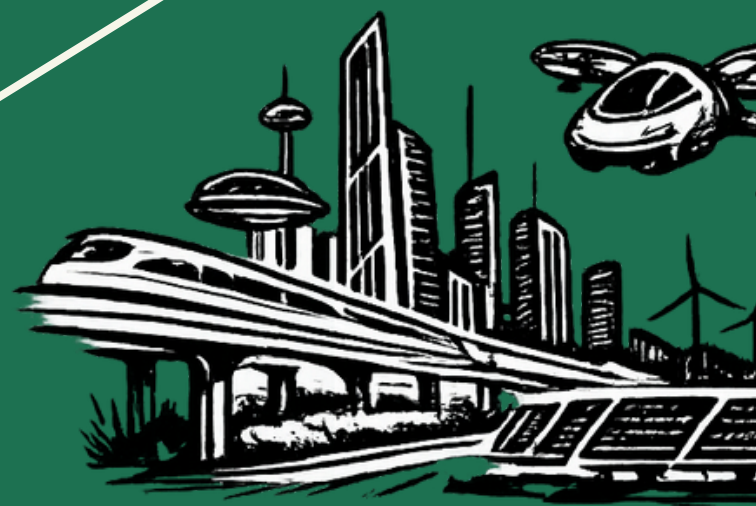


**Workshop
Call for Papers**



Abundance or Sufficiency?

**The Left's Diverging Paths
in the Green Transition
Naples, 10-11 June 2026**



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

SSM 
Scuola Superiore Meridionale

Call for Papers — Workshop
Abundance or Sufficiency? The Left's Diverging Paths in the Green Transition
Naples, 10–11 June 2026

Since the 1970s, environmental constraints, shifting social values, and the crisis of post-war productivism have profoundly challenged the Western left. Once grounded in beliefs in scientific progress, technological innovations, and rising material prosperity, left-wing movements have increasingly been forced to confront planetary limits, rising inequality, and growing public ambivalence toward technoscience. These tensions have crystallised in contemporary debates on the Green Transition, where **competing visions of abundance (growth-oriented technological optimism) and sufficiency (degrowth, sobriété, post-productivism) shape political and social antagonisms.**

This workshop welcome contributions that investigate how the left broadly understood, both in Western and non-Western contexts, has responded to the dilemmas of progress, environmentalism, and social justice. We particularly welcome research on **how political actors, social movements, experts, and institutions have negotiated the dilemma between technological expansion and planetary limits**, and how these choices continue to influence debates, policies, and imaginaries today. We encourage empirical case studies, comparative perspectives, and theoretical contributions.

The workshop will consist of 9-10 speakers organised into three thematic panels. Each participant will circulate a short paper two weeks before the event to facilitate discussion.

Topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Scientific progress, technoscientific optimism, and the rise of risk awareness
- Sufficiency, sobriety and austerity: social, political, or ideological transformations
- Energy transitions, decarbonisation, and socio-economic inequalities
- Productivity, R&D policy, and debates about the drivers of economic growth
- Consumption, lifestyle politics, and changing social expectations
- Non-Western or postcolonial perspectives on development and technological progress

Submission Guidelines

Please send the title and abstract of your proposed contribution (max 300 words) to e.costa@ssmeridionale.it as a single PDF file by **February 27th, 2026.**

Notifications will be sent by March 27, 2026.

Scientific Committee: Ettore Costa (SSM) and Antoine Dolcerocca (University of Bologna)

Practical Information

The SSM will cover accommodation for invited speakers; travel support for additional speakers may be available depending on budget. Coffee breaks and lunches will be provided. Additional details will be circulated to selected participants.