

Circular Economics: An Acquired Waste – Syllabus

- 1) What is waste?
 - a. Legal definition of waste: someone's unwanted.
 - b. Social perception: the theory of relativity all over again. *Is my waste also your waste?*
 - c. Acquired taste or innate taste? The scope of the waste concept ranges from new unsold goods to hazardous waste.

- 2) State of play of waste generation (quantity, nature) in France
 - a. Generation by households
 - b. Generation by economic activity

- 3) Can the economy be circular?
 - a. Georgescu-Roegen: the economy, circular or not, will end in a thermodynamical chaos
 - b. Ayres' critique of G-R
 - c. Loss of information, dispersion: can the economy be based on waste?
 - d. What is the nature of circularity (industrial, ecological)

- 4) An economic problem
 - a. "Relative waste": a simple allocation problem?
 - b. Who wants to buy my waste? An ambiguous price
 - c. How to give value to waste?
 - d. Rebound effect and environmental considerations

- 5) Waste policies
 - a. EU policy principles: Waste Management Hierarchy
 - b. Extended Producer Responsibility: cost allocation, information recovery
 - c. Regulatory instrument: recycling targets, incorporation rates

- 6) A geopolitical object and economic interests
 - a. International trade of waste
 - b. Basel convention and international negotiations