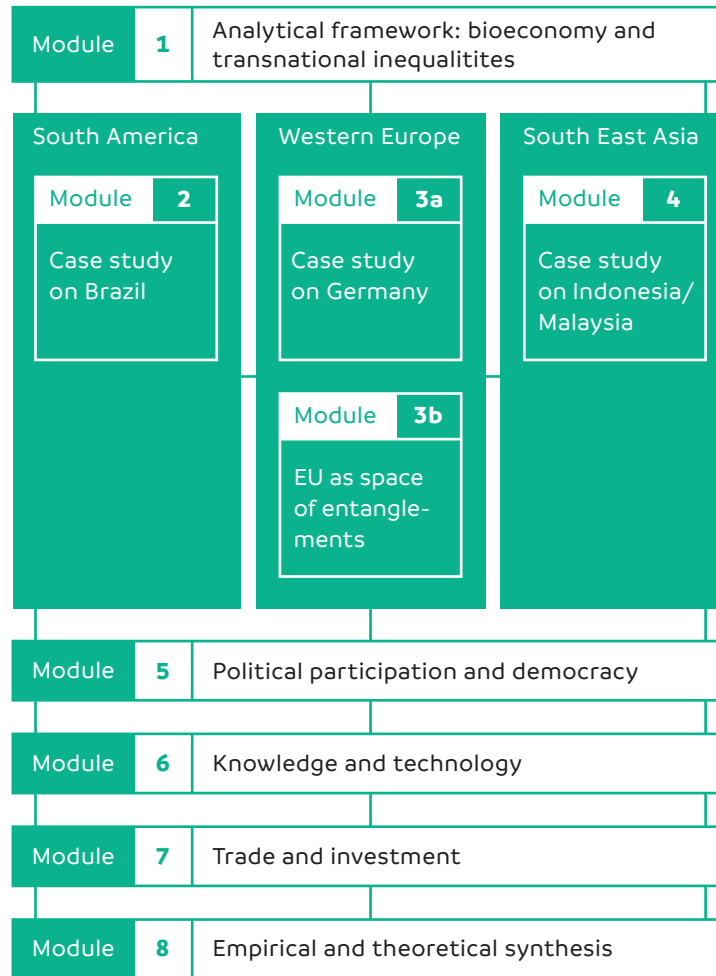




The junior research group *Bioeconomy and Inequalities* is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and based at the Friedrich-Schiller University Jena in Germany. The group aims to provide analyses of the social inequalities connected to the expanding bioenergy sector – a core field of the emerging bioeconomy. The project’s premise is that transitions in energy systems coincide with processes of social transformation permeated by various relations of inequality from the local to the global level.

The research questions are:

- Who profits and who loses out in the growing bioenergy sector? Why?
- How are already asymmetrical North-South relations in the global agro-food-fuel-system changing?
- How does the growing global demand for biomass affect access to land and labor relations in different production areas? What opportunities as well as limitations are there for smallholders?
- How do global and supranational policy frameworks affect local relations of production? What are the emerging spheres of decision-making?
- How do transitions in different regions interrelate and influence one other?



Case studies look at developments in countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia and Germany, linking these to an analysis of the entanglements and interdependencies between South America, South East Asia and Western Europe. Key dimensions of social inequality such as gender, class, and ethnicity are systematically integrated into the research perspective.

The research group will investigate:

- Labor relations and access to land
- The production of knowledge and technology
- Political spheres of decision-making
- Trade and investment in the transnational bioenergy sector

The aim of the research group is to connect the study of global inequalities with socio-ecological questions and to provide an empirically grounded analysis that can contribute to the ongoing debate about the emerging bioeconomy.