



THEME WORK

SUB-THEME:

Job, Income and Leisure

TITLE OF WORKSHOP

Work less, earn less, be richer



PROPONENT:

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LEISURE TIME, PART TIME, RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Aniello De Padova, Italy

Economic degrowth, namely the creation of a market system based not on the destructive consumption and continuous replacement of durable goods with fewer and fewer new goods which are even less durable, is not possible without a total reorganization of the production system, and must strike a new balance between production, use of factors of production and consumption. To make this new balance must mean to produce less and better, which -unless you decide to reduce the productivity deliberately- has the consequence of a reduced need for hours of work. This inevitably involves a drastic reduction in the time devoted to paid employment per capita and a proportional reduction of income (which is no longer necessary as a result of a reduced need for new products). In this context, a central theme becomes the use of “free” time which, of course, will not be used for “expensive entertainment” but used instead on processes of self produced economy and of gift and relationship economy. The workshop wants to look on the one hand at whether and what changes to the production system are necessary and the economic context in the massive increase of part-time jobs and, secondly, to probe the social consequences of a lifestyle in which the time devoted to paid work is significantly reduced. Issues that are proposed for discussion:

1. Since it is demonstrated that voluntary part-time workers have higher productivity, which seeks to identify ways to “convince” the production system to encourage more part-time volunteers.

2. Considering that an important share of the public debt stems from the need to provide services that counteract the decreased availability of time for workers, aims to evaluate whether the possible reduction in the gross domestic product as a result of the massive recourse to Part Time would be more or less than proportional to the reduction of public debt resulting from the increased availability of time.

3. Since the widespread emergence of part-time work would result in a consequent increase in leisure time, is to analyze what effect this would have on the medium term on community life with particular reference to the recovery of social, political and civic engagement and conviviality.



SUSTAINABLE JOB GROWTH

by Ole Busck, associate professor, Aalborg University, Denmark

Paper Abstract

Economic degrowth and job growth can and should go hand in hand.

What is the role of trade unions in a degrowth economy?

It may be difficult to imagine trade unions fighting for something else than economic growth, since they have always done so - with some success at least for a time. However, if their core business really is to secure jobs the present situation calls urgently for an alternative strategy. By prioritizing sustainable job growth trade unions stand to regain both their members and their historic position as an important power in the transformation of society.

NON GROWTH IN THE HOUSING SECTOR FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND ITS PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

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Paper Abstract

By thoroughly exploring the trends of the housing sector growth in Copenhagen (Denmark) and Hangzhou (China) metropolitan areas and its social, economic and environmental consequences, the paper argues for a non-growth and even degrowth in the housing sector in the global North and the wealthy cities in China. A simple thought experiment of a non-growing housing sector is made in order to identify what policies should be in place for a socially sustainable economic degrowth. A non-growing housing sector needs the facilitation of urban planning. The implications of this shift from economic growth to economic degrowth on planning in relation to values, substances, process and spatial arrangements are briefly discussed.



TACKLED ISSUES:

- Work: employment /self production/social commitment
- Degrowth and redistribution of job: part time
- Create decent job (qualified, recognized, meaningful and socially useful)
- Modify work by modifying relationships between worker-company-economy and dominant values
- New job forms: house job-job-sharing-flexibility-part time
- Equilibration and redistribution of richness
- What future for capitalist system?

Welfare and part time

- green economy
- Gender question in job
- Redefinition of needs
- Role of trade unions

GIVEN ANSWERS:

- Part time doesn't cost more to the companies
- Redistribution not degrowth of population
- Value of new forms of job (job sharing, part time..)
- Need of a new welfare
- Importance to involve trade unions in the economic transition
- New relationship for create decent job
- Necessity to modify the capitalistic system



UNANSWERED QUESTIONS MESSAGES AND COMMENTS:

- How survive with minimum wage and payment welfare?
- How promote legal ways for par time'
- Does a “sane” capitalism exist?
- What kind of richness can leisure time produce?
- Can green economy produce new jobs?
- Gender questions
- Work centrality in human life
- Reorganization of welfare