

Degrowth critiques
Ontgroeï Assembly
May 18th 2024

Degrowth embraces:

- A downscaling of consumption and production starting from all that is 'excess' and socially 'less necessary'.
- An increase of all those activities that improve collective and personal wellbeing, starting from 'basic needs' and 'universal basic services'.
- In a planned, democratic and just way

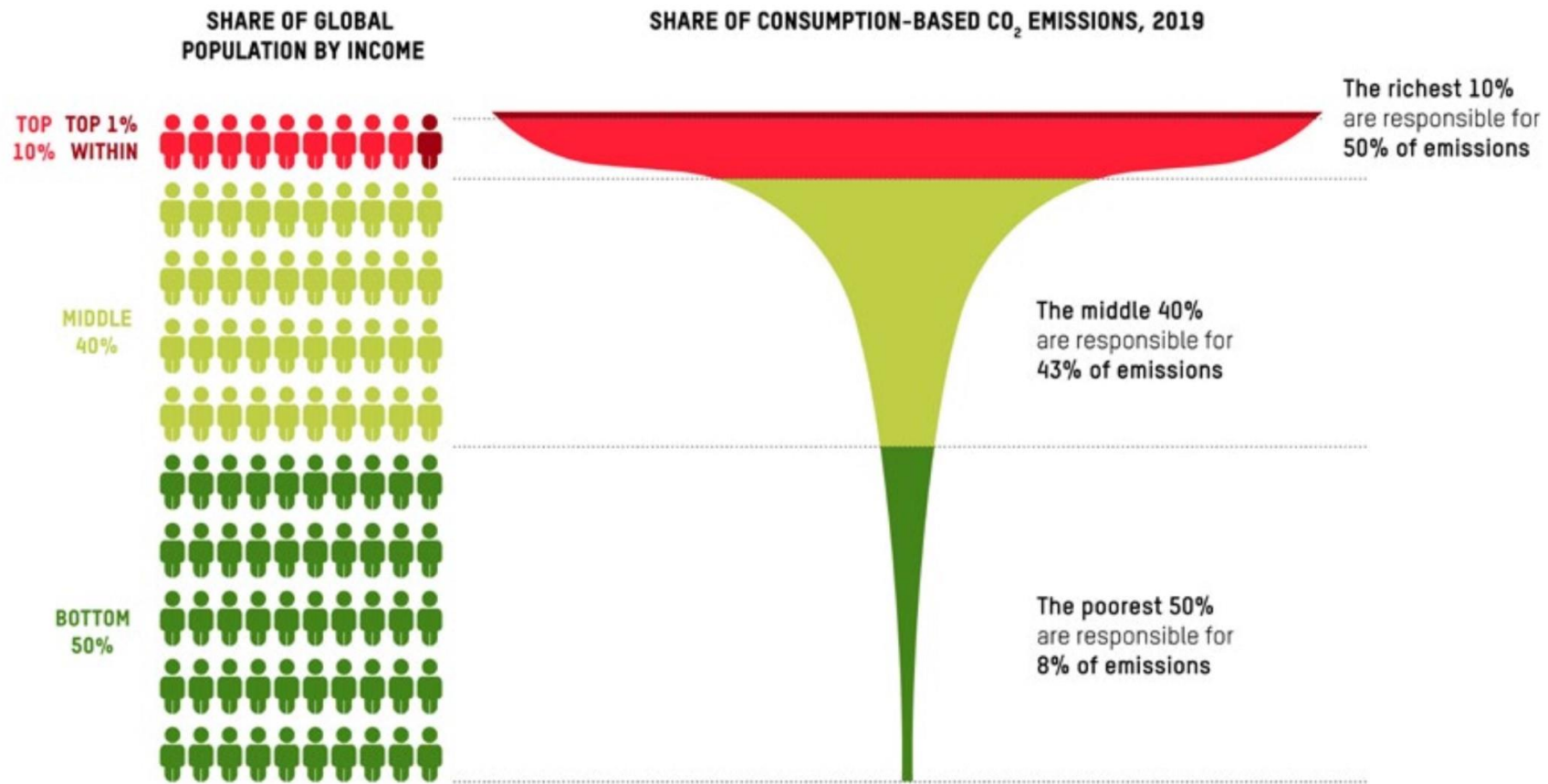
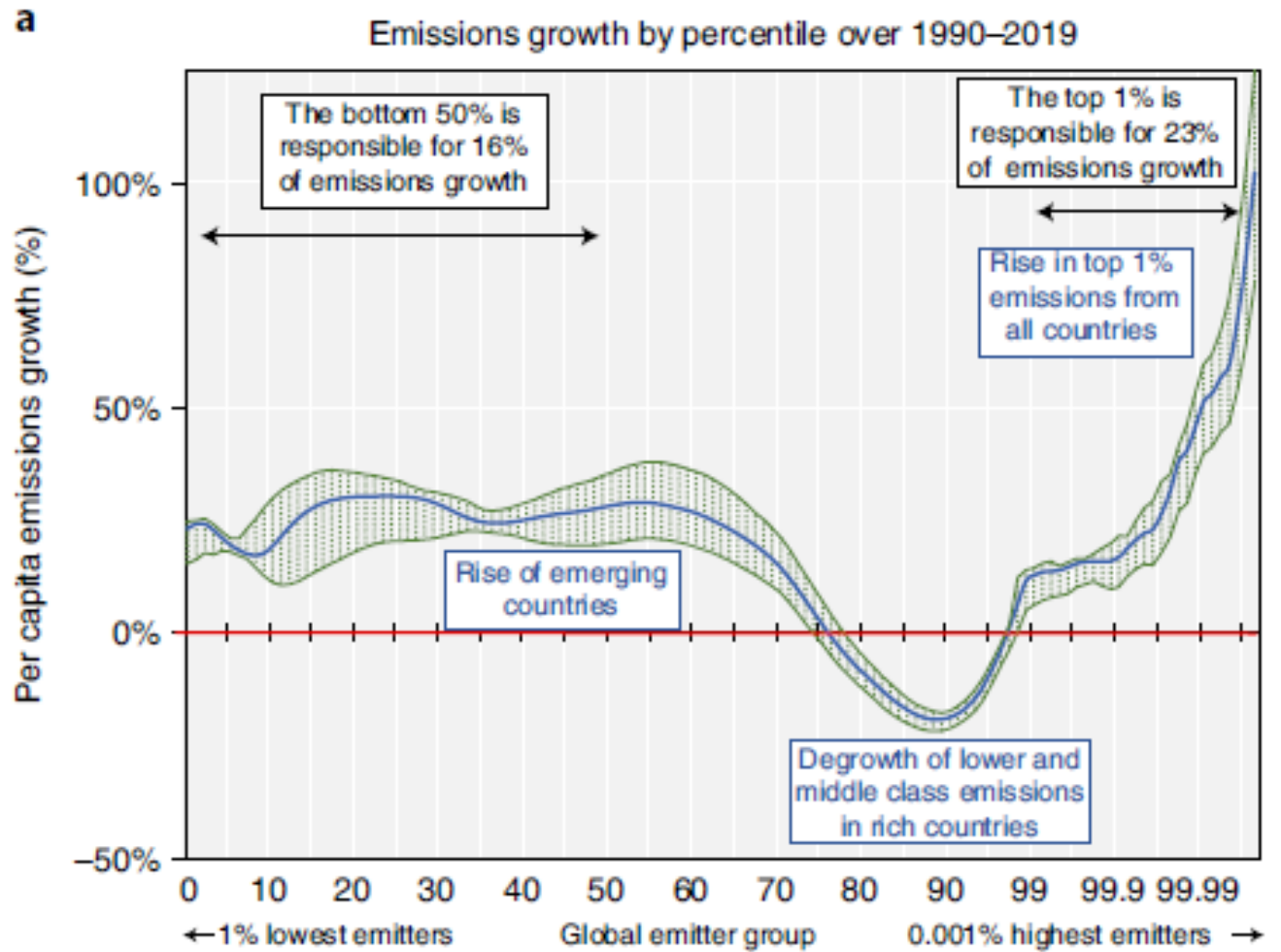
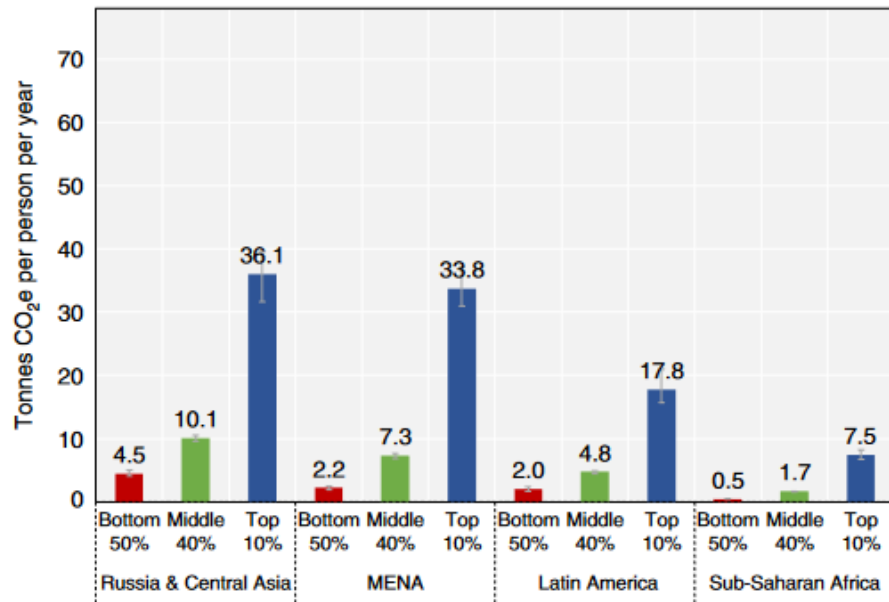
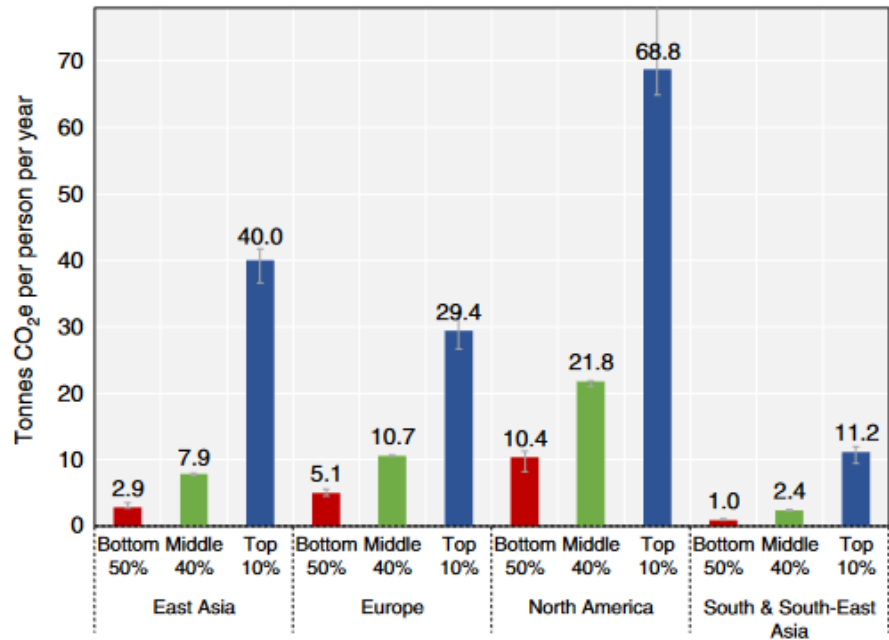
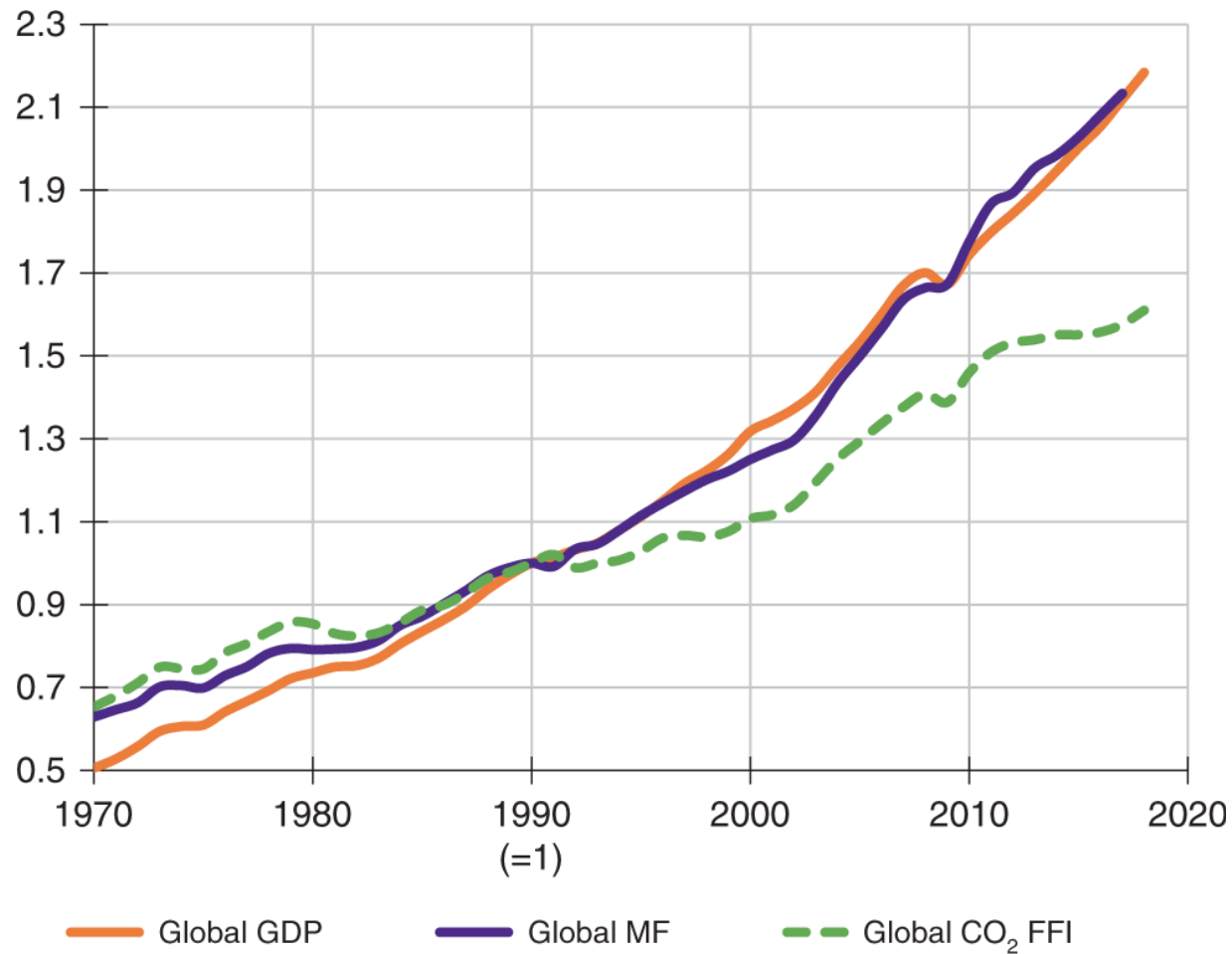


Figure ES.2 Global income groups and associated consumption emissions in 2019. Source: Oxfam/SEI.



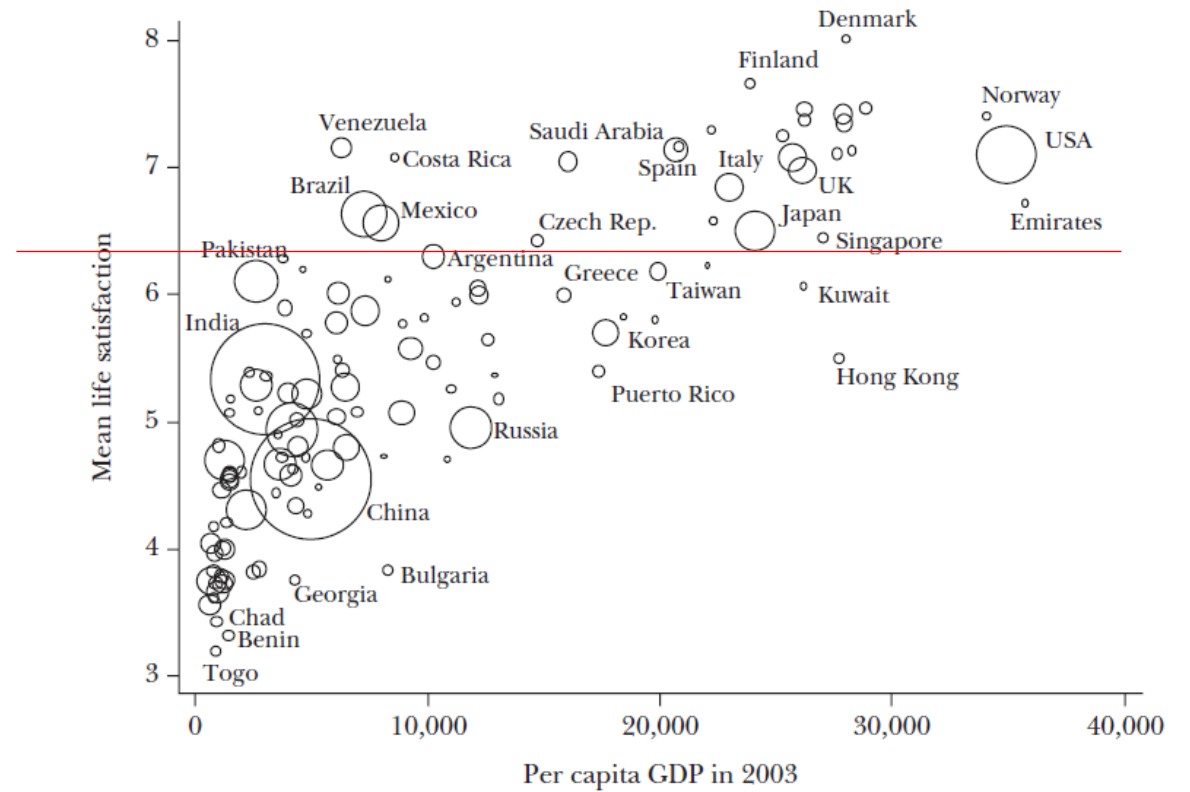
But degrowth rejects that:

- 1) Economic growth is good for society and personal well-being
- 2) Economic growth can be decoupled from environmental degradation
- 3) Economic growth is necessary to achieve social and environmental targets



Wiedmann, T., Lenzen, M., Keyßer, L.T. *et al.* Scientists' warning on affluence. *Nat Commun* **11**, 3107 (2020).

Figure 1
Life Satisfaction and Per Capita GDP around the World



Source: Penn World Tables 6.2.

Note: Each circle is a country, with diameter proportional to population. GDP per capita in 2003 is measured in purchasing power parity chained dollars at 2000 prices.

Critiques of growth

Increase GDP vs. carrying capacity

Popular culture of consumerism and self-exploitation

Social relations of competition and hierarchy

Capitalist system, commodification of labour and nature

Patriarchal and racialized politics

Techno-fetichism and industrialism

North-South domination and imperialism

Urban agglomerations shrink/destroy rural areas

Propositions of degrowth

Sufficiency economy and planetary boundaries

Alternative hedonism. Self-care. Pleasure

Conviviality and resonance. Autonomy.

Anti-capitalist. The commons. Valuing free time.

Politics of care – feminism

Convivial technologies, open access

Pluriverse of pathways.
Indigenous epistemologies

Urban-rural settlements. Bioregions. Regenerative cities.
R-urbanization