

Degrowth Vienna 2020 Online Conference

FAQ for Participants



HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR PARTICIPATION?

Thanks to the conference going online and funding received from different foundations and institutions (and a lot of unpaid labour from volunteers), participation in the conference is now **free** by default. However, we would ask you to kindly consider supporting the conference with a contribution according to self-assessment if you have the means to do so.

ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Degrowth Vienna – Verein zur Förderung der Degrowth-Bewegung
IBAN: AT12 3412 9000 0022 5417
BIC: RZOOAT2L129

For any questions (e.g. regarding receipts) please contact info@degrowthvienna.org.

WHAT DO I NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE FORMAT?

You need to register here **before the 28th of May** at <https://www.degrowthvienna2020.org/en/participant-registration/>
Registrations after this date can not be processed anymore.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Software/Operating System

- Latest versions of:
 - Google Chrome
 - Chromium
 - Chromium Edge (Microsoft)
 - **Firefox , Safari and others browsers are *not* compatible with our conference**
- iPhone or iPad: iOS 12.2 or higher
- Android 6.0 or higher

Data/Internet Speed

- At least 0.5 Mbits/sec upstream bandwidth, and
- 1 Mbits/sec download bandwidth
- Please check your bandwidth at www.speedtest.net.

- Use Ethernet (wired) data connection, not your WiFi to improve signal strength and reliability.

Audio

- All presenters and participants are asked to use headphones with a microphone, and to switch off their mics when not talking, to avoid echo and audio feedback.

Video

- You do not need a webcam to participate. Participant's webcams will only be used in some workshops, but will mostly be turned off by default.

WHERE CAN I SEE THE PROGRAMME? WHERE CAN I FIND ABSTRACTS OF THE PRESENTED PAPERS? WHERE CAN I INFORM MYSELF ABOUT THE SESSIONS IN DETAIL?

All of this is available in the programme under <https://www.degrowthvienna2020.org/en/program/>

It is also possible to see the programme timetable once you have registered for the conference and joined the conference forum hub on Discord (under "1. Information" in *#programme_overview*).

HOW CAN I JOIN THE SESSIONS I AM INTERESTED IN? WHERE CAN I FIND THE LINKS FOR THE SESSIONS?

The links to participate in the different sessions will be available via the conference forum hub on Discord (under "1. Information") and posted in the *#home* channel ahead of each session.

WHERE CAN I JOIN THE CONFERENCE FORUM, ASK FOR CONFERENCE OR IT HELP & LISTEN TO TRANSLATIONS?

The conference hub and all of the above will be available via the Discord platform. You should receive access via an invite link prior to the conference. If you have not received the link to the server, or if you have trouble joining, please get in touch with us at logistik@degrowthvienna.org.

The central forum for the conference will be the Discord platform, where you will be able to find up-to-date and live information on the conference, to interact with other participants and to ask questions and raise concerns with the organisers. This is also where the IT and conference helpdesk are, where you can receive help with other software problems.

To join the conference forum:

Please create a Discord account and enter our server via the invitation link that was sent to you via email. Discord (<https://discordapp.com/>) can be used in your browser, or you can also download it as an application to your computer or phone. If you need help getting started with Discord, you can check out this guide: <https://support.discordapp.com/hc/en-us/articles/360033931551-Getting-Started>

Once you have entered our Discord server:

1. In the "Information" folder/category, you will find the following text channels, which provide running general information. You cannot comment or ask questions here.

#home This is the first channel you are taken to when you log in. Here we will share up-to-date information with you.

#programme-overview You can find information on the programme, divided by day, links to the presentations and workshops.

2. In the "Contact Conference" folder, you will find text channels where you can contact us directly:

#helpdesk If you have any problems or concerns with the conference.

#it-support If you have any problems with your software or other IT concerns.

3. In the "Community" category, are channels for communication and participation. You can actively post and discuss with other participants, share documents, links and images.

#introduce-yourself Text channel to get to know others and introduce yourself.

#degrowth-vienna-lounge Text channel for open discussions.

4. In the "Übersetzung/Translation" category, there will be two voice channels EN/DE and DE/EN for translation to and from German, respectively, for panels. These are meant to be "listened to" in parallel to the panel discussions.

5. Under "Friday Discussion", "Saturday Discussion", "Sunday/Monday Discussion" you will find text channels where discussions can continue after the presentations on the specific days.

6. On the column on the right side you can see a list of degrowth discord server members. The organisation team members of the conference have the colour purple.

WHEN DO I RECEIVE THE CONFIRMATION OF MY REGISTRATION?

You will receive a confirmation e-mail within 2-3 days after registering that includes detailed information about the access to the conference platform and communication channels.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE TECHNICAL ISSUES DURING A SESSION?

Do not worry. Each session will have at least one IT help staff present (in addition to the moderator) who is there to try to solve such issues, to the best of their ability. Some improvisation may be needed, so please be patient and flexible. There will also be a general IT-info point at the conference, available on the dedicated conference Discord server. You can avoid technical problems by using right browser and by closing other tabs and programs on your computer so it does not get overwhelmed. In BigBlueButton sessions you can also turn on data saving options with the tree little dots on the top right corner. If you turn off the receiving of webcam pictures, the audio connection usually improves.

WHO CAN I APPROACH IF I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IN A VIRTUAL ROOM OR CHAT WITH SOMEBODY?

There will be a dedicated IT help and awareness person and a moderator in each virtual "room" who will be indicated at the start of a session and you can contact if needed. The other suggested helpline is writing to us in the *#awareness*, *#helpdesk* or *#it-support* channels on the dedicated conference hub on Discord. If you write to us in the text channel, one of our volunteers will message you directly so that we can understand what is going on and can take action. You can also email us at info@degrowthvienna.org (expect slower replies)

HOW CAN I APPROACH GUESTS THAT I DO NOT KNOW BUT WANT TO CONTACT?

We have dedicated community text channels, including *#introduce-yourself* and *#degrowth-vienna-lounge* on the conference forum on Discord. We encourage you to contact people openly via these forums before messaging anyone privately.

WHAT TIME ZONE DOES THE TIMETABLE REFER TO?

CEST (Vienna local time), we welcome all time zones to participate from around the world!

WILL SESSIONS BE RECORDED AND ACCESSIBLE LATER?

All sessions will be recorded (video and audio), you will be notified of this when you register for the online conference. We plan to publish and make some of the sessions accessible after the conference, but we cannot guarantee this for all recorded material.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE VIDEO OF MY PRESENTATION?

We would like to create a database of the conference to be used in the future and made accessible to the general public. This might include sharing recorded material via different online platforms, video hosting platforms, and social media.

CAN I PARTICIPATE ALL FOUR DAYS?

You can participate as much as you would like throughout the four-day conference.

I AM A JOURNALIST AND WOULD LIKE TO PUBLISH SOMETHING ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. WHERE DO I GET PRESS MATERIAL? (PHOTOS, PRESS RELEASE, ...)

We are very happy if news about the conference can be spread and we have a dedicated team working on press material, including press releases and photos. Please get in touch with us at media@degrowthvienna.org to find out more.

WHICH LANGUAGES ARE SESSIONS AVAILABLE IN?

Most sessions will be held in English, but we have interpretation available for the German-language sessions via live audio-streaming on Discord. For panels and selected sessions, we provide English-German translations. Please join Discord and locate the channel dedicated to #translation and our online program indicates the sessions to be translated.

CAN I ENTER A PRESENTATION AFTER IT HAS ALREADY STARTED? / WHAT TIME LATEST SHOULD I BE IN THE SESSIONS ROOM?

If there is still space, you should be able to enter a session that has already started. This might not be the case for smaller participatory workshops, however, where the hosts can decide whether to let you in or not after a session has started depending on the number of attendees. Your attendance can therefore only be guaranteed if you join a session a few minutes before its start. In the program, you can see how many participants are allowed in each session. If the room is full, you will not be granted access anymore, but you can always try to join another room (there will at all times be a session held in a big room for up to 5000 people, so you will definitely get a spot there).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CHATS ON DISCORD AFTER THE CONFERENCE? WILL YOU DELETE OR STORE THEM?

We have a dedicated "harvesting" team working on "harvesting" the accumulated and shared knowledge created throughout the conference. This might include discussions in open text channels, for example the *#degrowth-vienna-lounge*. We of course do not have access to your private chats on the Discord platform. These chats will be lost after the conference, so make sure you save any important contacts or content beforehand.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT YOU. HOW CAN I DO THAT?

First of all - thank you and great!

If you have the means to do so, we would ask you to kindly consider supporting the conference financially via our crowdfunding campaign:

<https://www.respekt.net/projekte-unterstuetzen/details/projekt/1934/>

For any questions (e.g. regarding receipts) please contact info@degrowthvienna.org.

