Questioning ecological modernization: Crosscutting perspectives on Rio+20.
The object: What is an Earth Summit

- From Stockholm to Rio+20:
  - The main UN events, every 10 years
  - Debates about environment and development
  - One year of pre-negotiation
  - 50,000 persons, 500 side events....
  - International mega event / historical event
The object: What is an Earth Summit
The ECOVERIO Project

- An interdisciplinary team of 15 social scientists
- Contributing to collaborative research method on transnational mega-event
- Evolving questions:
  Step 1 (before the summit): The rising of Green Economy (genealogy, cartography)
  Step 2 (during the summit): Rio +20 as a global forum
    - New geo-political disorder and the emergence of a global society
    - Reconfiguring the links between economy and environment: synergies and contradictions
    - Global civil society: Who is In, Who is Alt?
The ECOVERIO project

- Step 4: Problematising

« La modernisation écologique à l’épreuve » « Challenging the ecological modernisation »

Ecological modernisation is both an academical stream and the dominant way of thinking the environment for international institutions (UE/UNEP). Ecology is not against modernity (VS political ecology), it is a way of renewing modernization.

- Reconciliating market (capitalism) and environment
- Technological substituability
- Governance as a way to modernise, democracy, institutions and States (Partnership with private sector, decentralisation, internationalisation, participation,...)
Our these:

Rio +20 as the triumph (of the discourse) and a strong challenge for (the practice) of ecological modernisation
I. The challenge of global governance

- Rio+20 represents much more than an international conference, it is a kind of representation of a global society: Inadaptation of international institutions to lead this global society.
- Strong problem of governability in this geopolitical order (BRICS)
- How can we talk about (good, managerial) governance?
- Political realism and development much more than governance and environment
II. The challenge of the market

- Green Economy discourse has been contested by Grey Economy and by civil society.

- Business as a rising self-confident and self satisfied (but divided) actor in this kind of arenas. Very influential to impose new (practical) norms.

- The difficult Greening of two major sectors Chemistry and agriculture.
III. The Challenge of participation

- Three case studies: indigenous mobilisation/trade unions as a new actor about SD/People Summit

- Reconfiguration of the alter globalizing movement post Copenhagen, inefficciency of major groups, importance of symbolism
La société civile dans la globalisation: Qui est In, qui est Alt?

- Les dangers de la voie Alter
  - Décrochage du politique
  - Montée du symbolique
Conclusion: Is ecology soluble in modernity?

- Europeans as loosers in the negociations and UNEP has not win as much as it could
- Environmental rationality has faced the context of crisis: growth for all and development for southern countries seems to be the only horizons: back to Stockholm?
- Anthropocene has a new discourse
- Ecological modernization in the perspective of Cop21
La reconfiguration des liens entre économie et environnement: synergies et contradiction

- Le verdissement à géométrie variable de l’agriculture et de la chimie
- De l’agroécologie à l’agriculture écologiquement intensive
- Réguler ou transformer la chimie
La reconfiguration des liens entre économie et environnement: synergies et contradiction

- Le secteur privé: nouvelle acteur central de l’écologie et des RI?
- Une présence massive et un discours volontariste
- Des intérêts et des
- Entre libéralisme et demande de régulation
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- Les limites de la participation officielle
  - Cout d’entrée aux négos élevés et résultats très incertains
  - Epuisement des MG
  - Risque de récupération
Rio Centro: négociations, side events, briefings, sustainabéle dialogue, prise de parole officielle,…
Le Sommet des Peuples
Corporate forum et business day
B. Environnement VS Géopolitique
II. Environnement et économie

- A. La montée en puissance du business
B. L’Economie Verte: une mise à l’agenda mouvementée