

Ethics and Ecological Economics¹ Forum

David L. Carlson, Ph.D., Convener²

Purpose: To study and reflect together on the interrelationships among ethics, economics, and ecology (in its social, as well as its nature-based, sense) as they illuminate compelling public policy issues and their implementation. The group seeks a balance between striving for greater conceptual clarity on such matters and networking to share reliable information and opportunities for action to enhance the common good.³

Structure: A monthly gathering of approximately two hours for collegial sharing and discussion of relevant readings, presentations, and other resources. For the most part, regular participants will take turns in selecting and distributing materials, making presentations, and leading discussions.

The EEE Study Group currently meets on the second Monday of each month from 2:00 to 4:15pm at the Iliff School of Theology. However, there is no formal affiliation of the Study Group with Iliff. There are no academic prerequisites; the only requirements for participation are a genuine interest in these matters and a commitment to participate in ways that respect the viewpoints of others.

History: The group began meeting in January 2014. During its first four months, the group studied such classic papers as “The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis” by Lynn White (1967), “The Tragedy of the Commons” by Garrett Hardin (1968), and “The Environmental Cost of Economic Growth” by Barry Commoner (1971). During the summer of 2014, sessions focused on Rebecca Todd Peters’ book, *In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization* (2004).

During the academic year 2014-15, sessions were guided by two primary and interrelated themes: “Competing Narratives of Climate Change and Prospects for Transformation.”

For more information, to send comments, or to receive email notices of monthly meetings, please contact davidcarlson824@gmail.com.

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¹ “Ecological economics [a.k.a. steady-state economics] is the union of economics and ecology, with the economy conceived as a subsystem of the earth ecosystem that is sustained by metabolic flow or ‘throughput’ from and back to the larger system. . . . Ecological economics seeks to ground economic thinking in the dual realities and constraints of our biophysical and moral environments.” Herman E. Daly and Joshua Farley, *Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications* (Washington, D.C.: Island, 2004), 431, xxi.

For a brief explication of the principles of ecological economics, see “Economics for a Full World,” Herman Daly’s acceptance speech, with his own revisions, upon receiving the prestigious Blue Planet Prize in Tokyo in November of 2014. Available online: <http://www.pandopopulus.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Herman-Daly-ECONOMICS-FOR-A-FULL-WORLD.pdf>. 23 pages.

² David Carlson graduated in 2013 from the Joint Ph.D. Program in Religious and Theological Studies at the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology. His dissertation focuses on the interrelationships among religion, science, and theology. During 1976-2003, he served as the natural resource policy analyst for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Before that, he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from CU-Boulder and taught at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and CSU-Pueblo. Currently, he is an adjunct faculty member at Iliff and co-chairs an annual awards ceremony for outstanding middle school, high school, and undergraduate students of mathematics in Colorado.

³ For a comprehensive examination of ecological economics in relation to the common good, see, for example, Herman E. Daly and John B. Cobb, Jr., *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Beacon, 1994).