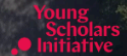


1ST RETHINKING ECONOMICS GENEVA CONFERENCE

Funding the Ecological Transition: Financial, Monetary, and Fiscal Policy Approaches

11th April 2025, 9 a.m - 6 p.m.

L'ESPACE, Chemin du 23-Août 1,
Geneva, Switzerland



Background

While the climate crisis is now an undeniable reality, the current political and economic framework based on austerity measures and conventional market practices does not seem sufficient to address the urgent need for an ecological transition. While it is essential to address the question of how to fund this transition, mainstream approaches often fall short as they are constrained by outdated paradigms and an unwillingness to embrace the new and unknown.

This is surprising given the wealth of research and innovative solutions developed by academic institutions and organisations that suggest alternative ways to fund the ecological transition. However, these solutions often struggle to gain recognition as they challenge the status quo and require us to rethink deeply ingrained systems. Yet, it is precisely this openness to bold, unconventional ideas that is needed in a time of global emergency to ensure a sustainable and liveable future for all.

Many institutions, organisations and economists are already pushing these boundaries and developing progressive ideas for funding the transition. The real challenge now is to connect these efforts, encourage collaboration and increase the impact of these initiatives. In this context, students and young scientists have a crucial role to play. As the next generation of economists and thinkers, they form a bridge between the academic world and the organisations working on the ground. Their fresh perspectives and energy are crucial in bringing new ideas forward and turning them into action.

The “Rethinking Economics” conference aims to create a space for this. With the theme “How to Fund the Ecological Transition?”, the first edition of this conference will address one of the most pressing issues of our time. Taking place in Geneva - an international centre for politics, economics and sustainability - the conference aims to bring together students, academics, institutions and organisations to share approaches on how to fund such a transition.

Date and Location

Date: Friday, April 11, 2025

Location: L'ESPACE – 1, chemin du 23-août, 1205 Geneva

Provisional Programme

11 April 2025	
8.30–9.00	Arrival and registration
9.00–9.30 Room TBC	<p>Opening remarks and introductory comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rethinking Economics Geneva ● Juan Flores Zendejas, Professor of Economic History, Director of the Paul Bairoch Institute of Economic History, University of Geneva
9.30–11.00 Room TBC	<p>Block I. Funding the transition in a context of global imbalances</p> <p>The first block focuses on the issue of global ecological and financial imbalances within the dynamics of Global South-North relations. The session will consist of expert presentations on their respective work, followed by a discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daniela Prates, PhD, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD ● Jeffrey Althouse, PhD, Research and Teaching Associate, Université Sorbonne Paris Nord ● Marc Morgan, PhD, Research and Teaching Fellow, University of Geneva ● Moderation : Carmen Cobreros, and Elena Franko, <i>Rethinking Economics Geneva</i>
11.00–11.30	Coffee break
11.30 –13.00 Room TBC	<p>Parallel Young Scholar Sessions – Co-organized with the Young Scholar Initiative (YSI)</p> <p>The parallel sessions include presentations where young scholars present their research and get feedback from a discussant. The aim of these sessions is to encourage interaction between students and with experts in the field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants will be announced after the selection process

13.00–14.30	Lunch break
14.30–16.00 Room TBC	<p>Block II. Monetary Institutions within the Transition: Present Dynamics and Future Paths</p> <p>The second block takes a closer look at banks and the monetary system, exploring the role of these institutions in the climate transition. Presentations will cover topics such as the socio-ecological responsibilities of alternative banks and the function of central banks in addressing the climate crisis. The session will consist of expert presentations on their respective work, followed by a discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guillaume Vallet, Professor of Economics, University of Grenoble ● Richard Senner, PhD, Macrofinancial Economist ● Moderation : Carmen Cobreros, and Elena Franko, Rethinking Economics Genève
16.00–16.30	Coffee break
16.30–18.00 Room TBC	<p>Panel Discussion. The Politics of Profit: Rethinking the Ecological Transition</p> <p>Global investment in renewable energy, climate mitigation and adaptation remains critically insufficient, with a staggering global financial gap of USD 5.93 trillion annually (Global Policy Initiative, 2024).¹ The mobilisation and allocation of private capital are falling significantly behind expectations, further deepening the shortfall needed to meet global climate goals. At the same time, massive sums continue to flow into polluting sectors such as fossil fuels, and major players like the mining company Glencore have reversed their pledges to disengage from financing environmentally harmful activities.</p> <p>The discussion centers around the question of profits. Can the transition generate enough profits to attract private investment? This question lies at the heart of the shortcoming in aligning financial flows with the ecological transition. How can policies bridge this gap? What is the potential of public funding and how can it be leveraged effectively? The panel will explore critical policies to address these challenges.</p>

¹ Climate Policy Initiative (CPI). (2024). Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2024: Insights for COP29. Retrieved from <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anastasia Nesvetailova, PhD, Director, Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch, UNCTAD ● Cédric Durand, Professor of Political Economy, University of Geneva ● Stephan Kellenberger, Senior Advisor Sustainable Finance, WWF Switzerland ● Moderation: Lilian Schibli, <i>Financial Sector Section, Climate Alliance</i>, and Gaia Valenti, <i>Rethinking Economics Genève</i>
<p>18.00–18.15 Room TBC</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rethinking Economics Geneva
<p>18.15–20.00</p>	<p>Apéro</p>