Capitalism without Growth or Degrowth beyond Capitalism?

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0. Roadmap

1. Critique of economic growth: GDP/HANPP…
2. Growth-Societies: *Structural* Role of Growth
3. *Cultural* Role of Growth: Growth as a mental infrastructure
4. Crisis of Growth-Societies
5. Crisis of Growth —> Crisis of Capitalism?
7. Degrowth as a project for social transformation
8. Discussion
1. Critique of economic growth: GDP/HANPP...
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  - GDP-Growth based on material flows in the economy —> impact on resources and sinks increases
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- Critique of *Material growth* —> Social Metabolism, HANPP,…
  - (Over)exploitation of 'funds' (socio-ecological economics) beyond regeneration of resources & sinks (ecology), & of labour (socio-economic)
  - Critique of how benefits & burdens are distributed (political ecology)
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- Critique of *Structural growth* —> Dynamic Stabilization
  - Fixation on continuous & exponential growing as only way of securing living standard & social stability (socio-cultural & socio-political critique)
  - Social Theories: acceleration, modernization, critique of capitalism & productivism ...
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  - Poverty Reduction & **employment** creation
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  - reduction of social conflicts --> bigger cake ≠ redistribution
  - output **legitimation**
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  - Human Capital as the investment asset of the new Homo Oeconomicus: entrepreneur of himself
  - Dividualized self (Deleuze/Eversberg)
    - self as a investment portfolio --> risks & responsibilities privatized
  - paradigm of 'better' not only of 'more':
    - enhancement, self-realization, improvement, 'development'
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- Disparity between economic growth and prosperity: broken trust!
- Undermines its own conditions of reproduction
- Crisis of output-legitimation of modern democracies
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→ External Thresholds:
  - Ecological ‘Limits’ (resources & sinks)
  - Social & subjective Limits:
    - Satiation --> planned obsolescence & globalization to trigger expansion
    - Acceleration --> competition, treadmills, intensification, conflicts, …
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- Degrowth without Capitalism? Degrowth as a concrete utopia
  - Radical Transformation of basic institutions of the Social Imaginary

- End of Growth —> New Feudal *Capitalism*
  - See Keynes’ analysis
  - Adaptated Capitalism: from accumulation of Capital to accumulation of Wealth (*non-productive capital*)
  - Disproportionate increase of investments in luxury goods & personal services: post-capitalistic *servant-economy* —> Zinn
  - Increasing global and regional inequality (New-feudalism) —> Piketty

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→ **End of Growth —> Refeudalization Project:**

- Adaptation to shrinking & recession under BAU-conditions + coping:
  - Multiple jobs, privatization of care & services, philanthropy *instead* of redistribution
  - Voluntary simplicity, cultural & spiritual values + happy poverty???
- Increasing inequality & social immobility; patriarchal division of labor; leisure and cultural values only for those who can afford them!
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Thank you for your attention