

## **Ecological economics modelling and degrowth - Modelling degrowth theory and proposals for prosperity and social equity**

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Degrowth calls for a sustainable downscaling of production and consumption, to enhance well-being and environmental sustainability. It is important, for the widespread acceptance of this aim, to show how and under which conditions sustainable degrowth can be achieved. In order to gain a broad political legitimacy, the social and environmental effects of no-growth policies need to be shown and contrasted with business as usual scenarios in which the socio-environmental consequences of negative growth are tested. Quantitative analysis and formal modelling are useful tools to provide a credible answer. As well, they are urgently needed in degrowth studies –a field which can be so far characterized for the prevalence of qualitative analysis and literature. In this perspective, it is important to integrate degrowth policies in the novel field of ecological macroeconomics: what results could the introduction of social and environmental policies have in a non-growing economy in terms of equity, employment, well-being, resource conservation or environmental quality? The development of this kind of models is nowadays crucial to contrast conventional economic measures –such as austerity or stimulus policies- that have lately failed to reduce high levels of unemployment, poverty and insecurity and, at the meantime, not fostered economic growth. This session will present some of the most recent advances in the field of ecological macroeconomics in which economic modelling is applied - both in a theoretical way and with empirical values- to degrowth, no-growth and green growth scenarios. In particular, the effects of the implementation of degrowth policies such as work time reduction, basic and maximum income, job guarantee will be tested in terms of poverty reduction, unemployment rate and social equity, as well as on environmental quality such as resource conservation and climate change mitigation. Results from these models demonstrate that with the adoption of adequate policies sustainable degrowth is possible.

The special session has been organized by the Postgrowth Economics Network.