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## Newsletter of Research & Degrowth

September-October 2010

### Outline

1. Degrowth today: news and developments
  2. Articles, reports and publications
  3. Upcoming events
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\*\*Please send any relevant information on upcoming events, publications or developments related to degrowth to: news {@} degrowth {.} net \*\*

### 1. Degrowth today: news and developments

On September 29, the European Trade Union Confederation is promoting a large demo in the Brussels' European Quarter, with Spain and other countries holding general strikes. Different collectives, as for example Precarious United, as well as Growth Objectors share the unions' refusal of austerity policies meted out on Greece and soon to all European countries, but do not believe that "growth and jobs" are a viable prospect, either ecologically or politically. They demand an ecosocial future based on environmental remediation and a new, European welfare system, empowering the precarious generation that has been crushed by the Great Recession.

For more information: <http://www.precarious-united.eu>

A new journal on degrowth in French (Limite) has been launched

Visit: <http://www.limite.eu/>

Other french journals focussed on degrowth

<http://www.entropia-la-revue.org/>

<http://www.ladecroissance.net/>

but also

<http://www.revuesilence.net/>

<http://www.ecologiste.org/>

<http://www.lagedefaire.org/>

As Hervé Kempf, a journalist in Le Monde says, the radicalism of ecology is being revived by growth objectors: <http://www.entropia-la-revue.org/spip.php?breve114>

## 2. Articles, reports and publications

Sustainable de-growth: Mapping the context, criticisms and future prospects of an emergent paradigm

Joan Martínez-Alier, Unai Pascual, Franck-Dominique Vivien and Edwin Zaccai

Ecological economics journal

Abstract

“Sustainable de-growth” is both a concept and a social-grassroots (Northern) movement with its origins in the fields of ecological economics, social ecology, economic anthropology and environmental and social activist groups. This paper introduces the concept of sustainable de-growth by mapping some of the main intellectual influences from these fields, with special focus on the Francophone and Anglophone thinking about this emergent notion. We propose hypotheses pertaining to the appeal of sustainable de-growth, and compare it to the messages enclosed within the dominant sustainable development idea. We scrutinize the theses, contradictions, and consequences of sustainable de-growth thinking as it is currently being shaped by a heterogeneous body of literature and as it interacts with an ample and growing corpus of social movements. We also discuss possible future paths for the de-growth movement compared to the apparent weakening of the sustainable development paradigm

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2010.04.017>

Article: Sustainable de-growth: an alternative to sustainable development?

by the DG Environment News Alert Service

Abstract: Sustainable de-growth is the transition to a smaller economy with less production and consumption. A new study has explored its origins and compared it to sustainable development. The study found that to become a viable alternative to sustainable development, 'de-growth' needs to be more clearly defined, and its implications for employment need to be considered very carefully.

Download article at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/209na3.pdf>

Degrowth and Power (in Spanish), by Vicente Manzano Arrondo

Resumen: El decrecimiento es un concepto desconocido para la mayoría. Cuando tiene lugar el primer contacto con el término, lo esperable es que el significado sea reducción del consumo o incremento del auto-control. Sin embargo, el discurso dominante es “No se preocupe, sea feliz, compre”. Por tanto, el modo más frecuente con que se presenta el decrecimiento es psicológicamente nada atractivo. En este documento propongo dos elementos. Por un lado, sugiero diez puntos para mostrar el concepto y el significado del decrecimiento desde los límites hasta la liberación: el mundo es finito, el momento de parar fue ayer, el crecimiento sostenible es una propuesta, pero no funciona, el decrecimiento no es una opción sino una necesidad, no es retroceder, es psicológicamente viable, no es un problema para los países en vías de desarrollo, es un camino inteligente, y “el mundo mejor” necesita decrecimiento. Por otro lado, presento el concepto de poder como la herramienta más importante para trabajar el concepto de decrecimiento a niveles individual y comunitario. Su lógica es mostrar cómo nuestra vida puede verse como un proceso de opresión donde las personas ceden su poder y libertad a cambio de mantener su percepción de confort.

<http://sustentabilidades.siderpco.org/revista/index.php/2010061675/Publicacion-02/decrecimiento-y-poder.html>

Els camins del decreixement, Schneider, F, Demaria F., Puddu, S., Leira, O.

Quaderns d'Illacrua 29, Directa 195, sept 2010.

[http://setmanaridirecta.info/index.php?option=com\\_rsgallery2&page=inline&id=279&Itemid=99999999](http://setmanaridirecta.info/index.php?option=com_rsgallery2&page=inline&id=279&Itemid=99999999)

*Relevant:*

World Bank invests record sums in coal

“Last year, \$3.4bn was invested in the dirtiest fossil fuel despite international commitments to cut emissions. Record sums were invested last year in coal - the most carbon intensive form of energy on the planet - by the World Bank, despite international commitments to slash the carbon emissions for climate change. The World Bank said this week that a total of US\$3.4bn (£2.2bn) - or a quarter of all funding for energy projects - was spent in the year to June 2010 helping to build new coal-fired power stations, including the controversial Medupi plant in South Africa. Over the same period the bank also spent \$1bn (£640m) on looking and drilling for oil and gas. However, the Bank Information Centre, which examined the spending, disagreed and said the figure invested in coal was \$4.4bn in the fiscal year 2009-10”.

Remainder of the article available at: <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/sep/15/world-bank-coal#history-link-box>>

### 3. Upcoming events

Growth in Transition 2010 Conference 24 September 2010, Helsinki, Finland

The interdisciplinary conference is targeted at academics, activists and experts working in the fields of economy, politics, social welfare and environment but it is aimed also at the broader public and the media. The programme of the conference is designed to enable discussion between keynote speakers, politicians, activists and experts and it aims to make the concept of degrowth more widely known in Finland. The conference is free of charge and we expect an audience of around 500 people. Conference languages are English, Finnish and French and a translation from French to English will be organised.

<http://www.degrowthfinland.fi/briefly-in-english/>

The MINGA network which tries to rethink fair-trade comes together to debate on degrowth September 26-27, 2010, near Valence, France (in French)

Rencontres d'Automne MINGA pres de Valence

27 sept, 14h30 - 16h30

La Maison d'hôte qui accueille nos échanges est à la Bourrelière, près de Saint Marcellin qui est près de Valence

La décroissance interdit-elle d'entreprendre?

Minga ayant placé la souveraineté des peuples et la préservation de la biodiversité comme les priorités de son action collective, comment alors concilier une réussite professionnelle et se réclamer de la décroissance? La notion de croissance étant liée à celle de l'activité économique, peut-on concevoir une gestion d'entreprise qui invite à consommer moins? Faut-il refuser de travailler pour se réclamer de la décroissance? Comment à travers une démarche de sobriété peut-on ouvrir une perspective d'avenir? La décroissance construit-elle un ailleurs ou un autrement?

Degrowth will be at the center of discussion for the first Autumn university at Liège of French speaking environmental associations in Belgium. October 1, 2010

For more information visit: <http://www.iewonline.be/spip.php?article3713>

A conference in Parma on democracy and degrowth, October 7-8 (in Italian with translation to Latin languages)

Giovedì 7 e venerdì 8 ottobre, al Centro Congressi Ex Eridania, nel Parco Falcone-Borsellino a Parma, si terrà il seminario: Il clima della democrazia Decrescita, sostenibilità, giustizia socioambientale.

Prospettive politiche sulla crisi ecologica, economica e di civiltà

For more information: <http://www.kuminda.org/kuminda/newsDetail.asp?ID=104>

Course: Economics beyond the crisis, Univeristy of Tilburg, Netherlands

From October 8<sup>th</sup> a course on economics in the context of the "Fair & Green Deal" as a solution to the crisis is being launched. The course consists of eight consecutive (Friday) afternoon sessions for which you can sign up. For more information visit (in Dutch):

[http://www.alliantiefairgreendeal.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=23:economic-voorbij-de-crisis&catid=30:cursussen&Itemid=60](http://www.alliantiefairgreendeal.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23:economic-voorbij-de-crisis&catid=30:cursussen&Itemid=60)

7th Biennial International Workshop Advances in Energy Studies "Breaking the addiction to fossil energy", 19-21 October 2010, Faculty of Economics, UAB.

<http://www.societalmetabolism.org/aes2010.html>

Green Growth, De-growth and Sustainability, Ph.D. Course, October 27-29, 2010

Ph. D. course organized jointly by Oslo University College and Aalborg University

Responsible persons: Prof. Petter Næss (Aalborg University) and Prof. Karl Georg Høyer (Oslo University College)

Lecturers: Professor Joan Martinez-Alier, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Professor Kate Soper, London Metropolitan University, Professor Ove Jacobsen, Bodø University College, Senior Researcher Rolf Golombek, Ragnar Frisch Center for Economic Research, Oslo, Professor Arne Johan Vetlesen, University of Oslo, Associate Professor Finn Arler, Aalborg University, Professor Petter Næss, Aalborg University, Professor Karl Georg Høyer, Oslo University College

Requirements:

All participants write and present a paper – approx. 3000 words – which must be submitted electronically no later than October 11, 2010 to [urban@hio.no](mailto:urban@hio.no)

Deadline for application: September 27, 2010

For more information: <http://phd.plan.aau.dk/phd-courses/4765213>

A meeting on degrowth against productivism, March, 26, 2011, Lyon, France

<http://www.contre-grenelle.org/>

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