

Multimedia Platform “Degrowth in Movement(s)”

The idea

Degrowth is not only a label for an ongoing discussion on alternatives, and not just an academic debate, but also an emerging social movement. Regardless of many similarities, there is quite some lack of knowledge as well as scepticism, prejudice and misunderstanding about the different perspectives, assumptions, traditions, strategies and protagonists both within degrowth circles as well as within other social movements. Here, space for learning emerges – also to avoid the danger of repeating mistakes and pitfalls of other social movements.

At the same time, degrowth is a perspective or a proposal which is or can become an integral part of other perspectives and social movements. The integration of alternatives, which are discussed under the discursive roof of degrowth, into other perspectives often fails because of the above mentioned scepticisms, prejudices and misunderstandings.

Therefore we want to discuss the following questions: What is the relation between degrowth and other social movements and perspectives? What can they learn from each other? What common proposals, but also contradictions, oppositions and tensions exist? And is degrowth really a good discursive roof or are there other interesting connections or proposals?

These questions should be discussed by protagonists of various social movements who are open for a constructive dialogue. These discussions should lead to short and precise contributions which are to be published in a multimedia publication (online and book, details below). Please find a list of authors and movements we would like to engage below. Most of the mentioned authors are already in direct contact with the degrowth discussion.

Structure of the contributions

The web page, respectively the book, starts with an introduction on the degrowth idea and movement. This introduction provides a basis on which the other contributions can draw. The following contributions have 7 to 10 pages each and should answer the following questions:

- What is the key idea of the social movement (most important critiques of the current system, central arguments, ideas for alternatives), how did the movement develop historically and what is the idea of societal change?
- Who is part of the movement, who are its protagonists, what do they do and why (social stratification, how and where are they organized; which groups, which alliances etc. are there; what are the strategies...)?
- How do you see the relation between this movement and degrowth and how can or should this relation develop within the next years? How is the relation to other social movements? (Relation means e.g. similarities, differences, conflicts, alliances etc.)
- Which proposals has this movement for the degrowth perspective? (What is missing, which problems are out of the picture, what is underestimated, what themes, questions, problems aren't discussed at all or in an insufficient way?) Which proposals can the degrowth perspective offer to the movement?
- Vision: place for visioning, suggestions or wishes, e.g. along the questions: From the perspective of your social movement and in relation to degrowth: which opportunities do you see for the

development of a strong common emancipatory social movement in the current context (ongoing crises, emergence of right wing parties, post-democracy etc.?) What should a larger social movement look like so you'd join?

We would need a first draft of the contributions until the end of January 2016, would rework them and publish them until October 2016. The publishing of the book is planned for 2017.

Publication formats

Web page: The contributions are supposed to be published in an attractive way on a sub page of the degrowth web-portal, layouted and with pictures to create reader-friendly content. It should be relatively short contributions (approx. 20.000-25.000 signs incl. spaces). There will be a comment function beneath each contribution to enable a discussion on the raised questions and problems.

Movies / Audio contributions: In addition to the texts, some selected contributions should be shown also in other formats. For example in short films or audio contributions with interviews and of events.

Blog: Short summaries or excerpts of the contributions can be published on the blog of degrowth.de and in cooperation with the Blog postwachstum.de possibly also there.

Book: The goal is to also publish the contributions in a book, possibly with a more renowned publisher like oekom in 2017.

Seminar / Congress: We plan to have a meeting with as many authors as possible in 2016, where a first version of the texts is ready and can be discussed.

Contributions

1. Animal rights and animal liberation (Andre Gammerschlag & Miriam Boschmann)
2. Anti-coal-movement (Dorothee Häusermann & Laura Wollny, ausGeCo2hlt)
3. Anti-globalisation movement (Dagmar Paternoga & Werner Rätz, Attac)
4. Anti-globalisation movement (Friederike Habermann, People's Global Action)
5. art(ivism) (tbc)
6. Buen Vivir (Alberto Acosta)
7. Care Revolution (Gabriele Winker)
8. Climate justice (Tadzio Müller)
9. Commons (Johannes Euler)
10. Economy of the common good (Andreas Giselbrecht & Stefi Ristig-Bresser)
11. Ecovillages (Christiane Kliemann, Siebenlinden)
12. Environmental movement (Janna Aljets et al. / BUNDJugend)
13. Environmental movement (Kai Niebert et al. / DNR)
14. Feminism (Adehlheid Biesecker, tbc)
15. Gift economy (Friederike Habermann)
16. Hacker/Open Source (Gualter Baptista)
17. Labour unions (Jana Flemming, Norbert Reuter)
18. Low Tech/Maker Movement (Tom Hansing, Anstiftung Ertomis)
19. Migration/Refugee Movement (Olaf Bernau Afrique Europe Interact)
20. Nyeleni/food sovereignty (Julianna Fehlinger & Irmi Salzer)
21. Permacultur (Robert Strauch)
22. Plural Economics (Tanja von Egan-Krieger, Christoph Gran)
23. Post-development (Aram Ziai / Daniel Bendix, University of Kassel, tbc)
24. Post-extractivism (Uli Brand)
25. Queer-Feminism (tbc)
26. Radical ecological democracy (Ashish Kothari)
27. Reclaim the city (Norma Brecht)
28. Sharing (Thomas Dönnebrink, tbc)
29. Small green business and post-growth pioneers (FUTUR ZWEI)
30. Solidarity Economy (Dagmar Embshoff)
31. Transition Towns (Silvia Hable)
32. Urban Gardening (tbc)