

Growth, Domination and Democracy. Shortcomings of the (De-)Growth Debate

Ulrich Brand, Chair of International Politics, University of Vienna

Institute of Political Science, Universitätsstrasse 7/2, 1010 Vienna (Austria)

ulrich.brand@univie.ac.at

Submission for core session (special session)

Narrative step: strategies for transformation

ABSTRACT

The growth critical debate could be more fertile if economic growth were perceived more carefully in its connection with the ruling capitalist and patriarchal mode of production and living. Then we can understand economic growth as a social relation which is intrinsically linked to societal domination and, hence, reproduces social structures. Moreover, societal domination is the basis of unsustainable societal nature relations. After a quick overview over the debate, my argument is developed with reference to feminist and (neo-)Marxist debates as well as to insights from political ecology. Democracy, I conclude, is in contributions to the growth critical debate absent or just mentioned.

Keywords: degrowth, domination, democracy, Marxism, feminism