



*AN256: Economic Anthropology (I) Production and Exchange-
Education for
Sustainability Internship*



Research Overview

My research covered the following issues:

Law

My research sought to problematise the law- what is it? How does it relate to economics? And how does law help or hinder ecologically sustainable practices? It discussed why law simply cannot be left behind, and how something that has become intrinsic to a capitalist system may also help us to undo it.

Degrowth

My research also discussed what degrowth actually is, and how it can be linked to practices of law in relation to the economy. While much of the law seems to clash with ideas of degrowth- both in terms of environmental degrowth and descaling economic activity as a whole, a grassroots approach may resolve this.

The SDGs

I also asked whether the SDGs were still fit for purpose, or even allied to the mission of degrowth at all. While some SDGs closely resemble degrowth goals, the ultimately capitalist and development-oriented framing of them may necessitate a move past them and an introduction of new goals.



Changes to the Curriculum

- As the AN256 curriculum already heavily emphasised the embeddedness of the economy and its intrinsic links to law and politics, this research enables a deeper discussion on how the three intersect and enable each other.
- It also introduces degrowth as an alternative economic paradigm, and what structural changes may be needed to make it work.
- The focus on law also provides an alternative to Marxist criticisms of the state and the economy by proposing that law is not just a tool of the economic elite, but a way to make meaningful change to damaging economic practices.

Internship Takeaways



Working as a scholar:

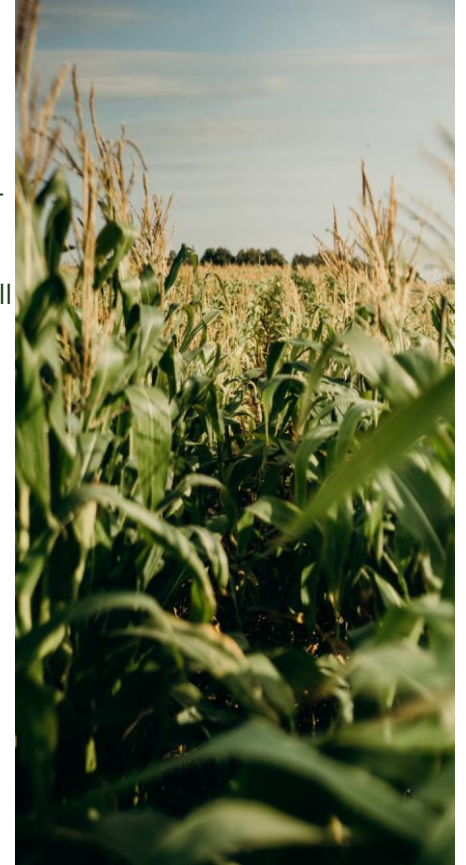
Producing the slides, annotated bibliography and curating the content of the lecture gave insight into how academia works and the processes behind it, which was drastically different from my previous research experiences.

Engagement:

This internship led to greater engagement with course materials across both anthropology and law, as well as my own past work experience! I drew across AN256, AN226 and my own research to produce viable solutions.

Exploring interests:

The economy, law and protecting the environment are all interests of mine, and being able to explore them in such depth with support from the department was an enriching experience!





Thank You!