

GEM CHAPTER OUTLINE - **De-Growth/Post-Growth**

"This section sets out alternative options and a call to action for a NIFEA and an Economy of Life. It seeks to boldly debunk current economic models and offer these alternatives drawing on modern case studies." It would be good if we could team up on this. Question would be how we select and produce case studies- something manageable and within our current stream of work: Arctic, Cbnn-LAC, Pacific and Africa?

Public Version: Can we bring Steven on this to help maximise the exposure we get from this work, leading up to the establishment of the 501(c)? Perhaps an opinion piece in the Guardian or major regional newspapers, based on the same writing we do for the resource book chapter.

Relationship to Course Design: I think the structure of this article can inform our literature review and course development.

Introduction

From the book "Ecological-Economic Accounting: Towards Intemperate Values," (published in 2020, by the Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Theological College and the Oceanic Centre at the University of the South Pacific), we will outline a curriculum through which we can propose a program for implementing case studies in our various regions and communities, expressing strategies for rethinking our interactions with the environment in an ecological economic context. What is the process whereby the "intemperate equation" can be used to promote alternative markets of exchange, expressing monetary values that are more just and equitable in terms of restoring our ecological biodiversity, reversing climate change and redistributing global wealth?

Audience: G20 Leaders, Churches, Celebrity and Central Banks

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/10/namibia-is-positioned-to-become-the-renewable-energy-hub-of-africa/>

Benjamin Franta: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09644016.2021.1947636>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/working-group/wg3/>

Designing Questions

Can economic growth be decoupled from ecological damage? Relative decoupling vs absolute decoupling of GDP from CO2 emissions.

How does growth measure human prosperity and wellbeing? Growth is not an economic measure, but a military and civilizational measure, and ultimately a competitive measure among nation-states?

What is the cycle of motivation that IA creates in consumer and producer activity? What is the policy framework that it requires and creates through its own function?

Themes

Confronting European Indigeneity in analysis of Research and Technological Development, Urban-Rural Movement, Indigenous Urbanization and Status Claims

Reconciling economic growth with ecological sustainability

Martin Kopp: Contribution to NIFEA E-Conference on DeGrowth- Living Sufficiently and Sustainably - 01 October 2021 (WCC): “Growth of what? Growth for what? Growth for whom? Growth how much? Growth how far?”

These elements have not been measured. We must protect sovereign wealth creation and wealth regeneration from wealth destruction or conflict-driven emergency wealth extraction.

The Green New Deal? – Reforming Green Politics and Ecological Political Economy

Key Questions:

Civilizational-Cultural Roots of the Growth Narrative

While much of the discourse around climate change has been one of an apocalyptic reckoning with the impacts of a model of economic organization, it is useful to note that the logic of this economic system reposes on a deeper moral discourse of emergencies, contagion and apocalyptic confrontations with historical and spatio-temporal enemies. Growth rates are rarely considered outside of the realm of comparison to other entities, as growth, like GDP, measures welfare through an indicator of safety through relative power relationships.

Production, and the pursuit of growth stems from a perceptual dilemma, where growth is not pursued only for its own sake, but in competition with other entities, which have limited capacity to measure how much growth is needed to avoid relative weakness. Economic growth is thus built on a discourse of civilizational competition that translates economic wealth into capacity for military and political power. It is therefore of limited interest to engage with climate activism as an emergency, despite the reality and seriousness of the crisis.

Pathways and Options

How can the unit of analysis that related to GDP (the nation state) be measured? What are the ways to move beyond GDP per capita, that address the significance of the challenge?

How can human prosperity and wellbeing be best measured? How do we embrace a new ecological paradigm without falling into conservationism, romanticism in the post-Growth era.

Intemperate Accounting is a post-growth initiative that if or when adopted, could provide the kind of systemic sea-change necessary to tackle the three biggest issues defining ecological and economic justice: reversing climate change, restoring our ecological biodiversity, and redistributing global wealth and as we begin to unpack the details of what this means, we are really talking about how Intemperate Accounting addresses the crisis of global governance.

What Intemperate Accounting does is three-fold: Firstly, we've created a more just way of measuring baselines; secondly we include a factor that allows for a relatively seamless transition away from the dominant GDP-based national accounting system towards one where Wellbeing indicators can modify our national accounts; and thirdly, we are inclusive of real-world market strategies that can make this financially viable for developing countries and underserved communities.

Firstly, a more just baseline. Typically, economic baselines are the starting point—or the base—from which to measure growth. From an economic perspective, baselines are set as a measurement of gains and losses. Baselines could be an absolute figure or a relative figure, but regardless all indicators that measure growth are determined by the baselines we set. Baselines are the starting point.

The unique thing that the intemperate baseline does is that it inverts the starting point to be the goal and therefore uses data to measure and give value towards restoring those baselines. This inversion towards restoration, rehabilitation, and redistribution is a foundation for the kind of systemic reparations necessary to break out of this cyclical terror of history that repeats itself over and over again. This reversal *is a much better reflection for measuring environmental and social indicators, as it gives value to people's interactions with ecological and wellbeing indicators rather than treating everything as a commodity.*

This inversion is represented in this equation, with “n” representing the factor that is being restored. You can apply this to almost any environmental or social wellbeing condition and record this in quantifiable terms to meet the real world conditions for auditors and regulators. This is simply a mathematical formula that can be tested with any input-output table, and one would indubitably find that over time, our interactions will determine the rate by which restoration and rehabilitation can occur in quantifiable and relatively predictable terms.

Rather than a top-down commodity driven approach where environmental values are leveraged against carbon offsets for example, the intemerate baseline is a bottom-up approach where environmental values are determined by the interactions of local communities. We argue that there is no one better than local, indigenous, or customary processes to develop and benefit from the services and technology needed to meet their targets and goals on their timeline. And what we mean by that is how we restore our ecological biodiversity, or alternatively in more urban settings, how underserved, impacted and vulnerable communities can access their own efforts towards revitalization. By inverting the baseline, there could be a verifiable way to quantify how indigenous, customary, and impacted communities can determine what their baseline is, via their own processes, interactions, and value systems and essentially own their own data to protect the inherent wealth of their environmental, health and wellbeing factors.

We have developed a kind of curriculum that outlines the macro and micro coordination needed to implement and grow this framework, but what we lack is the kind of on-the-ground institutional support that our interfaith councils offer, and the ability to communicate this story to their communities. Organizationally, we have developed some tools like the intemerate characters, the manifesto and the curriculum, but we simply need more engagement with institutional governance.

When we consider the accounting standards checklist for ESG or Environmental and Social Governance, we're talking about a reporting format focusing on corporate governance around nonfinancial measurements for environmental sustainability and social impacts. ESG, has not yet been standardized or quantified, which I would say is one of the objective goals in the current international climate and SDG meetings.

ESG reporting using cap and trade models, devalues the inherent unquantifiable costs of our ecological biodiversity in blue and green spaces against the value of carbon—measurements that are either overvalued when it comes to trade or undervalued when it is contextualized against our value of existence. One could treat the IA equation as a financial index—like a stock index—that can be packaged and managed by the very same communities that are doing the work. This is particularly relevant as the IUCN recognizes the central and essential role of indigenous communities in stewardship and conservation of biodiversity. There is a high potential for creating new financial markets based on the measurement of our interactions rather than on the valuation of commodities, shifting the demand for extraction towards one that values service. This data belongs to indigenous and customary rightsholders and stakeholders, not Wall Street fund managers. Data capital provides triple benefits with sustainable livelihoods,

Forensic Political Economy – From Environmental-Economic De-Growth to Re-Growth

Forensic Political Economy can be defined as the professional practice of determining the causes of failure to perform intended functions, perverse results or impact, lack of efficiency or resilience in a politico-economic network or system and providing options for actions related to the technical restructuring of that network or system, including the identification of parties responsible for that restructuring. Forensic Political Economy is specifically geared towards providing a basis for the recognition of mutual interests and is necessarily a balance of attention to global or macro factors which cannot be traded, and micro factors which can be commoditized, owned and traded. It also focuses on the relationships between these two, in the context of local and regional policy and economic environments. The scope of operations of forensic political economy includes multilevel system mapping, the reconstruction and critical assessment of past systems, facilitation and clarification of implications of relationships and systemic change, and the modelling of future systems.”

| MACRO | LINK COLOUR | MICRO |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Environment | | Human Effort |
| Time (incl. Rights and Freedoms) | | Capital |
| Energy | | Information/Knowledge |
| Rules/Networks | | Brand/Location |

IA Policy Framework and Case Studies

While many have posited a debate between Research and Development, Innovation Eco-modernism and Neoliberalism vs Fundamental Change in Economies – IA positions these two elements in different parts of a comprehensive change management framework by revaluing the basis upon which the former is valued and financed, and providing a means of both measuring and implementing the latter.

Transformative Pillars- Fundamental Transformation or Recognition of Existing Innovations? IA as underlabouring and communicating Strategic Industrial Policy, Strategic Monetary Policy, Strategic Financial Policy. Transformation on Youth Income Reform - RAGE. What is the timeframe of growth – future vs present (borrowing from the future)? Developing IA vision – developing a specific filter for democratic behaviour – financial and political action training. Valuation of social labour and definition of research agenda for further transformation.

Reformative and Defensive Pillars- Addresses the pulldown of Ecomodernism – Reducing Corporate Lobbying, Increasing Democratic Participation, Incentivizing and Disincentivizing Technology based on ecological and social appropriateness, Standards, Subsidies, Fiscal Policy. The Political Economy of Democratic Cycles – who are those who are actors that can capture the state and make environmental policy? The Political Economy of Misinformation as a means to confuse policy and social environments. Addressing misconceptions about Indigenous and woman-led technology, knowledge, and prosperity.

The global economy balances mass militarization, mass consumption and mass production as a form of regulating trade, finance, governance and property/wealth distribution. A response to the tendencies of such a model must address all four of these areas

What is required in the adjustment of specific aspects of the growth model.

The first aspect is the concept of money - FINANCE

Intemperate Accounting – definition

Page 9: IA alignment with NIFEA priorities

Can IA also function as the basis for a comprehensive debt workout mechanism, which is mentioned as a priority for the NIFEA (9, Priority 4)

IA as holistic economic measurement: IA also serves as a means to enable Priority 6 regarding the replacement of economic growth as an indicator of progress with indicators that assess the whole human social, economic and ecological condition (9)

Page 11: Sustainability Investments

IA equalization aligns with NIFEA action commitment 1

Conduct campaigns for the transfer of resources from rich, industrialized nations to low-income ones to strengthen their capacity to invest in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and energy efficiency. (p.11)

This approach should be extended to rural/isolated, indigenous and marooned communities within the rich, industrialized nations

Page 13: Public Expenditures

Integration of data banking or data commons into the concept of alternative banking forwarded in NIFEA commitments to share lessons from Islamic banking and historical Christian initiatives to address usury and promote risk-sharing between lenders and borrowers (p.13, Action 4 – Public expenditures)

Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)

Is there language to describe the relationship between IA and currency exchange rates?
Does price depression lower the value of CC exporters?

The second aspect is the concept of price – PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Intemperate Pricing must be built on differential treatment of four aspects of the process of production of goods

Design and Production

Marketing

Distribution

Intellectual Property

And five aspects of process of production of services

Design and Development

Infrastructural Development

Marketing

Commercial Distribution, Access and Presence

Intellectual Property

Page 15: Public Revenues

Public Revenue vs Tax Complicity

Tax system that includes royalties on natural resource extraction may have perverse results in terms of long term wealth creation and human security. IA allows for the taxation on intemperate values which reduce the public wealth dilemma where natural resources are sacrificed or monetized in order to provide for national human welfare.

The IA practice of price depression may complement the recommended changes in structures and policies under the NIFEA, namely point 2, page 15-

Use of the tax system to redistribute income when income inequality becomes excessive, including through negative income taxes or basic income grants for the very poor.

Does price depression represent a means to address tax avoidance and evasion by polluting companies, and promote the transition to less carbon-intensive production and consumption in relation to NIFEA recommendations to implement carbon taxation (p.16, point 5- public revenues)

Is there language to describe the potential impact of IA on financial transactions?

The third is the concept of intellectual property – PROPERTY

Intellectual property

Special attention should be given to primary production (hunting, fishing, farming) in relation to the residual IP rights accorded to producers to help reduce marginal risk of engagement in farming that may lead to non-optimal choices in sustainable farming or harvesting (AgrIP model) – this also relates to undertaking regarding reform of intellectual property rights regimes to benefit the global South (page 11, Action 3- sustainability investments).

The fourth is the concept of governance

Governance is a terms used to describe the form and function of institutions, networks and other structures that represent the context in which decisions are made and implemented. It also encompasses the means by which individuals and social groups, including states and other polities are represented within these structures. The crisis of governance with regards to degrowth comprises 1) the measurement of growth; 2) the inclusion and participation of all actors responsible for and affected by the measurement of growth; 3) the capture of state apparatus (legislature, central banking, judiciary and executive) by the interests of powerful actors whose influence is translated both by the identities of political and technical actors within government, and the dependence of political parties and governments on funding and partnership with monopolistic and democratic business institutions with limited membership.

Can IA be pitched as a promotor of democratic participation due to its impact on reducing insecurity, inequality and directly addressing the priority of fostering 'a just and democratic system of global financial and economic governance'? (page 9, Priority 5)

The ecological crisis and the economic crisis are inseparably intertwined (p.7).

Intemperate Accounting represents a strategy of both meeting the ends of justice while also acting as a means of justice through its use of equalization, and focus on community data ownership, participation and responsive pricing.

The approach noted on page 7 of an intra-disciplinary approach which derives from all theological disciplines may contribute to the development of a theosophical discussion on the relationship between Intemperate Accounting and varying religious groups.

IA derives its approach from academic and practical disciplines, including critical theory, political science, international relations, political ecology, accounting, economics and gender studies. (see page 7)

Page 8

The WCC's transnational capabilities are key to the success of advocacy for IA as a means of reparations. The call can include involvement of the leadership of the WCC in supporting IA as an economic and financial alternative, and playing a role in public opinion-formation and policymaking and implementation processes (8)

CASE STUDIES

- 1. Indigenous Arctic-North America- Inuit Nunagat-Urban Inuit**
- 2. Pacific Ocean**

3. Caribbean and Latin America (Afro-Indigenous-Latino)

4. African continent (Namibia)

We should define how IA works at each level of social being:

1. Human behaviours and experiences
2. Structures that shape and are shaped by human behaviour and experience
3. The worldviews, value systems and thought processes which embed and sustain these behaviours and structures
(8)

Indigenous Ontology, Epistemology, Axiology and Global Economic Governance

Centralized states will generally resist further devolution of powers to the UN. Sub-national institutions developed on the basis of ecologically recognizable spatial distributions (spatial justice) should also play a role in the function of the UN (overlapping jurisdictions, citizenships and borders)

What are the implications of IA for the function of the UN? – Translocal and Interglobal governance

Can IA potentially provide the UN with autonomous funding in terms of its investment and operational costs?

IA would ultimately inform governance structures at the national and regional level, by providing a new source of sovereign wealth that responds to the needs of disaster preparedness and resilience by providing these actions with economic values, and providing automatic triggers for access to credit and resources in the face of natural or anthropogenic disasters (point 1 – page 19 – Sovereign borrowing and debt)

and provide for the integration of economic, social and ecological security into multilateral decision making at the highest level of international relations (UN) as relates to recommended changes (point 2, 3, page 20- The United Nations System).

IA and Forensic Political Economy – Implementation and Next Steps

B. Dialogue Next Steps

IA can contribute to and integrate debate and discussion in the following areas:

Theosophy – Axiological, Theological and Ontological underpinnings of Growth, Human Rights and Collective Social Organization under IA

Global Governance, Political Economy and Finance

Education, Spatial Planning, Technological Development and Research Methodologies

Electoral Politics, Media and Socio-Political Action

C. Policy Next Steps

Economic Policy implications of Wealth Analysis

Industrial, Geopolitical and Trade Policy

- Holistic accuracy in financial market operations
- Ecological mercantilism
- Industrial Policy and IA
- Monetary and Fiscal Policy

Monetary policy is the attempt to create temporal conditions: stability of stores of value over time, stability of exchange processes through a widely accepted unit of exchange, which

allow for the production of micro-factors of production via the availability and diversity of sources of capital. This is achieved both by ensuring that there are ready sources of capital for social and economic activities which reinforce the system through Blockchain-based systems, the encouragement of barter to relieve inflationary pressure and allow for freedom of communication and association, and the development of robust systems of ensuring diversification both in terms of holdings of foreign currencies (SDR), regional networks (a regional virtual currency that tracks fundamentals of neighbouring countries that could have an impact on the local economy and currency). This should be done through the shifting of the role of central bank to the University, which is responsible for both the development of independent discussion and critique so that the issues faced by the population are fully reviewed in the creation of monetary policy, and the linkage between monetary policy and the key drivers of inflation and deflation: labour markets, imports, energy, financial speculation and resource concentration.

Fiscal policy is based on the creation of rules and networks which permit collective decision-making and financing of infrastructure for collective activity. This infrastructure and the activities which are carried out upon it constitute geographic positioning and influence the development of both notions of citizenship and the related phenomenon of branding. Fiscal policy is intimately linked then to the environment which constitute a second clear enabler of infrastructural development and related activity. It should eventually become possible to finance collective actions without taxes on income per se, as taxes should be valuations of the use cost and maintenance cost of macro-factors and collective goods or infrastructure and charged both in terms of the frequency and volume of use of these factors and services. Monetary or Temporal policy in this way should drive the development and deployment of technology which ensures privacy in social life, while allowing the tracking and proper accounting of liability. Part of this balance is the regulation of trade access and the size of the firms which engage in trade, while developing infrastructure which allows for these firms to benefit from economies of scale without having to themselves grow and develop such economies internally.

Social and Economic Policy

- Recognition of Intellectual Production and Social Labour
- Recognition of Non-wage Income Sources
- Restriction of elite political participation
- Recognition of Indigenous sovereignty

D. Research Next Steps

Intemerate Ratings

The following sources will be considered for the creation of the Index:

- A. Relevant academic publications
- B. Think-pieces on the definition of wealth and wealth-creation
- C. Case Studies
- D. Other relevant Indices
- E. Cities profiles
- F. Regional profiles
- G. Country profiles
- H. Technology News or Reviews
- I. Market Analysis

In creating content, we depart from a critical realist perspective on the generation of wealth as a function of the production, control and distribution of goods and services, in relation with aspects of our social and natural environment.

- 1) Exploratory Data Analysis (esp. statistical modelling and data display)
- 2) Value-chain analysis and SCM
- 3) Geographic Information Systems
- 4) Expertise or research interest in family-owned businesses
- 5) Expertise and research interest in finance and banking

As the project advances, the same skill set will be needed for the data analysis and presentation aspect, but it would be important to incorporate additional persons with

ethnographic, communications and interviewing skills, given that the bulletin should then include primary data collection and a lot more text production.