ASG Resourcification

*The economization of everything or the essence of sustainability?*

The Resourcification ASG sets out to discuss society through a resource-based worldview. This has several conflicting aspects, including scarcity of resources (water, antibiotics), abundance of resources (obesity, fossil fuels), mismanagement of resources (land degradation, overfishing), efficient use of resources (circular economy, frugal consumption), strategic use of resources (accounting, branding) and frontiers of resources (synthetic biology, geo-engineering).

A resource is implicitly understood as having an a priori potential to become valuable. This makes the making of resources — resourcification — an intriguing issue for interdisciplinary inquiry since, arguably, nothing is valuable in and of itself in any social system. In some cases, there is an association between resourcification and sustainability. However, resourcification might also be interpreted as the reaction from a society that is unwilling or genuinely unable to engage in profound change in order to meet the challenges of the Anthropocene. The ASG brings together four faculties and one cross-faculty centre to problematize this dynamic by discussing the question: How do things become resources, and what are the implications of such resourcification?

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