

Interdisciplinary PhD training



Collegio futuro

Class 2024/25

Program overview

February – March 2025

Collegio futuro

A college for designers of a sustainable European future

Collegio futuro is aimed at doctoral students from all research disciplines who seek to expand their knowledge beyond their own research area, with the goal of

- strengthening competencies in interdisciplinary communication and project elaboration,
- empowering students to transfer their knowledge and expertise to different contexts,
- promoting critical and system thinking,
- raising awareness for the challenges of socio-economic transformation,
- encouraging communication of scientific findings to civil society.

Topics

- I. Just transition
- II. Towards a sustainable aquaculture
- III. Ecosystem restoration on marginal land
- IV. Adaptation of historic cities to climate change

Schedule

- **Preparatory WORKSHOP 1** (online), **12 February 2025, 9:00 – 13:00 CET**
 - Introductory lectures
- **Preparatory WORKSHOP 2** (online) **18/19 February 2025**
 - Getting together and forming groups
- **Individual work:** Preparing for Spring school
- **SPRING SCHOOL** (on-site in Heidelberg) **24 – 28 February 2025**
 - Developing a concept for policy brief
- **Individual & group work** (online, self-organized) March 2025
 - Finalization of the policy brief
- **Final meeting** (online, 1h, by appointment) March/April 2025
 - Discussion of the outcome with supervisors

Preparatory Workshop I

12 February 2025, 9:00 – 13:00 CET

Online in Zoom (*link will be provided in the run-up to the event*)

The goal of this workshop is to provide the participants with insights into Collegio futuro topics and to give an introduction to science communication.

Tentative program:

- 9:00 – 9:15** Introduction into the course (Tanja Peskan-Berghöfer & Thomas Rausch)
- Overview
 - What is expected from participants
 - Information about blog and publication of the output
- 9:15 – 12:45** Short introductory lessons (Supervisors) followed by Q&A
- Supervisors will briefly present the problem they want to tackle, give hints how to prepare for the spring school and suggest which information would be useful to search for.
- 09:15 – 10:00** **Just transition**
- 10:00 – 10:45** **Towards a sustainable aquaculture**
- 10:45 – 11:15* *Break*
- 11:15 – 12:00** **Ecosystem restoration on marginal land**
- 12:00 – 12:45** **Adaptation of historic cities to climate change**
- 12:45 – 13:00** Closing: short introduction to science communication and hints for preparatory workshop 2 (Tanja Peskan-Berghöfer)

We kindly ask that you join the workshops 10 to 15 minutes before the beginning to make sure that the connection is working well. Please use your full name when logging in to Zoom.

Preparatory Workshop II

18 & 19 February 2025

Online in Zoom (*link will be provided in the run-up to the event*)

The working groups will be formed according to the participants' preferences given during the application process. The participants will have a chance to introduce themselves, get to know each other, and tell their peers about their PhD projects and their expertise.

For this, participants will be asked to prepare a 5-minute pitch about their PhD topic. Guidelines will be given during the first preparatory workshop.

The timetable for groups:

- Group I: 18.02.25 10:00 – 11:30 CET** (Topic: Just transition)
- Group II 18.02.25 14:00 – 15:30 CET** (Topic: Towards a sustainable aquaculture)
- Group III 19.02.25 10:00 – 11:30 CET** (Topic: Ecosystem restoration on marginal land)
- Group IV 19.02.25 14:00 – 15:30 CET** (Topic: Adaptation of historic cities to climate change)

Spring school

24 – 28 February 2025

Marsilius Arkaden, Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1, 69120 Heidelberg

- Monday (24 Feb) to Thursday (27 Feb): **9:00 - 18:00**
- Friday (28 Feb): **8:30 - 14:00**

Modules:

- **Keynote lectures**
- **Group work**
- **Presentation** of the policy brief draft and discussion (Friday, 28 Feb)

The Spring school will begin with **keynote speeches from supervisors and invited guests**, who will offer participants an introduction to all four selected topics and shed light on the major challenges. The overall objective of this session is to improve data literacy by providing insights into four different pressing environmental issues, and to raise awareness of the challenges of ecological transition.

Most of the following sessions will be organized as **group work**. A concept for the policy brief will be developed based on additional, group-specific lectures, discussions and literature search. The supervisors will provide additional information on methods, data sources and tools where necessary to facilitate group work.

For the final day, each group prepares a **20-minute presentation** to give the other groups an overview of their own policy brief. This will give the groups the chance to discuss possible pitfalls and receive additional suggestions.

Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided during the school.

How to prepare for the Spring school

The most important thing is your mind-set. The success of this spring school is largely in YOUR hands. Let your curiosity and initiative drive you, be open to new questions and topics, and engage actively in the many opportunities for interdisciplinary discussion.

After Spring school

In the follow-up to the Spring school, and in the preparation for the final meeting, the participants will **finalize a policy brief**. They are free to set time for the collaborative work in a way that suits them best.

The final output may be adjusted according to the suggestions coming from peers and supervisors during the final school session. Group members have to agree who will introduce changes first, and then the draft has to be circulated to all, and all have to agree before submitting the final version to supervisors.

Final meeting

By appointment, March/April 2025, online (app. 1h)

The aim of the meeting is **to discuss the outcome with supervisors and release the policy brief** for publication in the Collegio futuro Blog. The schedule will be arranged in consultation with participants during the Spring school.

The course coordinator will publish the outputs in a blog/online journal connected to the Collegio futuro homepage, after consultation with supervisors. Afterward, the letters of attendance can be issued.



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