



TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SYSTEMS THINKING

Connecting Planetary and Human Health

Coling Sage, Independent Research Scholar

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ABSTRACT

The webinars in this series demonstrate how complex and inter-related the environmental challenges facing us are, and reveal how misguided it is to search for singular solutions such as a 'technological fix'. If we are to better understand our predicament and identify ways of moving towards a more sustainable future, we have to discard reductionist ways of thinking in favour of a more holistic, integrated, interdisciplinary and systemic approach. In other words, we must seek to complicate the narrative - not simplify it - which arguably makes for a more richly rewarding pedagogy.

In this webinar we will introduce some of the features of systems thinking, which operates at a variety of scales, draws together different domains (environmental, societal, economic) and enables us to better visualise interconnections. Besides explaining some of the key concepts and principles that underpin this approach we will also engage in a systems mapping exercise. Such work is valuable not only in revealing the many variables involved but can help us to identify possible points of intervention, enabling greater citizen engagement and opportunities for better system outcomes.

GrACE – Green Europe: Active Citizenship and the Environment
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Project Coordinators: Tiziana Faitini, Michele Nicoletti – University of Trento - Italy
<https://grace.unitn.it/> | grace.project@unitn.it | Instagram: [grace.unitn](#)