



ABSTRACT FOR POSTER

SURNAME: Gazzola
NAME: Marta
MAIL: marta.gazzola@gmail.com
ORGANISATION: Bocconi University,
Master student – DES/Economics and Social Sciences

THEME: *Work*

ABSTRACT:

Before changing the world, we need to *be able to imagine* a different world. Speaking about the economic system, this means that, before discussing about the means to govern our new economic life, we need to imagine *how different* it could be. An exercise that is not difficult when we are talking about working more or less hours, consuming more or less goods or energy, or even about equity and solidarity, but that gets more and more difficult as we go deeper to the roots of the problems. Every person attending the conference would easily answer “no” to the question “do we, as humans, need to *consume* more and more and to *have* more and more?” and would then quite easily as well imagine a feasible solution to the problem that naturally follows: “so, how do we stop?”. Less easily would they find a solution to “how to stop *the economy* from consuming more and more resources and asking for more and more growth?”. To answer this question, indeed, we should first i) identify the drivers of this uncontrollable quest for growth and of other economic problems, for growth is just one piece of the puzzle, ii) understand where, when and why these drivers have been born, and iii) analyse the larger role they play in our society at individual, collective, national, and international level. Only once we have undertaken this study, we can tell *what* we want to change. And only once we know what needs to be changed, we can tell *how* to change it. The charge of the study can be left to academics and researchers, but the development of new political agendas and their implementation cannot. It is clear then, that it is of great importance to help citizens in raising their objections, as to direct the political debate towards those elements that they deem important.

Starting from i) the identification of the aforementioned drivers in the financial system, and in particular in how we define money, ii) the historical framework in which the latter have been born, and iii) the impact they have on the whole economic system and on society, this poster aims to bring to the attention of the reader some fundamental economic questions. Thereof, the purpose is not that of providing any direct answer, but rather that of provoking and stimulating a political debate, with the idea of empowering *all* citizens through teaching them how to frame their problems and how to build stronger arguments even in a field as complex and somehow mystical as economics has become.

Questions will then be posed, revolving around various problems – such as growing indebtedness, the epidemic lack of money during crises, financial speculation, the imperative of profit, unemployment and resource depletion –, as handling them altogether avoids the trap of reasoning in circles and allows for a deepness of analysis that wouldn't otherwise be possible. Participants to the conference will as well be encouraged to jointly formulate their own questions onto the poster. With the pragmatic end of widening the conscience and better defining the direction of movements linked to degrowth, complementary currencies, cooperative credit systems, the social economy, and so on, the desired outcome, at the end of the day, is to be able to imagine what can be feasible in a distant future and to see the existing movements also as part of the means to get there.