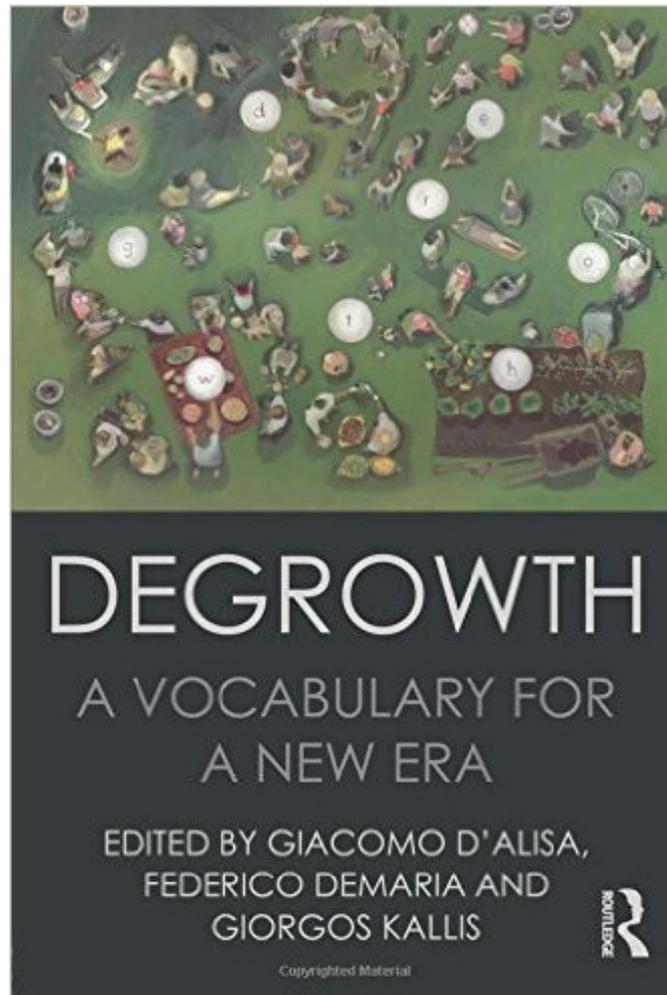


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Degrowth: A Vocabulary For A New Era



Synopsis

Degrowth is a rejection of the illusion of growth and a call to repoliticize the public debate colonized by the idiom of economism. It is a project advocating the democratically-led shrinking of production and consumption with the aim of achieving social justice and ecological sustainability. This overview of degrowth offers a comprehensive coverage of the main topics and major challenges of degrowth in a succinct, simple and accessible manner. In addition, it offers a set of keywords useful for intervening in current political debates and for bringing about concrete degrowth-inspired proposals at different levels - local, national and global. The result is the most comprehensive coverage of the topic of degrowth in English and serves as the definitive international reference. More information at: vocabulary.degrowth.org View the author spotlight featuring events and press related to degrowth at <http://t.co/k9qbQpyuYp>.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The appearance in English of a militant book about degrowth is an all too rare event, but a welcome one. "Degrowth" in its contemporary sense is most often an umbrella term for a variety of political and philosophical positions questioning whether economic growth should be a social, political and economic priority. Debate about this subject is very important for our collective future. This book by more than 45 authors approaches the subject through the filter of 51 concepts. Each concept is allotted a very concise chapter, with from 1-1/2 to 3-1/2 pages of main text followed by a list of no more than half a dozen references. [ADDED 2016 May: Unfortunately, sparse as they

are, these lists are riddled with minor errors -- as I discovered once I started trying to use them.] The Foreword, Introduction and Epilogue are also worth reading (with the editors allowing themselves a longer reference list, of about 40 cites, in their Introduction). The concepts chosen include many that are frequently discussed in the degrowth literature, some that are pertinent but less often mentioned, and at least one where the author of the related chapter repudiates any connection [50] (bracketed numbers refer to chapters, not pages). The effect is something like a mini-encyclopedia, coming in at a very modest 220 pages or so. I'll have more to say about the brevity of the book and of the reference lists below, but let me say at the outset there are some good articles here, many of them by contributors new to me. Overall I was very heartened to see that many more people, especially younger scholars, are getting interested in this field.

Whether we like it or not, the West may have entered a structural crisis which unfolds not only as a prolonged economic recession but also as a crisis of environment, social relations which points out to a more general crisis of "meaning". The political debate and dialogue in Europe and globally is mostly articulated along the sterile dilemma austerity vs growth or in other words conservative neoliberalism vs neo-Keynsianism. Furthermore the most of the reactions against the crisis even those who come from the most radical political organizations and intellectual thinkers often fail to address and/or to provide with alternative proposals because they are "trapped" into the same language and discourses which reproduce the aforementioned sterile dilemma. This book tries to push the dialogue beyond the dichotomy austerity or growth by introducing either notions which have been neglected for a long time or by introducing entirely new notions. Drawing on very different sources this book tries to employ "a new vocabulary" not only in order to expand the existing one but also in order to link discourses, scientific fields, social movements, innovative social practices, traditional knowledge and indigenous movements from allover the world and many more into a dynamic political proposal, namely, the proposal for a future where economic growth will stop to operate as an imperative and as "master of signification" for the entire life in the planet.

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