

RADICALLY REGENERATING DEMOCRACY

A path between ecology and degrowth

As scientists update data relating to global warming, to the extinction of species, to pollution, we feel that the representative political institutions is proving increasingly unable to deal with these challenges. We seem condemned to observe with eyes open a disaster that we clearly see to arrive, but we are crushed by an enormous sense of impotence. ***We moved from removal of problems to removal of possible solutions.*** This passivity is largely due to a **lack of political analysis on the limits of our democratic institutions.**

Democratic institutions have been conceived and have evolved with the objective of maximising the exploitation of energy and resources, of supporting the trend toward enlargement of production and consumption of goods and services. They depend on the imperative of unlimited growth. From this point of view. ***it is not only a matter of "radically democratizing democracy"***, as it is said building on participative experiences in Latin America, **but above all of radicalising the conception of democracy.** It is not enough to protest against the elitism to widen the possibilities of participation. We must indeed do something far more difficult and disturbing, that is to interrogate from its foundations the very idea of democracy, as it has developed in modern liberal representative regime, illuminating its limits, its dark sides, bringing to light that denial which counts on the exclusion of different Otherness, whether it be women, future generations, distant peoples, or other living species. We must learn to **think of politics in terms of a Big here, a Wide Us, a Long Now.** It is therefore necessary to start again to think of **democratic politics as a generative and creative process**, i.e. in its possibility of reinvention of shapes, spaces, ways and practice of democratic action. **The occasion of regenerating life and the planet overlaps with the occasion of regenerating democracy.** A sustainable politics, a politics capable of future ***is a politics that firstly accepts to regenerate itself.***