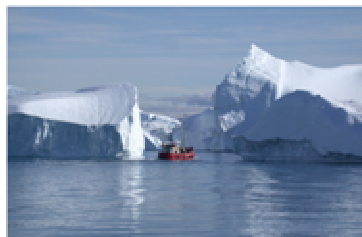
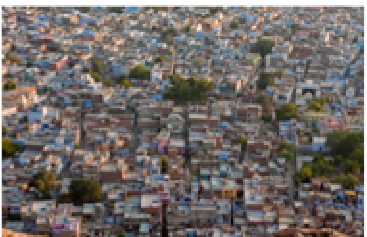




**Building a Sustainable and Desirable
Economy-in-Society-in-Nature**



Robert Costanza, Gar Alperovitz, Herman Daly, Joshua Farley, Carol Franco, Tim Jackson, Ida Kubiszewski, Juliet Schor, and Peter Victor

Report to the United Nations as part of the Sustainable Development in the 21st Century (SD21) project implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Key points:

- Growth in material consumption is unsustainable: there are fundamental planetary boundaries.
- Growth in material consumption beyond a threshold already reached by many is undesirable: it has negative effects on social and natural capital and in overdeveloped economies does not increase well-being.
- Viable alternatives exist that are both sustainable and desirable, but they require a fundamental redesign of the entire “regime.”
- To better articulate and communicate the goal, we need to envision the resulting society and how the pieces might fit together.

Growth in material consumption is unsustainable: there are fundamental planetary boundaries.

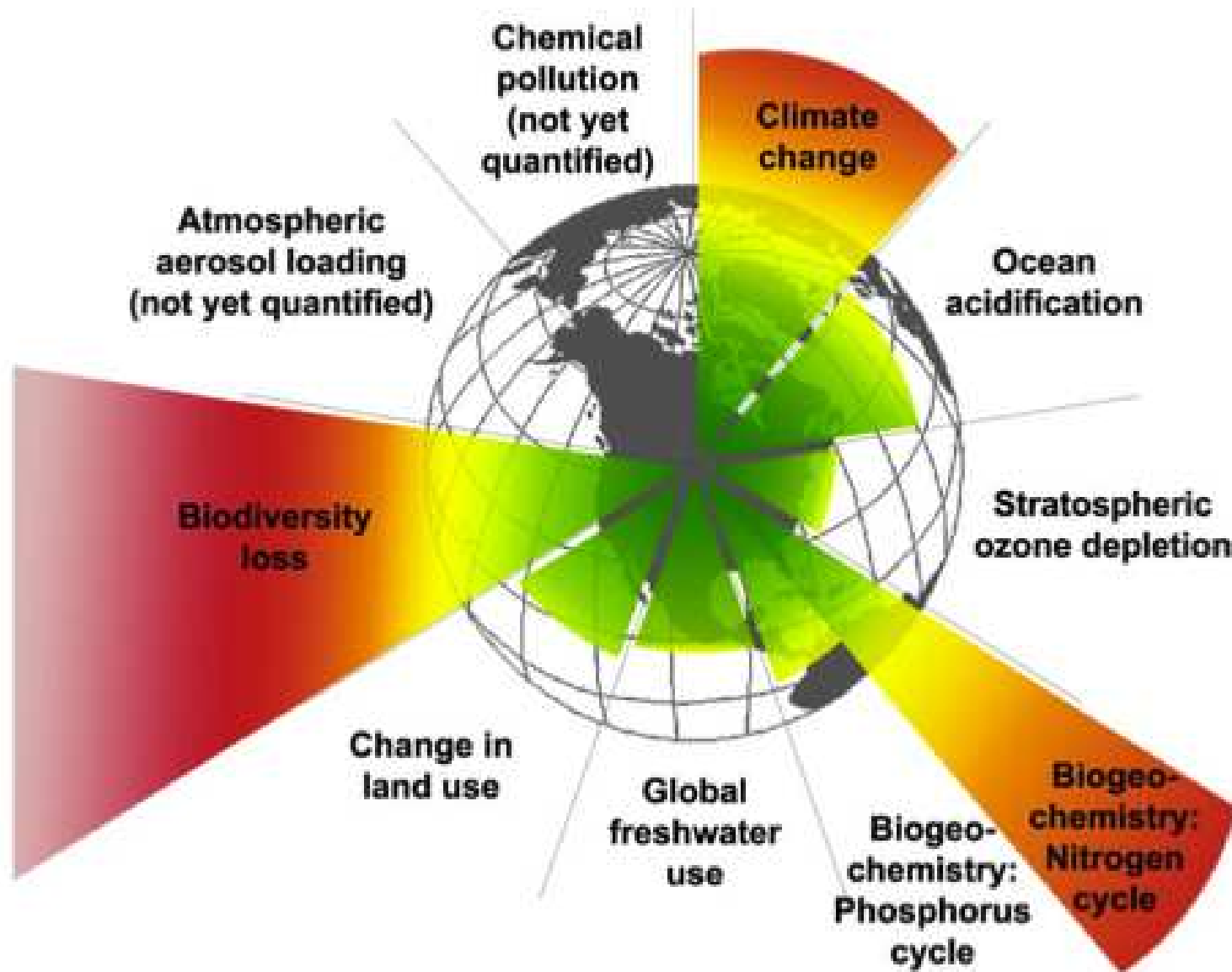
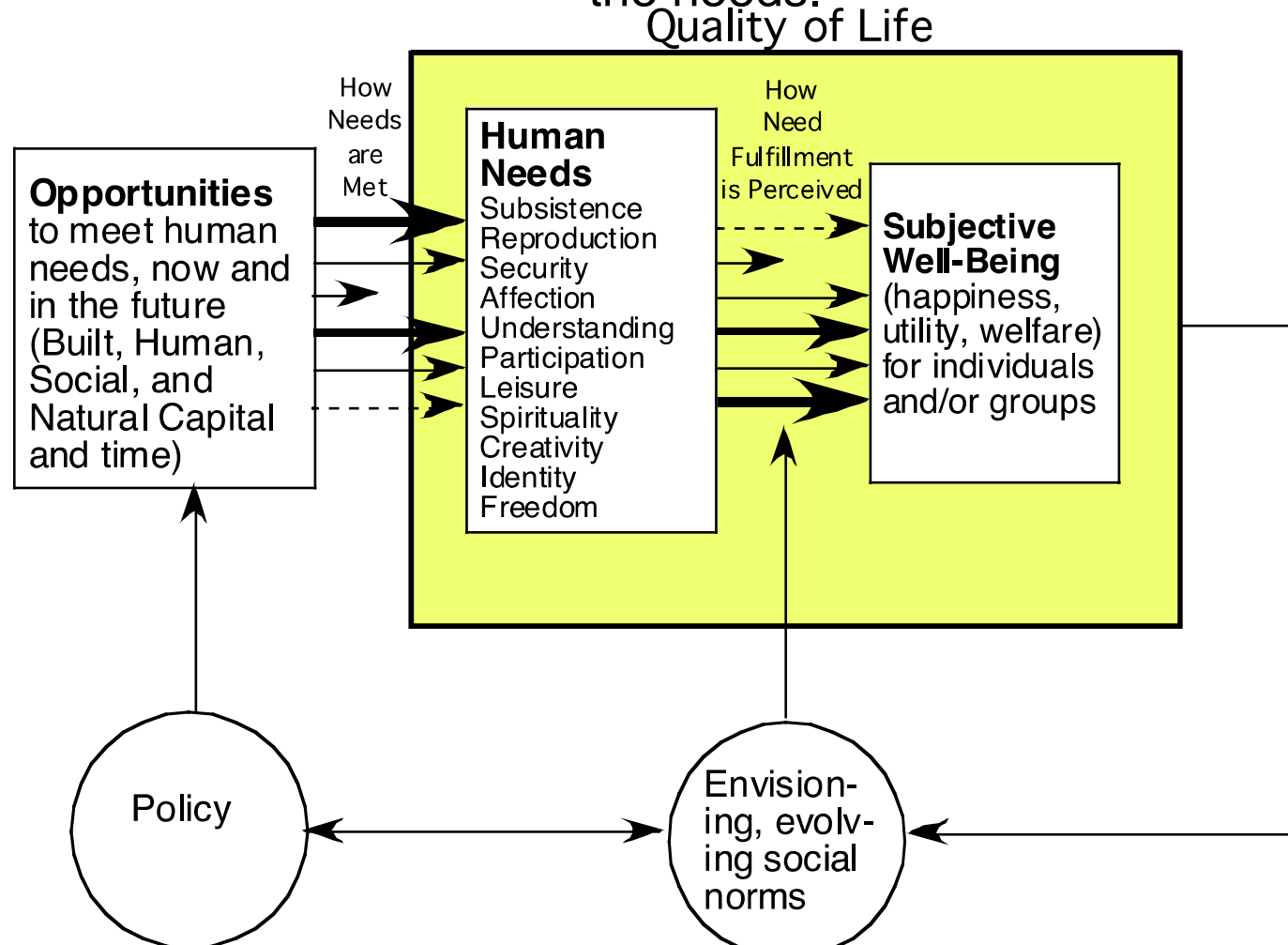


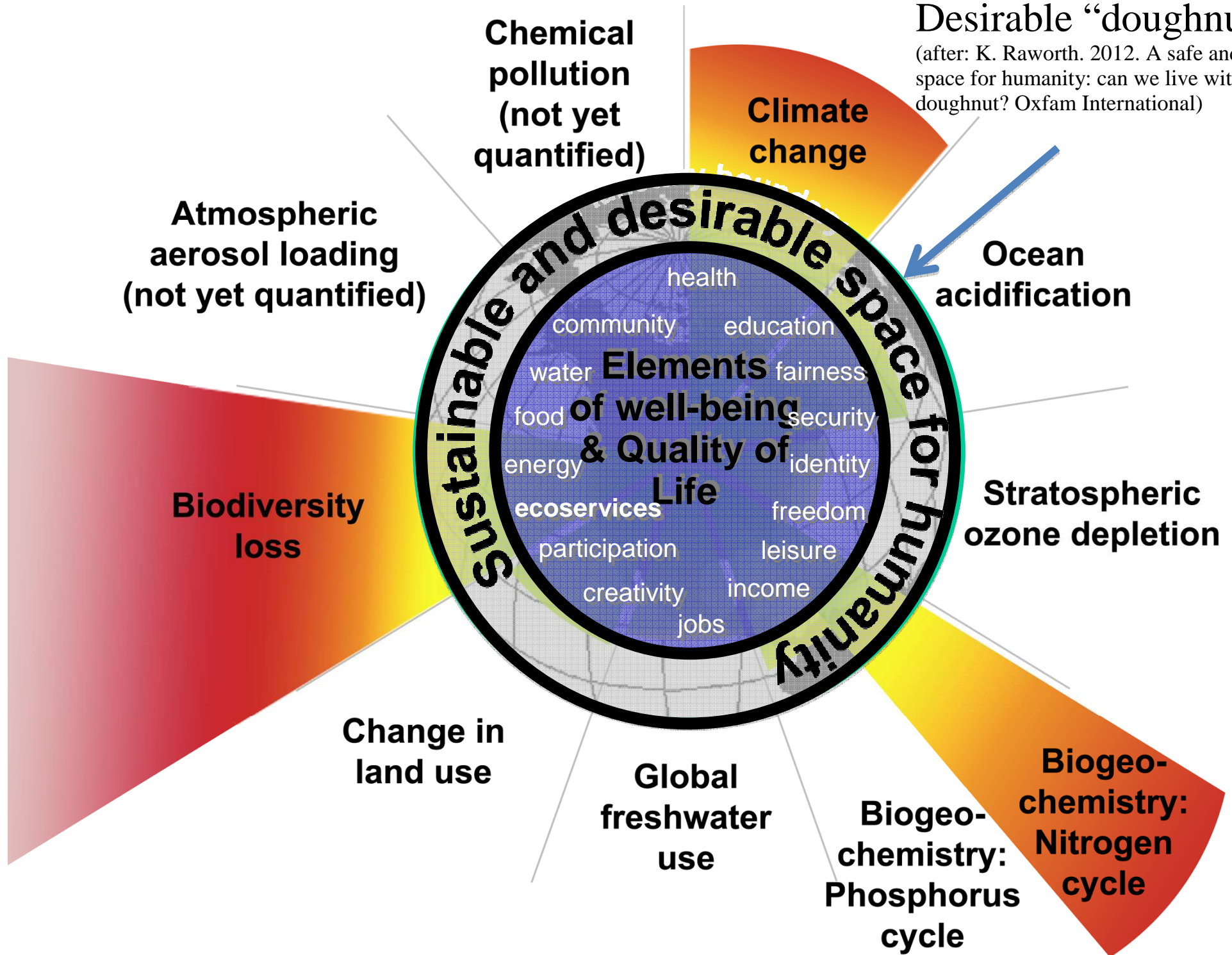
Figure 1: Planetary Boundaries [1,2]

a fundamental change of worldview to one that recognizes that we live on a finite planet and that sustainable human well-being and quality of life require far more than material consumption;

Quality of Life (QOL) as the interaction of human needs and the subjective perception of their fulfillment, as mediated by the opportunities available to meet the needs.



The Sustainable and Desirable “doughnut”
(after: K. Raworth. 2012. A safe and just space for humanity: can we live within the doughnut? Oxfam International)



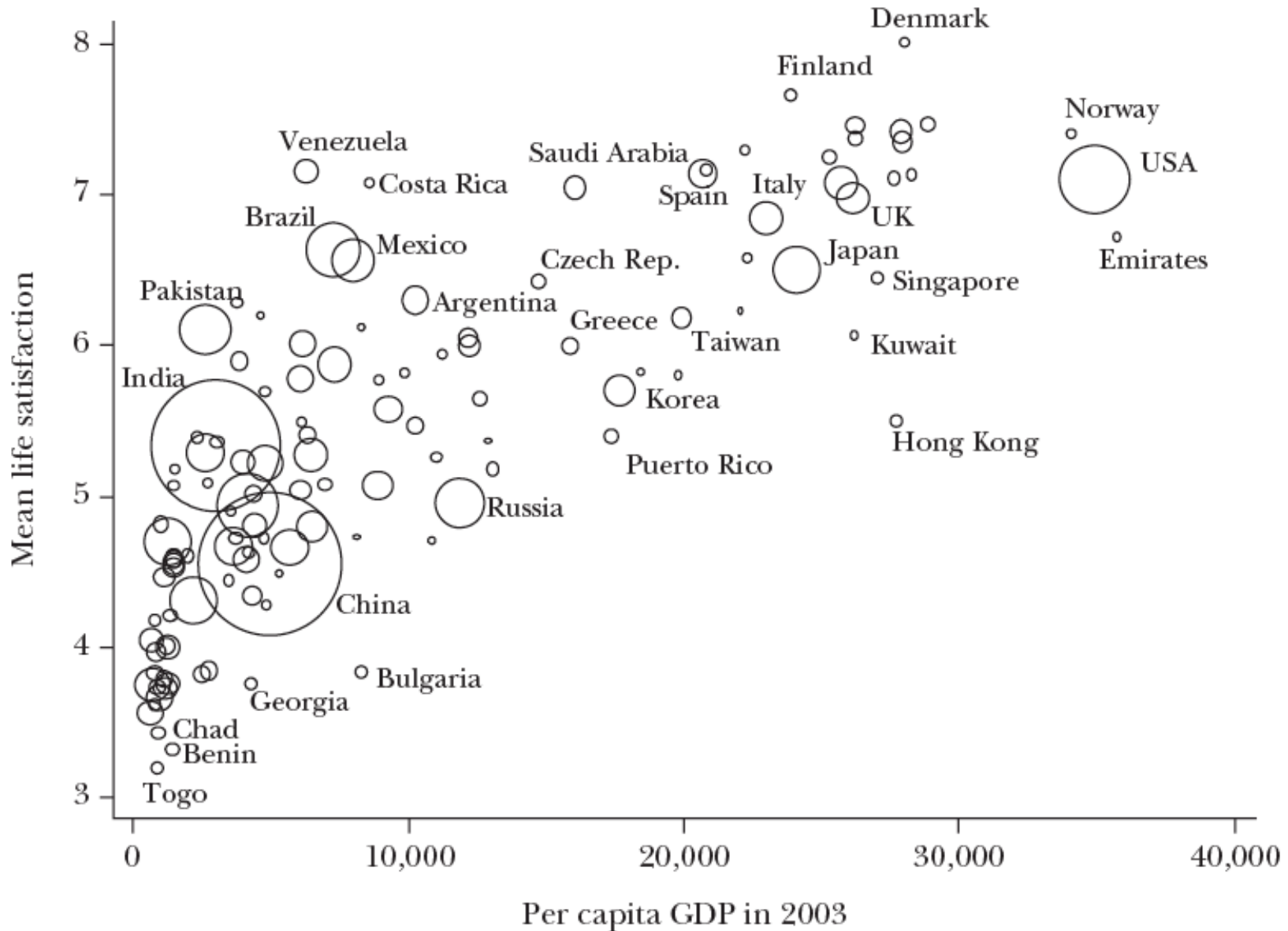
The dimensions of the new economy include:

A) Sustainable scale: respecting ecological limits

B) Fair distribution: protecting capabilities for flourishing

C) Efficient allocation: building a sustainable macro-economy

Life Satisfaction and Per Capita GDP around the World



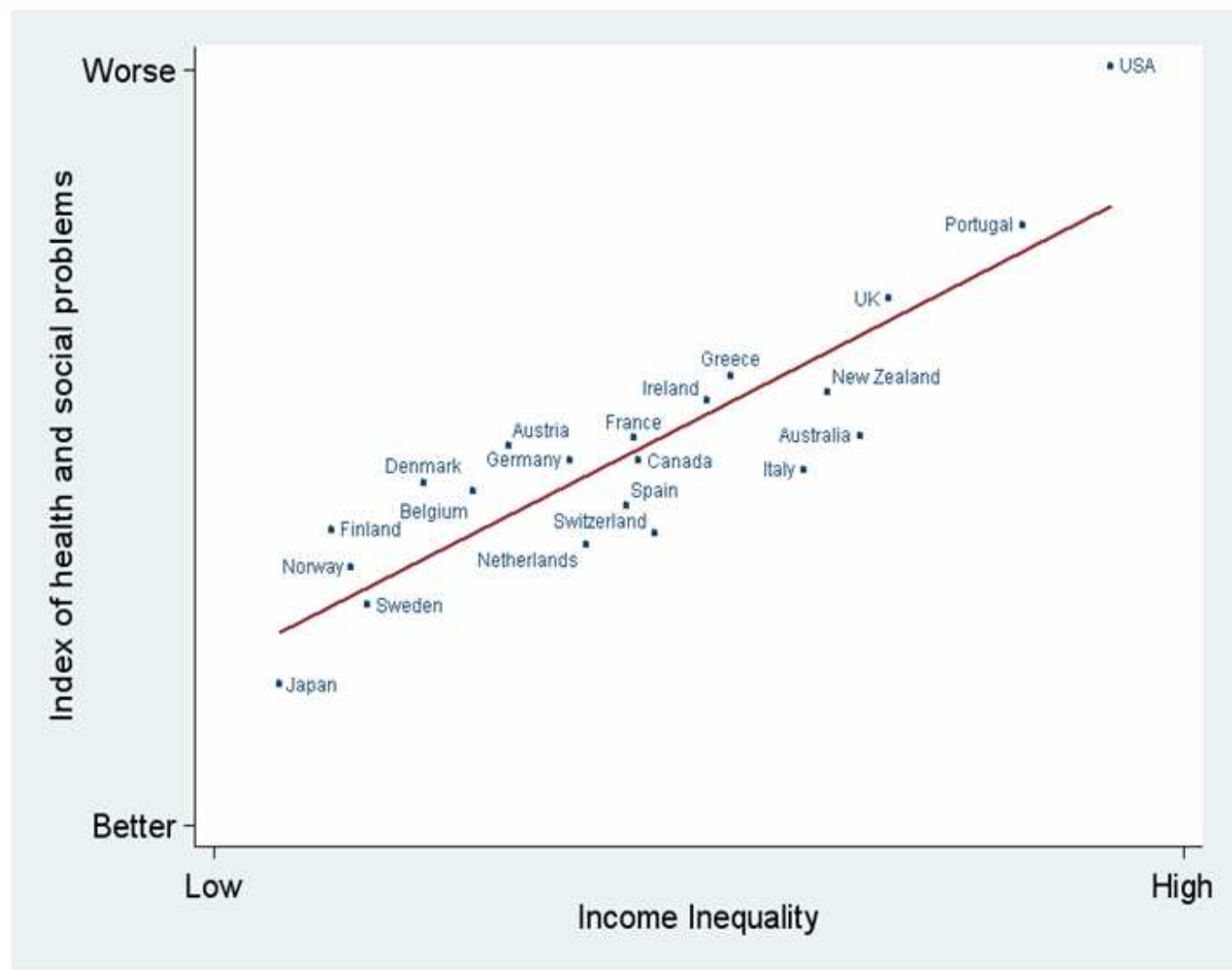
Source: Deaton, A. 2008. Income, Health, and Well-Being around the World: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 22: 53-72

Fair distribution is essential to quality of life

Health and Social Problems are Worse in More Unequal Countries

Index of:

- Life expectancy
- Math & Literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness – incl. drug & alcohol addiction
- Social mobility



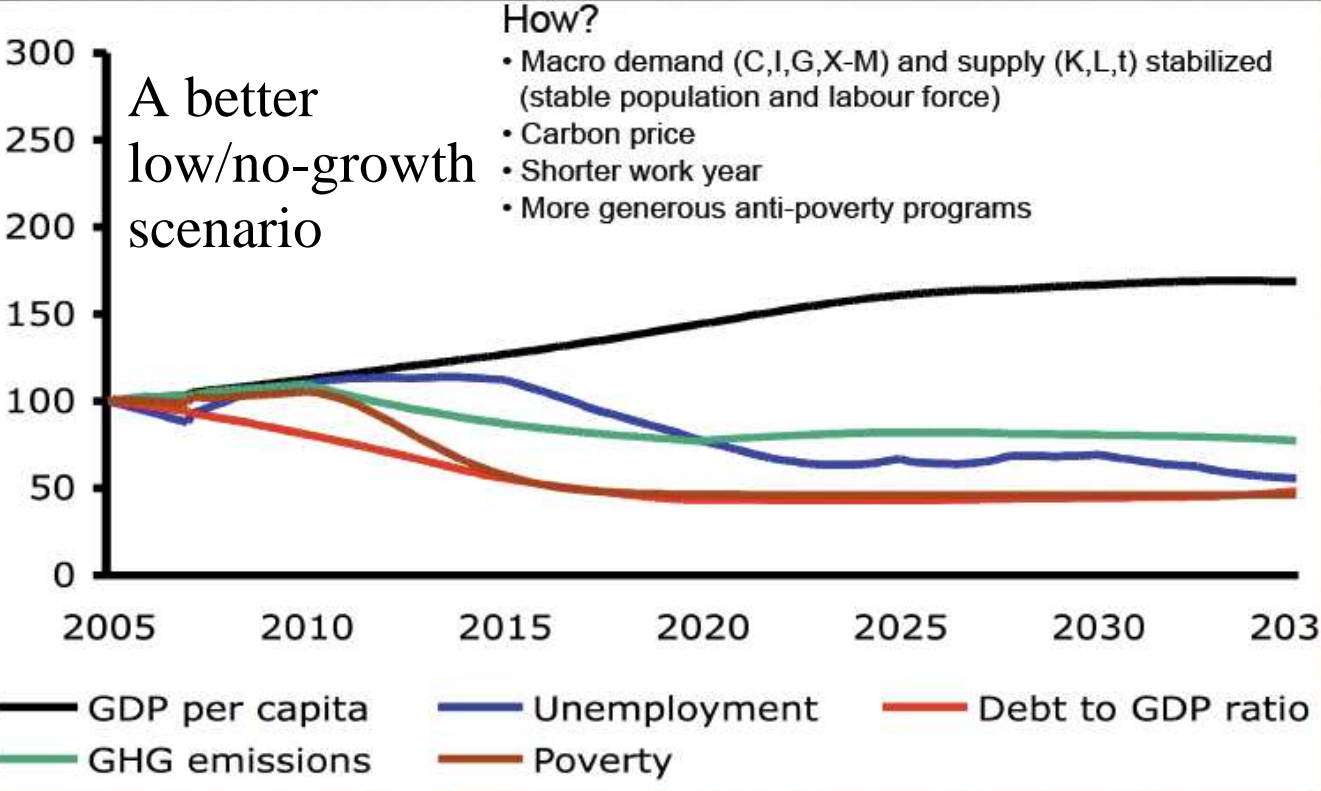
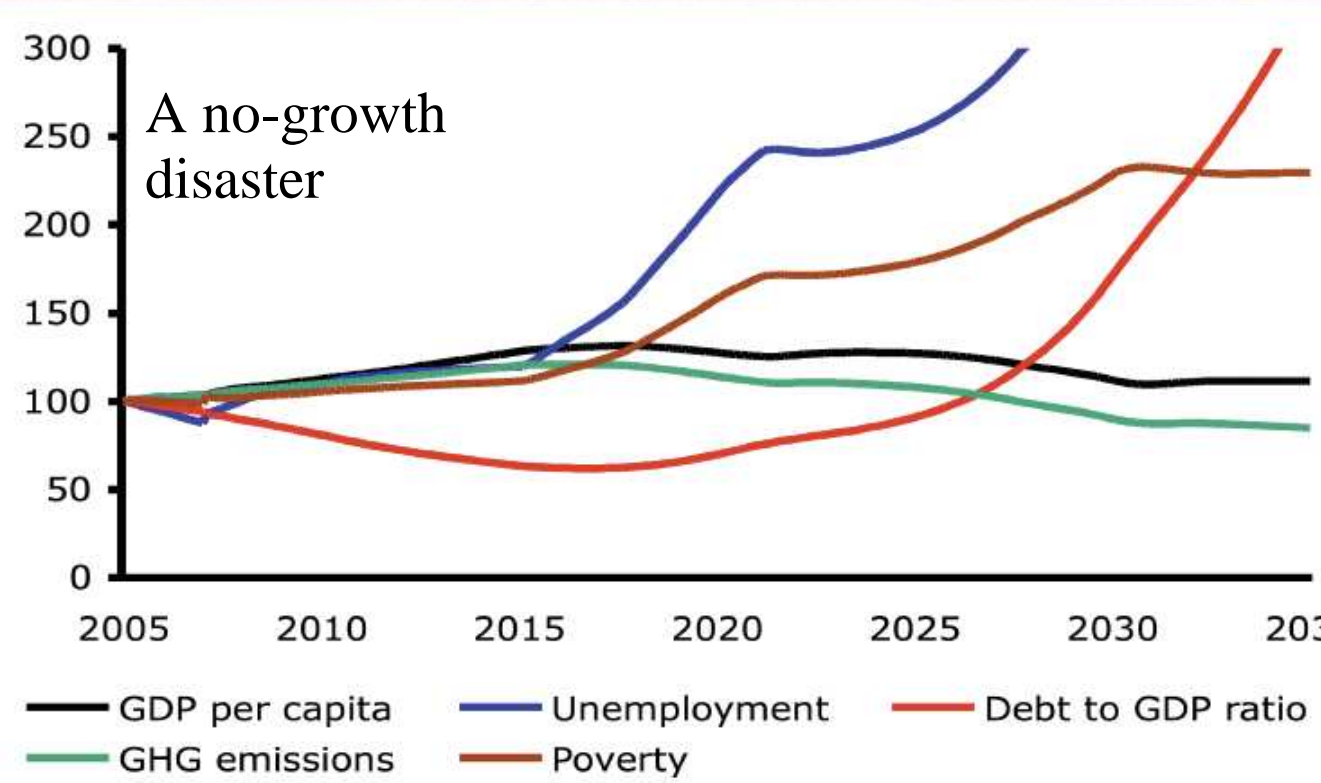
Example Policy Reforms

- Reversing Consumerism
- Expanding the Commons
- Systematic Caps on Natural Resources
- Sharing Work Time

What would change?

- New meanings and measures of success
- Limits on materials, energy, wastes, and land use
- More meaningful prices
- More durable, repairable products
- Fewer status goods
- More informative advertising
- Better screening of technology
- More efficient capital stock
- More local, less global
- Reduced inequality
- Less work, more leisure
- Education for life not just work

Source: Victor, P. 2008. Managing without growth: slower by design not disaster. Edward Elgar

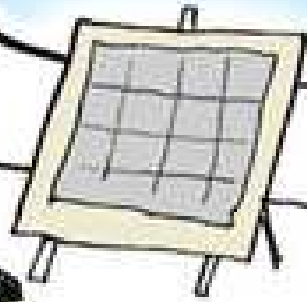




CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- etc. etc.



JOEL RITT

11/19 USA TODAY

The long term solutions to flourishing on a biophysically limited planet include:

- Breaking our addictions to the "growth at all costs" economic paradigm, to fossil fuels, and to over-consumption
- Envisioning and creating a more sustainable and desirable future that focuses on quality of life rather than merely quantity of consumption and recognizes the contributions of natural and social capital (the new commons sector)

It will require a new vision, new measures, new institutions and new technologies. It will require a redesign of our entire society. But it is not a sacrifice *of quality of life* to break this addiction. Quite the contrary, **it is a sacrifice not to.**