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# Actors and Strategies for Change

– Towards Global Sustainable, 7.5 hp





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## **Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities, 7.5 hp**

**At the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS)**

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*Who are the key actors working today within the field of sustainability and what are their different strategies for achieving sustainability? What are the power relationships between these key actors? What kind of room to maneuver do these different societal actors have? What are the risks and limitations they face? What kind of critical thinking is necessary to assess the effectiveness of their chosen strategies? What responsibilities do we individuals have in creating a more sustainable world?*

*Welcome to Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities*

*Alexis and Ingrid*

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### **Contact Information**

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Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. **Preferably contact us by e-mail.** Our office is Dk147 (across from the staff kitchen), you will have the biggest chance of finding us there between 15.00 and 17.00 on Mondays.

Phone: 018 – 471 27 95 (Please try to reach us by phone between 15.00 and 17.00 on Mondays)

**Information will be posted on the webpage (at [www.cemus.uu.se/asc](http://www.cemus.uu.se/asc)) so make sure to visit it regularly, preferably once a week or more to check there are no changes in the schedule. You will also need access to [studentportalen.uu.se](http://studentportalen.uu.se) to be able to hand in assignments. Do this as soon as possible. You can get a registration key at the reception at Geocentrum.**

Email: [asc@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:asc@csduppsala.uu.se)

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Ingrid Moum Rieser: [ingrid.moum.rieser@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:ingrid.moum.rieser@csduppsala.uu.se)

Website: [www.cemus.uu.se/asc](http://www.cemus.uu.se/asc)



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## Course Layout

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An online schedule and other information is available on the course website at [www.cemus.uu.se/asc](http://www.cemus.uu.se/asc)

The course consists of informative and engaging guest speakers, workshops, seminars, a short project and two written assignments. In interactive workshops we will take a closer look at the issues and their interconnectedness by looking at specific actors and strategies. With a few exceptions, all sessions will take place on Monday evenings.

The course is divided into three modules:

**Module I (w. 4 – w. 6): Understanding sustainability – what are we working towards?** This module focuses on acquiring an understanding of today's sustainability issues and frameworks for working with them. How do we determine whether a change is contributing to sustainability or not? It includes a lecture, workshop with presentation and a shorter written assignment.

**Module II (w. 7 – w. 18): Actors and Strategies for Change.** Digs deeper into the mechanisms and actors involved in different change processes. Through lectures and interviews you'll meet different societal actors and analyse their different room to manoeuvre and choices of strategies. You'll also encounter theoretical perspectives that help describe how changes. At the end of the module you'll write a research paper on your own understanding of how change happens.

**Module III (w. 19 – w. 22): Taking a Lead in the Midst of Complexity.** The last module focuses on taking action. What is possible to change here and now, and does working in practice give us different perspectives than studying change in theory? It includes the planning, execution and evaluation of a short project.

On completion of the course, the student should,

- Have an up-to-date, interdisciplinary understanding of the issues of sustainable development;
  - Give an account of, and be able to evaluate, the strategies, room to manoeuvre and limitations of different societal actors in striving toward a sustainable society;
  - Be able to discuss individual/actors perspectives compared to structural/system perspectives on cultural change;
  - Have reflected on his/her own role in the causes and solutions of issues of sustainable development.
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## Requirements

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**Note that the course is pass/fail. You cannot attain any higher grade than pass (which translates to C in the international ECTS system). Records will show that this is the highest grade possible.**

**To pass the course you need to participate in 75% of the sessions as well as the following...**

### **Hosting one of the lecture sessions**

Each group of students will be responsible for hosting a lecturer. This involves presenting the lecturer at the beginning of class, preparing questions and discussions points for the session.

### **Reading groups**

During module II you will meet three times in reading groups to discuss the literature (during week 9, 12, and 16 – and more often if you wish). You will hand in a reflection on your discussion after each reading group meeting. These groups will be a support for you in understanding the literature more deeply and in writing your assignment in module II.

### **Seminars**

The seminars are based on readings, assigned tasks and group discussions. It's important that you come well prepared by reading and completing preparatory tasks. Seminars are obligatory.

### **Written assignments**

The course includes two written assignments. The first will be handed in at the end of module I, dealing with frameworks for sustainability. In the second written assignment (to be handed in at the end of module II) you will discuss your understanding of how change for sustainability happens. More information about the written assignments will be provided as the course progresses, and all information will be posted found on the course website.

### **The Change Project**

Plan, execute, present, and evaluate a change project. The project shall address a particular problem within the field of sustainability and makes up the final module of the course.



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## Literature

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The course literature is an integral part of the course. Each week you will read literature connected to the theme of the coming session. It is essential that you read **in advance** so that you are able to engage with guest speakers and your classmates. In addition to books and articles, preparations for classes include a variety of different media. The book *Ways of Social Change* will be used as a resource in preparation for, and during, the sessions.

### Books:

The main course book is:

- Massey, G (2016) *Ways of Social Change: making sense of modern times*, 2nd edition

Book of Choice: a selection of thematic books that will deepen the understanding of a more specific issue or approach to change. These books and how to use them will be presented further later in the course. You will choose ONE of the following:

- Solnit, R (2006): *Hope in the Dark: Untold histories, wild possibilities* (2nd edition)
- Senge, P (2008): *The Necessary Revolution: How individuals and organisations are working together to create a sustainable world*
- Strohe, D.P. (2015): *System's thinking for social change*

### Course Reader:

The course reader is a series of articles and other resources that will cover, session by session, relevant topics discussed during the course. For some of the sessions we have also provided further reading as a resource for continued exploration within a topic and for writing your papers. The reader is available at the course portal, [www.cemus.uu.se/asc](http://www.cemus.uu.se/asc).

*Ways of Social Change* is available in the Cemus library for reference use in the library.

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## Course Management

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**The two Course Coordinators for Actors & Strategies for Change 2015 are Alexis Engström and Ingrid M. Rieser.**

**Ingrid M. Rieser** has a background in economics and sustainable development. She did her masters in *Economics for Transition* at Schumacher College, UK, and made a documentary as part of her research project. She's particularly interested in alternative economics, and the role education, creativity and art can play in working for sustainable futures.

**Alexis Engström** has an education as a high school teacher in history and Swedish and wrote his thesis around some of the dilemmas in educating for a sustainable future we know little about. He is also a coordinator for the Cemus course *global miljöhistoria* (global environmental history) and is primarily interested in how our understanding of history shapes our view of possible futures.

**The following people make up the course's supervisory Work Group.**

**Isak Stoddard** is the Educational coordinator at CEMUS. He holds a masters degree in Engineering Physics with a focus on systems technology and renewable energy. For his masters thesis, Isak travelled to West Java in Indonesia to develop small scale biogas systems in cooperation with two local organizations.

[isak.stoddard@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:isak.stoddard@csduppsala.uu.se)

**Daniel Mossberg** is Director of Studies at CEMUS. Daniel has studied Art History, Practical Philosophy, Environment- and Development Studies, and Cultural Anthropology.

[daniel.mossberg@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:daniel.mossberg@csduppsala.uu.se)

**Brian Palmer** is a social anthropologist and scholar of religion at Uppsala University in Sweden. Previously he held the Torgny Segerstedt Guest Professorship at the University of Gothenburg. For several years he taught at Harvard University, where he taught courses on civic courage and engagement.

**Claes Hedstrom** is a priest at the Swedish Church. He has a masters degree in sustainable development from Uppsala University and SLU and works with sustainability issues within the church.

**Maria Ojala** is a researcher at the Department of Education. Her major research topics include how young people cope with climate change, and the importance of emotional awareness in education for sustainable development.

**Emelie Kittelsen** is the student representative in this years workgroup. She took *Actors and Strategies* in 2015.



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## CEMUS

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### CEMUS Education

The education at CEMUS focuses on a comprehensive understanding of the challenges of sustainable development. This demands innovative teaching methods and an interdisciplinary approach. Since its inception, CEMUS courses have been run by students with the continual support of work groups and educational staff, whose members include professors and researchers from Uppsala's two universities.

CEMUS' primary point of departure and approach is based on what has become known as "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)". Through democratic, realistic and extensive work modes, this teaching method strives to motivate students to heighten their critical thinking skills, as well as encourage responsibility and engagement in the issues of sustainable development.

The courses at CEMUS also function as a complement to the universities' specialised and disciplinary education. CEMUS is constantly widening its scope to address the most current debates in our society, as well as requests from students. Around 600 students per year take part in one or more of the many different courses offered at CEMUS.

CONTACT: Daniel Mossberg // [daniel.mossberg@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:daniel.mossberg@csduppsala.uu.se)

### About CEMUS

CEMUS has as its goal to advance and inspire education and knowledge within the field of environment and development studies, as well as other boundary-transcending issues connected to sustainable development. CEMUS began as an initiative by students in the early 90's and CEMUS courses are, in large part, still run by students today. Since January 2007, CEMUS joined the Uppsala Center for Sustainable Development (CSD Uppsala) in conjunction with Uppsala University and SLU, the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences. The courses at CEMUS are built in collaboration between students, course coordinators, teachers, researchers, university administrators and societal actors.

CONTACT: Isak Stoddard // [isak.stoddard@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:isak.stoddard@csduppsala.uu.se)

WEB: [www.cemus.uu.se](http://www.cemus.uu.se)

COURSE PORTAL: [www.cemus.uu.se/education](http://www.cemus.uu.se/education)

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/cemuscsduppsala>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/CEMUSCSDUPPSALA>

NEWSLETTER: Sign up at [www.cemus.uu.se/cemusnewsletter.html](http://www.cemus.uu.se/cemusnewsletter.html)



## **Courses and study counselling**

This year CEMUS is offering the following courses:

### **Spring Semester 2015**

- Hållbar utveckling B, 30 hp
- Hållbar utveckling – värderingar, världsbilder och visioner, 15 hp
- Teknik, makt och mänsklighetens framtid, 7.5 hp
- Livsfilosofi och det moderna samhället, 7.5 hp
- Applied Sustainability Studies Course Package, 30 hp
- Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities, 7.5 hp
- Sustainable Design – Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds, 7.5hp
- Climate Change Leadership – Power, Politics and Culture, 15 hp
- Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication, 15 hp
- Master in Sustainable Development: Worldviews and Discourses – A Seminar Series, 5 hp
- Technology, Power and the Future of Humanity (distance), 7.5 hp

### **Autumn Semester 2015**

- Hållbar utveckling A, 30 hp
- Människan och naturen, 7.5 hp
- Global miljöhistoria, 7.5 hp
- Klimatet, energin och det moderna samhället, 7.5 hp
- Global Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 hp
- Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures, 7.5 hp
- Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden, 7.5 hp
- The Global Economy – Environment, Development and Globalization, 15 hp
- Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication, 15 hp
- Master on Sustainable Development: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Science, 5 hp
- Master in Sustainable Development: Worldviews and Visions – A Seminar Series, 5 hp

CONTACT: Sebastian Welling, Study Councilor // [susdev@geo.uu.se](mailto:susdev@geo.uu.se)

## **Collaboration & Partnership – CEMUS Forum**

The scope of the CEMUS model is not limited to the classroom setting. CEMUS Forum organizes open lectures, conferences and festivals on education for sustainable development, film showings, discussions, workshops and a variety of other events. Much of this work is done in collaboration with students, in the envisioning, planning and delivery stages. These events are intended to attract not only current university staff and students, but also alumni, government officials, interested individuals and organizations. The aim of this work is to extend the educational core of the center by bridging the gaps between the theoretical and the practical, the young and the old and the academic and non-academic worlds, as well as to create a meeting place for people interested in interdisciplinary education and sustainable solutions. At the beginning of every





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semester, CEMUS Forum and CEMUS Roots (our student organisation) host a **Project Café**. This is a great way to get involved with current projects at CEMUS and share new ideas and projects you would like to make happen.

CONTACT: Hannes Willner // [hannes.willner@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:hannes.willner@csduppsala.uu.se)

Friederike May // [friederike.may@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:friederike.may@csduppsala.uu.se)

### **Transdisciplinary Research – CEMUS Research School**

Cemus Research Forum (Cefo) is an interdisciplinary research school for PhD students that focus on broad environment and development-related issues. As a PhD student associated to Cefo you aim to participate actively in Cefo's research seminars (about 5 seminars per term) and propose activities according to your own research interest. The courses and the seminars are also open for those doctoral students that are not associated to CEFO.

CONTACT: Gloria Gallardo // [gloria.gallardo@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:gloria.gallardo@csduppsala.uu.se)

### **CEMUS Roots**

CEMUS Roots is a dynamic and self-governing student-run group, inclusive to all. It was established in order to allow students to take an active role in influencing the way that education is conducted at the center. Active participants have in the past taken on the roles of CEMUS student representatives attending university faculty and CSD board meetings. Conferences, field trips, lectures, workshops, film showings and open-panel discussions are just some of the types of events which the group has realized in the past, both with and without the cooperation of staff. In CEMUS Roots students have the opportunity to realize their visions for a more sustainable culture, and fill in the gaps of their education in ways which are most beneficial to their learning.

[roots.cemusstudent.se](http://roots.cemusstudent.se)

[www.facebook.com/CEMUSRoots](http://www.facebook.com/CEMUSRoots)

### **Practical Information**

CEMUS is open between 9:00am and 15:30pm, Mondays to Fridays. If you want to study in the library outside these hours or during weekends, you can easily get a **key card**. The key card also gives access to the main Geocentrum entrance, which is locked after 17.00 and before 08.00. To get a key card, go to the building attendant's office, next door to the library in Geocentrum. (You must be registered for a CEMUS course to get the key card.)

### **CEMUS Library // Lab // Lounge**

In the CEMUS Library // Lab // Lounge you will find literature related to environment and development issues, magazines, journals and other publications, such as master and doctoral theses. You can also have a cup of coffee from library self-service "café", slouch in the sofas and read the course literature. **The library is a shared space for staff, coordinators and students – please respect the guidelines posted in the library to ensure a pleasant work and study**



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**environment for all.** It is possible to book the library for CEMUS-related activities, however, educational activities such as seminars have precedence. All the course literature for CEMUS courses is available there, including several shelves of reference books. These may **only be read inside the library**, and are not to be taken home. There are also books that can be borrowed through the Geocentrum Library.

### **Geocentrum library**

The Geocentrum Library is located down the hall from CEMUS. Copies of the CEMUS course literature are available for borrowing there. You can also go there to borrow books from the CEMUS library (only the ones that are marked with the Geo-library system).

### **The Language Workshop (Språkverkstaden) at Uppsala University**

The Language Workshop offers consultations about written and oral presentations on an individual basis in both Swedish and English. It is free of charge and available to all students on the undergraduate and master's levels. We strongly encourage you to get in touch with the Language Workshop if you are struggling with a paper or want to improve your written English.

[www.sprakverkstaden.uu.se](http://www.sprakverkstaden.uu.se)

**Warm welcome and good luck with your studies!**

*Alexis and Ingrid*