

Press release

## In new book, ecological economist argues the West can no longer afford economic growth

Economic growth has long been equated with progress. But today a movement is flourishing that calls for 'degrowth': sustainably scaling down economies in order to deal with today's environmental and political crises.

On March 1st, 2017, Giorgos Kallis, a professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, will release his collection of essays, *In Defense of Degrowth: Opinions and Manifestos*. The book is intended as an accessible introduction to 'degrowth', a controversial idea that has become a rallying cry for many dissatisfied with today's economic system.

As one of the degrowth movement's leading thinkers, Kallis has a good deal of experience sparring with its biggest critics. "I spent the last few years doing public talks, writing opinion pieces in newspapers, blogging, and trying to reason with angry Twitter users," says Kallis. "This book is a result of many of those debates and conversations."

The environmental historian Joan Martinez-Alier, who first invited Giorgos Kallis to teach at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, writes that "it answers a widespread demand to have the many short articles and blog entries by

Giorgos Kallis of the last four years made more easily available... They certainly deserved to be collected and edited as a book."

Essays in the book are wide-ranging, including essays on the Greek crisis, the history of economics, science fiction, the problem with Airbnb, and even Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si'.

"My hope is that, after finishing the book, newcomers and skeptics will have a more clear understanding of what is meant by degrowth," Kallis notes. "But I also want to provoke those already familiar with the concept."

*In defense of degrowth* is being released for free as an e-book. "I decided to make the book available for free, but encourage people to donate," says Kallis. "Many of the essays can already be found online, but putting them all together, editing, and updating the text took half a year of work."

The book has received praise from Naomi Klein, writer of *This Changes Everything*. "Whatever your level of familiarity with the subject," says Klein, "the book's mix of engaging commentary, bold analysis, and creative policy tools is certain to deepen your thinking."

Arturo Escobar, a Colombian-American intellectual and professor at North Carolina, also expressed his excitement about the book's release. "In *Defense of Degrowth* vividly demonstrates why the civilizational obsession with growth, fueled by economic theories that have become outdated, must come to an end."



### About the author

Giorgos Kallis is a citizen of Greece, professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, publisher of over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, and an active member of the group Research & Degrowth.

### Tags

Degrowth, economics, ecosocialism, post-capitalism, Europe, financial crisis, alternative economics, environmentalism

### Links

Website of the book, where it can be downloaded:  
[Indefenseofdegrowth.com](http://Indefenseofdegrowth.com)

Giorgos Kallis' profile at ICTA, Barcelona  
[http://ictaweb.uab.cat/personal\\_detail.php?id=34](http://ictaweb.uab.cat/personal_detail.php?id=34)

Research & Degrowth, a network of prominent degrowth scholars based in Barcelona, of which Giorgos Kallis is a member.  
<http://degrowth.org/>