

## **Crunching numbers for sustainability**

**First lesson:** The multiverse of composite indicators. There is now a composite indicator for everything, from the quality of urban life to the freedom of the press passing by the ranking of institutes of higher education. These statistical indicators built aggregating different variables are an excellent vehicle for drawing attention to a particular issue, but should be constructed and / or used with care. The ecological footprint and other examples.

**Second lesson:** What is impact assessment? How did different segments of society, from enterprises to institutions, managed the pandemic (or failed to)? The case of the pandemic serves to open up the discussion to impact assessment methods and experiences, through the work of several scholars and case studies. A special mention is made of financial risk and of the work of Nassim N. Taleb.

**Third lesson:** Ethics of energy. What are the main ethical problems and trade-offs linked to the use of energy between growth, equity, security, and the environment? An analysis of dominant and antagonist narratives on how energy use and its effects are negotiated in the public sphere, between transitions, decarbonizations and negative emissions. A leisurely stroll between ecology and sociology of science.