

Dr. Jens van 't Klooster

Areas of specialization: political philosophy, applied ethics, philosophy of economics and business ethics

Areas of current research: expertise and democratic legitimacy; political philosophy of money and finance; climate change and biodiversity.

Concrete research projects (these are suggestions – I am happy to supervise a wide range of topics in political philosophy and applied ethics)

Political Philosophy and applied ethics

- Capitalism vs socialism. What are the moral arguments for and against private ownership of the means of production? What are the alternatives? Should socialism allow for markets?
- The Anthropocene: What is it? What (if anything) should individuals do to counter-act climate change and loss of biodiversity? When is recreational flying permissible?
- Technocracy and democracy. What are the limits to what unelected experts can decide? Should we introduce alternative/complementary roles for citizen councils, referendums and sortition?
- European Union: What is the proper relation between democratic processes on the EU (e.g. the Euro group/European Commission/ESM) and the member state level? What are the requirements of justice that apply between the member states?
- Theories of distributive justice. What are the grounds, site and scope of principles of justice? What is the metric of justice? Relational vs distributive conceptions. Personal responsibility. Comparative studies of e.g. Elisabeth Anderson, G.A. Cohen, Friedrich Hayek, Martin O'Neill, Thomas Piketty, John Rawls, Amartya Sen (choose at least 2).

Philosophy of economics and business ethics

- The economy and climate change. Which duties do individual firms have to reduce their CO₂ emissions? Is a carbon tax a just instrument to pursue decarbonization? The ethics of degrowth and planetary boundaries.
- The nature of money. What is money? Are cryptocurrencies/SDRs/etc money? Monetary theories of Locke, Smith, Marx, Knapp, Mitchell-Ines, Keynes, Randall-Wray, Perry Mehrling, David Graeber, and Christine Desan.
- Ethics of financial markets. Should banks be allowed to issue money? Ethics of banks, pension funds, insurers, asset managers. What epistemic and normative assumptions are implicit in different conceptions of financial risk? What can we know about financial risk? Are climate-related risks adequately weighted by credit raters?
- Values and idealization in economics. Is economics a value-free science? Should policy advice be value free? Should economic theories be realistic? Should they make accurate predictions? Do they need microfoundations? What is the correct way to conceptualize economic subjectivity? What is the epistemic status of macroeconomics? Historical debates: Methodenstreit, Friedman's instrumentalism, etc.