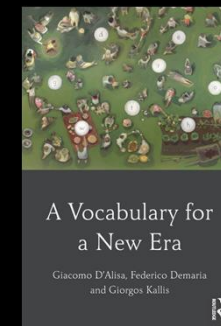


Degrowth: a vocabulary for a new era

Giacomo D'Alisa
Post doc CES University of Coimbra
Senior Fellow IPE Zagreb
Founding Member R&D Barcelona



Take home messages

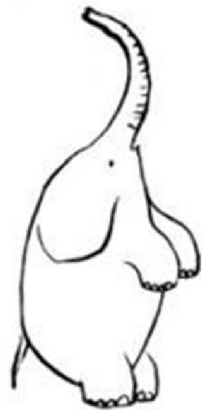
1. The fervor for growth is causing multiple predicaments
2. Degrowthers propose institutional, collective and every day (personal) changes

No discurso prevalente

Growth

Stationary State

Recession



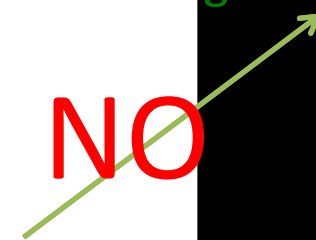
More of same

The same of the same

Less of the same

Degrowth

NO



Degrowth hypothesis

Degrowth



Simply different

Degrowth consists in

- unlearning the idols and the false notion of growth-led westernized society
- proposing and acting for ecologically sound and socially equitable societies

Degrowth is

A critic of the ideology of growth
(Diagnosis + Prognosis)

→ to stay well you need more
(main common sense)

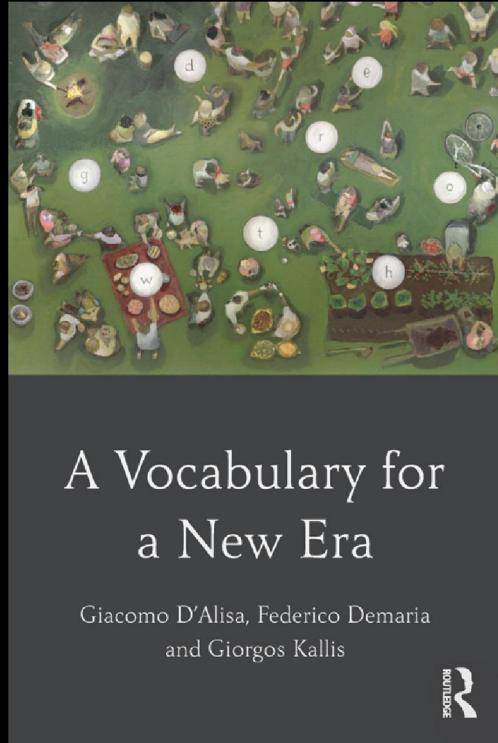
Degrowth is

An ensemble of discourses and practices aiming to steer the transformation of the society while putting the sustainability of life at the centre

(Therapy)

→ live simply so others (H and non-H) may simply live
(main common sense)

The vocabulary and its parts



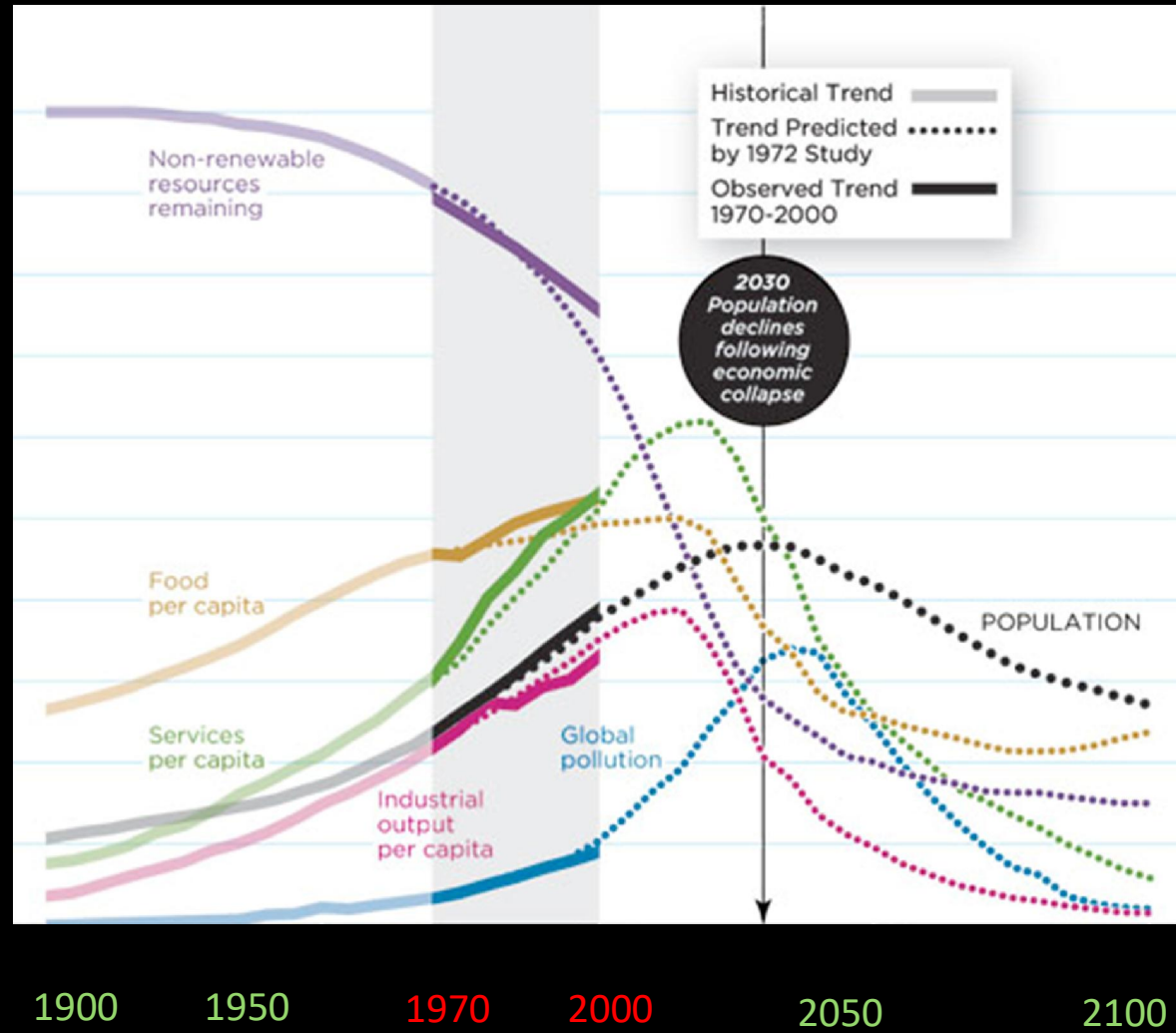
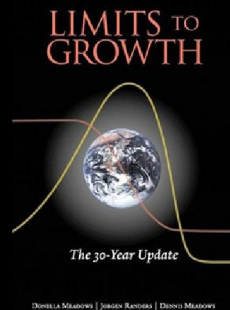
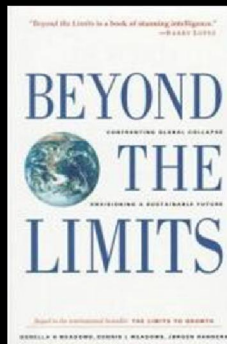
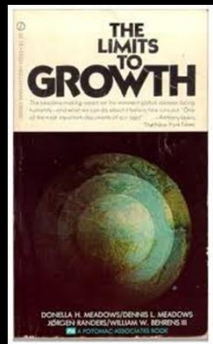
Part 1: Lines of thought

1. Anti-utilitarianism *Onofrio Romano*
2. Bio-economics *Mauro Bonaiuti*
3. Development, Critiques of *Arturo Escobar*
4. Environmental Justice *Isabelle Anguelovski*
5. Environmentalism, Currents of *Joan Martinez-Alier*
6. Metabolism, Societal *Alevgul Sorman*
7. Political ecology *Susan Paulson*
8. Steady-state economics *Joshua Farley*

Part 2: The core

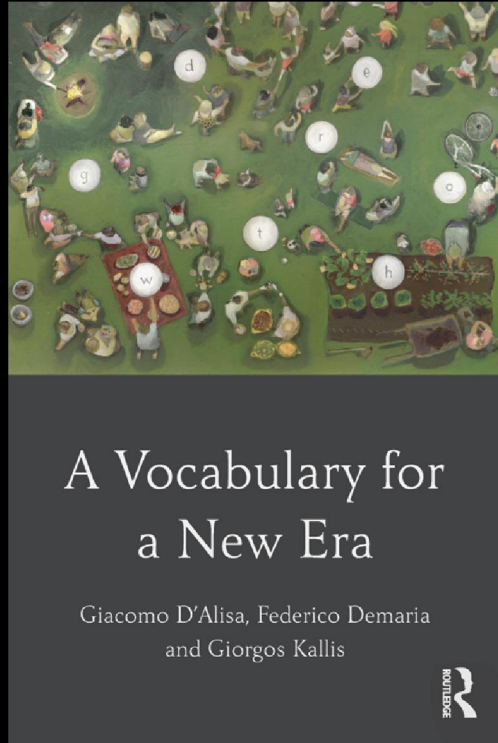
22. GDP *Daniel O'Neill*
23. Growth *Peter Victor*

Diagnosis and Prognosis the model component



Source Meadows et al. 1972;
Updated in 1992 and 2004.

The vocabulary and its parts

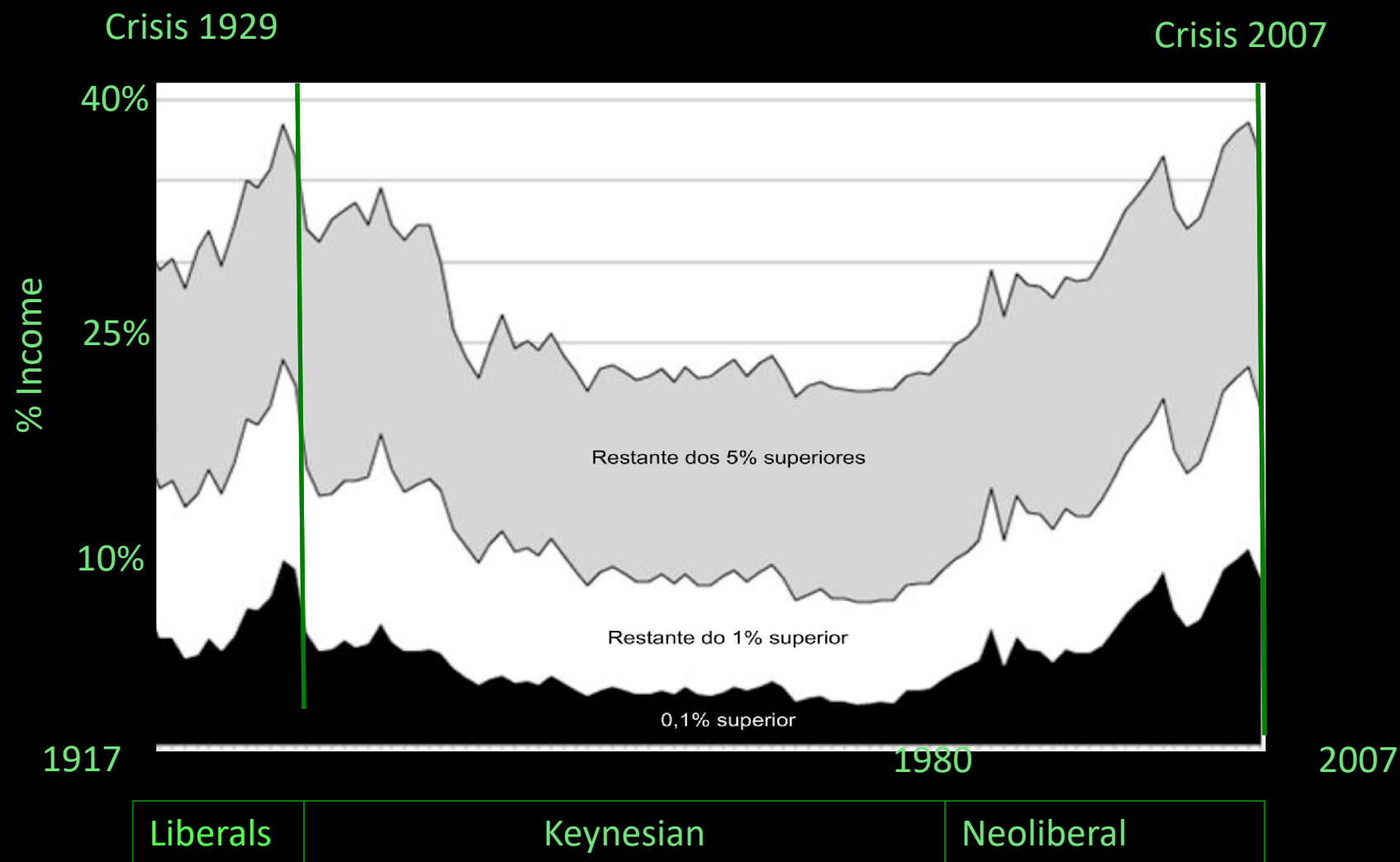


Part 2: The core

- 9. Autonomy *Marco Deriu*
- 10. Capitalism *Diego Andreucci and Terrence McDonough*
- 11. Care *Marco Deriu, Giacomo D'Alisa and Federico Demaria*
- 12. Commodification *Erik Gomez*

- 22. GDP *Daniel O'Neill*
- 23. Growth *Peter Victor*
- 24. Happiness *Filka Sekulova*
- 25. Imaginary, Decolonization of *Serge Latouche*
- 26. Jevons' paradox *Blake Alcott*
- 27. Neo-Malthusians *Joan Martinez-Alier*
- 28. Peak oil *Christian Kerschner*
- 29. Simplicity *Samuel Alexander*
- 30. Social limits of growth *Giorgos Kallis*

Diagnosis and Prognosis the class component



Peet R.: Economic regime

Fonte: Piketty and Saez (2003)

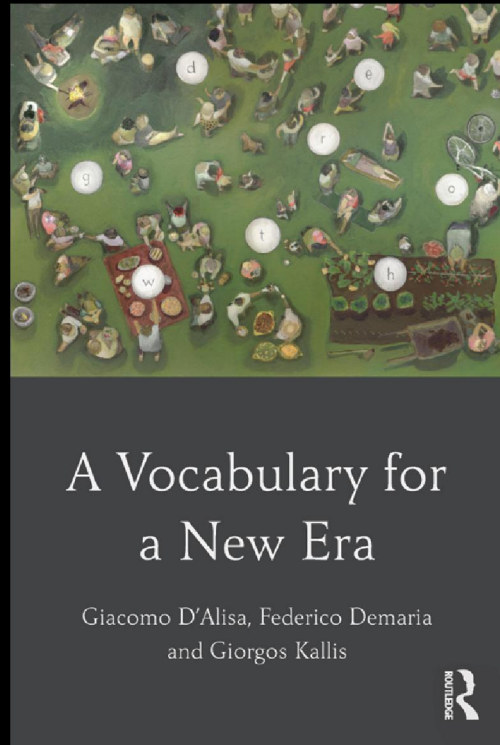
Diagnosis and Prognosis the class component

Real Wage/Real GDP in UE



Source: European Commission 2001

The vocabulary and its parts



Part 1: Lines of thought

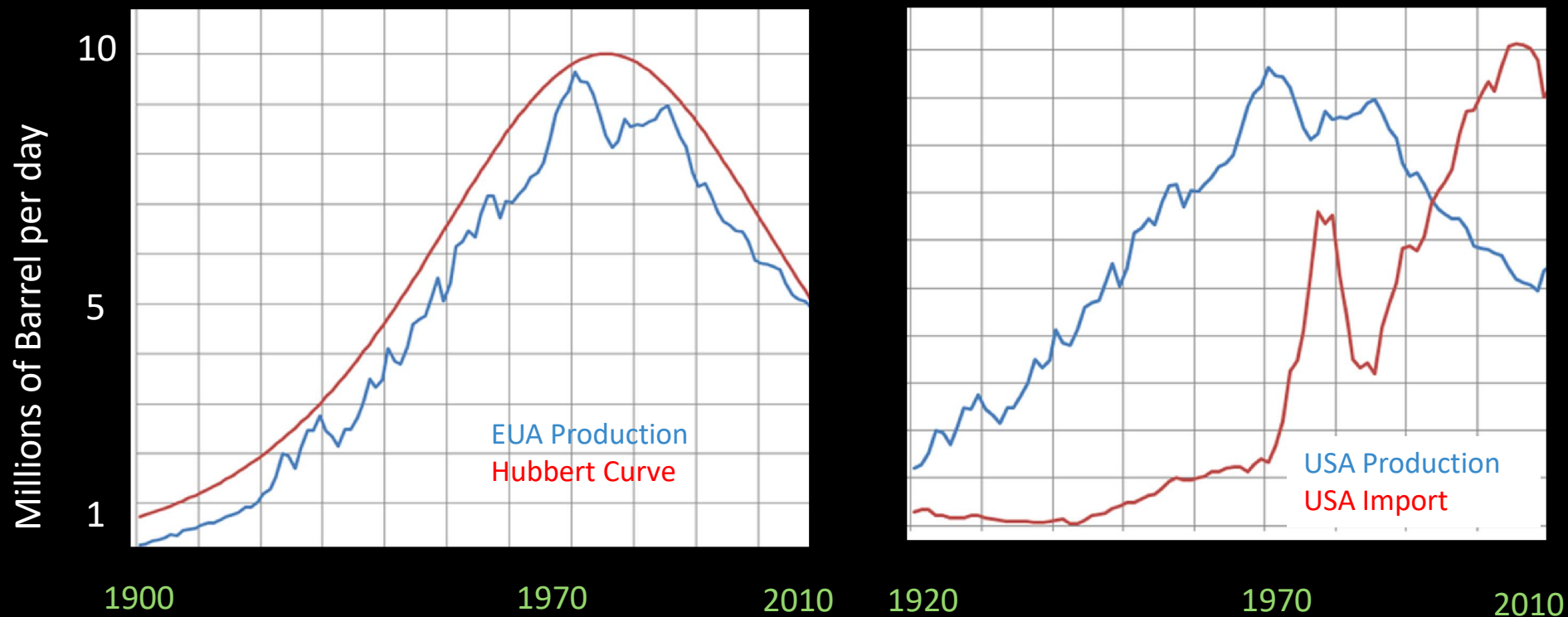
1. Anti-utilitarianism *Onofrio Romano*
2. Bio-economics *Mauro Bonaiuti*

Part 2: The core

27. Neo-Malthusians *Joan Martinez-Alier*
28. Peak oil *Christian Kerschner*
29. Simplicity *Samuel Alexander*
30. Social limits of growth *Giorgos Kallis*

Diagnosis and Prognosis the biophysical component

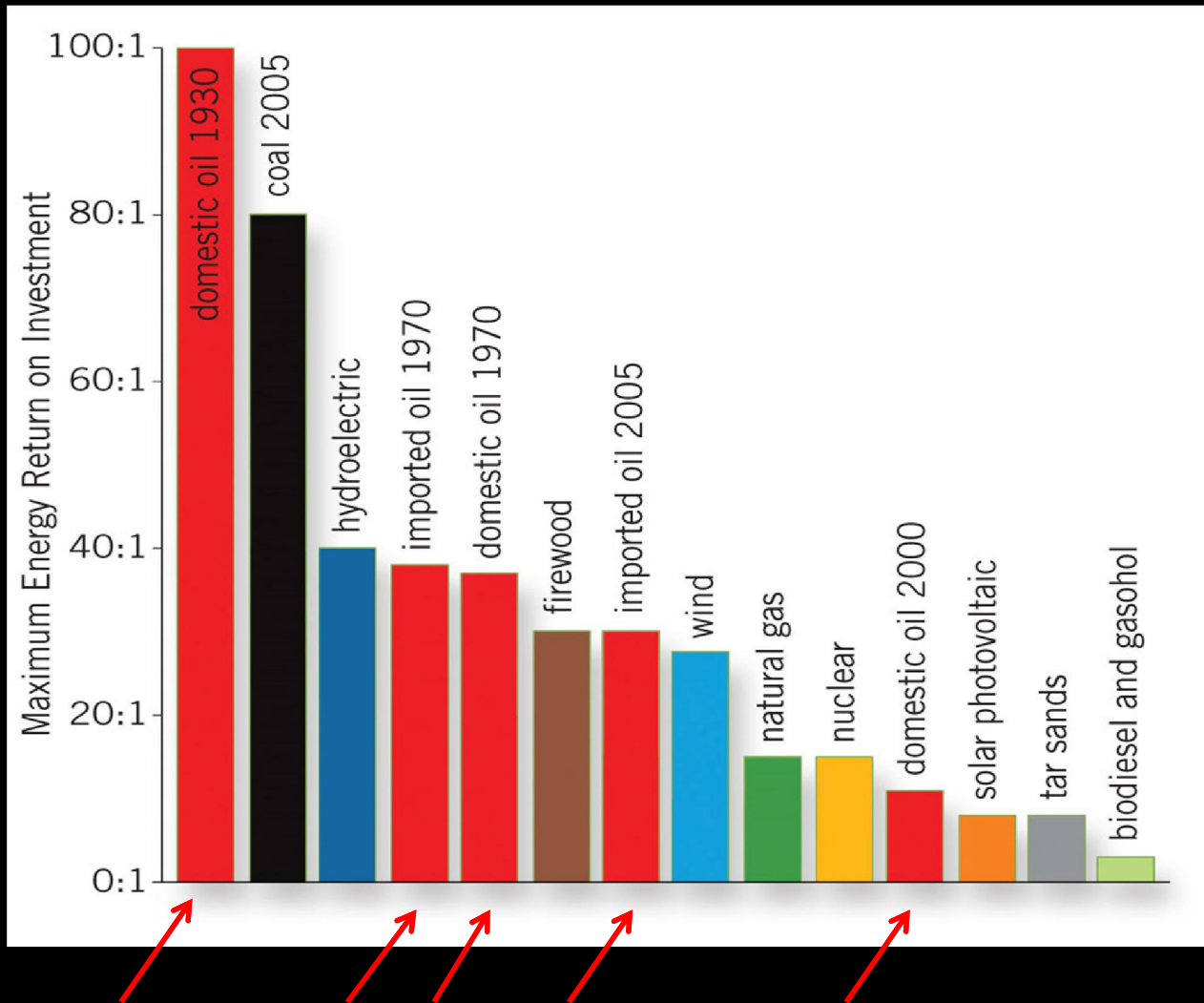
OIL USA



Peak Oil – Hubbert curve Source: EUA Información de la Administración

Diagnosis and Prognosis the biophysical component

EROI



Source: Hall and Day (2009) American Scientist Vol. 97

Diagnosis and Prognosis the biophysical component



Once upon a time the oil
(EROI* = 100)

*Energy Return On (energy) Investment

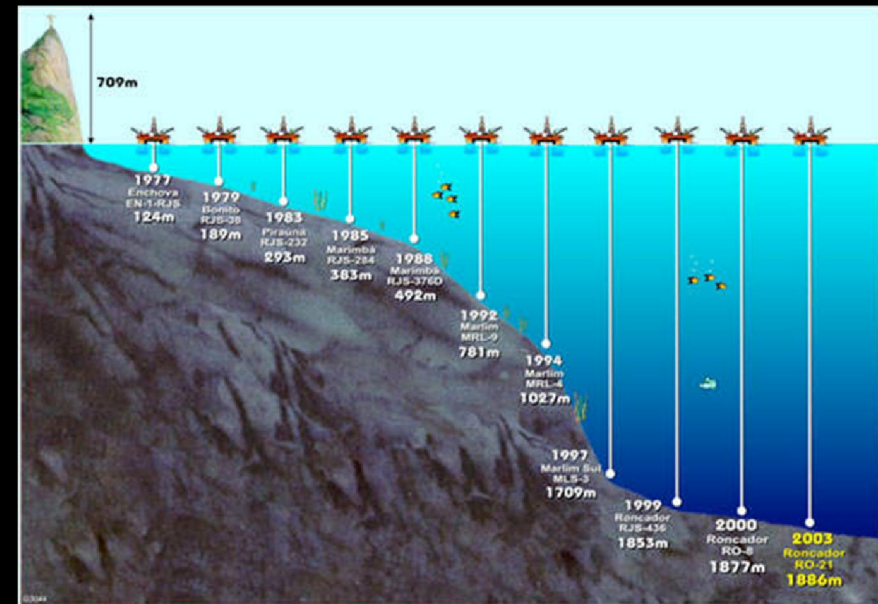
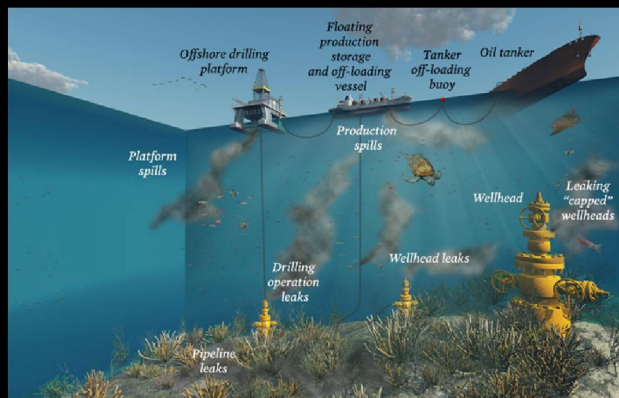
José Antonio de la Loma Hernández (Barcelona,) was a director and scriptwriter of Spanish cinema.



Diagnosis and Prognosis the biophysical component



Nowadays towards the peak-oil
(EROI= 20)



The vocabulary and its parts



A Vocabulary for a New Era

Giacomo D'Alisa, Federico Demaria
and Giorgos Kallis



Part 2: The core

- 9. Autonomy *Marco Deriu*
- 10. Capitalism *Diego Andreucci and Terrence McDonough*
- 11. Care *Marco Deriu, Giacomo D'Alisa and Federico Demaria*
- 12. Commodification *Erik Gomez*

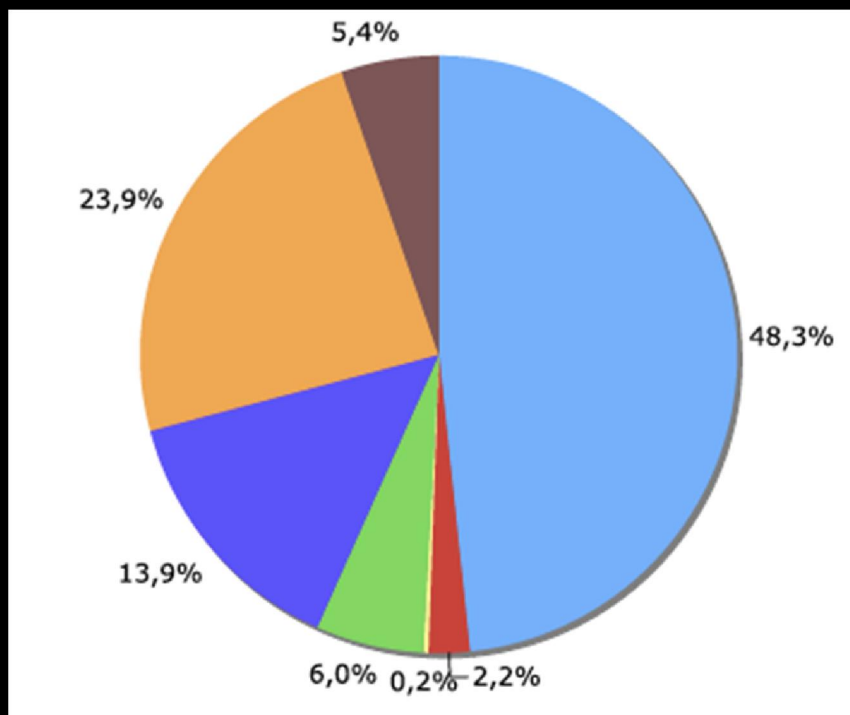
- 29. Simplicity *Samuel Alexander*
- 30. Social limits of growth *Giorgos Kallis*

Part 4: Alliances

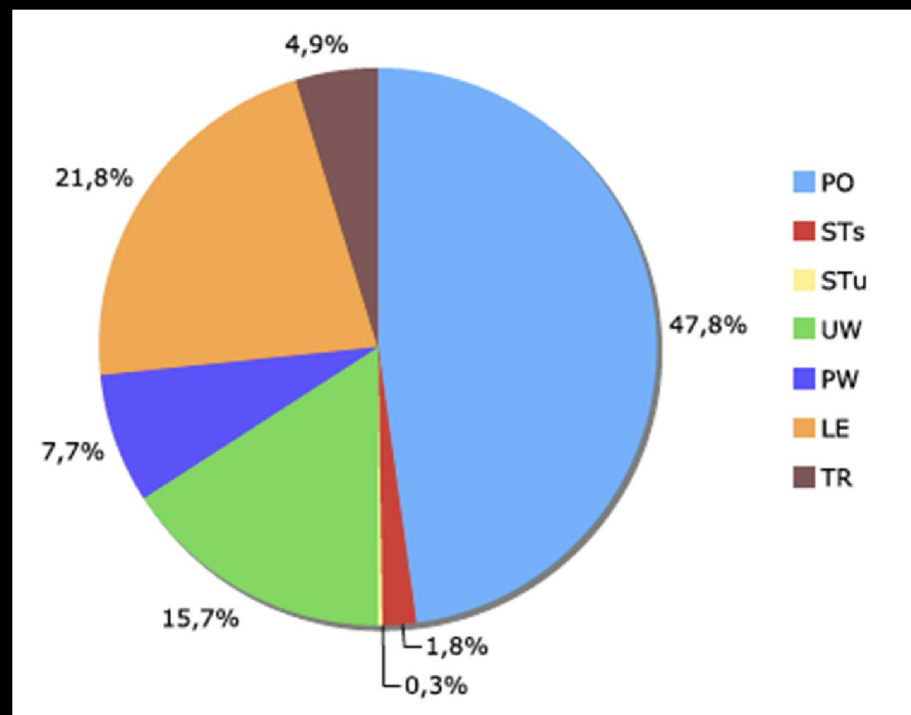
- 48. Buen Vivir *Eduardo Gudynas*
- 49. Economy of permanence *Chiara Corazza and Victus Solomon*
- 50. Feminist economics *Antonella Picchio*
- 51. Ubuntu *Mogobe B. Ramose*

Diagnosis and Prognosis the gender component

Men



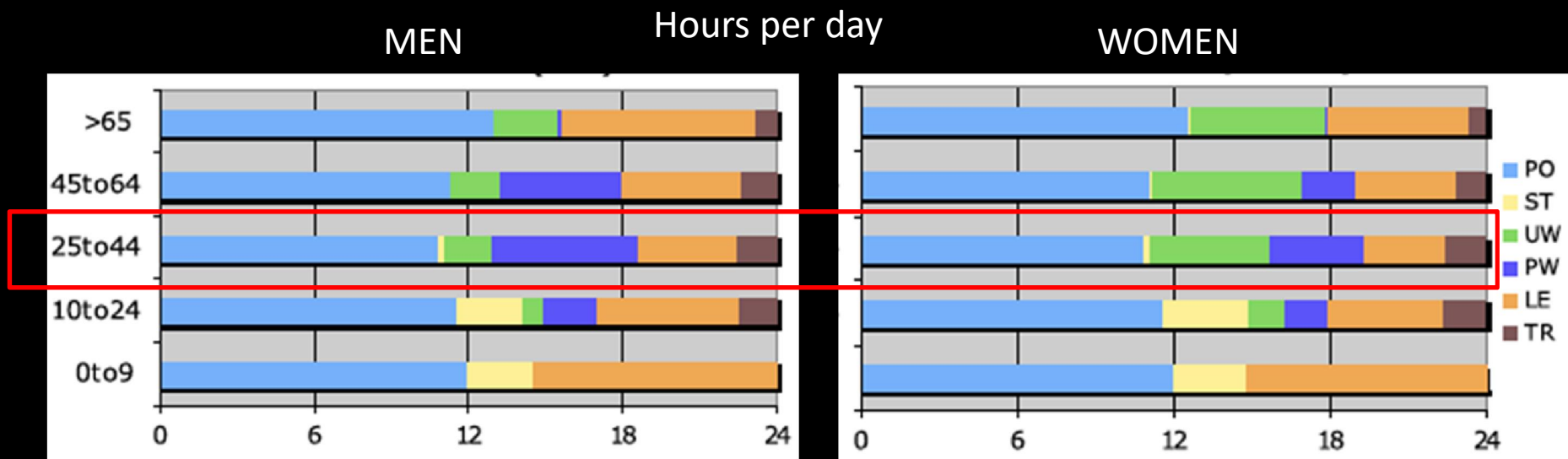
Women



Unpaid work

Paid work

Diagnosis and Prognosis the gender component

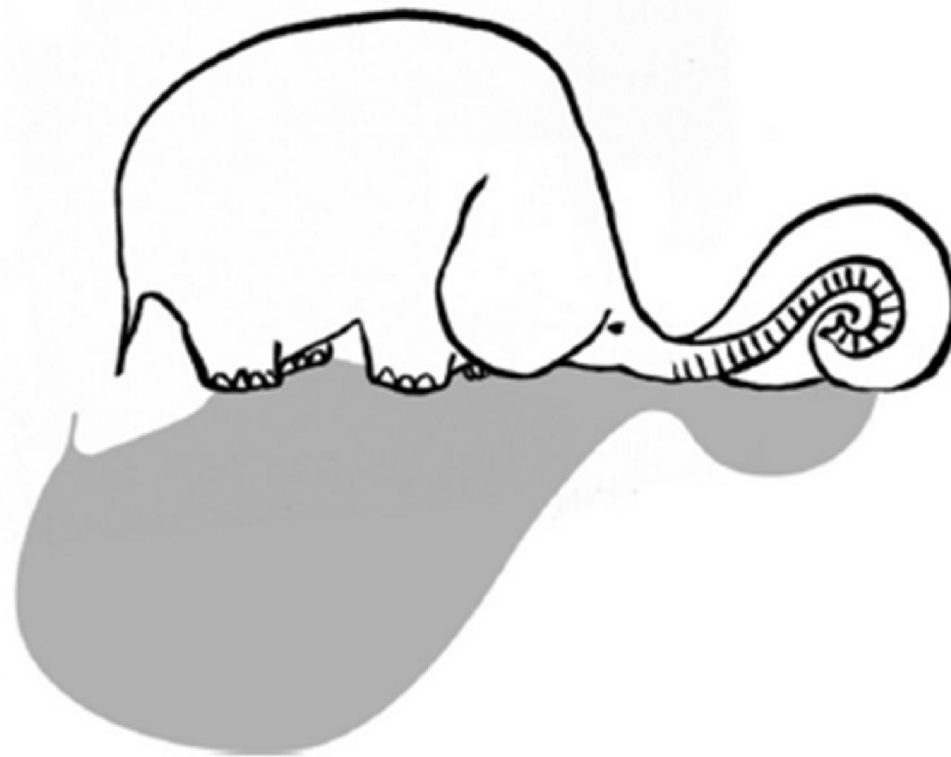


Unpaid work

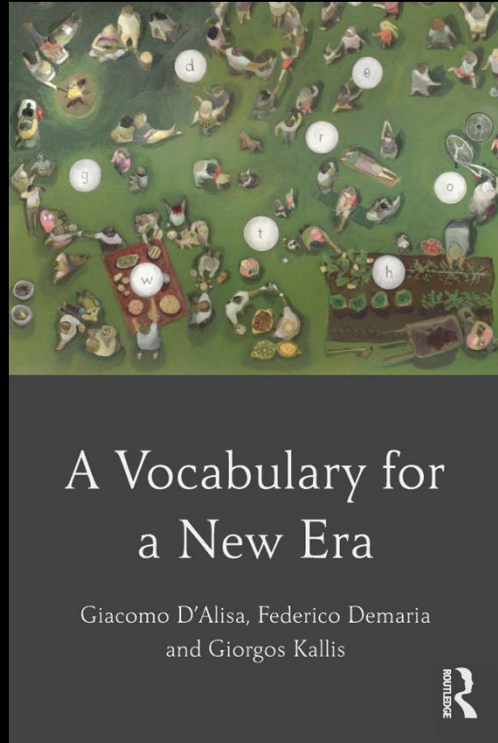
Paid work

Degrowth: simple and different but not simplistic

How we transform the elephant?



The vocabulary and its parts



Part 3: The Action

31. Back-to-the-landers *Rita Calvario and Iago Otero*
32. Basic and maximum income *Samuel Alexander*
33. Community currencies *Kristofer Dittmer*
34. Cooperatives *Nadia Johanisova, Ruben Suriñach Padilla and Philippa Parry*
35. Debt audit *Sergi Cutillas, David Llistar and Gemma Tarafa*
36. Digital commons *Mayo Fuster Morell*
37. Disobedience *Xavier Renou*
38. Eco-communities *Claudio Cattaneo*
39. Indignados (Occupy) *Viviana Asara and Barbara Muraca*
40. Job Guarantee *Brandon Unti*
41. Money, Public *Mary Mellor*
42. New Economy *Tim Jackson*
43. Nowtopians *Chris Carlsson*
44. Post-normal science *Giacomo D'Alisa and Giorgos Kallis*
45. Unions *Denis Bayon*
46. Urban Gardening *Isabelle Anguelovski*
47. Work-sharing *Juliet Schor*

Degrowth therapy



Back to the landers

Debt Audit

Post-Normal Science

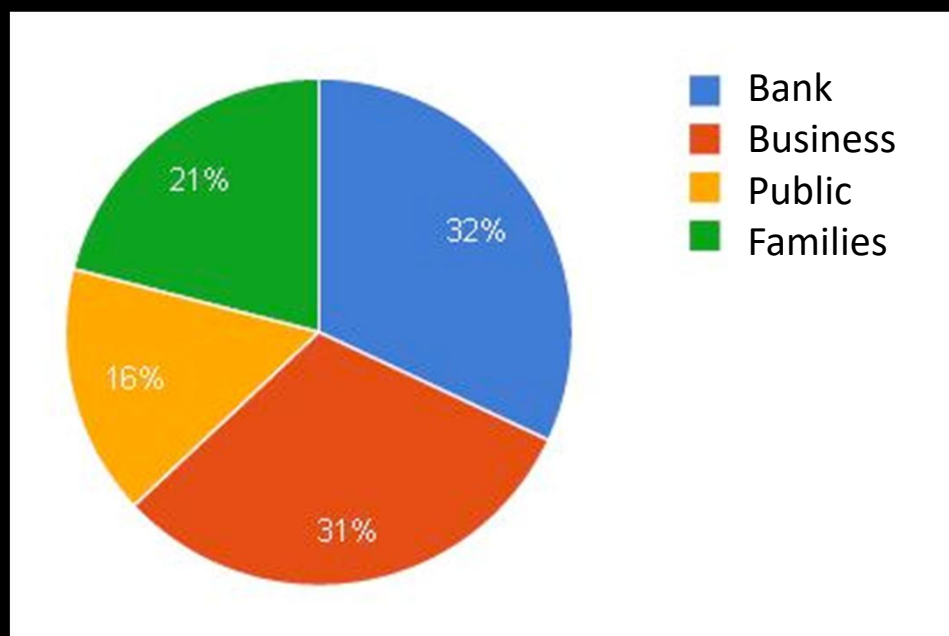
Work-sharing

Urban Gardening

Degrowth therapy

Citizen Debt Audit Platform demands

to have a permanent access to debt related information

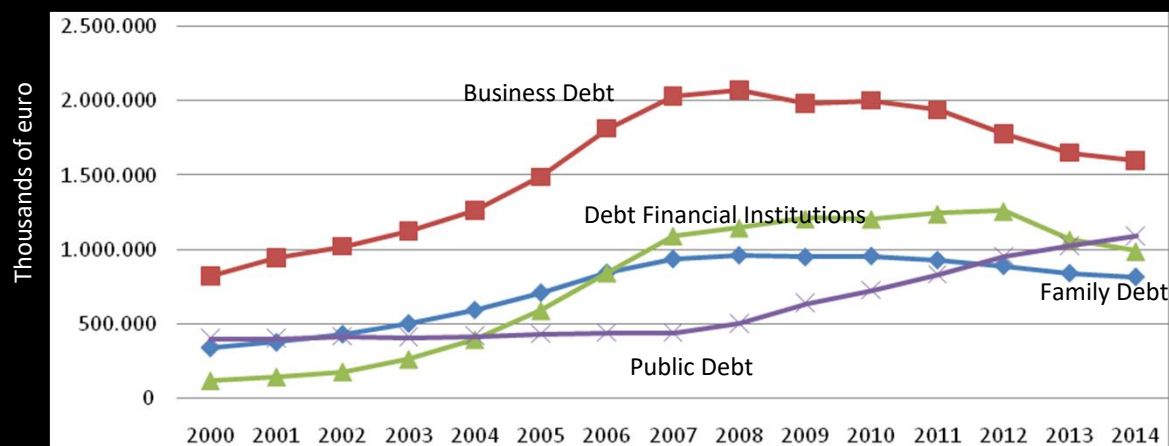


Aim:
understanding the causes and the
consequences of the debt crisis

2012 : 84% Private

Degrowth therapy

Citizen Debt Audit Platform demands



Who owns what?

How the debt is generated?

GDP 1. 075 Trillion

Public Debt/GDP = 103%, Plus 55% since 2008: mostly bailout

Private Debt/GDP= 321%

- Family 24% of PrD

- 72% mortgages

Degrowth therapy

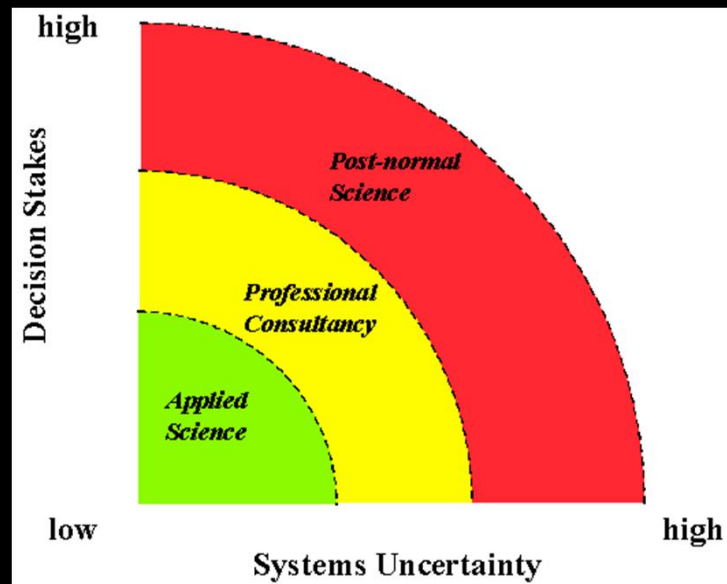
Citizen Debt Audit Platform demands



- National debt at different administrative level
- Sector debt (healthcare, education etc..)
- Next event: 18th, 20th and 21st of November
Barcelona “Common project for the debt in Europe”

Degrowth therapy

Post Normal Science (PNS)



(PNS) is a problem-solving strategy to be used “when facts are uncertain, values are in dispute, stakes are high, and decision urgent”

(Funtowicz and Ravetz 1994)

Degrowth therapy

Post Normal Science calls for

- the politicization of science for governance, against the increasing technocratization of politics
- new models of democratized knowledge production
- “extended peer community ” in environmental, development and equity policy debates

Degrowth therapy

Post Normal Science call for



shift of decisions from
'communities of experts' to
decisions by 'expert communities'
(D'Alisa et al. 2010)



gd'a



29



08/07/11

Degrowth therapy

Post Normal Science

- 1) In international conferences we attempt to do away with ex-cathedra experts and create an “extended peer review community” for degrowth research
- 2) the eradication of the monopoly of experts from collective decision-making

Thank you

Contact me:

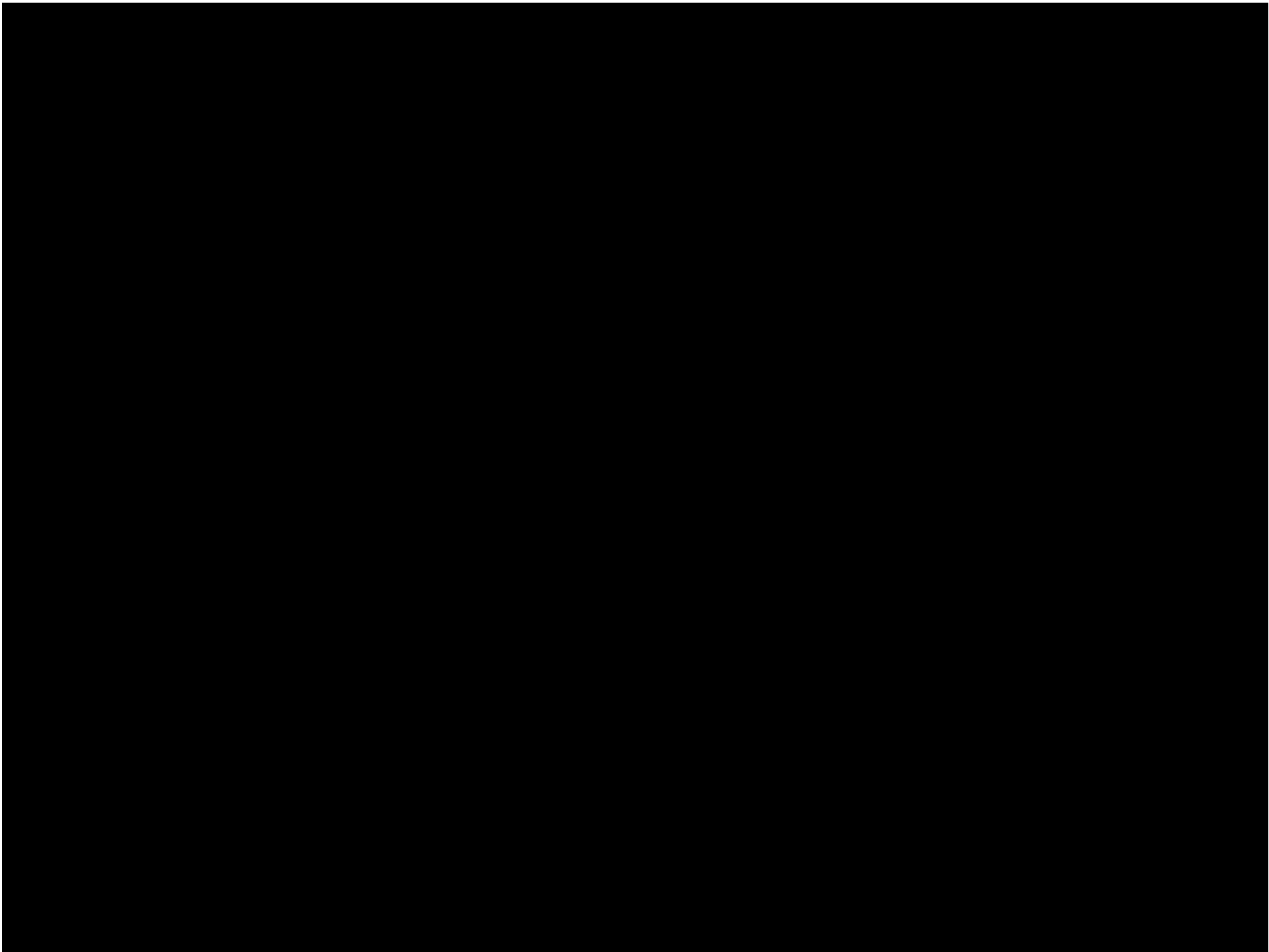
giacomo_dalisa@yahoo.it

Visit our websites:

<http://vocabulary.degrowth.org/>

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

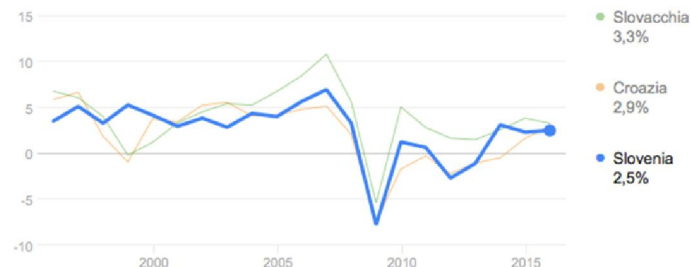
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNMAAT_AzzY



GDP growth and GDP per capita

Slovenia / Tasso di crescita del PIL

2,5% variazione annua (2016)



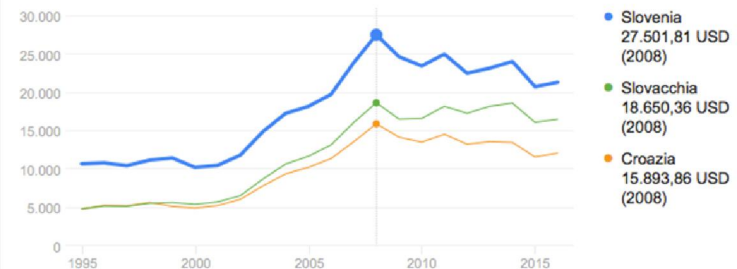
[Ulteriori informazioni](#)

Le fonti comprendono: Banca Mondiale

Feedback

Slovenia / PIL pro capite

21.304,57 USD (2016)



[Ulteriori informazioni](#)

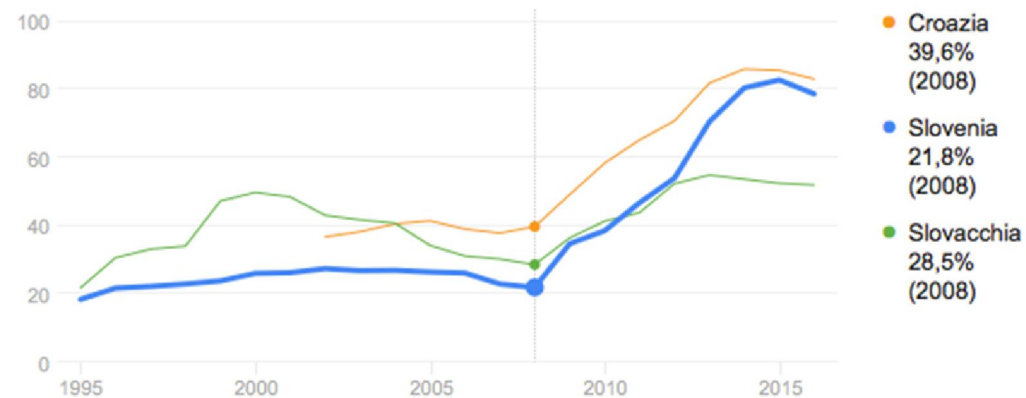
Le fonti comprendono: Banca Mondiale

Feedback

GDP/DEBT

Slovenia / Debito pubblico in percentuale del PIL

78,5% del PIL (2016)



 Ulteriori informazioni

Le fonti comprendono: Eurostat

Feedback

Work sharing and reduction of working hours (I)

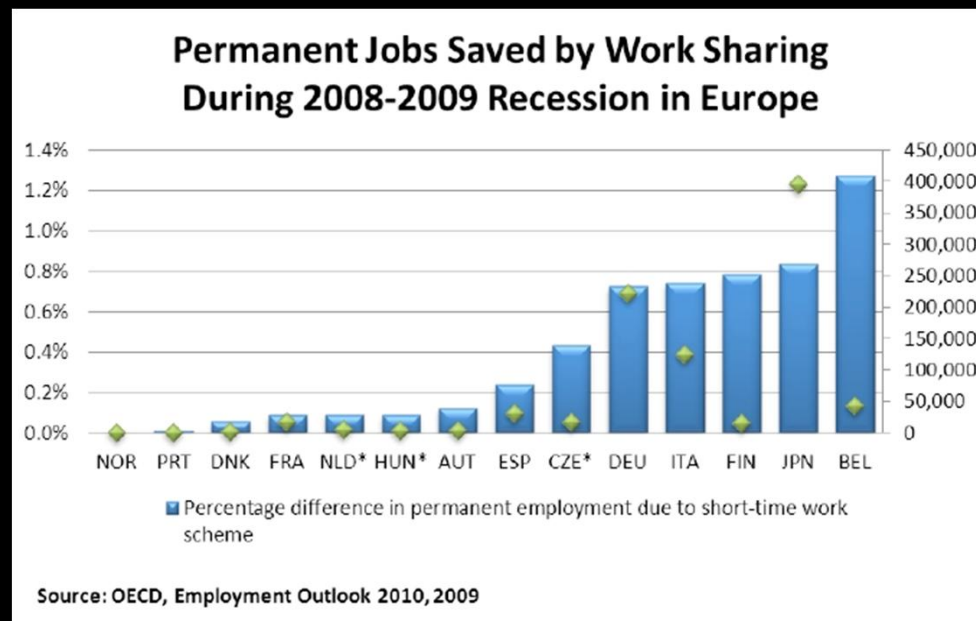


Decreasing the working time (daily, weekly, monthly or working life?)

Share work space (synergies)

When we will discuss also the sharing of unpaid work? (see slides 16, 17)

Work sharing and reduction of working hours (II)



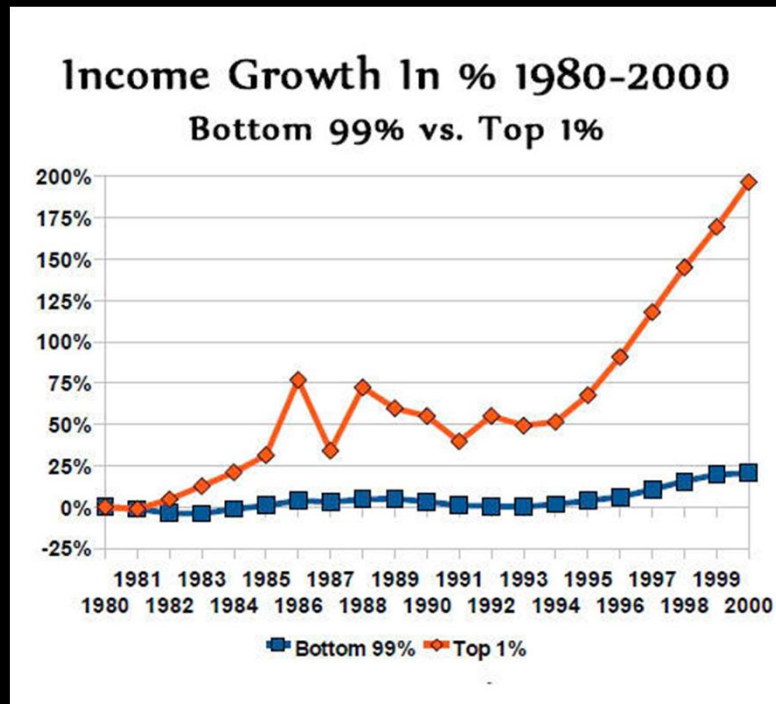
Old slogan
Working less for working all!

Work sharing and reduction of working hours (III)

Kallis et al. 2013 Friday off Reducing working time in Europe

- reduction without a decline in wages
- additional policies to shift incentives in favor of convivial, environmentally-friendly consumption
- implemented initially as measure to relieve unemployment

Basic income and ceiling income for...



Establish a ratio between Higher Salary
and Lower Salary

e.g. $HS > LS$ (30 times)

$LS = 400 - 600 \text{ €/month}$

$HS = 12.000 - 18.000 \text{ €/month}$

Also see: Aracarons et al. 2014 Un modelo de financiación de la Renta Básica para el conjunto del Reino de España: sí, se puede y es racional

In USA: top marginal tax rate was...

Higher Taxes, Lower Revenues

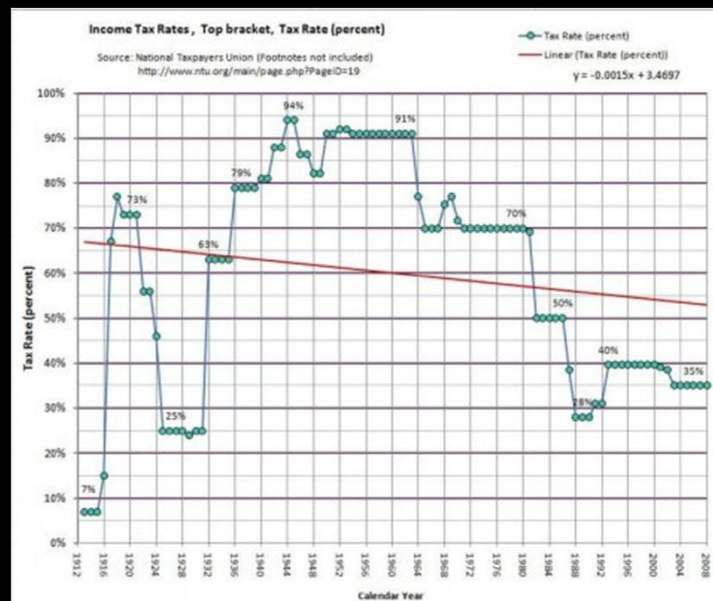
Individual income tax rates and revenues as a percentage of GDP

	Lowest/highest tax rates	Revenues as a % of GDP
1951-63	20/91%	7.7%
1964-81	14/70	8
1982-86	11/50	8.3
1988-90	15/28	8.1
1991-92	15/31	7.8
1993-96	15/39.6	8
1997-02**	15/39.6	9.4

high tax rates do not appear to hurt the economy or make people lazy (1950)

low tax rates imply enjoyable booms followed by protracted bust,

and very high inequality (1920)



Basic income in Spain

Aracarons et al. 2014

Unconditional Basic Income (625€)

- The reform is self-financing
- The redistributive impact is very progressive
- More than 50% of population with low income gain
- tax rate not very high

Basic income and ceiling income in business



Example

Ratio HS/LS is 6.5

LS= 1200 €/month

HS= 7800 €/month

Urban Gardening is



Practice through which people grow plants and crops in cities

Food is grown in a way that benefits local residents and engage them in the re-appropriation of public space

Urban Gardening in Barcelona



Camps-Calvet et al. 2015)

2 main forms:

Community Gardens (13)

Public Gardens (14)

Pla buits (Vacancies Plan) – a mix of both (12 active + 12 under competition announcement)

Urban Gardening values



- Small scale
- No Commercial
- Low-impact farming
- Support agro-ecological movement

Eco-communities



People living and working according to Ecological principle, degree of autonomy and pursuing direct democracy

Rurban EcoCommunities

Visit Can Masedu in Barcelona

<http://www.canmasdeu.net>

Eco-communities



Interaction Point of Collserola

Agro-ecological Education

Community Garden

Community of squatters

Eco-communities



Bank of seeds



Library



Free shop

Popular lunch

Window on the countryside (repopulate the rural)



Sources images

Slide 6 : Piketty, Thomas and Saez, Emmanuel. “Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, February 2003, 118(1), pp. 1-39.

Slide 7 sx: Thompson W. 2012. **Blue Point Trading Market View.** [On line](#)

Slide 8 dx: Hein and Truger, 2005 **European Monetary Union: nominal convergence, real divergence and slow growth?** *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics* , Vol 16 (1), Pages 7–33

Slide 9: Meadows, D.H., Meadows, D.L., Randers, J. and Behrens III, W.W. (1972) (Linda Eckstein)

Slide 10: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_economics

Slide 11: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peak_oil

Sources images

Slide 12: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peak_oil

Slide 14 sx, up: <http://kuow.org/post/us-taps-new-energy-sources-and-potential-geopolitical-clout>

Slide 14 sx, down: <http://usa.oceana.org/infographic-offshore-drilling-and-what-can-go-wrong>

Slide 14 dx:
http://www.midcoastgreencollaborative.org/articles/shale_oil.html

Sources images

Slide 15: **Quinglong, S. et al. personal communication**

Slide 16, 17: D'Alisa and Cattaneo 2013 JCP Household work and energy consumption: a degrowth perspective. Catalonia's case study

Slide 19: illustration Barbara Castro Urio'

Slide 24: <http://www.transitionheathrow.com/tag/grow-heathrow/>

Slide 25, 26: <http://auditoriaciudadana.net/>

Slide 29: **What Happens When the Bottom of the U.S. Wealth Pyramid Collapses?** Joy Fenello, on Aug 10, 2011

Sources images

Slide 31: <http://www.refarmthecity.org/blog/>

Slide 32: <https://www.aei.org/publication/why-we-cant-go-back-to-sky-high-1950s-tax-rates/>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/history-of-tax-rates-2012-5>

Slide 36 <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/ca/pla-buits/espais-en-actiu>

Slide 38: <http://thedeepersideblog.com/category/gardening/page/2/>

Slide 38: <http://www.canmasdeu.net/>