

## Call for Applications

Summer School – July 16-22, 2023

*Valuing Plurality, Decolonising Socio-ecological Futures*

The future is in question and there is an urgent need to act in the face of multiple crises. These socio-ecological emergencies, like the climate crisis or the corona pandemic, happen in a globalised, interconnected world. The questions now are: How do we respond? How do such decisions shape our futures? And in which way do we want these futures to be designed? How can we find shared answers despite a plurality of values around the world? We urgently need to discuss and reflect over the *plurality of values* and how to *decolonise such futures*.

The Summer School will focus on three conceptual questions:

1. First, how can we deal with **ethical plurality**? It will certainly play a main role when it comes to envisioning good futures for everyone. Topics like the relation between Global North and South as well as the plurality of moral theories and values and their relationship to different cultures will need to be discussed and evaluated. How to build futures where a plurality of world views can co-exist.
2. Second, how to address the **decolonising** of future-making? Departing from the discussion of colonial, post-colonial and de-colonial readings, this second line of analysis involves a reflection on the pluriverse. How to overcome the coloniality of power and the coloniality of nature and design?
3. Third, how can these reflections (re)shape the **ideas of socio-ecological futures** and which role does sustainability play in ethical thinking about it? Sustainability is a contested concept and, currently, there seems to be a societal agreement in many parts of the world about looking for a socio-ecological transformation in support of some variant of sustainability or other. However, what kinds of sustainability are such transformational paths actually building? Could we think of a sustainability that embraces ethical plurality?

In association with Prof. Dr. **Caesar Atuire** (University of Ghana/Oxford University), Prof. Dr. **Christiane Woopen** (Center for Life Ethics) and Prof. Dr. **Paul Basu** (Global Heritage Lab) from the University of Bonn would like to invite you to discuss these and related questions in a week-long program with talks, workshops, reading-sessions, eye-level debates and excursions. You will have the opportunity to meet leading researchers in their fields, discuss your questions and ideas with fellow students from different countries and work together for a whole week. The participants will be up to 24 postgraduate students (Master/Doctoral Students), half of them coming from the University of Ghana, and half of them from the University of Bonn.

*Please submit your application by **14.04.2023** sending an up-to-date CV (1 page) and a brief statement outlining your interest in specific topics and on which of those you want to contribute (1-2 pages) combined into a **single PDF-document**, to Mr. Nicolas Knecht (E-Mail: [nknecht@uni-bonn.de](mailto:nknecht@uni-bonn.de)).*

