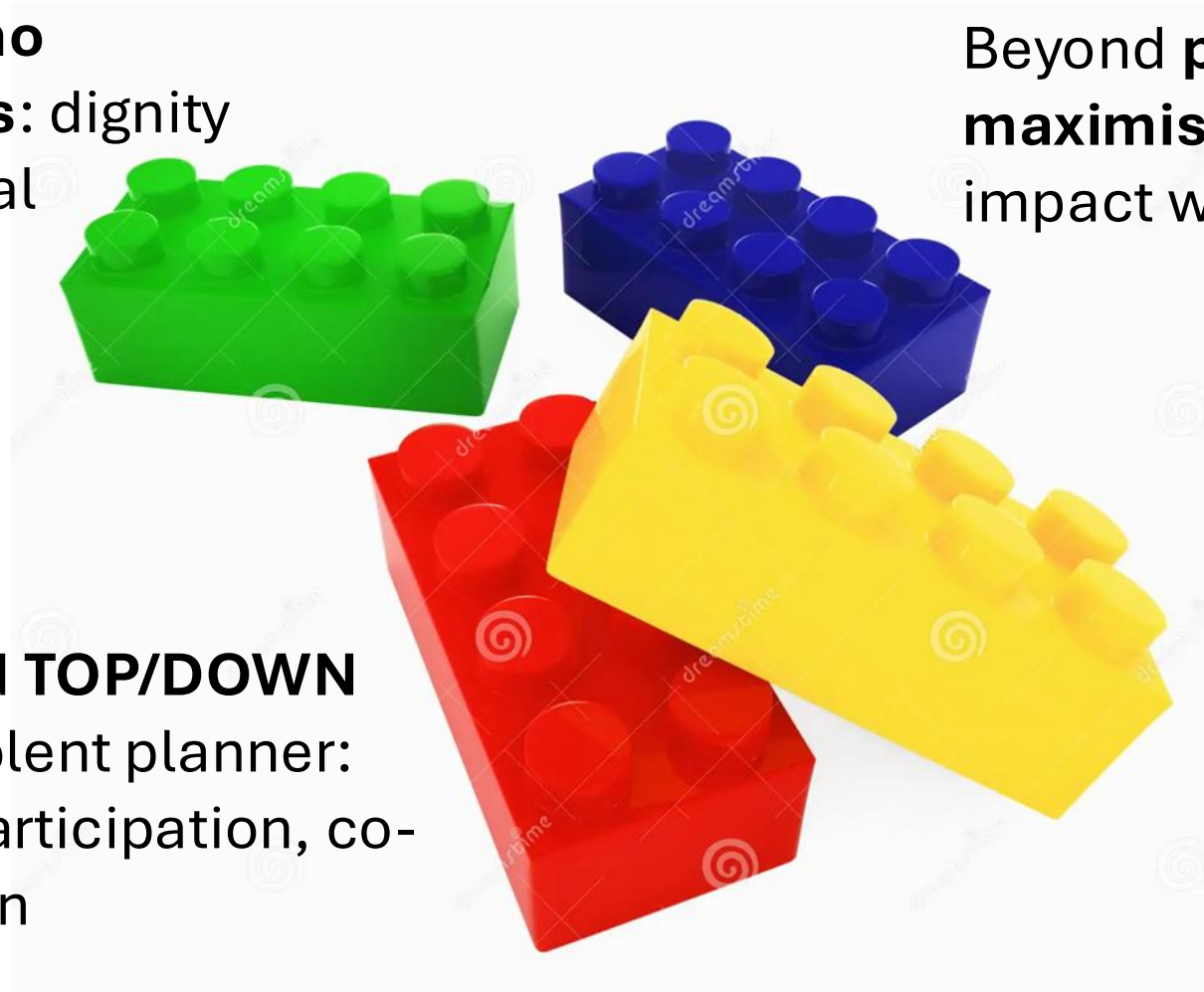
The four lego blocks of the Manifesto

Beyond **homo economicus**: dignity and relational intelligence

Beyond **profit maximisation**: impact with profits

Beyond **TOP/DOWN** benevolent planner: civic participation, co-creation

Beyond **GDP**: multidimensional wellbeing and generativity





Scan the QR code to sign the Renaissance Manifesto



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ESEE2028

Where o where?

3 July 2026



ESEE Conference 2028




UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Welcome to Leeds



Why Leeds (again)?

Welcome to the 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), which was hosted by the University of Leeds, UK on 30 June – 3 July 2015.

ESEE 2015 explores solutions for the transformation to a sustainable society, building on the distinctive contribution of ecological economics, by shining a spotlight on the interdependency of economic activity and natural systems, and identifying options that prioritise human wellbeing within planetary boundaries. The conference contributes to the dissemination of knowledge on these issues, through oral and poster presentations, keynote lectures from prominent scholars, and lively formal and informal discussions.



- A lot has happened since...

Ecological Economics MSc

Semester 1

Introduction to Ecological Economics



Research Skills



Glob Econ Coord & and Gov

Macroeconomics

Intro to Econometrics

Semester 2

Methodology in Ecological Economics



Environmental Values & Gov

Ecological
Macroeconomics



Finance for Sust Dev

Money, Monetary Pol & GFC

Economics of Wellbeing

Green Logistics

Env Politics Policy & Gov

Semester 3

Research Project

Key

SEES

LUBS

TRAN

S

JUST CENTRE FOR
JOINED-UP
SUSTAINABILITY
TRANSFORMATIONS

Home Our research ▾ Our publications ▾ Who we are Impact News and events

Welcome to JUST

JUST is a research Centre focused on the pursuit of sustainability transformations that are people-centred, joined-up and socially just.

Find out more about our research



production
and consumption
transformations centre



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

In that spirit,

- embrace ecological economics as part of a *heterodox* community and of critical social science.
- create space for dialogue and learning to build stronger knowledge and action alliances.

Sustainability Research Institute:

Richard Bärnthaler
Diana Ivanova
Eric Kemp-Benedict
Emmanuel Aramendia
Julia Martin-Ortega
Jouni Paavola
Andrew Fanning
Jonathan Busch
Paula Novo
Milena Büchs
Paul Brockway
John Barrett
Marie Berthet
Shang Zhang
Alice Damiano
Roger Cremades
Anne Owen
Sam Betts-Davies
Richard Itaman
Dan Chester

Business School:

Gary Dymski
Annina Kaltenbrunner
Giuseppe Fontana
Stefan Kesting
Andrew Mearman

School of Geography:

Paul Chatterton

School of Politics and International Studies:

Geoff Goodwin





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Closing by Brent and Bart

Co-chairs of ESEE2026

3 July, 2026



Working paper: ESEE Conferences: Lived Experiences and Feelings of Gratitude

Brent Bleys^{1*} and Bart Defloor^{1*}

¹Department of Economics, Ghent University, Sint-Pietersplein 5, Gent, B-9000, Belgium.

*Corresponding author(s). E-mail(s): brent.bleys@ugent.be; bart.defloor@ugent.be;

Abstract

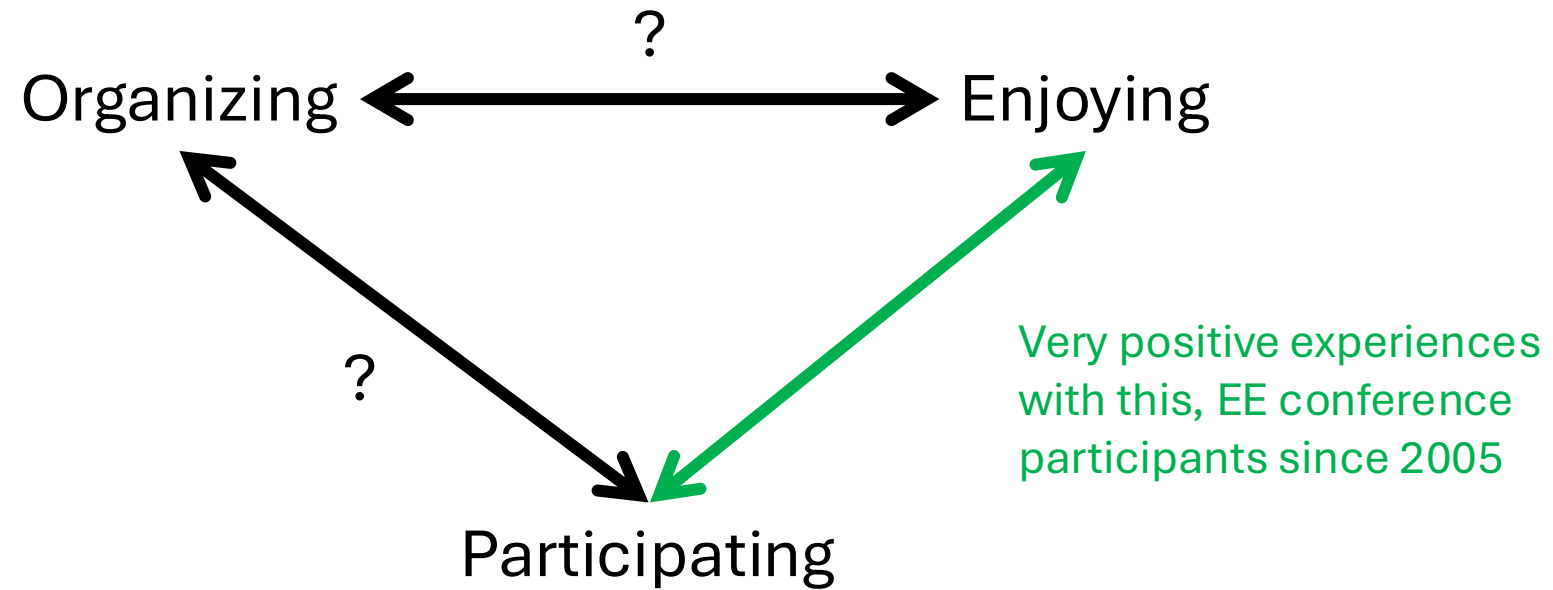
This working paper presents a comprehensive analysis of a full sample of two conference co-chairs who organized the ESEE2026 conference in Ghent, Belgium, welcoming more than 500 participants. Using a mixed-method approach combining autoethnography, sleep deprivation, and inbox archaeology, the study examines the emotional journey from months of preparation to three and a half (3.5) days of intense conference experience. Findings reveal high levels of multitasking, step counts, a persistent inability to finish a coffee while it was still hot, and low levels of session attendance. Despite these challenges, the dominant result is a remarkable and statistically significant abundance of gratitude. Both co-chairs report deep appreciation for the enthusiasm, kindness, patience, and creativity of participants, volunteers, keynote speakers, committee members, and countless others who contributed to ESEE2026. The study concludes that while organizing a conference of this scale may temporarily impair normal cognitive functioning, it also generates extraordinary feelings of connection, collective achievement, and thankfulness. Further research should investigate whether these findings persist once all reimbursement forms have been processed.

Keywords: gratitude, conference organization, ecological economics, autoethnography, emotional labour, co-chairs, ESEE2026, Ghent

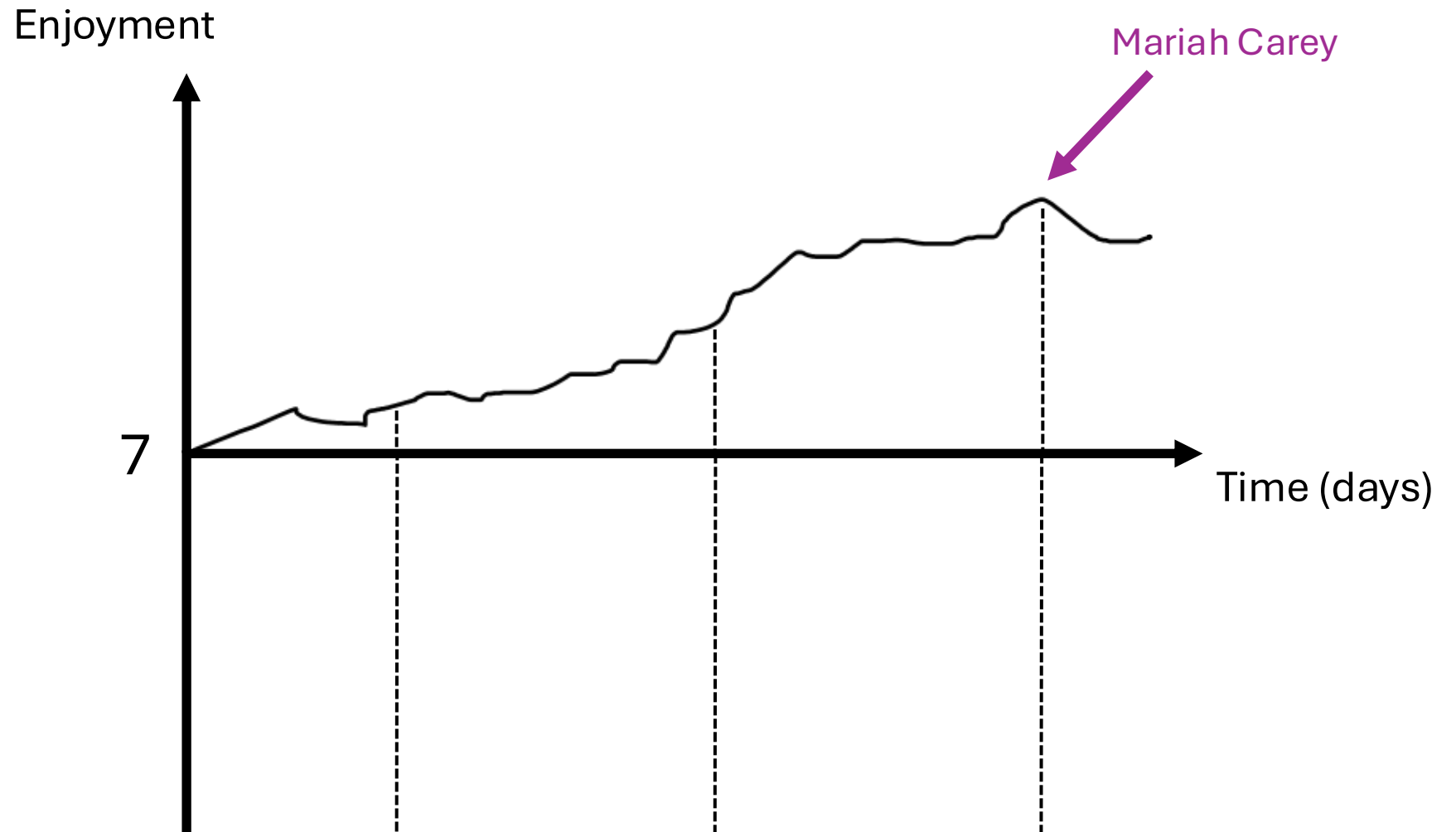
JEL Classification: D91 (emotional responses to unforeseen events) , J28 (occupational well-being) , and a new category , G500 (Gratitude in Conferences with More Than 500 Participants).



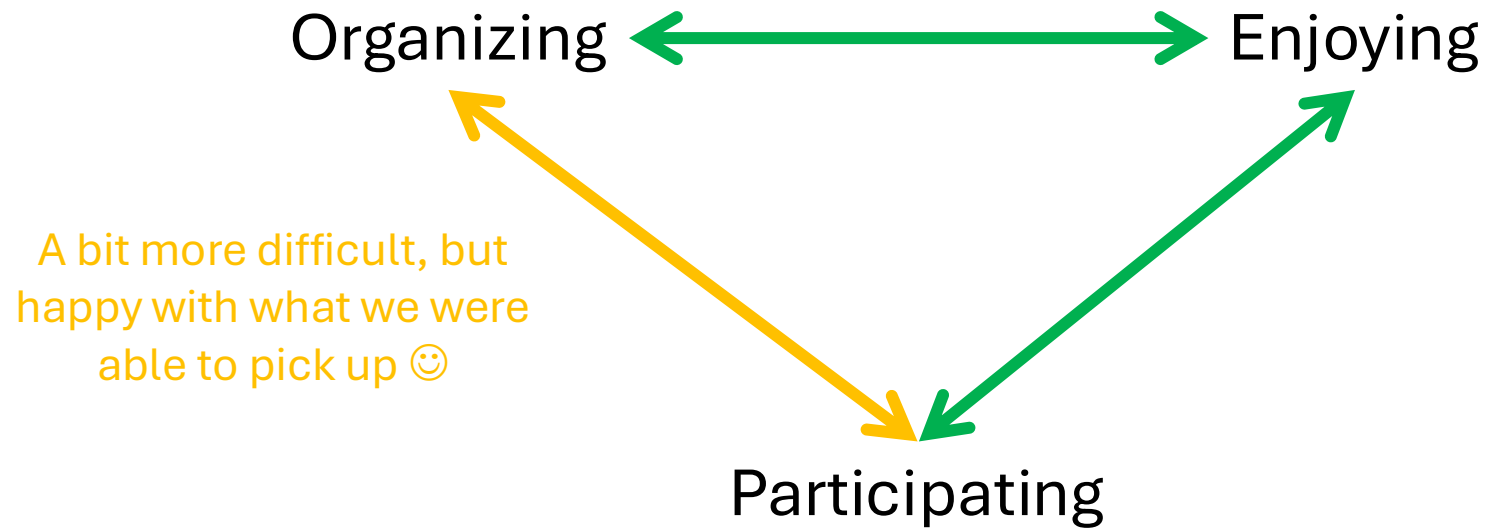
The Impossibility Triangle



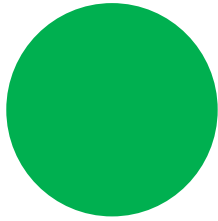
Enjoyment graphically



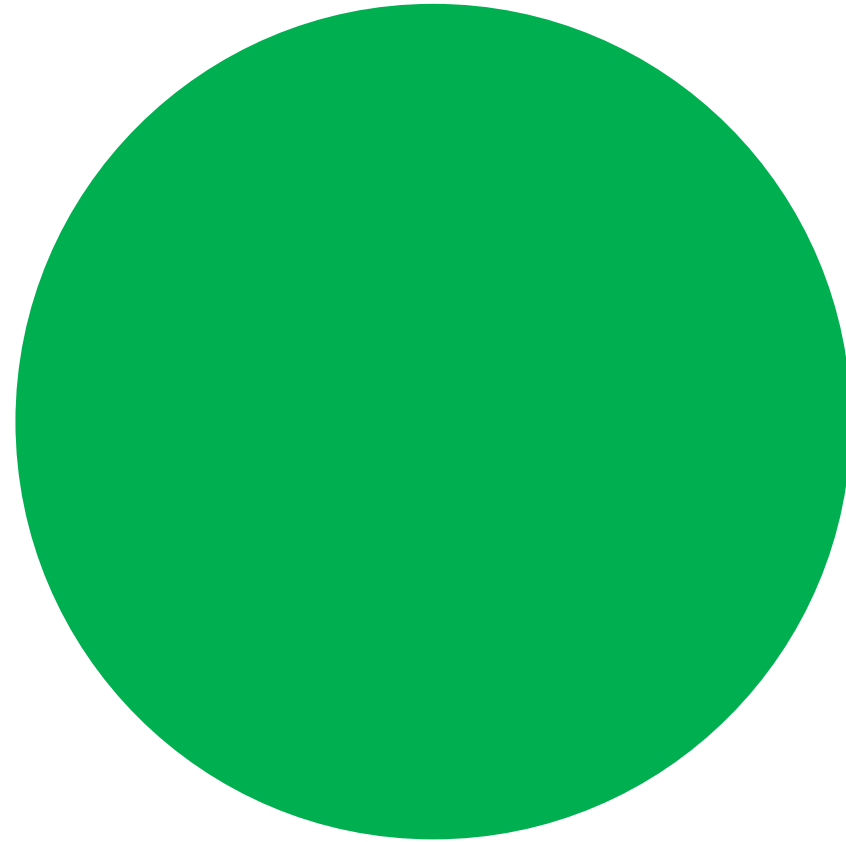
The Impossibility Triangle



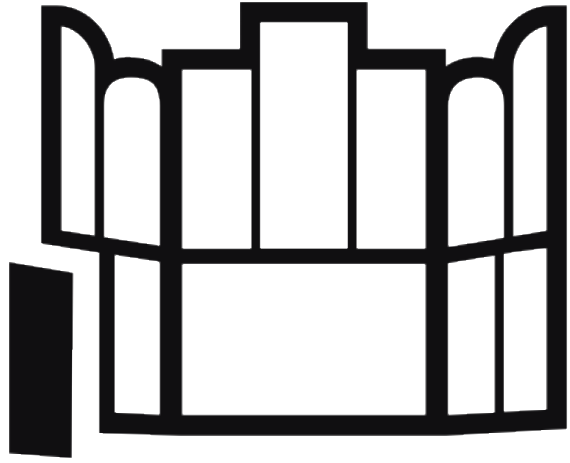
The Gratitude Paradox



Participant



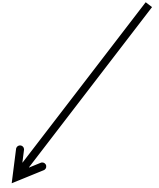
Organiser



ESEE2026

thank you!

You?



ESEE2026

3 July 2026