

# ECO-SOCIAL DEBATES

2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2022-2023

## OBSERVATORY ON SUSTAINABILITY, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (OSES)

May 11<sup>th</sup> 2023

10:30 - 12:00

Room B2, Ca' Borin  
via del Santo 22, Padova

### Exceptionally wicked? How dilemmas in climate activism relate to the super-wicked nature of climate change

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Climate change seems to be a unique problem because of its complexity, scope, global scale and unforgiving temporality. It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that climate movements would share at least part of this uniqueness. However, because the role of issues, and particularly their underlying qualities, has been overlooked in social movement theory, exploring this assumption has remained difficult. In this talk I present an effort to address this problem to address the question what, if anything, might be unique about climate movements, which in turn may help us understand their problematic trajectories. I will do so by investigating the link between, on the one hand, the super-wicked nature of climate change, and, on the other hand, the many strategic dilemmas that climate activists encounter.



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