



Introduction to diversal degrowth

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Diversel

- Idea from the Caribbeans (Archipelago with mix of cultures): Césaire, Glissant
- Facing the uni-versalism of growth: the idea is **not** to create a **new hegemony**, **neither** a **closure** on a given particularism, and **nor** a post-modernist **diversity**.
- Universalism (or rather pluriversalism) with bottom-up account of particularisms

Plan

- A- Why degrowth? The different “sources”
- B- How degrowth? The different ways
 - The scales
 - The limits to growth
 - The strategies
- C- Who degrowth? The different actors
- D- “Diversel”: dialogues for the continuous building of common “degrowth stories”

Growth universalism

- Uni-versalism in terms of **economic hegemony**
- This hegemony is presented as a (bull) fight between
 - Neoliberalism: priority to private enterprises
 - Keynesianism: priority to the state

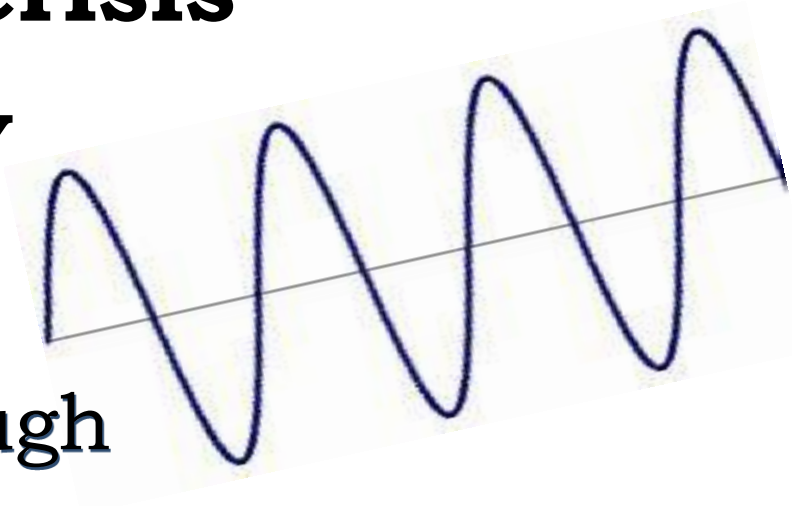
TINAS: There Is No Alternative Story

- We are stuck with growth narratives:
 - The Neoliberal story
 - The Keynesianism story
- Degrowth is a non-story

Facing the crisis

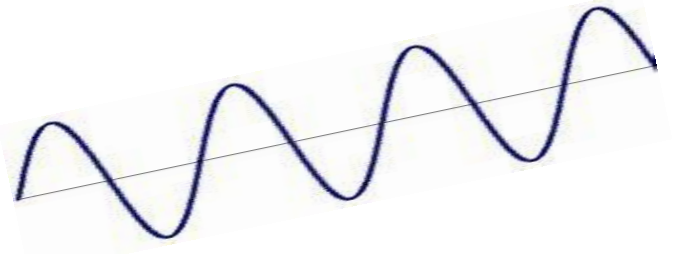
NEOLIBERAL AUSTERITY

The crisis is part of the business cycles and needs to be lived through



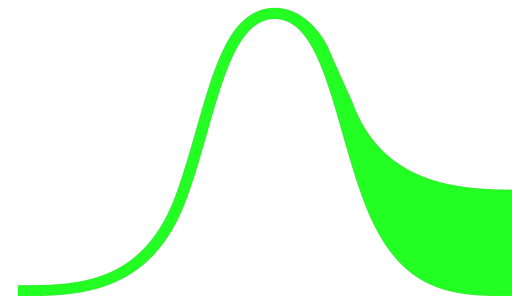
KEYNESIAN STIMULUS

We need to reduce the crisis with state intervention



DEGROWTH

*We are at a crossroad:
Other values*



Neoliberalism

- In times of crisis, neoliberalism turns into austerity (different from the “austere life” of Illich)
- Austerity consists of getting rid of what is not geared to growth, what is not efficient in the present context (anything that would be useful in a degrowth context)

Keynesianism

- In times of crises Keynesianism is about increasing public spending, letting new commodification take place, new infrastructure projects.
- Expanding the system to restart the growth engine.

A- Question 1: why degrowth?

- Let us identify different reasons for calling for degrowth.



Bioeconomy

Georgescu-Roegen

**Availability of resources
decreases (peak-all) and we have
to adapt**

*Degrowth represents a slower increase of entropy
(the decline of resources availability)*



Odum, Naess, Charbonneau

Ecology

**Respect to ecosystems
and life in general and
critics of industrial society**

**Degrowth is less ecosystem exploitation to allow
for their regeneration**

Critics of development and anti-utilitarianism

Latouche, Rist, Escobar, etc.

For human relations and
conviviality

There is another life
outside market relations

Degrowth is about decolonizing the imaginary: challenge to commodification, challenge to maximization of individual utility and to the western model of development



Meaning of life

Degrowth is
about
enjoying
simplicity

*Thoreau,
Gandhi,
Rabhi etc.*



For “coherence and
unity”
Instead of spending
our lives in
contradicting social
roles

For real democracy



Degrowth implies making real democracy possible
less manipulation from advertisements,
deliberation on the ideas of progress, development
It shall also be possible to challenge Growth in de



Justice

Veblen, Kempf, Sachs...

Less competition, large scale redistribution, sharing and reduction of excessive incomes and wealth instead of « trickle down philosophy »

Degrowth is about making justice possible

“Inter-source”

Concerns need to be combined

- Bioeconomy without meaning of life would be depressing
- Ecology without justice could be about human genocide
- Justice without democracy could be about top-down authoritarianism
- Degrowth without justice could be about closure
- Democracy without justice or information is not real
- (...)

B- Question 2: How degrowth?

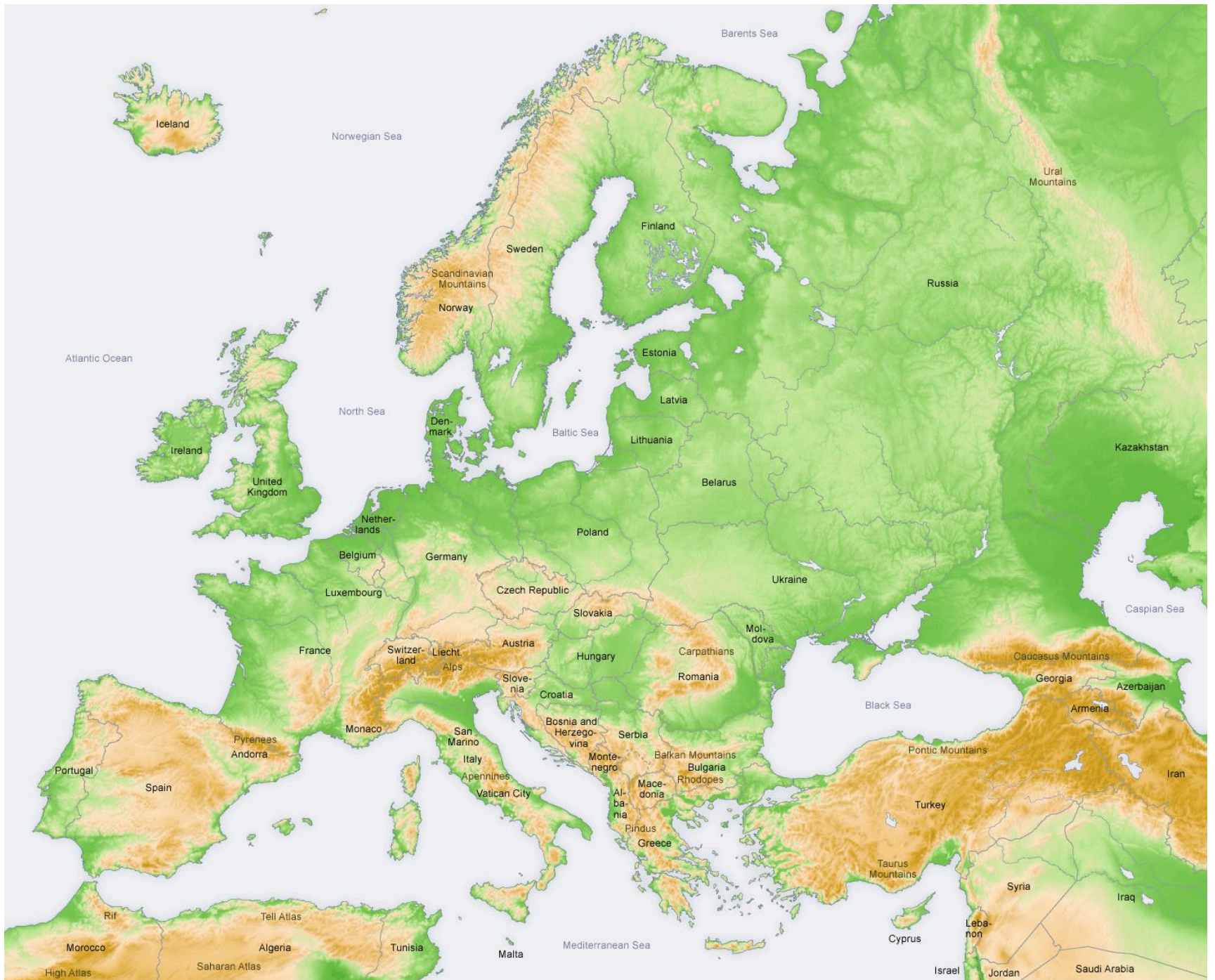
- Let us identify different ways to act for degrowth:
 - scales
 - limits to growth
 - strategies

Scales











From Limits (to growth) to
proposals

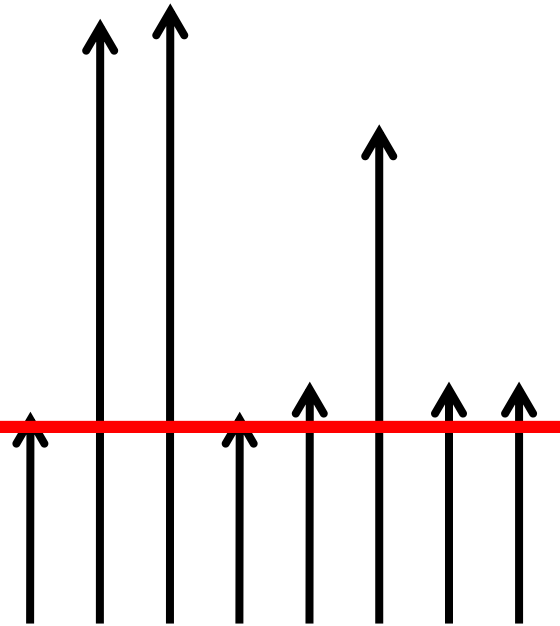
Our economy is dependent on growth

There are limits to growth, those create crises

The belief in growth (“Croyssance”) make us try to continue with artificial growths: overwork, expanding commodity frontiers, large infrastructures, financial bubbles, deregulation, social comparison, planned obsolescence, adverts, etc.

Ready for the crisis

Production and
consumption capacity



Capacities along different dimensions

**Desinequalities :
social
Security,
basic
services
and
max
incomes**





**Decommodification:
Banning adverts...**

Desenclosures: Sharing & commons...





**Anti-extractivism:
Leaving
resources
in/on the ground**

Slow-all: demotorisation, less speed...



Decommodification of time: Other relation to time, Caring, Work-sharing...



**Definancialization
Decapitalism:
100 % reserves,
local exchanges schemes....**



Strategies

Opposition: the “ANTI”- perspective

- Oppositional activism, such as the campaigners working
- to stop the expansion of developmental infrastructures of transport (i.e. highways, airports, high speed trains),
 - Challenging waste management (i.e. incinerators),
 - Opposing big dams and interlinking of rivers
 - Opposing nuclear plants, agrofuels.
 - Opposing extraction of minerals
 - (...)

Opposition takes different forms: demonstrations, boycotts, civil disobedience, direct action and even protest songs.



MARCHÉ POUR LA DÉCROISSANCE

GÉNÉRALISONS NOS DÉPENDANCES TRAVAILONS NOS TOITS

Frugal innovations - *Alternatives building*

Reuse and composting.

Co-housing and sharing

Ecological and dense housing.

Bicycles and public transport, Slow travel.

Open localisation

Face to face relations, Writing

Organic and vegan food

Renewable energy

Appropriate simple tools

Independent and participative information

Local exchange & currencies

Care and gift economy

Alternative health

Non-violence

Frugal life

Silence

91280
France
2002
1 €
SFS

S!lence

Écologie • Alternatives • Non-violence

Décroissance
soutenable et conviviale

Serge Latouche

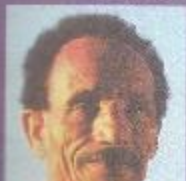
Mauro Bonaiuti

Bruno Clémentin

Vincent Cheynet

François Schneider

La décroissance



Politique

Reformism: actions despite-capitalism

- many actors oppose or challenge some institutions but only propose to reform others.
- some institutions actually need to be defended like natural areas and public health.
- On one hand we might have to defend the democratic institutions put at risks with the crisis and at the same time support the development of deeper, more participative and direct ones.

Who degrowth?

PRACTITIONERS



RESEARCHERS



2nd Conference on Economic Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity

BARCELONA
Spain
March 26-29th 2010



Keynote speeches
Working group on policies and research
Poster session
Plenaries

2nd degrowth Conference Barcelona 26th-29th of March 2010

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ACTIVISTS





ARTISTS

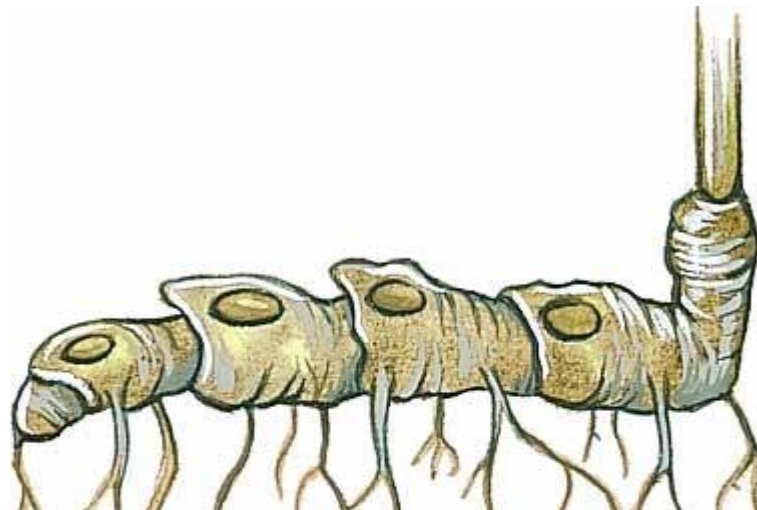
D- “Diversel”: the dialogues to build “degrowth stories”

MULTI- is not enough, we want INTER- !

A way to find

- Neither top-down universalism
- Nor tribal closure (local or not)
- Nor post-modern diversity

Diversal: Process of searching common narrative & pathways through horizontal **critical dialogues between equals.**





**The new frontiers
to cross are the
ones that make us
discover new ways
to satisfy our needs**

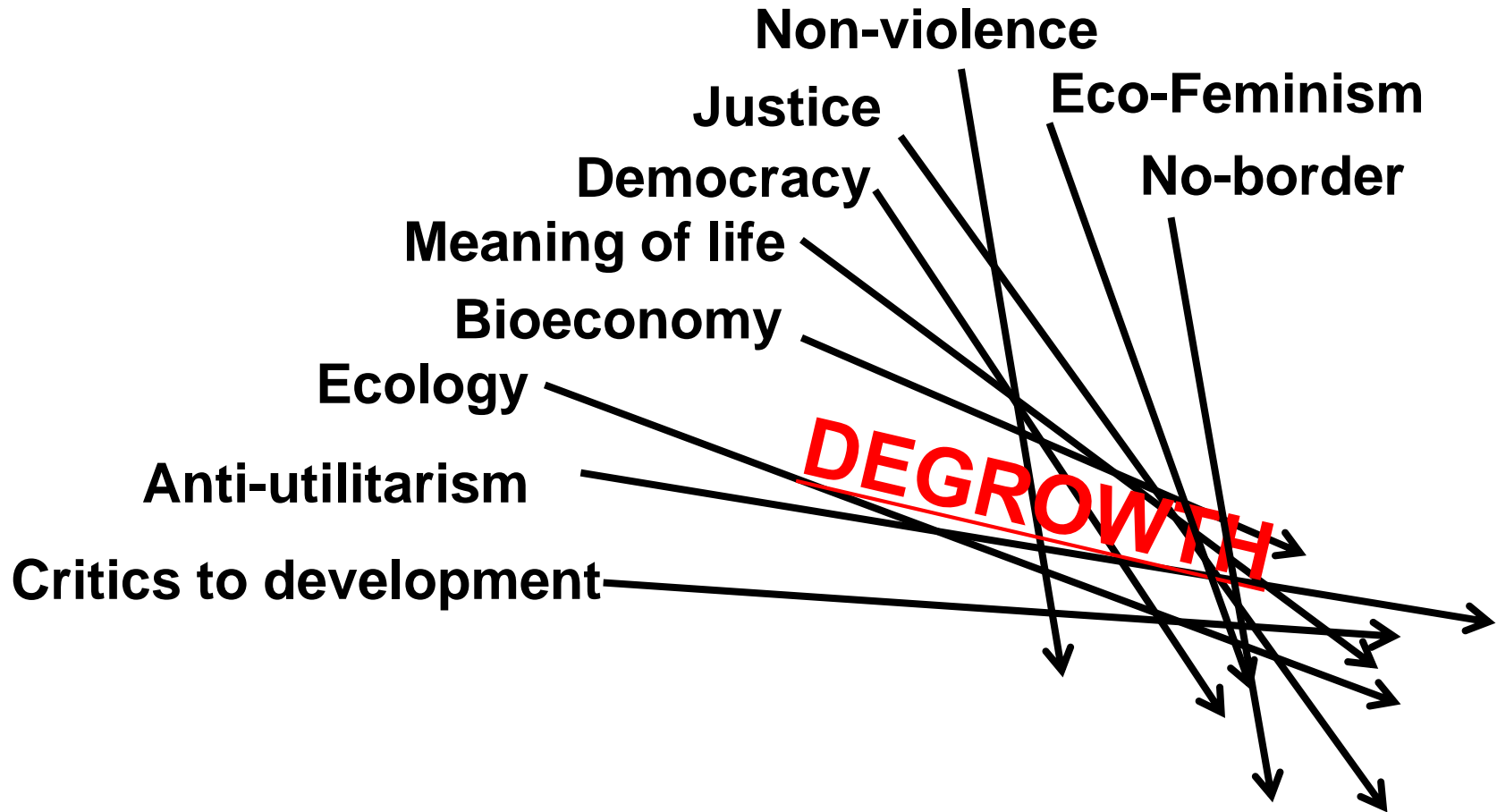
1- Dialogue of the sources

There is no unique definition of degrowth

Degrowth is a space of dialog where different ideals – democracy, justice, agro-ecology, bioeconomy, conviviality, good life – meet each other in order to constitute a sort of practical and theoretical utopia.

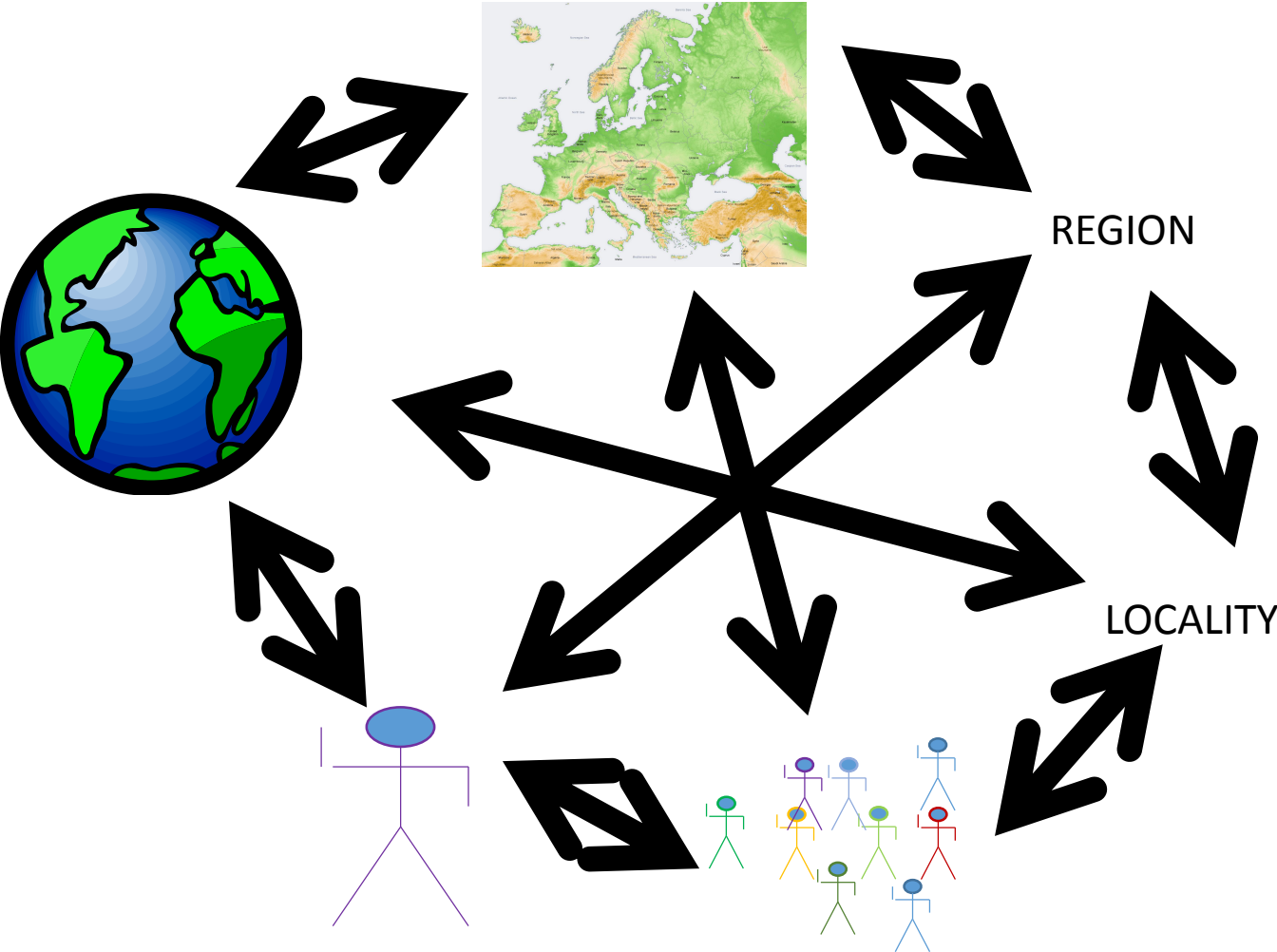
The concerns to which degrowth responds

Degrowth is not an ideology



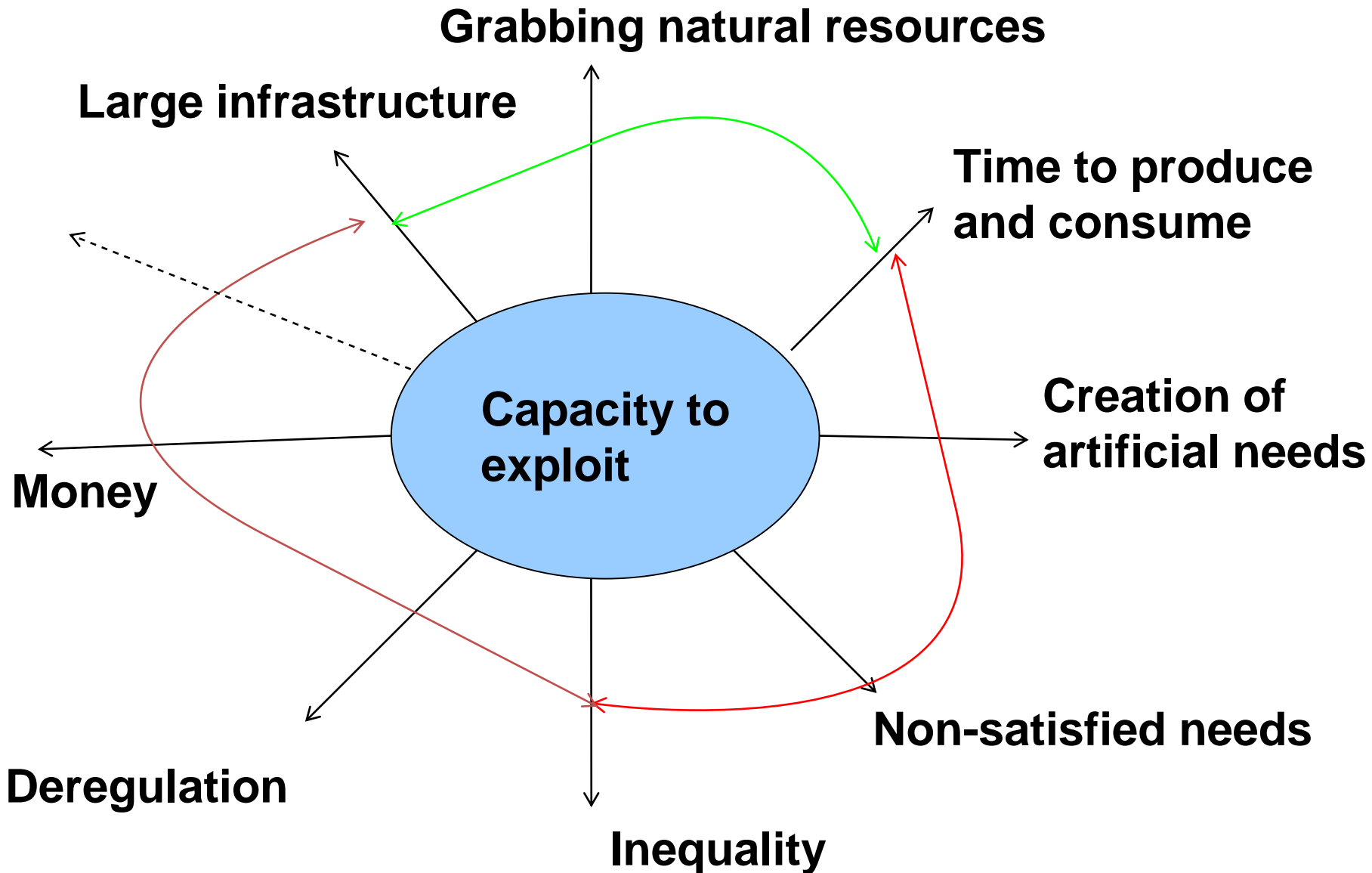
2- The interscale Dialogue

Building Interscale stories



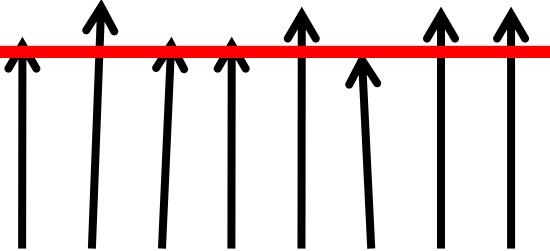
3- Dialogue of the limits to growth

Degrowth means acknowledging a combination of limits (not just physical limits)

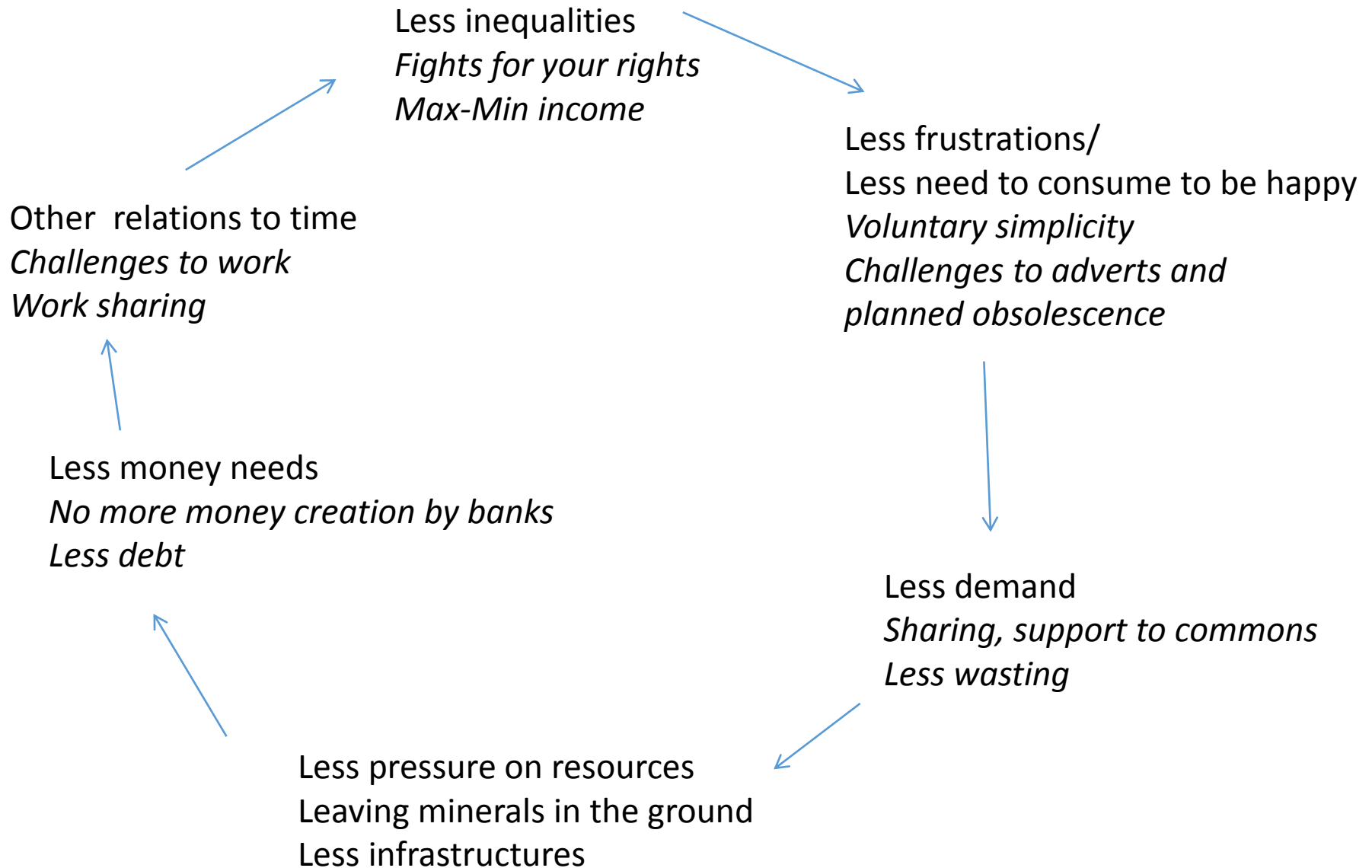


Ready for sustainable degrowth

Production and
consumption capacity



Building Interlimits stories



4-Dialogue of the strategies

Convergence of strategies

A-growth

Theory and dissemination

Local scale

.Alter-growth

Voluntary simplicity

.Anti- growth

Opposition to
some technologies

.Despite- growth

Small cooperatives

Larger scale

.Alter-growth

Developing new institutions

Anti-growth

Challenge some institutions

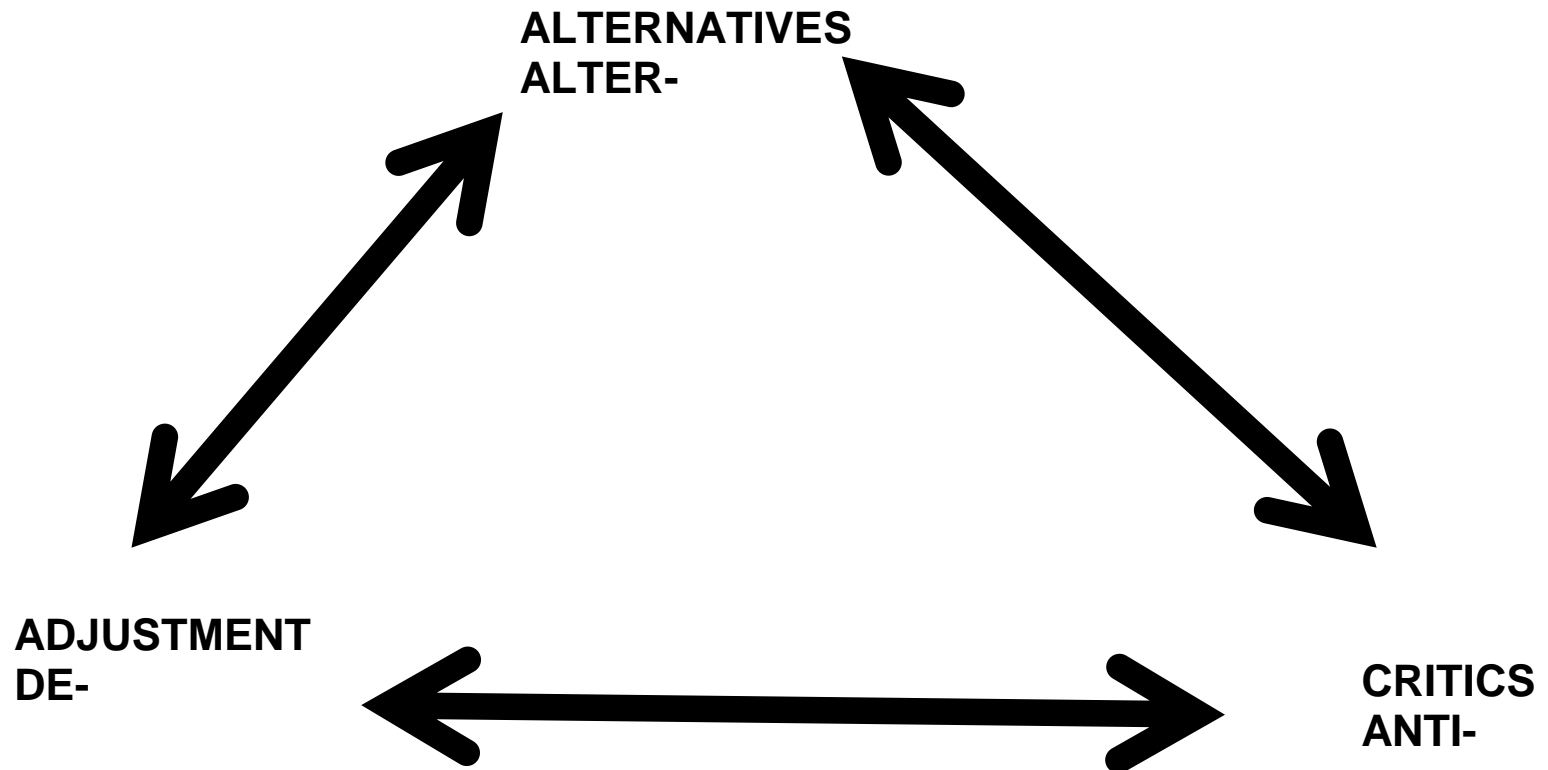
Despite-growth

Defend some institutions

Transform some institutions

Interstrategic dialogue

Degrowth is about critics to the existing, development of alternatives, substitution & interlinking.



5-Dialogue of the actors

Less specialisation

Multiple level actors

challenging the over-specialisation

- The degrowth multiple diagnosis relates to
 - local actors (activists and practionners),
 - researchers (inside or outside academia),
activist-led science: concept that can be analysed by academia
 - and society-wide politics (activists and policy makers)

Usually “Researchers - Activists – Practionners”

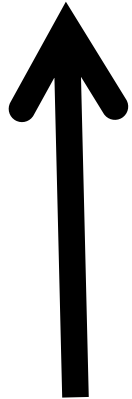
Acting and thinking at local, global and intermediary levels

Degrowth combines strategies.

PRACTITIONERS
(put in practice theory,
Improve thinking)



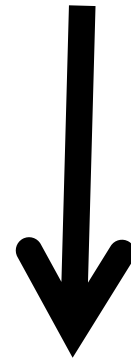
ACTIVISTS (makes
practice and theory
known)



RESEARCHERS
(Develops understanding
of links, build on the understandings
developed by practice)



ARTISTS
(bring non utilitarian
perspective, supports
all other actions)



DEGROWTH

Community of Project
NOT Identitarian



Can Decreix is a place to **demonstrate** and **reflect** around the topic of **degrowth**. Can Decreix is a centre for **transformation** (of fruits, vegetables, constructions, societies), for **research**, for **testing** frugal technologies, arts, agroecology. . .



- Contactez-nous à network@degrowth.org (Espagne) ou Contact@degrowth.net (France)
- www.degrowth.org