



**Geographies of  
Money, Finance,  
and Debt 26/27**

A third-year  
module convened  
by Dr Andrew Hook

# Module overview

- This module will provide students with a critical introduction to the role of **money, finance, and debt** in contemporary global crises of **inequality, democracy, and environmental sustainability**.
- It will position money, finance, and debt as an inherently **political subject** that has long been neglected by non-economists.
- Despite assumptions that finance is now a ‘de-territorialized’ global phenomenon, the module will show how the impacts of money, finance, and debt are nonetheless still **spatially constituted** and experienced by **real people in real places**.
- **Topics will include:**
  - an introduction to **where money comes from, the politics of money creation**, and searching for the ‘**Magic Money Tree**’;
  - an examination of the drivers and impacts of **rising private household debt**;
  - the role of **tax havens** and **tax avoidance** in **global wealth inequality**
  - the role of global financial institutions in **fossil fuel investment and climate change**;
  - an examination of the proliferation of **cryptocurrencies** and **money reform movements**.



# Module aims

- Identify and define the main features of money, finance, and debt in the contemporary world.
- Articulate the main links and relationships between money, finance, and debt and contemporary crises of inequality, democracy, and environmental sustainability.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the range of debates around the merits and legitimacy of the current financial and money system.
- Apply key concepts about money, finance, and debt to empirical examples in both Global North and South.





**Module convenor:** Dr Andrew Hook,  
Associate Professor in Human  
Geography

# Teaching method and assessment

- The module is taught in a weekly 1-hour lecture and a weekly 2-hour seminar. Note that the module will be taught in a way that is accessible to all students and it requires no background in economics.
- It will be assessed in the form of:
  - One policy briefing (2000 words), usually deliverable in Week 7, and worth 25%.
  - One term essay (3000 words), deliverable at the end of the semester, and worth 75%.
- If you have any questions about the module, feel free to email the convenor, Andrew Hook, on [a.hook@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:a.hook@sussex.ac.uk), or visit him in his **advice and feedback hours** (Spring term 2026/27: Thursdays 10:00-12:00, Arts C255).



# Suggested introductory texts

