

# 4<sup>th</sup> Summer School in Samothraki

*5-15 July 2017*



The course is designed as a ten-day excursion to the island of Samothraki in Greece, organized by the Institute of Social Ecology (Vienna), in collaboration with the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Athens). The aim is to learn and apply social ecology and aquatic ecology approaches in a local setting while supporting current research and building synergy with a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve process. The course gives students the opportunity to engage in a real-life project and utilise their scientific training to support the process further, gather missing information in fieldwork and contribute to a science plan for further research that would also meet local interests. This will provide students with the experience of participating in a transdisciplinary research process, being exposed to a search for solutions for sustainability and development challenges, and learning to interact with stakeholders in a culturally challenging environment. The course will conclude with a reflection on the experiences and written student reports on the results of their specific research. After a general introduction, four modules will be performed in parallel, each consisting of an information block, participating field research, data analysis and reporting.

## **Modules:**

1. **Natura 2000 conservation (tree sampling, camera traps).** Tree sampling is a useful tool, on the one hand to reconstruct forest structure as a “mirror” of past land use practices, and second, to identify critical priority areas that require immediate protection and may guide forest regeneration projects. The plan covers both the old-growth oak forests in the mountains and platanus tree growth in the river valleys.
2. **Island social metabolism.** Exploring the current social metabolism of the island in terms of material and energy flow analysis by field observation and expert interviews, with a special focus on the fate of wastes. Structural legal and statistical analysis and stakeholder interviews.
3. **Freshwater metabolism and management.** Survey to conceive the island's water resources management scheme, including an estimation of current water uses and demands.
4. **Ecology and taxonomy of aquatic insects.** Ecology and taxonomy, including systematics and information about the importance of larvae's behavior in ecological studies and biological monitoring of water quality. Insects will be collected from different stream habitats. Identifications will be performed in the "laboratory": 1) All the macroinvertebrates at family level, and 2) Mayflies (Ephemeroptera), stoneflies (Plecoptera), and caddisflies (Trichoptera) at genus level.

## **Application:**

Interested students should first submit a short motivation letter to [dominik.noll@aau.at](mailto:dominik.noll@aau.at), indicating their educational background, if they plan to write a thesis about Samothraki, and their preference among the modules outlined above.

**Basic Information:**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Information session:           | <b>16.3.2017 / 13:30</b> by Marina Fischer-Kowalski<br>IFF, Schottenfeldgasse 29, SR3a  |
| Deadline for applications:     | <b>9.4.2017</b>   |
| Confirmation of participation: | <b>3.5.2017</b>   |
| Preparatory seminar:           | <b>15.5.2017 / 09:30 – 13:00</b><br>IFF, Schottenfeldgasse 29, SR3b   |
| Excursion to Samothraki:       | <b>5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017</b>  |
| Requirements:                  | Field work, analysis, presentation of main findings and submission of a written group report  |
| ECTS:                          | <b>6</b>  |
| Participation fee:             | <b>250-350€</b> (will be announced) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• includes accommodation, food and transportation on the island</li><li>• <b>travel expenses to and from the island are not included in the participation fee and need to be organized individually</b></li></ul> |
| Contact:                       | <b>dominik.noll@aau.at</b><br>marina.fischer-kowalski@aau.at  |
| Website:                       | <a href="http://sustainable-samothraki.net/">http://sustainable-samothraki.net/</a>   |