

di: 'Angewandte

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien
University of Applied Arts Vienna



Club of Rome - Austrian Chapter
Verein zur Förderung des Club of Rome - Austrian Chapter

Nachhaltige Entwicklung I

Grundlagen nachhaltigen Wirtschaftens

11. Vorlesung:

Lebensqualität, Wachstum und wirtschaftliche Nachhaltigkeit

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12. Jänner 2021



What to expect today?

What is economic growth and what is it for?



growth

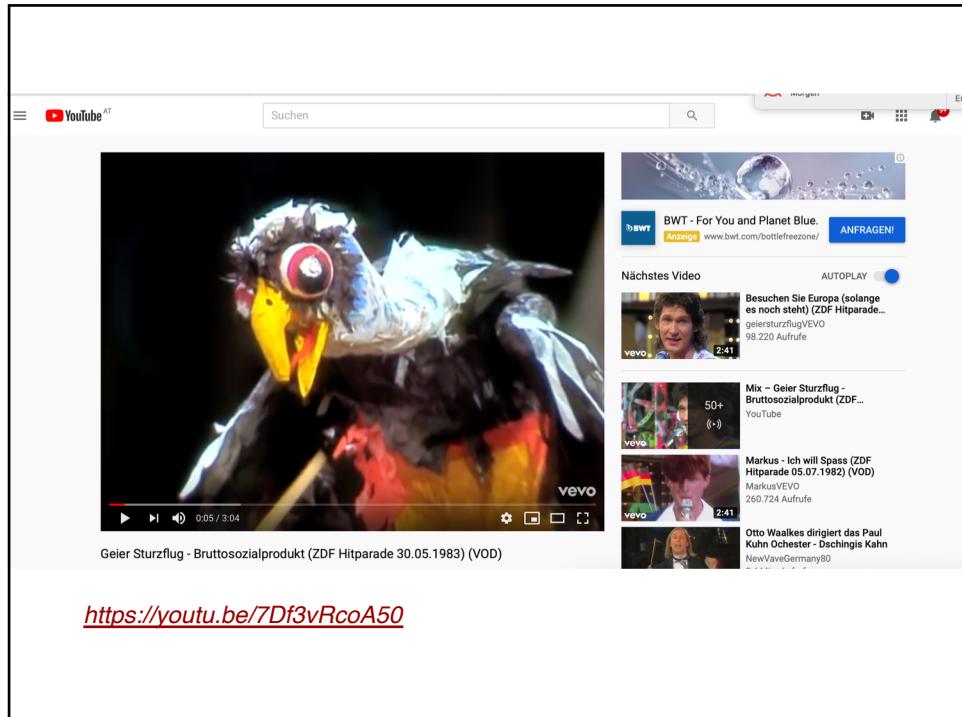
- The WHAT, the WHY, the BUT and the HOW
- A short story of growth – from the 1960 until 2050
- Resources as drivers and problem
- Are we in a growth trap? No!
- What now? 7 things, anyone can do and 7 challenges for policy

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What? Concepts of growth

- **Quantitative** growth
- **Economic** growth
- Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**)
- **material growth (ressources)**
- **Qualitative** growth
- Quality of **life**
- **wealth**
- sustainable **development**

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Why do we „need“ growth ?

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Why do we „need“ growth ?

- growth brings **prosperity**
- growth creates and secures **jobs**
- growth strengthens **productivity** and **competitiveness**
- growth enables **environmental protection**
- growth enables **social security** and paying **for debt**
- growth makes **redistribution** possible and reduces **poverty**
- growth is **progress**

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BUT: is growth harmful?

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BUT: is growth harmful?

- growth leads to **over-consumption** without more well-being
- growth leads to more **intensive work** and **stress**
- growth increases risks from new technologies
- **growth speeds up environmental pressure**
- growth increases **debt**
- growth policy increases **inequality**

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How? drivers of growth

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How? drivers of growth

- consumption
- labour
- energy and resources
- capital
- trade
- technical progress
- societal change

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What creates growth (in economic terms)?

- ▶ ***supply***
- ▶ ***demand***
- ▶ ***supply:***
labour, capital, resources and technical / organisational progress
- ▶ ***demand:***
consumption, investment, government spending, exports (minus imports)

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And: growth slows down

Economic growth

- ▶ Das **gross domestic product (GDP)** : everything **we produce and consume within a year**.
- ▶ Today in Austria: **44.000 € / person**

- ▶ 20 years ago: **30.000 € / capita** (growth since then: 50% = 2%/year)
- ▶ 40 years ago : **16.000 € / capita** (growth in 20 years: 150%)
- ▶ 60 years ago : **6.500 € / capita** (growth since then: 7fold increase)

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And: growth slows down

- Individual limits: less **consumption**
- demographic change: less **workers**
- technological change:
productivity **slows down**
- **environmental limits: resources, ecosystem services**
- economic limits: **financial markets**
- social limits: poverty and **inequality**
- political limits :
growth policy does'nt work

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What now? Beyond growth!

- Konsumwelt: **Lebensqualität** jenseits des Wachstums
- Arbeitswelt: Gute Arbeit (für alle!), die wir wirklich, wirklich wollen
- Global: **fairer Handel**
- Umwelt: **Dematerialisierung um den Faktor X**
- Wirtschaft: **Investitionen** in die Zukunft und Balance zwischen Human-, Sozial-, Natur- und Finanz**kapital**
- Gesellschaft: mehr **Gleichheit**, weniger Armut
- Politik: **Ziele** und Messung ihrer Erreichung

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growth

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Ressources are **drivers** of growth

- Coal and oil “fuel“ **growth**
- But also: **colonialisation**
- Today: **rar earths** and „spice materials“
- But also: **renewables are scarce**
(needed for food, feed, energy and production)

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the **problem** with ressources

- It started with **emissions...**
- **toxicity**
- „**Waldsterben**“, **climate change...**
- Biodiversity, water scarcity, deserts grow...
- These are all **effectrs of resource use**
- internationale **konflikts**, increasing **costs**
...

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The **limits** are here!

- 1972: report by the Club of Rome „limits to growth“
- Energy **crisis**, Tschernobyl, Fukushima, **Peak Oil**
- Global 2000: report to the US president (1970ies)
- NGOs and env, ministries founded...
- **Food** crisis, migration, ...
- energy and **foodprices**
- Housing crisis -> **economic crisis**
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development:
Vision 2050: no particle of waste

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growth

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do we **need** to grow to...

- ... gut zu leben? Nein! **Mehr ist nicht immer besser.**
- ... gut zu arbeiten? Nein! **Auf die Verteilung kommt es an** (im Leben, zwischen den Menschen)
- ... etwas aufzubauen? Nein!
Nur im gegenwärtigen Finanzkapitalismus
- ... gesund zu bleiben? **Nein! Im Gegenteil**
- ... **Die Umwelt zu schützen: Nein! Im Gegenteil:**
Nullwachstum erleichtert die Dematerialisierung
- ... Einkommen/Vermögen umzuverteilen.
Nein! Im Gegenteil: Wachstum verteilt (heute) von unten nach oben
- ... Exportweltmeister zu bleiben: kümmern wir uns lieber um unseren eigenen Wohlstand

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What can I do?

- consumption: investment in „**true values**“
- work: do what you really really want
- **resources: reduce our “ecoological rucksack”**
- capital: living *with* the stocks
- trade: regionality is value for everybody
- less speed: things we consume require time
- Engage! : vote for the „right“ policy

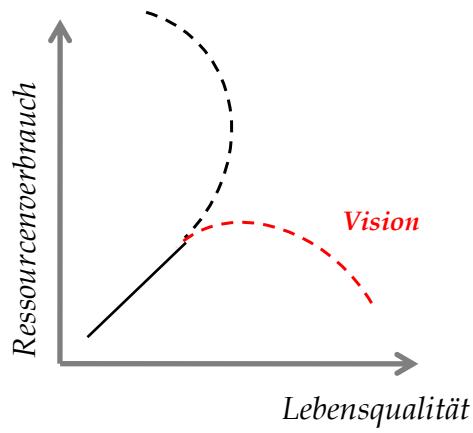
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What's up for Policy?

- Eco-social tax and subsidies
- a magical triangle: work, pensions and health
- capital: money reform!
- Strenghten real economy instead of financial markets
- Basic income (unconditional?)
- New measurement of progress
- globale goals for global fairness:
resources for all!

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Where to go?



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So what? Implications

- It doesn't matter whether we are **for or against growth**
- **growth slows down**
- People **don't feel the advantages of growth**
- **negative implications increase**
- Only **a minority profits**
- 99% of economic research implies growth
- **But:**
We can see **new kinds of growth!**

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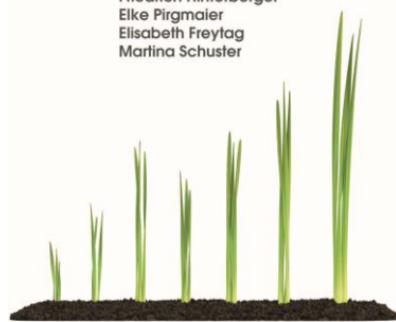
The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Growth in Transition' website. The header features the project's name in green text, with a large, abstract green graphic of overlapping circles below it. Below the graphic are navigation links: ABOUT US, PARTNERS, CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS, and NEWS / EVENTS. The main content area has two sections: 'GROWTH IN TRANSITION' and 'EVENTS'. The 'GROWTH IN TRANSITION' section contains a short text about the current financial and economic crisis and the need for a dialogue on growth. The 'EVENTS' section lists two conferences: 'Santiago Climate Change Conference' (2 December 2019 – 13 December 2019, Santiago de Chile) and 'Degrowth Conference Vienna 2020: Strategies for a Degrowth Transformation' (29 May 2020 – 1 June 2020, Wien). At the bottom of the page, there is a link to Jeremy Williams' presentation: <https://www.growthintransition.eu>. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.growthintransition.eu>.

The book

earthscan
from Routledge

growth in transition

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Vielen Dank für Ihre
Aufmerksamkeit!

Friedrich Hinterberger
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