Degrowth

The Degrowth theme investigates how societies could be organized if economic growth is no longer an overriding social and political objective. In recent years, degrowth has been established as an umbrella term that critiques the centrality of economic growth in our societies and embraces various alternatives for ecological sustainability and social justice. A common misconception about degrowth is that it equals negative economic growth, or that it implies a return to pre-modern conditions. However, we see degrowth as offering new ways of understanding and experiencing good life. A notable feature of degrowth is that it circumvents many of the schisms by which our world is currently divided. Instead of reproducing the epistemological split between the natural and the social worlds, it examines them as parts of a whole. This is of crucial importance for studying and finding solutions to the interconnected economic, ecological and social problems our societies are facing. Although degrowth has origins in the global north, it also searches for alliances in the global south. It does not suggest that good life should be confined only to degrowth, but accepts the plurality of understandings of good life found across the globe, as long as ecological sustainability and social justice are at their core.