

## Little Tools ERC Workshop

### Good economics in the good economy?

Organised by Kristin Asdal and Béatrice Cointe (TIK, University of Oslo)

*Date:* 14 and 15 October 2019

*Place:* [Tøyen Manor House](#), Botanical Garden, Oslo

In recent years, there has been a growing interest, both in scholarship and in policy, towards the so-called “bioeconomy”: an upcoming economy that would rely on biological resources, knowledge and technologies to fuel sustained and sustainable growth. The notion of a bioeconomy carries the ambition of transforming of the economy to enable it to attend to the living and to make value out of it. It is also an economy that promises to be good and to do good, and as such to redefine its values. In that sense, the rise of the bioeconomy has implications for economic life but also for how political action is conceived, making it necessary to open it up, study how it is enacted in practice and consider the tensions that might arise when the bioeconomy is set in motion.

In this workshop, we would like to look into the knowledge production and valuation practices that (tentatively) make up the bioeconomy as project by asking what the economics of the bioeconomy are. What do the promises of a “good economy” imply for economics as a discipline, as an expertise, as a set of practices and devices? To what extent – and how – does economics take part in defining and shaping the good economy?

Studies in the STS and performativity tradition have explored the making of economic knowledge and highlighted its contribution to the constitution of “the economy” as a measurable and governable entity. Similarly, this workshop will investigate how economics are enrolled in, or challenged by, the bioeconomy as a new version of the economy. How do bioeconomy strategies or projects – be they in business models or governmental policy – work with, from, or against economic expertise? And which kinds of economic expertise? How are economics applied to the bioeconomy, and what does this mean for economists? We would like to consider these questions looking both into how economic knowledge is produced and into how it is applied.

#### **Keynote speakers, 14 October 09.00-15.00::**

**Kristin Asdal** (TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo) – The Good Economy: Welcome and Introduction

**Eve Chiapello** (Centre d’Etude des Mouvement Sociaux-Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales), author with Luc Boltanski of *The New Spirit of Capitalism*: Finance as a response to global environmental crises?

**Andrew Barry** (University College London), author of *Political Machines: Governing a technological society* and *Material Politics: Disputes along the pipeline*: Capitalization and Transition

Paper proposals are welcome until **October 2nd, 2019**. Abstracts (up to 500 words) should be sent to [kristin.asdal@tik.uio.no](mailto:kristin.asdal@tik.uio.no) and [beatrice.cointe@tik.uio.no](mailto:beatrice.cointe@tik.uio.no).

This workshop is part of the ERC-StG project “Enacting the Good Economy: Biocapitalization and the Little Tools of Valuation”, led by Prof. Kristin Asdal at TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture: <https://www.sv.uio.no/tik/english/research/projects/little-tools/>