19th International Project Week 2017
15th – 19th May 2017

Lecturer: Corinna Casi

University/Company: Arbis (Swedish Adult Education Centre)

Country: Finland

Environmental Ethics: An Alternative View on CBA (Cost-Benefit Analysis) and the Non Economic Value of Nature.

Content:
Nowadays the most used methodologies for the environmental assessment of a natural environment are the willingness to pay and the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) in the framework of the economic analysis and public policy.
It is meaningful to notice that economic analysis is neither purely descriptive nor neutral, but rather prescriptive. As such economists tell us — as individual, society, and government — what we should do and how should we deal with environmental issues. The prescriptive attitude often hide an agenda which is not openly displayed nor well understood by many.
In this course we will analyse alternatives of CBA in nature evaluation such as the aesthetic, moral and ecological value of natural environments together with the cultural heritage and the social implications. I will enrich my argument with case studies such as: the Barents Region, The construction of the oil pipeline in North Dakota, USA in 2016, etc.

Methods:
Lectures, debates in class and screening of parts of documentary movies, reading of newspaper, small home assignments and final poster presentation on the last day of IPW.

Competences and skills to be acquired:
The aim of the course is to raise awareness about the fundamental and ethical role of the natural environment in human life through the analysis of real case studies about Environmental case studies. Students will be trained to see different perspectives, applying moral theories and drawing ethical conclusions from real life cases in recent news.

Prerequisites:
No prerequisites needed (previous study in philosophy and ethics are helpful).

Language of instruction: English

Recommended for: Interdisciplinary