

Democratic Provisioning: the key to living well within planetary limits.



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DISMANTLING THE GROWTH NARRATIVE
21st MARCH, 17.30h (CET)

SPEAKERS:

José Manuel Naredo

Julia Steinberger

Aurora Rodríguez del Barrio

ONLINE EVENT:
REGISTER AT
TRANSICIONVERDES



This event is organized by the Green European Foundation with the support of Transición Verde and the financial support of the European Parliament to the Green European Foundation.



European Research Council
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We are headed for cataclysm

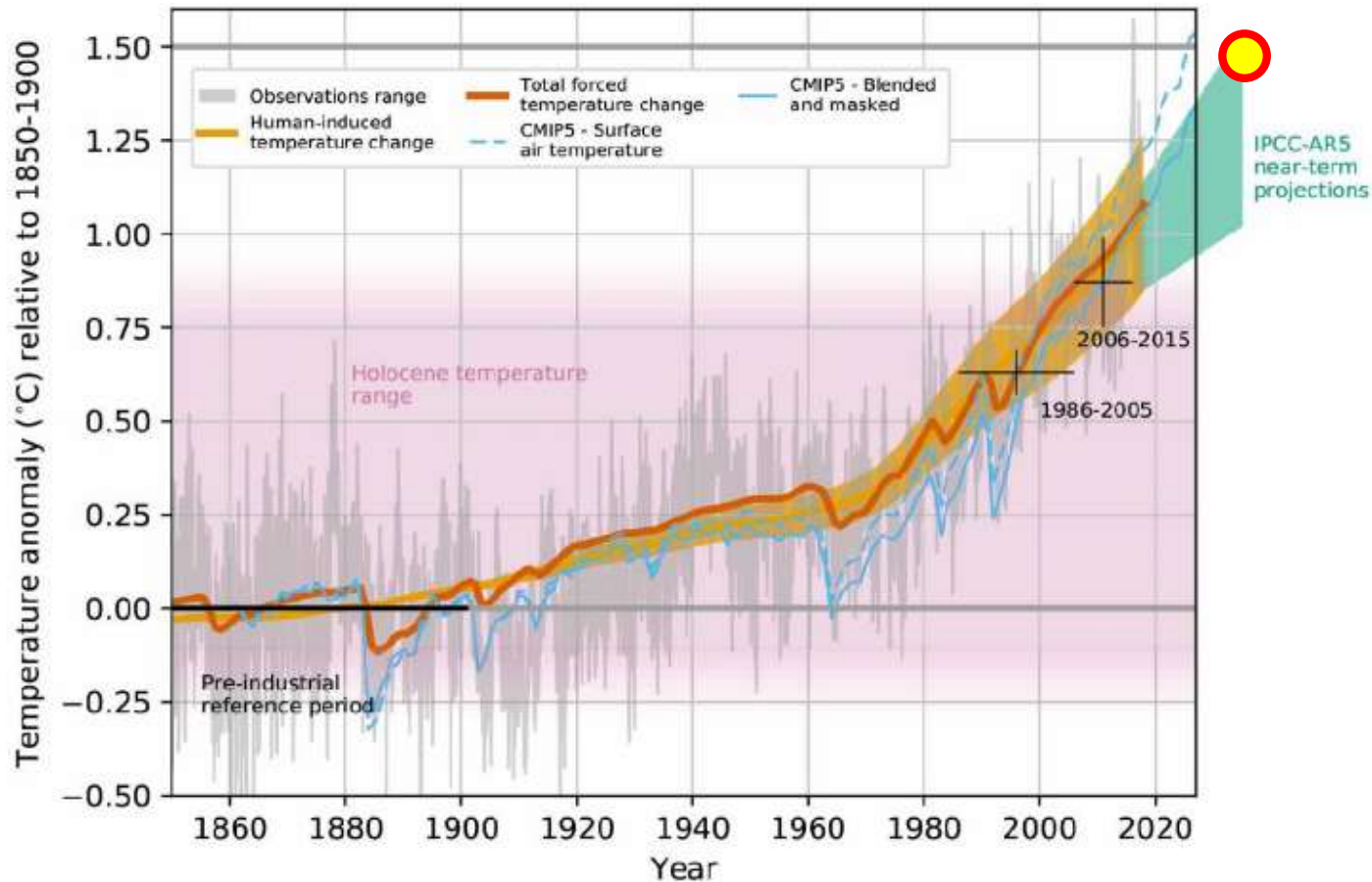


Figure 1.2: Evolution of global mean surface temperature (GMST) over the period of instrumental observations. Grey line shows monthly mean GMST in the HadCRUT4, NOAA, GISTEMP and

IPCC, Special Report on 1.5 degrees

ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Global Warming of 1.5°C

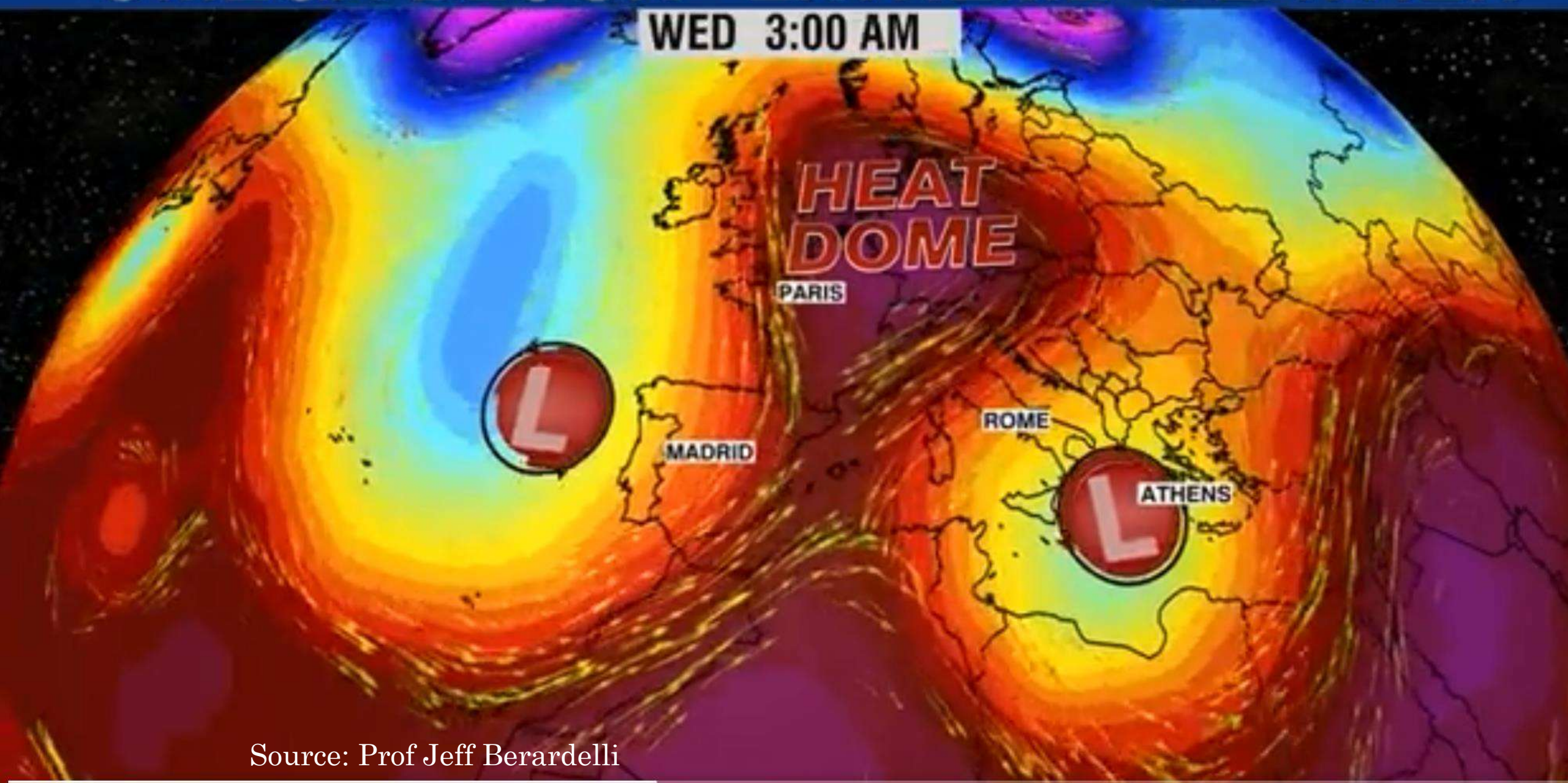
An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

This report gives policymakers and practitioners the information they need to make decisions that tackle climate change while considering local context and people's needs. The next few years are probably the most important in our history.

Debra Roberts
Co-Chair, WGII
Incheon, 8 October 2018

OMEGA BLOCK = EXTREME WEATHER

WED 3:00 AM



Source: Prof Jeff Berardelli

Greece, 08/09/2023



OICHALIANEWS.GR

Derna, Libya, 12/09/2023



Acapulco, Mexico, 29/10/2023



Image source: AFP

Global warming increases extreme weather in all global regions.

(IPCC AR6 WG1, Fig. SPM.3)

⬡ Low agreement in the type of change

⬡ Limited data and/or literature

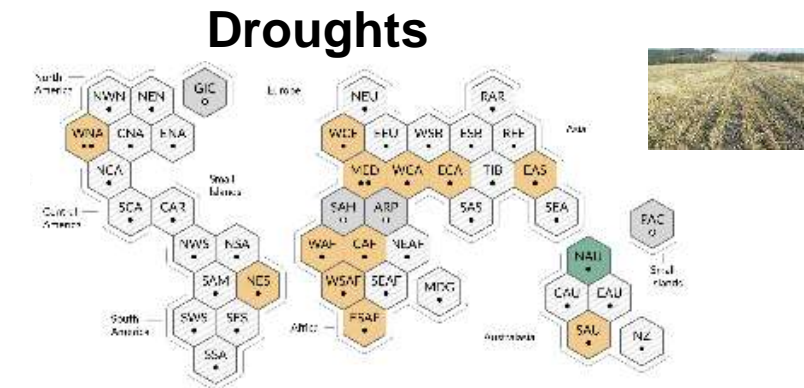
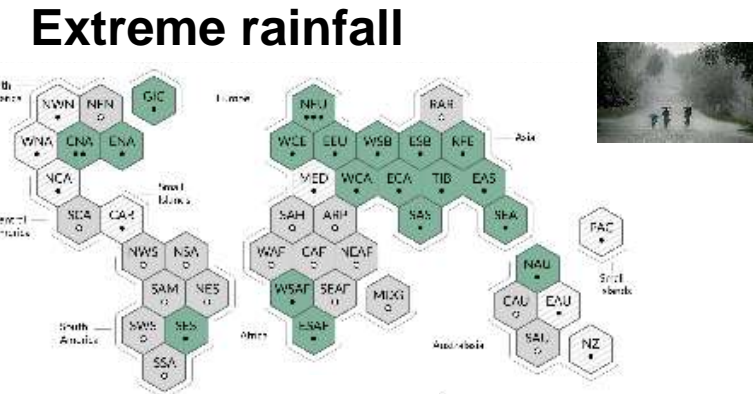
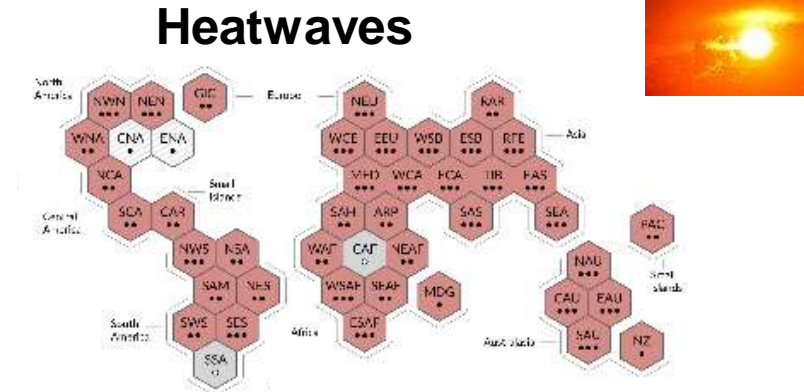
Confidence in human contribution to the observed change

●●● High

●● Medium

● Low due to limited agreement

○ Low due to limited evidence



Prosperity for all is impossible without radical & rapid climate action.
 See IPCC AR6 WG2.
 Risks at “moderate” levels of warming (1.5 – 2 degrees) are already very high.

Central and South America

- Risk to water security
- Severe health effects due to increasing epidemics, in particular vector-borne diseases
- Coral reef ecosystems degradation due to coral bleaching
- Risk to food security due to frequent/extreme droughts
- Damages to life and infrastructure due to floods, landslides, sea level rise, storm surges and coastal erosion

Australasia

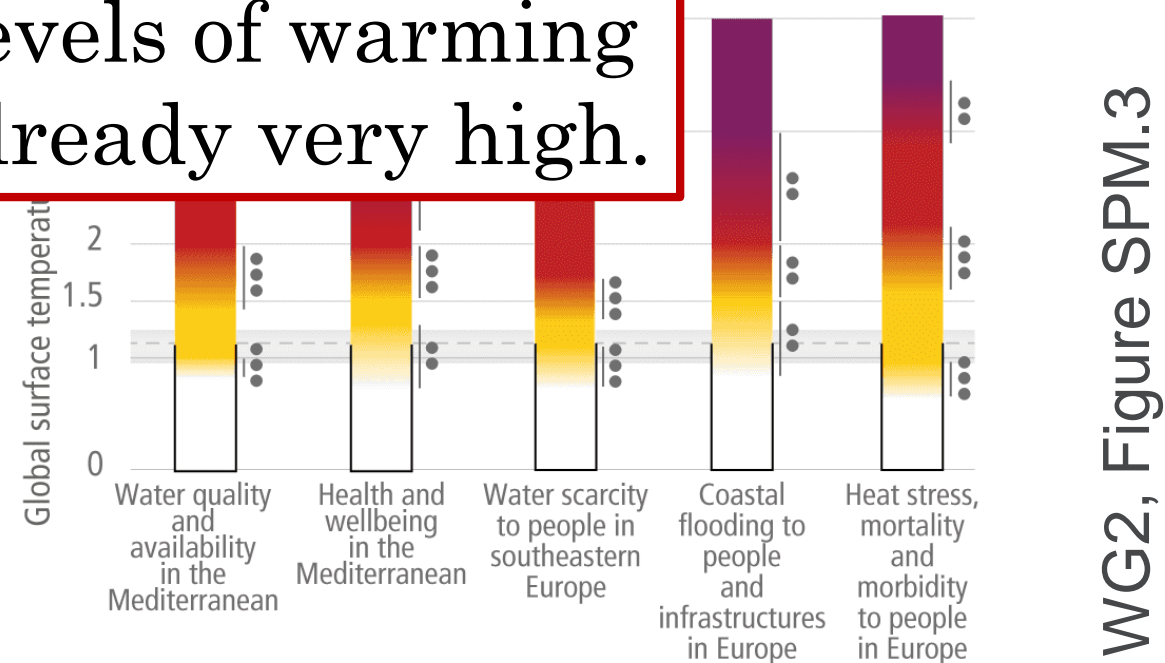
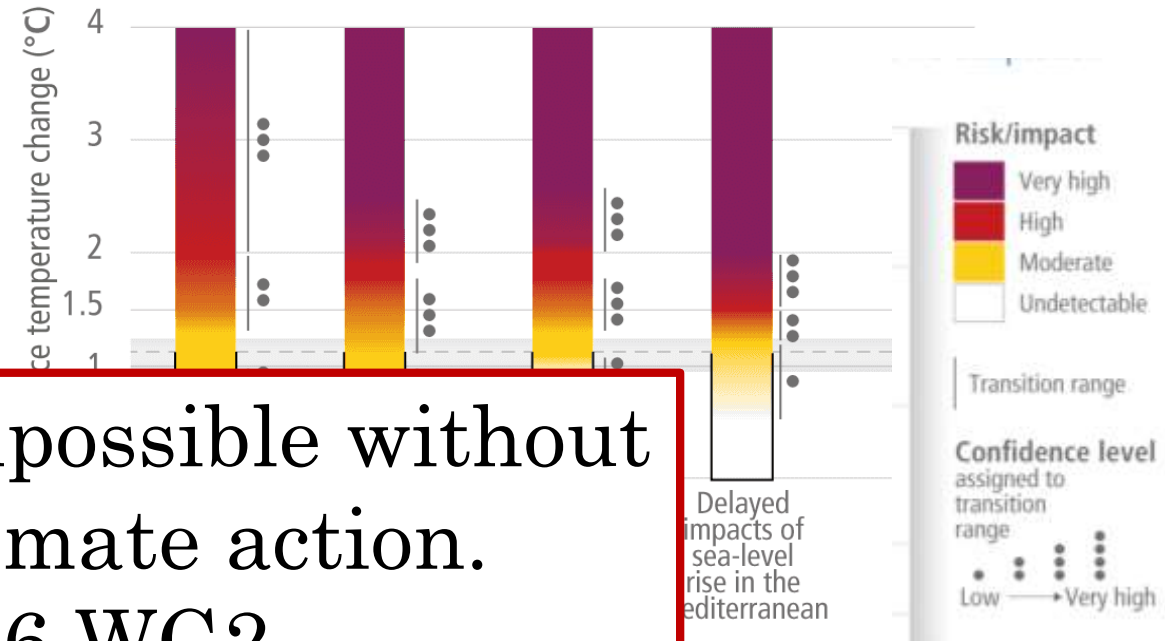
- Degradation of tropical shallow coral reefs and associated biodiversity and ecosystem service values
- Loss of human and cultural heritage
- Impact on livelihoods
- Increase in heat-related mortality and morbidity
- Loss of alpine biodiversity

Asia

- Urban infrastructure at risk due to flooding, especially in coastal cities
- Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, including dependent human livelihoods
- More frequent, extreme weather events induced by ocean warming and resource extraction
- Decline in coastal precipitation in some regions
- Risk to food and water security due to increased temperature extremes, rainfall variability and drought

Africa

- Species extinction and reduction or irreversible loss of ecosystems and their services, including freshwater, land and ocean ecosystems
- Risk to food security, risk of malnutrition (micronutrient deficiency), and loss of livelihood due to reduced food production from crops, livestock and fisheries
- Risks to marine ecosystem health and to livelihoods in coastal communities
- Increased human mortality and morbidity due to increased heat and infectious diseases (including vector-borne and diarrhoeal diseases)
- Reduced economic output and growth, and increased inequality and poverty rates
- Increased risk to water and energy security due to drought and heat



WG2, Figure SPM.3

Is green growth happening? An empirical analysis of achieved versus Paris-compliant CO₂-GDP decoupling in high-income countries

Jefim Vogel, Jason Hickel

Findings The emission reductions that high-income countries achieved through absolute decoupling fall far short of Paris-compliant rates. At the achieved rates, these countries would on average take more than 220 years to reduce their emissions by 95%, emitting 27 times their remaining 1.5°C fair-shares in the process. To meet their 1.5°C fair-shares alongside continued economic growth, decoupling rates would on average need to increase by a factor of ten by 2025.

Interpretation The decoupling rates achieved in high-income countries are inadequate for meeting the climate and equity commitments of the Paris Agreement and cannot legitimately be considered green. If green is to be consistent with the Paris Agreement, then high-income countries have not achieved green growth, and are very unlikely to be able to achieve it in the future. To achieve Paris-compliant emission reductions, high-income countries will need to pursue post-growth demand-reduction strategies, reorienting the economy towards sufficiency, equity, and human wellbeing, while also accelerating technological change and efficiency improvements.

And «green growth»
claims are greenwashing.

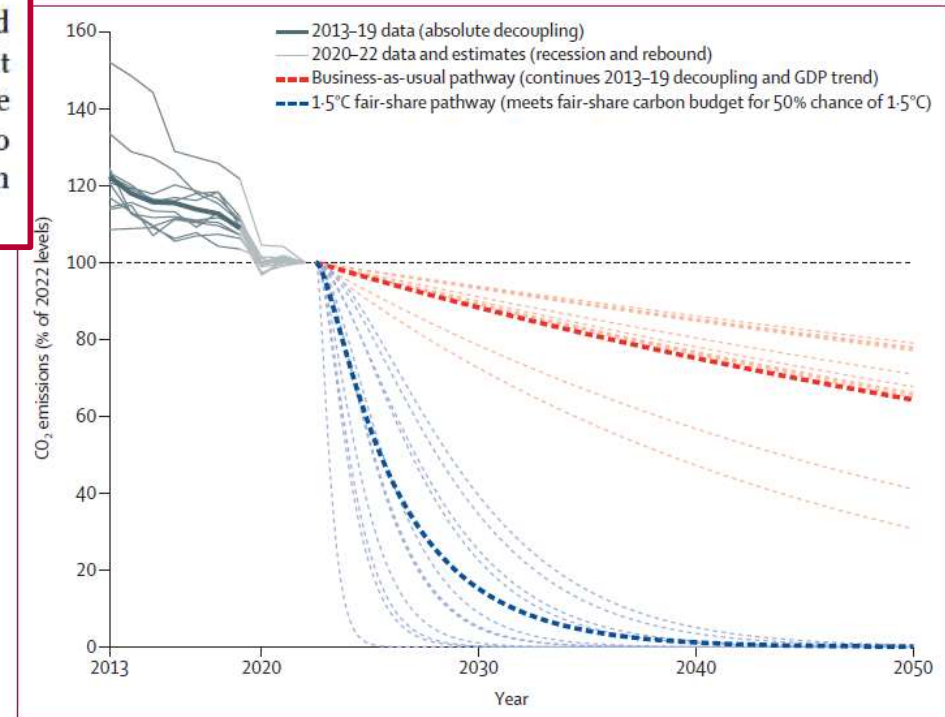
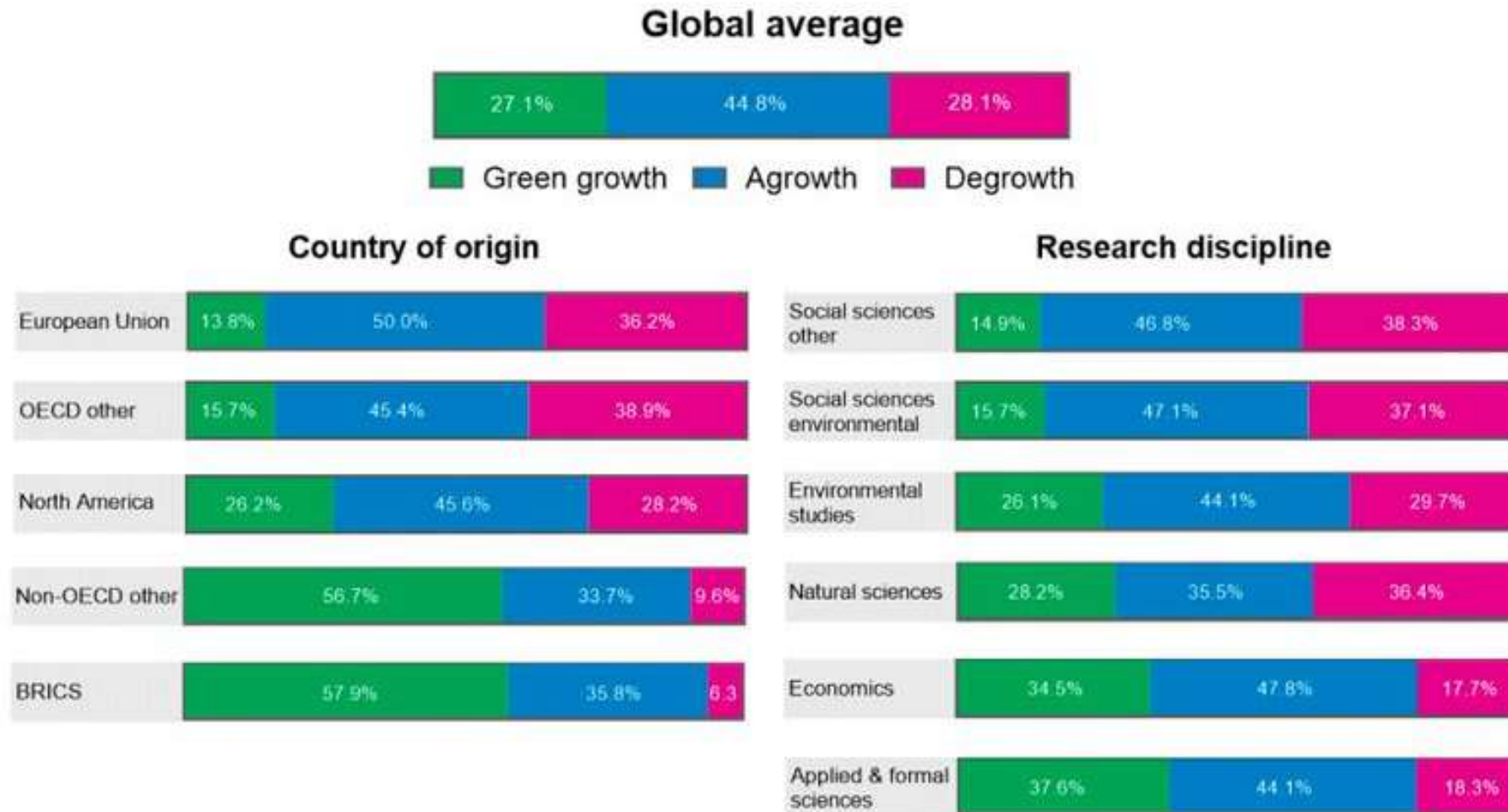


Figure 1: Emission reductions achieved in high-income countries through recent absolute decoupling are highly insufficient for complying with their fair-shares of the 1.5°C global carbon budget

Many climate scientists believe economic growth is NOT compatible with climate action.

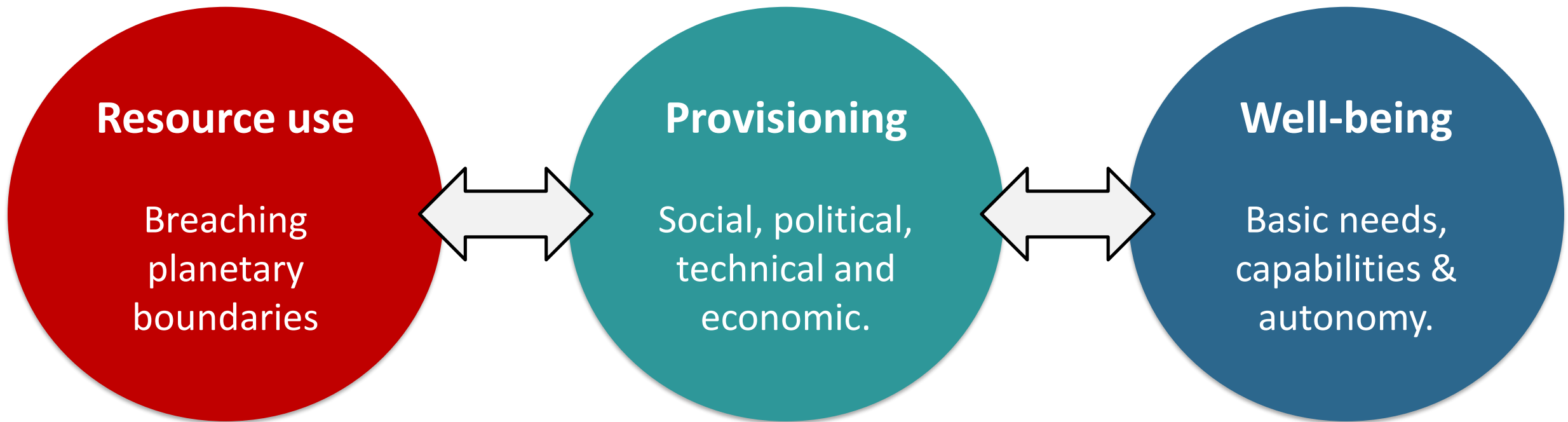


What should we do?

Interpretation The decoupling rates achieved in high-income countries are inadequate for meeting the climate and equity commitments of the Paris Agreement and cannot legitimately be considered green. If green is to be consistent with the Paris Agreement, then high-income countries have not achieved green growth, and are very unlikely to be able to achieve it in the future. To achieve Paris-compliant emission reductions, high-income countries will need to pursue post-growth demand-reduction strategies, reorienting the economy towards sufficiency, equity, and human wellbeing, while also accelerating technological change and efficiency improvements.

What do “post-growth strategies, reorienting the economy towards sufficiency, equity and human well-being” mean?

PROVISIONING SYSTEMS ARE THE LYNCHPIN BETWEEN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES AND WELLBEING.



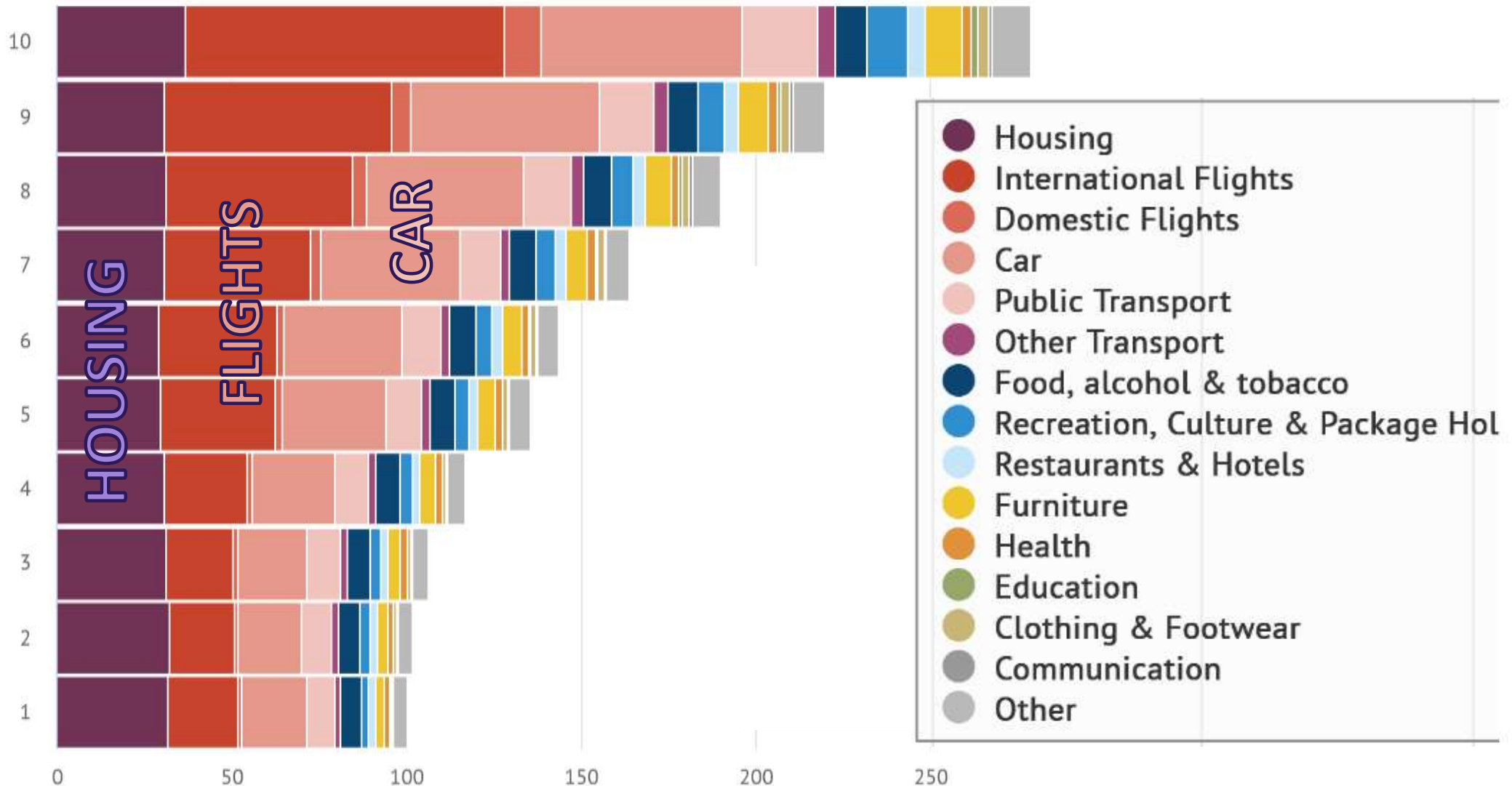
3 FACTS, 3 WAYS FORWARD

FACTS	WAYS FORWARD
1. Inequality	1. Sufficiency
2. Possibility	2. Investment
3. Dependency	3. Economic Democracy

FACT #1: INEQUALITY

Wealthy British people use far more **energy for transport**, but housing energy use remains similar across income brackets

Annual energy use per adult equivalent, GJ



Baltruszcwicz et al 2023, *Ecological Economics*

Carbon Brief <https://www.carbonbrief.org/richest-people-in-uk-use-more-energy-flying-than-poorest-do-overall/>

WAY FORWARD #1: SUFFICIENCY

Sufficiency is

“A set of measures and daily practices that avoid demand for energy, materials, land, and water while delivering human well-being for all within planetary boundaries.”

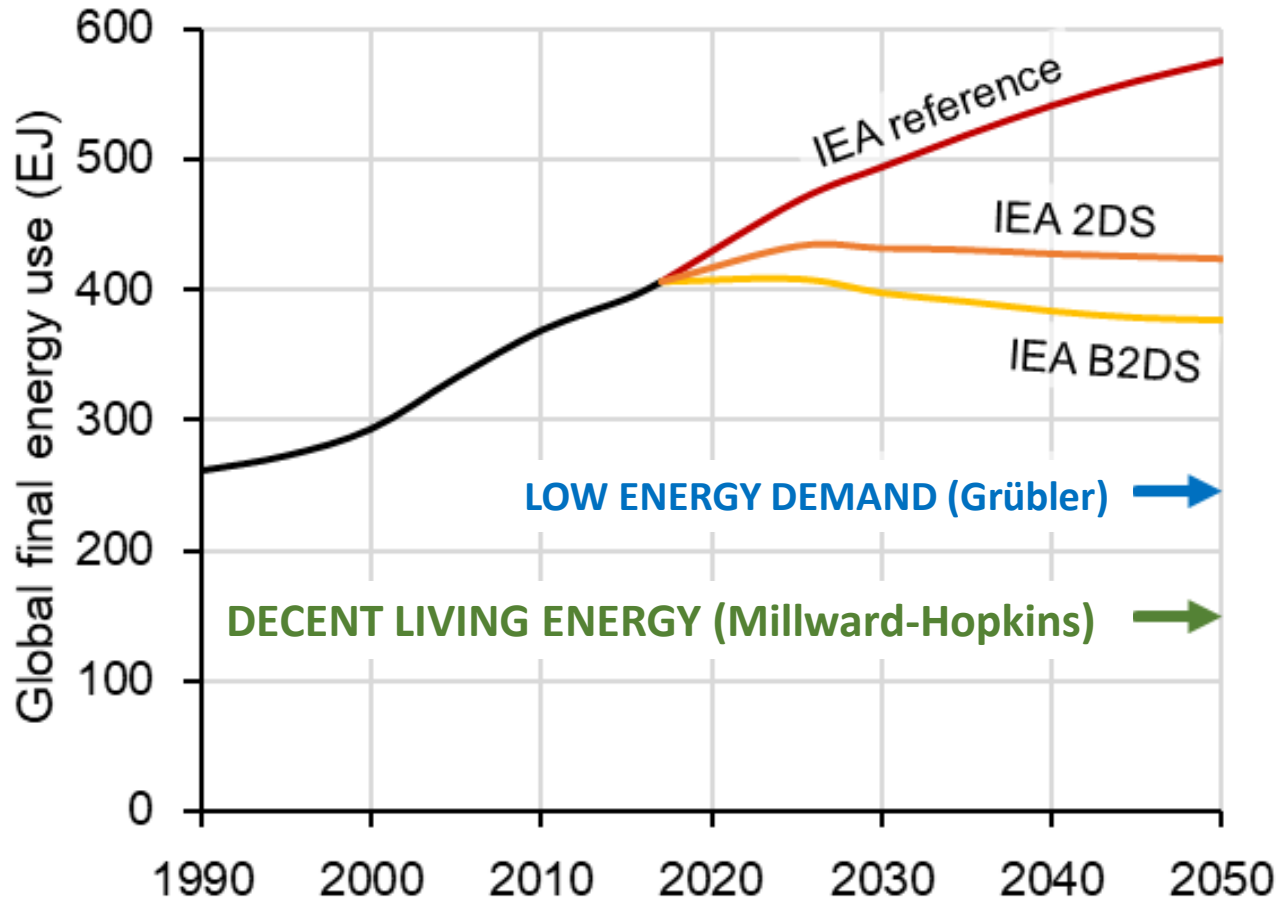
IPCC 2023, Dr Yamina Saheb



Housing cooperative, EcoQuartier Les Vergers, Meyrin, Geneva

FACT #2: POSSIBILITY

Decent living energy (following Prof Narasimha Rao) for all possible in 2050 at 40% of current energy use, despite population growth.



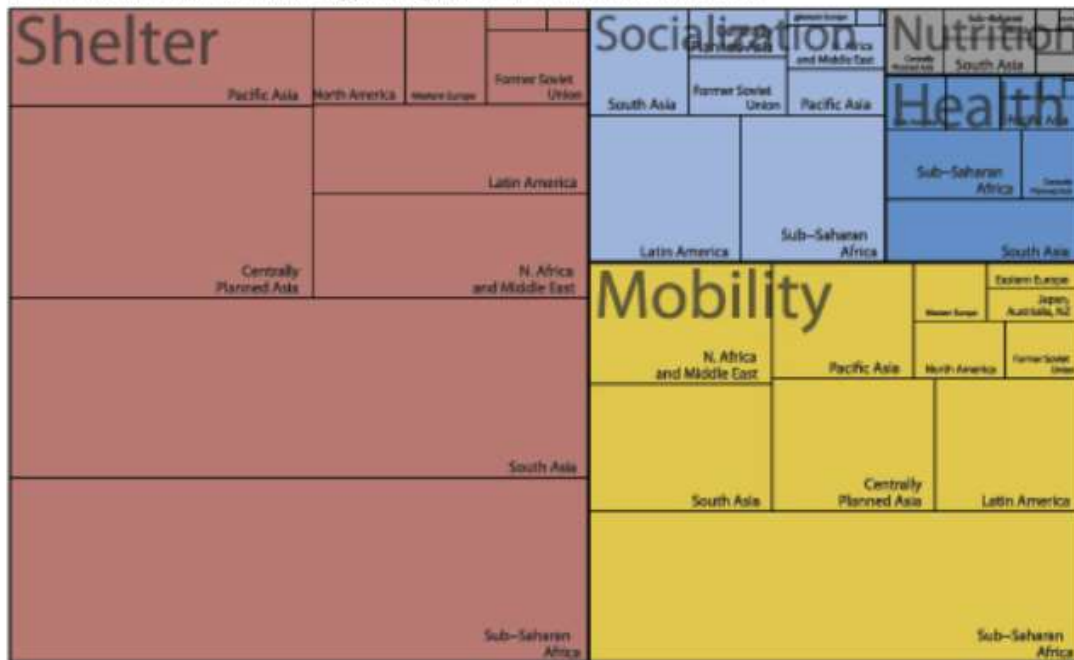
Based on efficient (but realisable) technologies, equitable shared infrastructures, need satisfaction depending on demography, climate, geography.

WAY FORWARD #2: INVESTMENT

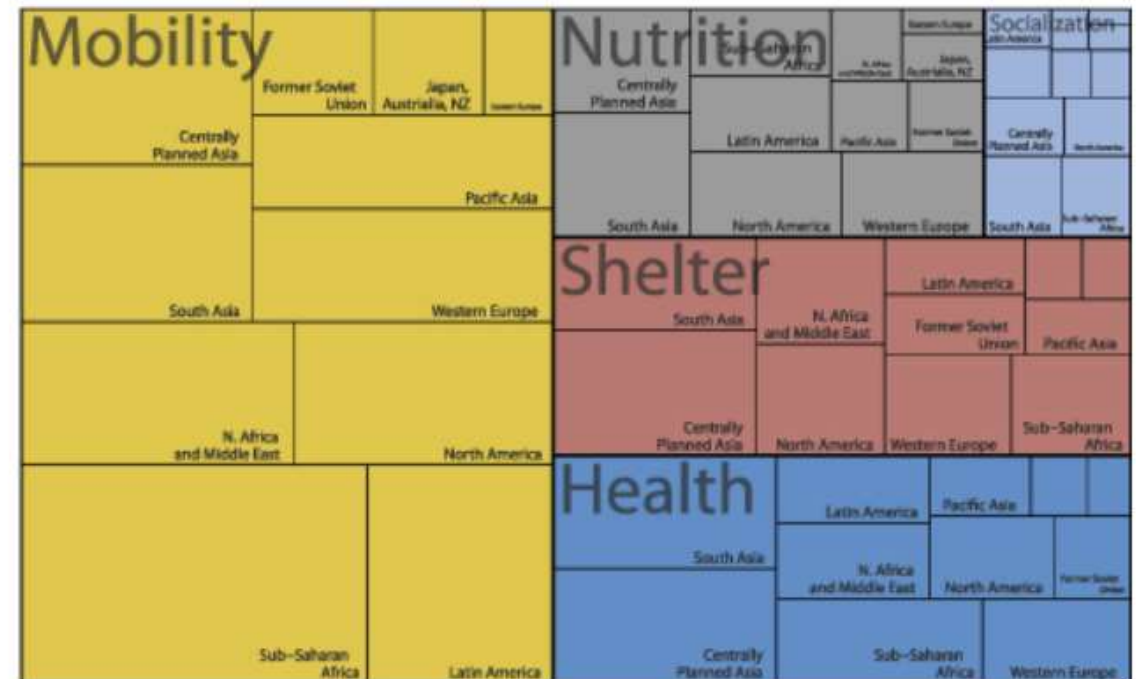
Global investment for DLE: 290 EJ

Annual energy use after investment: 156 EJ

A Cumulative need from 2015 until 2040 for constructing new infrastructure for Decent Living
 Sizes based on new construction energy per region for SSP2. Total cumulative: 290 EJ.



B Total yearly Decent Living Energy need
 Sizes based on operation and construction energy per region for SSP2. Total DLE in 2050: 156 EJ/yr.

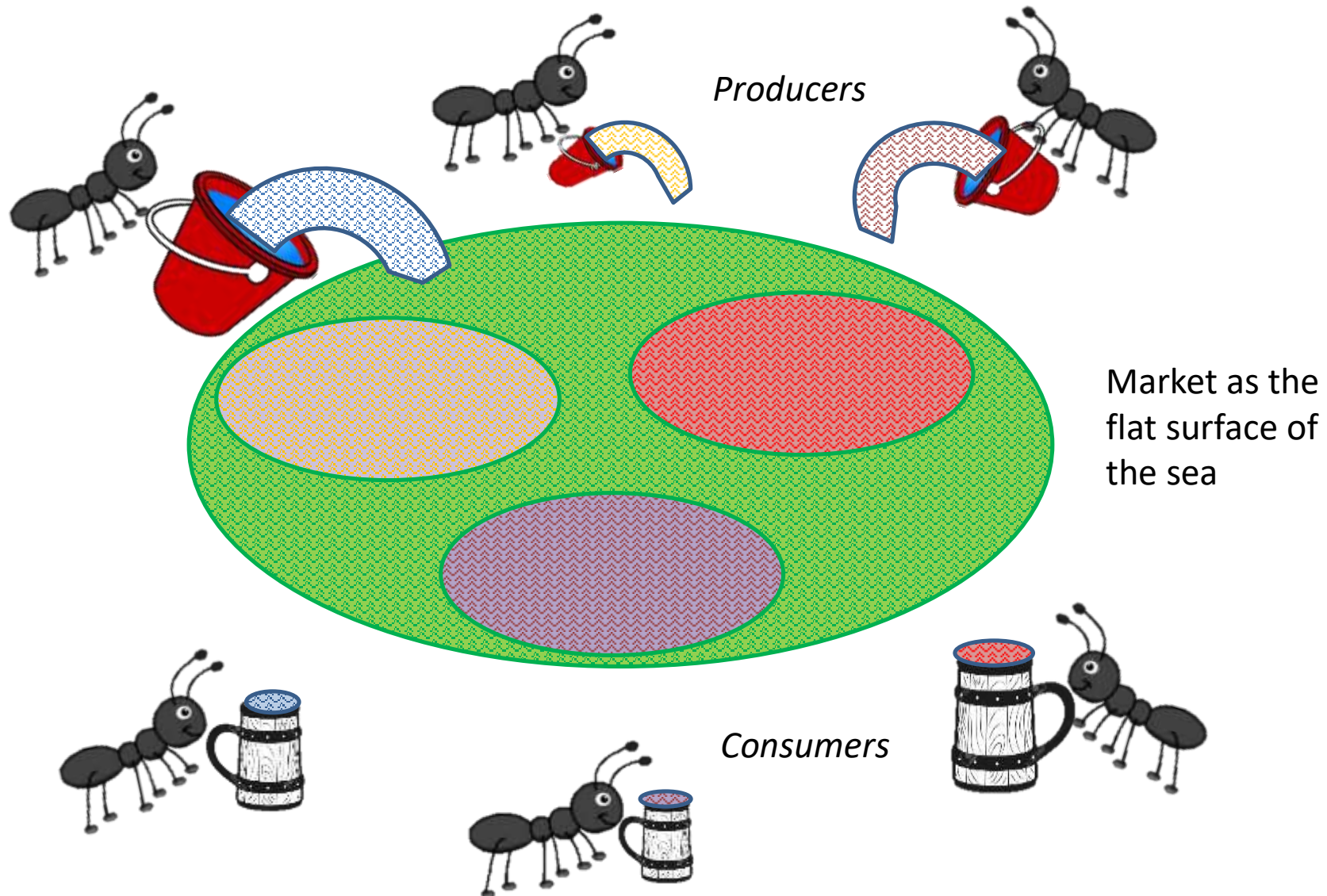


FACT #3: DEPENDENCY

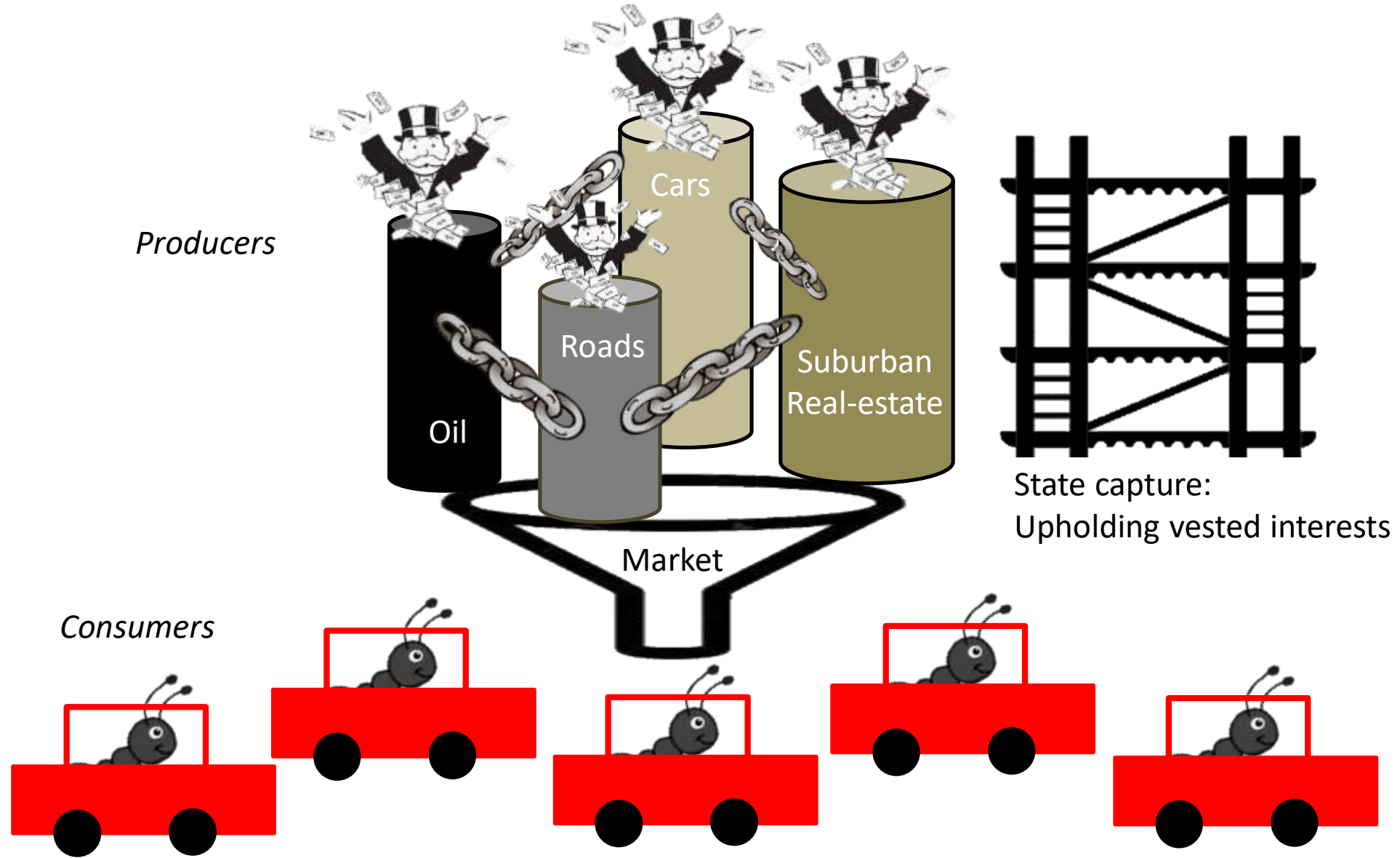
Provisioning systems could enable good lives at low resource use, but are often engineered to create resource dependency.

Dependency on resource-intensive consumption is itself an industrial product, driven by decades of lobbying, subsidies, and state-regulatory capture.

Cartoon version of the neoclassical (green) economy as a **horizontal** market



Cartoon version of real economy as **vertical** supply chains, connected through technology clusters



WAY FORWARD #3: DEMOCRACY

Breaking dependency and state capture requires expanding the scope of democracy to our economies.

Active economic citizenship through far expanded decision-making roles of:

- Workers,
- Community members,
- Households,
- Local/National/International governance.



Les 150: French Citizen Assembly on Climate

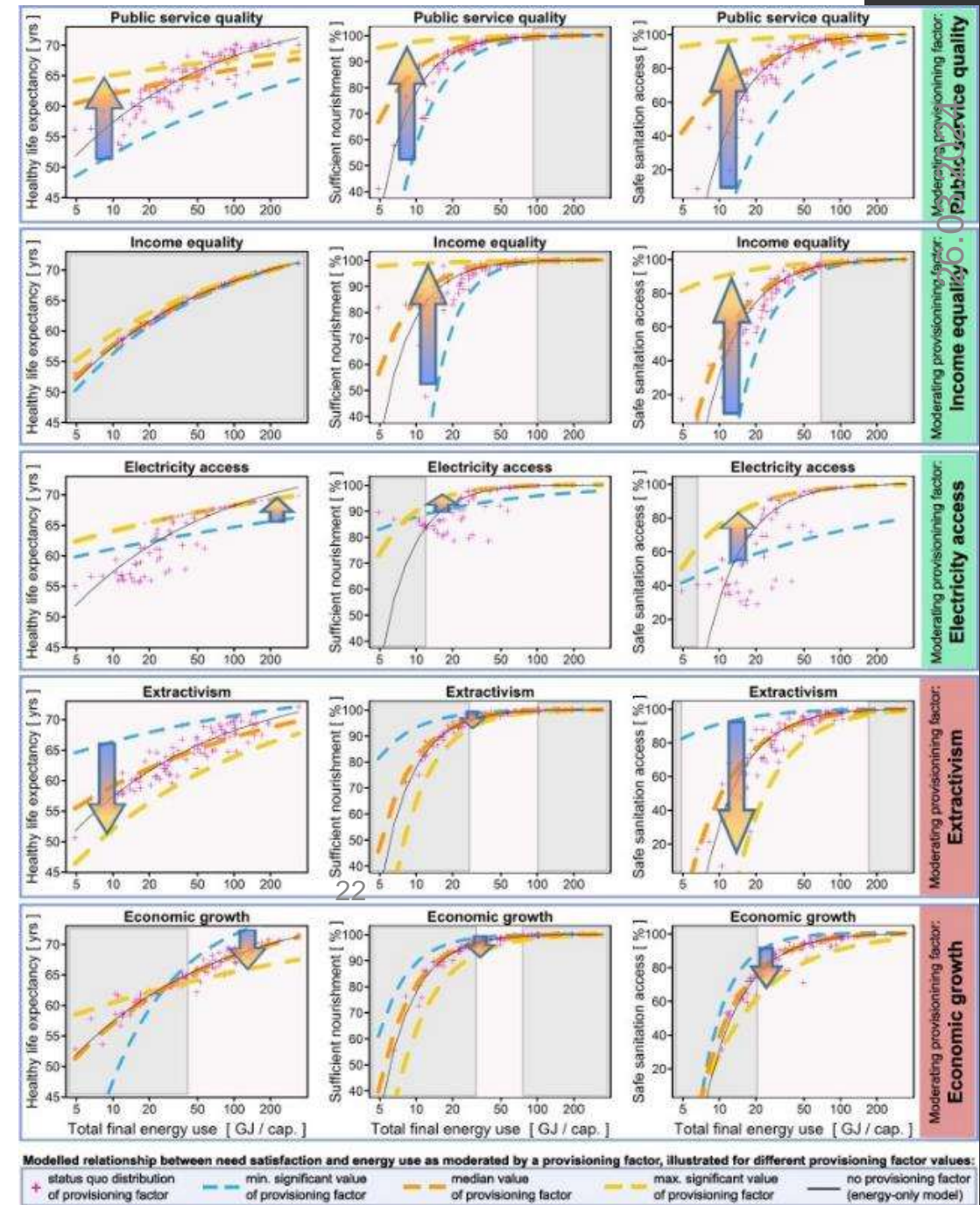
Socio-economic factors enabling well-being at lower energy use

Positive factors

- Public services
- Income equality
- Democracy
- Electricity & sanitation access.

Negative factors:

- Extractivism
- Economic growth above a moderate income.



real

A POST GROWTH DEAL



Prof. Giorgos Kallis
Autonomous University of
Barcelona, Spain



Prof. Julia Steinberger
University of Lausanne,
Switzerland



Prof. Jason Hickel
LSE and Autonomous University
of Barcelona, Spain

WP1

Planetary Possibilities

- North-South convergence scenarios of resource use.
- Material prerequisites for decent living.
- Postgrowth IAM scenarios.

WP2

Postgrowth Policies

- Mapping unequal exchange.
- Post-Growth Deals for EU and Global South.
- Modelling and feedback on policies.

WP3

Postgrowth Provisioning

- Determinants of social progress.
- Democratic provision alternatives.
- Modelling transformed provision.

WP4

Postgrowth Politics

- Learning from labour, peasant and municipal movements.
- Role of protest and conflict.
- Models of postgrowth political organizing.

WP4

Postgrowth in Practice

- Planning processes for postgrowth in practice.
- Execution and public consultation for Post-Growth.
- Prototyping Post-Growth Deals.

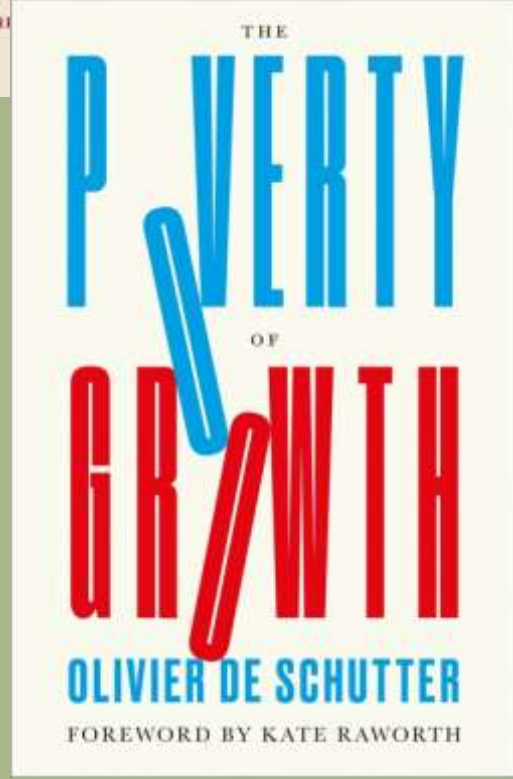
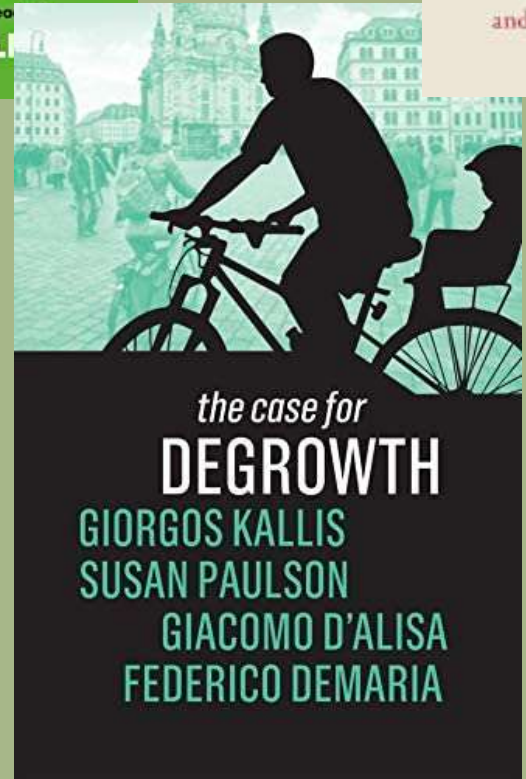
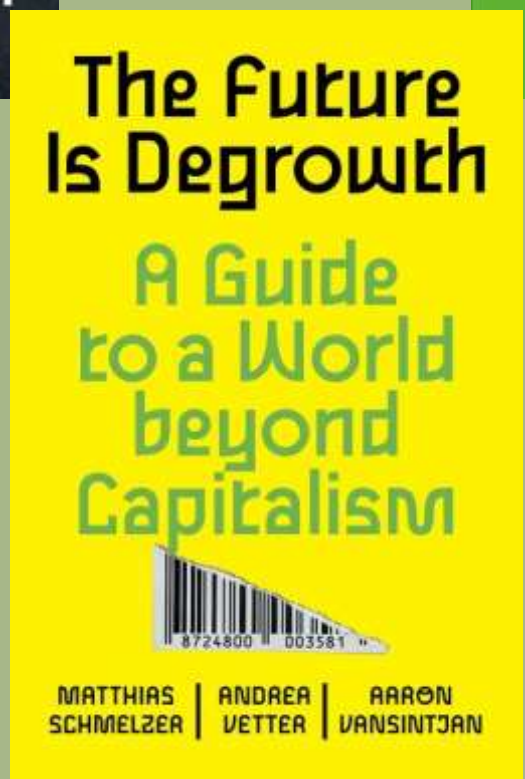
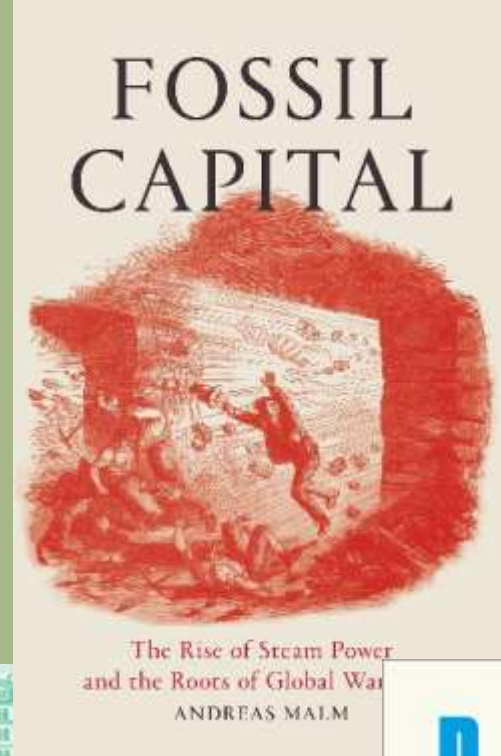
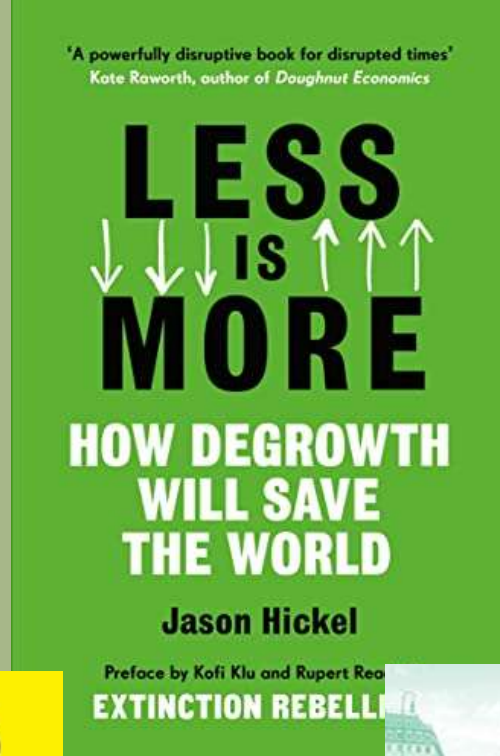
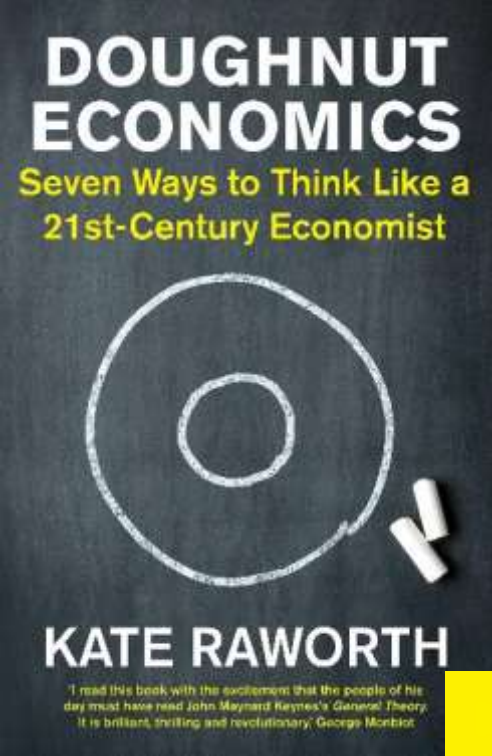


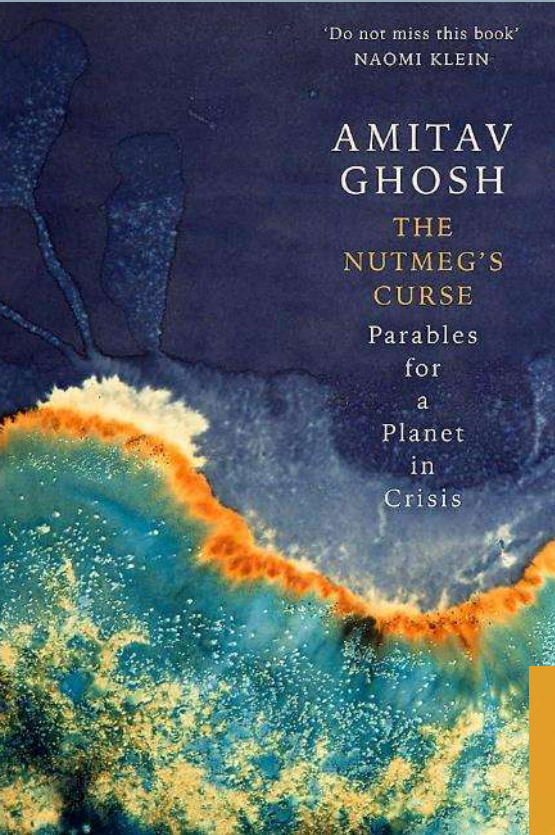
European Research Council
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Much more here

- <https://www.beyond-growth-2023.eu/>





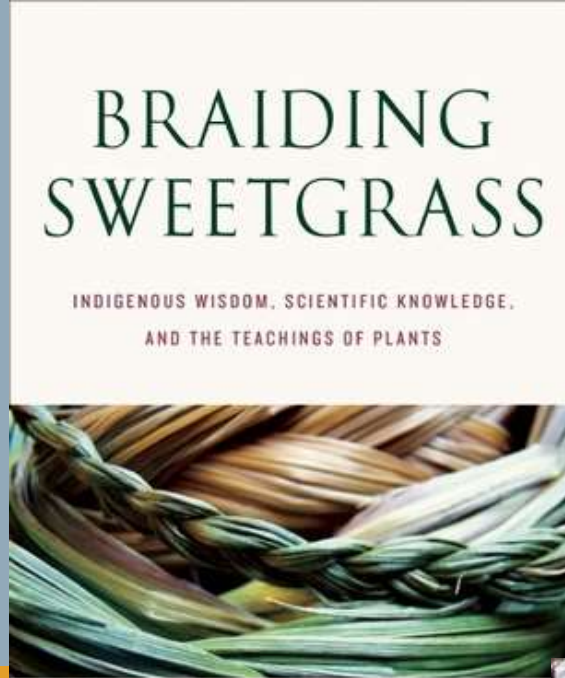


'Do not miss this book'
NAOMI KLEIN

AMITAV
GHOSH

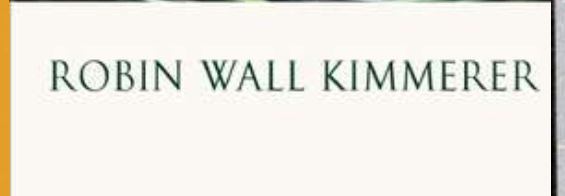
THE
NUTMEG'S
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Parables
for
a
Planet
in
Crisis

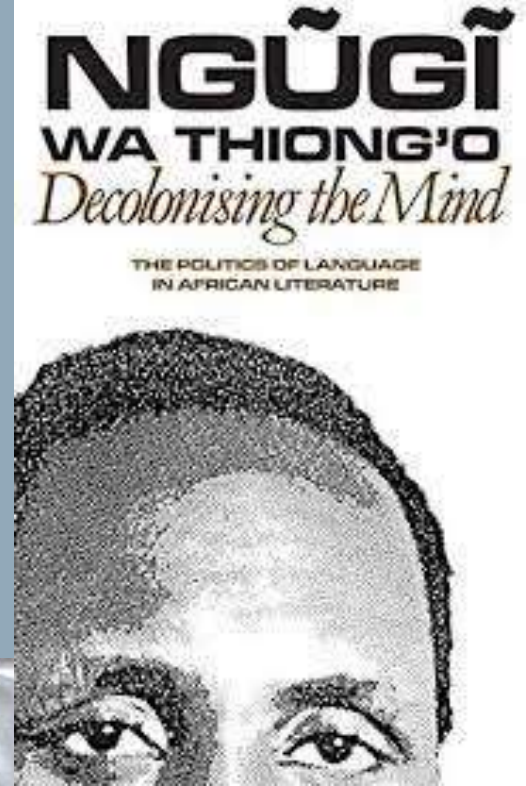


BRAIDING
SWEETGRASS

INDIGENOUS WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE,
AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS

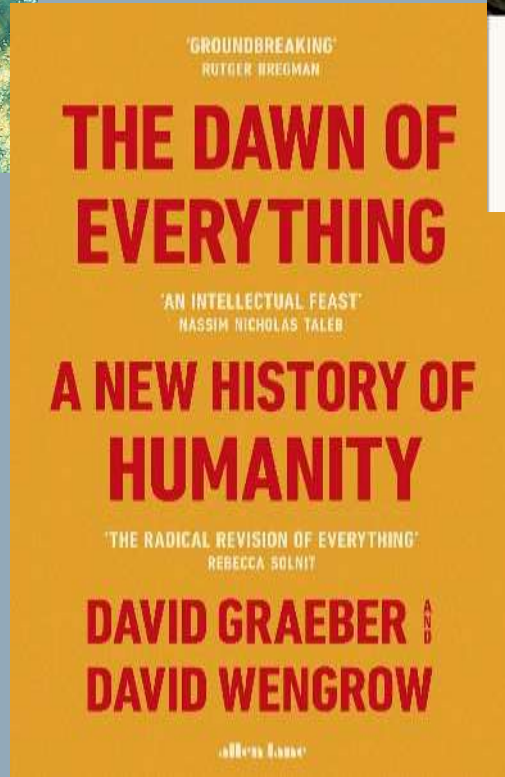


ROBIN WALL KIMMERER



NGŪGĪ
WA THIONG'O
Decolonising the Mind

THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE
IN AFRICAN LITERATURE



'GROUNDBREAKING'
RUTGER BREGMAN

THE DAWN OF
EVERYTHING

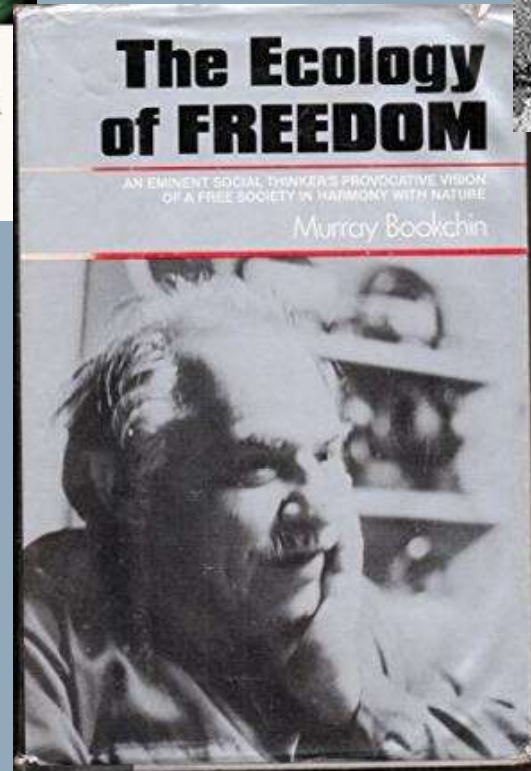
'AN INTELLECTUAL FEAST'
NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB

A NEW HISTORY OF
HUMANITY

'THE RADICAL REVISION OF EVERYTHING'
REBECCA SOLNIT

DAVID GRAEBER AND
DAVID WENGROW

allen lane



The Ecology
of FREEDOM

AN EMINENT SOCIAL THINKER'S PROVOCATIVE VISION
OF A FREE SOCIETY IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Murray Bookchin