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Beyond Materialism: The Philosophy and Ethics of Degrowth

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Abstract: Degrowth theory challenges the dominant paradigm of unlimited economic growth, arguing that such growth is ecologically unsustainable, socially unjust, and culturally destructive. Degrowth is a multidisciplinary approach, encompassing philosophy, economics, ecology, and sociology, supported by scholars such as Serge Latouche, Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth. Central to this theory is a critique of capitalism, which views continuous economic growth as essential for well-being and progress. According to degrowth, developed societies should strategically plan the reduction of production and consumption of non-essential goods to relieve pressure on ecosystems and respect planetary boundaries. At its core is a re-conception of well-being, shifting the focus from material wealth toward quality of life, leisure time, community solidarity, and spiritual well-being. French philosopher Serge Latouche, in his book "Farewell to Growth," emphasizes that economic growth has become a "cancer" for the planet and human societies. To achieve the transition to a degrowth society, Latouche proposes the "eight Rs": reevaluate, reconceptualize, restructure, relocalize, redistribute, reduce, reuse, and resist unlimited consumerism. These steps aim for a comprehensive social and economic transformation, promoting a lifestyle based on voluntary simplicity and alignment with ecological capacities. Degrowth does not merely advocate for negative economic growth but seeks profound cultural and political changes that redefine concepts of happiness, well-being, and success, ultimately creating a more equitable, humane, and ecologically sustainable society.

Keywords: Degrowth, Sustainability, Ethics, Ecological justice

Introduction

Latouche (1940) is a French economist and philosopher that through his works has criticised strongly the traditional ideas about economic growth and the impacts of globalization. His main contribution is the promotion of the idea of degrowth, which calls for moving away from endless economic expansion and to focus instead on protecting the environment, respecting cultural diversity, and the promoting social justice. His scholarly work rigorously examines and challenges dominant development narratives, he advocates instead for sustainable and ethically informed alternatives.

Through several key publications such as Farewell to Growth (2009), The Westernization of the World (1996), and In the Wake of the Affluent Society (2004), Latouche has influenced contemporary debates on sustainability, development economics, and cultural globalization in a meaningful way. The discourse on sustainable development and critiques of conventional economic growth have seen significant attention from scholars across various disciplines, by featuring the works of Serge Latouche, Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth.

Complementing Latouche's (2004) perspective, Kallis (2019,2020) contributes significantly to the theory of degrowth by challenging the well-established environmental paradigms through critical insights and practical frameworks in books such as *The Case for Degrowth* and *Limits: Why Malthus Was Wrong and Why Environmentalists Should Care*. Jackson (2009,2017) further expands the conversation with his influential work

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Prosperity Without Growth proposing alternative economic paradigms centered around ecological limitations and human well-being.

Hickel's (2017, 2020) analysis in Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World and The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and Its Solutions critically examines global inequalities and environmental injustices which have been widely spread by economic policies that are growth-centric, advocating instead for degrowth as a pathway to global sustainability. Raworth (2017) introduces the innovative concept of Doughnut Economics, a framework summarised in her book, Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist (2017), which visualizes the safe ecological and social boundaries necessary for sustainable living.

Research Questions

Before moving deeper into the specific research questions, it is important to understand the wider context and motivations driving this analysis. The critical literature on degrowth, represented by scholars such as Serge Latouche, Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth, highlights the urgent need to rethink prevailing economic models that prioritize perpetual growth. They emphasize that continuous economic expansion is ecologically unsustainable, socially unjust, and ethically problematic. By synthesizing their contributions, this study seeks to explore the fundamental critiques of traditional growth paradigms, the ethical reorientation proposed by degrowth, and the transformative pathways toward more sustainable and equitable societies. The following research questions guide the analysis.

- What are the fundamental critiques that Serge Latouche and other scholars raise against the traditional paradigm of economic growth?
- How does the concept of degrowth propose an alternative model for achieving sustainability, equity, and ecological balance?
- What ethical principles underpin the degrowth movement, and how do they challenge dominant utilitarian economic frameworks?
- In what ways do globalization and Westernization contribute to cultural erosion and environmental degradation, according to Latouche?
- How do the ideas of Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth complement and expand upon Latouche's degrowth framework?
- What are the practical and theoretical challenges associated with transitioning from a growth-based economy to a degrowth-oriented society?
- How can new models like Doughnut Economics redefine prosperity and human flourishing within planetary boundaries?
- Why is a shift towards local autonomy, decentralization, and community resilience considered essential in the context of sustainable development?

To address the research questions outlined above, it is imperative to look deeper into the foundational principles that inform the degrowth paradigm. While much of the existing discourse has focused on the economic and political implications of degrowth, an equally important dimension lies in its ethical foundations. Degrowth is not simply a technical or economic adjustment, it calls for a profound moral reorientation of society's goals and values. Understanding degrowth therefore requires an examination of the ethical imperatives related to justice, responsibility, intergenerational equity, and ecological stewardship. The next section will examine how ethics is inseparable from the degrowth discourse and why an ethical transformation is essential for envisioning a just and sustainable future.

Entry to Degrowth and Ethics

The concept of degrowth is not merely an economic critique. It represents the profound ethical dimensions that question the moral legitimacy of endless economic expansion at the expense of ecological balance, social equity, and future generations' well-being. Degrowth challenges the dominant utilitarian frameworks underpinning modern economic systems, proposing instead a vision of society grounded in principles of justice, responsibility, sufficiency, and care. Ethical considerations are central to degrowth, emphasizing values such as intergenerational equity, the intrinsic worth of nature, and the equitable distribution of resources. Scholars such as Serge Latouche, Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth highlight that a transition toward degrowth is inseparable from an ethical transformation that redefines prosperity, prioritizes human and

ecological flourishing, and fosters new relationships between humans and the natural world. In this context, degrowth is not just an alternative economic model but a normative project aiming for a just, sustainable, and meaningful life within planetary boundaries.

Degrowth theory challenges the dominant paradigm of unlimited economic growth, arguing that such growth is ecologically unsustainable, socially unjust, and culturally destructive. Rooted in a comprehensive critique of capitalism, degrowth theory contends that capitalist systems inherently depend on endless expansion, exploitation of natural resources, and promotion of unsustainable consumption patterns. This multidisciplinary approach integrates insights from philosophy, economics, ecology, and sociology.

Central to degrowth is the claim that capitalist-driven continuous growth, causes ecological crises by exceeding planetary boundaries, by worsening the resource depletion, increasing biodiversity loss, accelerating climate change, and highly affecting pollution rates. Socially, the pursuit of perpetual economic expansion often amplifies inequality, marginalization, and exploitation, by impacting vulnerable and impoverished communities worldwide. Culturally, this paradigm fosters individualistic consumerism, eroding communal values, solidarity, and overall society cohesion.

Degrowth advocates for a fundamental reorientation of economic priorities, emphasizing the importance of ecological limits, justice, human flourishing, and communal well-being rather than material accumulation. In doing so, it presents not merely an economic critique but a profound philosophical and ethical argument for redefining societal values and human progress

Method

This literature review uses a qualitative research approach, utilizing thematic analysis to critically evaluate and synthesize key ideas presented in Serge Latouche's major works, as well as significant texts from other leading scholars in the field of degrowth and sustainability studies. Primary sources included foundational texts authored by Latouche, alongside influential publications by Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth. The selected literature was examined for recurring themes, core arguments, theoretical frameworks, and proposed practical solutions. This analysis aims to articulate a comprehensive understanding of the degrowth discourse and its implications for sustainable development, environmental ethics, and global socio-economic policy.

Literature Review

The literature review explores the critical contributions of these scholars, synthesizing their analyses, proposed alternatives, and their collective relevance to contemporary global discussions surrounding sustainability, economic growth, and ecological integrity.

Serge Latouche's significant contributions to the fields of economics and philosophy, particularly through his critique of traditional development paradigms and advocacy for degrowth, are encapsulated within his influential works: Farewell to Growth (Petit traité de la décroissance sereine), The Westernization of the World (L'occidentalisation du monde), and In the Wake of the Affluent Society: An Exploration of Post-Development (Survivre au développement).

Farewell to Growth is Latouche's (2009) significant publication, originally published in French in 2007. This work critically examines the prevailing economic narrative centered on continual growth, presenting a detailed argument for why such a paradigm is inherently unsustainable, ecologically detrimental, and socially unjust. Latouche outlines a comprehensive framework for transitioning to a degrowth society, emphasizing the need for localized economies, ecological mindfulness, reduced consumption, and increased social and cultural conviviality. His proposals challenge readers and policymakers alike to reconsider economic objectives, shifting focus from quantitative growth metrics like GDP to qualitative well-being indicators.

The Westernization of the World (1996) contributes meaningfully to the discourse on globalization and cultural hegemony. Latouche critiques the persistent influence of Western economic and cultural norms imposed globally, arguing that such dominance leads to the erosion of indigenous cultures and ecological balance. The book highlights cultural relativism and the importance of respecting diversity, presenting globalization as not merely an economic phenomenon but also as a form of neo-colonial cultural imperialism. This work is essential

in post-colonial studies and globalization debates, providing crucial insights into the socio-cultural consequences of global economic integration.

In *In the Wake of the Affluent Society*, Latouche (2004) digs deeper into the critique of development by questioning the fundamental premises underlying in the notion of economic progress. He argues that traditional development initiatives often exacerbate poverty, environmental degradation, and social inequality. The book advocates for a radical rethinking of development models, suggesting alternatives rooted in local autonomy, decentralization, and ecological sustainability. Latouche highlights community resilience and the limitations of industrial growth, influencing movements focused on post-development and sustainability.

Collectively, these works establish Latouche (2004) as a key figure in discussions about sustainability, economics, and cultural diversity. His writings challenge mainstream economic thought and propose alternative paradigms emphasizing environmental responsibility, social equity, and cultural pluralism. Latouche's critical perspectives provide foundational texts for understanding and addressing contemporary global issues related to economic growth, ecological sustainability, and cultural identity.

The contemporary discourse on sustainable economics and critiques of perpetual growth has been significantly enriched by the contributions of scholars such as Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth. Their works offer diverse perspectives on the limitations of traditional economic models and propose alternative frameworks aimed at achieving ecological balance and social equity.

In *The Case for Degrowth* Kallis (2020), along with co-authors Paulson et al. (2020) presents a compelling argument against the prevailing growth-centric economic paradigm. The book assesses the unsustainable nature of continuous economic expansion and advocates for a deliberate downscaling of production and consumption to enhance ecological conditions and human well-being. By incorporating paradigms of care, mutual aid and justice, the authors envision a radical transition towards a society that prioritizes environmental sustainability and social equity.

Tim Jackson's *Prosperity Without Growth (2009, updated in 2017) challenges* the assumption that economic growth is synonymous to prosperity. Jackson argues that in a finite planet, endless growth is neither feasible nor desirable. He proposes a redefinition of prosperity that transcends material wealth, emphasizing well-being, social cohesion, and ecological integrity. The book outlines a vision for a sustainable economy that operates within ecological limits, advocating for structural changes in economic systems to support human flourishing without relying on growth.

In Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World Hickel (2020) looks into the historical and structural roots of the growth imperative in capitalist economies. He analyses the relentless pursuit of growth as a driver of ecological degradation and social inequality. Hickel advocates for degrowth as a planned reduction of energy and resource use, aiming to bring the economy back into balance with the living world in a safe, just, and equitable way. He emphasizes that degrowth is not about austerity but about redistributing resources and redefining progress to prioritize human and ecological well-being.

Raworth's (2017) *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist* introduces a visual framework for sustainable development that balances essential human needs and planetary boundaries. The "doughnut" model outlines a safe and just space for humanity, bounded by a social foundation (ensuring no one falls short on life's essentials) and an ecological ceiling (ensuring humanity does not overshoot planetary boundaries). Raworth critiques traditional economic models that prioritize GDP growth and instead calls for economies that are regenerative and distributive by design. Her work has influenced policy-making in cities like Amsterdam, which adopted the doughnut model to guide its post-COVID-19 recovery strategy.

Collectively, these works challenge the established notion that economic growth is inherently beneficial and necessary. They offer alternative paradigms that prioritize ecological sustainability, social equity, and human well-being, contributing significantly to the ongoing discourse on redefining progress in the 21st century.

Degrowth as an Ethical and Social Transformation

According to the concept of degrowth, continuous economic growth is neither desirable, ecologically sustainable, nor socially equitable. Instead, modern societies, especially developed ones, should strategically reduce production and consumption to alleviate pressure on ecosystems and natural resources. This approach

also calls for a shift in societal values, emphasizing quality of life, spiritual and social well-being, justice, and sustainability, rather than continuous material accumulation.

The philosophical and economic foundations of degrowth include:

- 1. **Criticism of unlimited economic growth:** Traditional capitalist economics views growth as positive and desirable, whereas degrowth critiques this idea as impossible and harmful on a finite planet.
- 2. **Ecology and planetary boundaries:** Degrowth asserts that there are ecological limits that the economy should not surpass because the regenerative capacity of the biosphere is limited.
- 3. **Reconceptualizing well-being and happiness:** Well-being should not be measured by consumption and material growth but by life quality, human relationships, leisure time, and community solidarity.

Degrowth promotes several core principles to achieve these changes:

- Reducing material consumption by limiting the production and consumption of non-essential goods.
- Relocalizing the economy to decrease dependency on global supply chains.
- Reducing inequality through redistribution of resources and wealth.
- Recycling and reusing within a circular economy framework.
- Cultural shift from competition and individualism towards cooperation and solidarity.

As a philosophical movement, degrowth seeks a fundamental shift in human perception of life, promoting values such as voluntary simplicity, limiting material desires, and enhancing spiritual and communal wellbeing. A key figure in the degrowth Latouche, who refers to this approach as "Décroissance" (degrowth) argues that today's global crisis is fundamentally a crisis of civilization. Latouche sharply critiques the Western belief that humans are superior and possess natural rights over nature and other species.

In 2009, the world's largest economy returned to growth, the US economy expanded for the first time after years of financial and economic turmoil. In a press statement, Barack Obama welcomed the recovery from "the deepest crisis since the Great Depression," while warning that significant challenges remained ahead. The relief expressed by the American president illustrates a deeply rooted general belief that economic growth is an essential condition for well-being.

The idea that well-being depends on economic growth has become deep-rooted in modern societies' culture since the Enlightenment. Even contemporary arguments promoting sustainable development and global equity seldom question the need for growth. However, this unshaken belief is increasingly contested. One of the challengers is the so-called "degrowth" movement. Its principles and proposals for reform are clearly explained in the book "Farewell to Growth" by the French philosopher and political theorist Serge Latouche. The first part of this essay summarizes and critically examines the book's main arguments, while the second part compares these arguments with classical and contemporary sociological theories regarding the relationship between economic growth and well-being.

"Farewell to Growth" emphasises that exponential economic growth is not only harmful to the natural environment but also damages social bonds and solidarity—the basis of human society. According to Latouche, society should choose degrowth, aligning human production and consumption with the biosphere's regenerative capacity. Degrowth does not simply mean negative growth but rather a deliberate economic contraction (Latouche, 2010, pp. 8, 90) that cannot be harmonized with the capitalist system. Hence, simply slowing economic growth is insufficient; it must be accompanied by a profound social transformation involving fundamental reforms not only in governance but also in everyday life practices.

This short book is divided into three parts. The first identifies the causes and consequences of exponential economic growth and argues why degrowth is necessary. Latouche details the sources of growth by emphasizing: "Three ingredients are necessary for consumer society to continue its joyous dance toward hell: advertising, which creates the desire to consume; credit, which provides the means to consume; and planned obsolescence, which constantly forces us to need new products" (idem: 17).

Thus, who or what keeps capitalism functioning? Latouche identifies as primary drivers: "owners of capital" (idem: 8), "hyper-consumers" (idem: 20), "workaholic managers" (idem: 20), the "capitalist techno-economic marketing mega-machine" (idem: 3), "Western states" (idem: 30), and "dominant ideologies" (idem: 12). The analysis in *Farewell to Growth* favors a deliberate, almost Machiavellian approach to the origins of economic

growth, without providing sufficient concrete evidence. Latouche's argument does not adequately address the macro-micro dilemma, a persistent challenge in social sciences.

Traditionally, explanations for social phenomena such as economic growth or political revolutions are either macro-level (class, society, culture, civilizations) or micro-level (individual interests, emotions, desires). This division has been persistent enough to create two types of sociology: macro- and micro-sociology. Karl Popper was among the first to express concern about this theoretical division, warning that such scientific explanations could easily lead to conspiracy theories, where social processes appear as products of manipulation by specific groups or individuals. Since conspiracy theories assume the world can be shaped according to a predetermined plan (Popper speaks of "social engineering"), such a belief in an easily manipulable world is clearly felt in the second and third parts of *Farewell to Growth*.

These sections propose a radical and planned social transformation. The book seeks pathways to build a degrowth-based society ("a true utopia," according to Latouche). He presents concrete proposals described through the eight R's: reevaluate, reconceptualize, restructure, redistribute, relocalize, reduce, reuse, and recycle (idem: 33). These include restrictions on fossil fuel use through limiting travel, reduced dependency on fossil fuel technologies, limiting consumption of "unnecessary needs," reshaping social values and cognitive models, restructuring production and consumption patterns, and redistributing wealth from the global North to the global South.

The functional unit for these proposals is the so-called "bioregion": "a relatively coherent socio-spatial unit maintaining self-sufficiency and autonomy in producing and consuming energy and food" (idem: 44). In this new localized degrowth society, people will consume less and consequently require fewer economic surpluses. However, more people will need to work due to restrictions on fossil fuel usage.

To build this utopian vision, the book draws on two theoretical traditions. The first is the ecological critique of capitalist society, grounded in the assumption that economic growth is constrained by physical and ecological limits: exponential growth in a finite world is impossible. Early examples include Malthus's (1948) *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798) and Mill's (1848) concept of the stationary state, further developed by Georgescu-Roegen, Daly, and Boulding.

The second tradition (which I will not analyse in this article) originates from classical sociology, including Marx, Thoennies, Weber, and Durkheim, who criticized capitalism for fostering individualistic behaviors. Capitalism destroys pre-capitalist forms of social and cultural capital ("social networks," according to Latouche). For example, Max Weber believed Protestant ethics provided the moral foundation for capitalism's development, but capitalism of the 18th and 19th centuries, oriented individuals toward personal interests, weakening moral and social norms, leading to alienation and anomie.

Despite the longevity of degrowth ideas, they are often ignored in social development policies. *Farewell to Growth* is recommended as a critique of the entrenched belief that well-being cannot exist without economic growth. However, as a scholarly work and political reform guide, it is less successful, as it overly relies on 19th-century sociological thought and inherits some problematic aspects, notably holism and functionalism. Ultimately, degrowth theory provides a radical alternative to the current economic and cultural paradigm, advocating fundamental transformation toward a more equitable, humane, and sustainable society.

Degrowth is a transformative socio-economic and philosophical movement that critically examines and challenges the prevailing paradigm of endless economic growth. It argues that the continuous pursuit of increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP), resource extraction, production, and consumption is fundamentally unsustainable and incompatible with ecological stability, social equity, and genuine human well-being. Degrowth emerged as a counter-narrative to mainstream economic theories that prioritize perpetual expansion, often neglecting environmental degradation, social inequalities, and quality of life.

At its core, degrowth emphasizes that our planet possesses finite ecological capacities and resources, rendering indefinite economic growth not only impractical but also detrimental. Instead, degrowth advocates for a planned and intentional reduction in resource throughput and material consumption, especially within affluent societies. It proposes redirecting societal goals from quantitative economic indicators toward qualitative measures such as ecological sustainability, social solidarity, community resilience, and individual fulfillment.

Degrowth includes a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including:

- Philosophical Dimension: Degrowth philosophy challenges the anthropocentric worldview that shapes
 modern economic systems, calling for a fundamental ethical shift. It emphasizes the recognition of nature's
 intrinsic value, the rights of future generations, and the importance of community responsibility. Influenced
 by thinkers such as Serge Latouche, Giorgos Kallis, Tim Jackson, Jason Hickel, and Kate Raworth,
 degrowth advocates for simplicity, moderation, voluntary restraint, and the recovery of meaningful human
 relationships beyond the culture of consumerism.
- Economic dimension: Economically, degrowth involves a transition from growth-oriented capitalism towards alternative economic arrangements such as solidarity economies, cooperatives, circular economies, and local economies. It challenges prevailing economic doctrines like neoliberalism and consumer-driven capitalism, instead promoting economic democracy, redistribution of wealth, reduced working hours, universal basic services, and fair distribution of resources.
- Ecological dimension: Degrowth emphasizes respecting planetary boundaries—acknowledging limits such as climate change, biodiversity loss, freshwater scarcity, and land degradation. It calls for significant reductions in energy and resource use, limiting fossil fuel dependency, curbing pollution, and adopting sustainable agricultural and industrial practices. Degrowth aligns closely with ecological economics, drawing from scholars like Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, Herman Daly, and Joan Martínez-Alier.
- Sociological and cultural dimension: Degrowth critically analyzes consumer culture, individualism, and competition as primary drivers of social alienation and ecological destruction. It advocates shifting cultural values toward cooperation, solidarity, community-building, and participation. By promoting voluntary simplicity and reduced consumption, degrowth aims to rebuild social bonds, enhance community resilience, and create meaningful connections among individuals and their environments.

To implement these shifts, degrowth proposes practical strategies summarized by Serge Latouche through his well-known "eight Rs":

- 1. Reevaluate: Reassessing societal values about what genuinely matters in life.
- 2. Reconceptualize: Changing dominant ideas regarding progress, wealth, and happiness.
- 3. **Restructure:** Transforming economic systems toward sustainability and equity.
- 4. **Relocalize:** Encouraging local production and consumption, thereby reducing ecological footprints and enhancing local resilience.
- 5. **Redistribute:** Promoting social justice through fairer allocation of wealth and resources.
- 6. Reduce: Curtailing consumption of non-essential goods and limiting ecological impacts.
- 7. **Reuse:** Repairing, sharing, and maintaining goods to extend their lifespan.
- 8. **Resist:** Actively opposing consumerism, market-driven logic, and unsustainable lifestyles.

Degrowth does not merely advocate for negative economic growth; rather, it promotes a systemic transformation as a comprehensive rethinking of economies, societies, cultures, and ethics. It envisions a future where societies flourish within ecological constraints, communities prosper through cooperation, and individuals thrive by reconnecting to simpler, meaningful lives.

The degrowth movement is grounded in ethical principles that challenge the dominant utilitarian economic frameworks focused on maximizing aggregate utility, often at the expense of ecological integrity, social justice, and future generations' well-being. Degrowth ethics prioritize justice, ecological responsibility, sufficiency, care, and intergenerational equity.

Unlike utilitarianism, which tends to justify policies that increase total wealth or consumption even if they create inequalities or ecological harm, degrowth advocates argue that true prosperity lies in respecting ecological limits and ensuring fair access to resources for all, including future generations. Degrowth ethics call for limiting consumption and production to levels that ecosystems can sustain, emphasizing the intrinsic value of nature, not merely its utility to humans. They also promote redistribution of wealth, solidarity, and community-centered living, countering the individualism and material accumulation encouraged by utilitarian growth models.

Latouche criticizes the instrumental logic of mainstream economics, proposing instead a shift toward moderation, voluntary simplicity, and cultural re-conceptualizations of well-being. Giorgos Kallis and Jason Hickel argue that a good life does not depend on endless consumption but on relational goods, meaningful work, strong communities, and a healthy environment. Tim Jackson highlights the need to build prosperity within ecological limits, while Kate Raworth's doughnut economics model redefines economic success by balancing human needs with planetary boundaries. Therefore, the ethical framework of degrowth moves away from maximizing output toward nurturing a just, sustainable, and meaningful life for all.

In conclusion, degrowth presents an alternative paradigm, calling for radical changes in how societies define progress, measure well-being, and interact with the natural world. It is both a theoretical critique and a practical roadmap toward building societies that prioritize ecological sustainability, social justice, and genuine human flourishing.

Scientific Ethics Declaration

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