



University
of Victoria

School of Public Administration

Public Presentation

Friday, June 23

11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

David Strong Building, Room C122

Achieving a Sustainable Economy

Humanity faces a dilemma. Economic growth is unsustainable due to the environmental damage that it causes. ‘Degrowth’, on the other hand, is politically untenable because falling consumer demand leads to recession and crisis. As a solution to this dilemma, Dan O’Neill will discuss the alternative of a ‘steady-state economy’. At its simplest, this is an economy where resource use is stabilized within environmental limits, and the goal of increasing GDP is replaced by the goal of improving human well-being. A number of changes are needed to achieve such an economy, including policies to conserve natural resources, stabilize population, reduce inequality, fix the financial system, create jobs, and change the way we measure progress. Dan will explore the last of these strategies in depth using a novel set of biophysical and social indicators, to test whether an environmentally sustainable economy can also be socially sustainable.

*Dan O’Neill is a visiting professor, on sabbatical from the University of Leeds, UK, where he is head of the Economics and Policy for Sustainability Research Group. He is co-author (with Rob Dietz) of the book *Enough Is Enough: Building a Sustainable Economy in a World of Finite Resources*, an international best-seller which has been made into a short film. Dan has been an invited speaker at over 50 organizations including the European Central Bank, French National Assembly, and London School of Economics. He is an associate of the “Living Well Within Limits” project, and a board member of the European Society for Ecological Economics. His latest work, which is supported by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust, investigates how to reconcile the goal of full employment with environmental sustainability in an era of increasing automation.*

publicadmin.uvic.ca