

CIWESS SOCIO-ECONOMIC SEMINAR SERIES

Concordia University, Montreal, QC

Talk scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 5:10 p.m., Location: EV 3.309

'Environmental Economics and Ecological Economics: Antagonistic Approaches?'

Wednesday, April 27th, 2016



Dr. Frank Müller, Professor, Concordia University

Dr. Muller specializes in environmental and natural resource economics (ecological economics). He has published widely in the areas of environmental theory, policy and management. In addition to this, he has served as a resident environmental economist with the United Nations Environmental Program in Nairobi, Kenya and was affiliated with the Scientific Centre in Berlin, Germany.

Abstract: Environmental economics, based on neoclassical methodology, cannot sufficiently describe and explain economic-

ecological interactions because of its theoretical framework. Methodological individualism, materially circulation-theory, the tendency towards quantification and monetization, and an "unhistorical" idea of time, prevent economists from realizing irreversible and dynamic developments of complex systems, like ecosystems. Ecological methodology with its systemic and evolutionary approach, combined with a holistic perception of spaces, leads to a more realistic view of economic-ecological interactions and provides guidelines for environmental policy, quite different to those proposed by conventional environmental economics. In short, protection of the environment requires internalization into ecological and NOT into economic system.

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