

What technology for post-growth?

**An 'Environmental Humanities' & 'Science, Technology, Society'
Seminar with Professor Vasilis Kostakis**

Saturday (11:00-14:00 & 15:00-18:00) & Sunday (11:00-14:00) 14-15 September 2024



Vasilis Kostakis is Professor of Technology Governance and Sustainability at TalTech and a Faculty Associate at Harvard University. He is the founder of the P2P Lab and a founding member of the “Tzoumakers” rural makerspace and the “Commonen” energy community.

Summary: In our rapidly changing world, environmental degradation and global wealth inequality are critical challenges. Many propose high-tech solutions like "smart cities" and "green growth" as silver bullets, envisioning a future where technology enhances services, reduces carbon footprints, and empowers citizens. However, these high-tech artefacts rely on scarce metals and rare minerals, often sourced through questionable practices in the Global South. Their life-cycle consumes energy, generates toxicity, and frequently involves precarious working conditions. We thus face a paradox: Can technologies that potentially exacerbate these issues truly solve our problems? Is there a way to harness high-tech innovations without perpetuating global inequalities and environmental harm? This seminar explores the complex interplay between technology, sustainability, and global equity. Through critical analysis, we'll challenge existing narratives and work towards a new techno-economic paradigm. Join us as we grapple with creating a future where technological advancement serves all of humanity and our planet.

Readings: [Decoupling debunked](#) report & [Beyond global versus local](#) article

Location: New Building, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

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