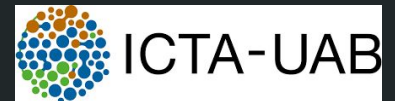


# Commoning and degrowth: a strategic alliance

---

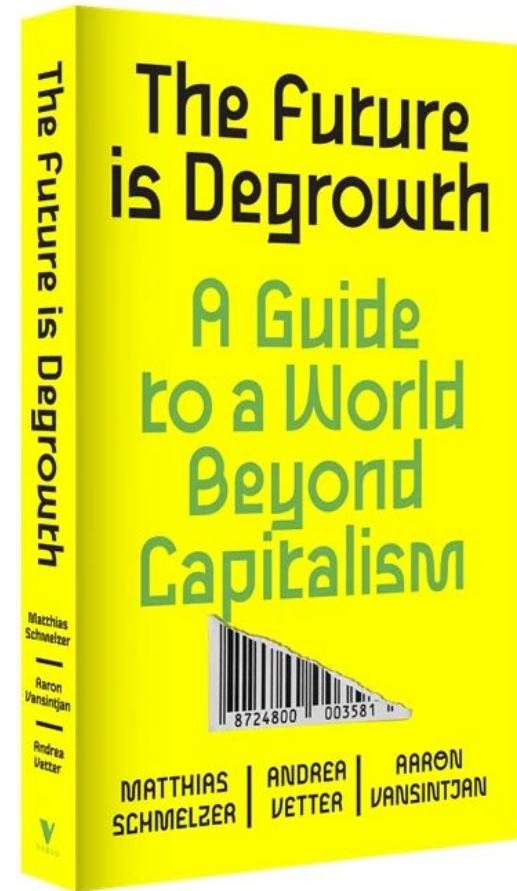
Sergio Ruiz Cayuela  
ruiz.cayuela@gmail.com



# 1. Degrowth in theory

Degrowth in three principles:

- Global ecological justice: selective decrease of global throughput
- Social justice and **collective self-determination**: undoing structures of domination and a good life for all
- Growth independence: transforming institutions and infrastructures



## 2. Degrowth in practice

- Anecdotal among grassroots
- Very influenced by academia
- Small scale and disconnected

INTER-  
NATIONAL  
**DEGROWTH**  
NETWORK



## 2. Degrowth in practice



## 2. Degrowth in practice



### 3. Degrowth in trouble

Two interpretations:

- Good strategy, wrong outcome
  - Asymmetric expansion of the movement
  - Assimilation of degrowth into mainstream politics
  - It becomes a buzzword
- Wrong strategy, terrible outcome
  - Divergence between means and ends
  - Reproduction of the structures of domination



**Degrowth loses its  
emancipatory  
potential**

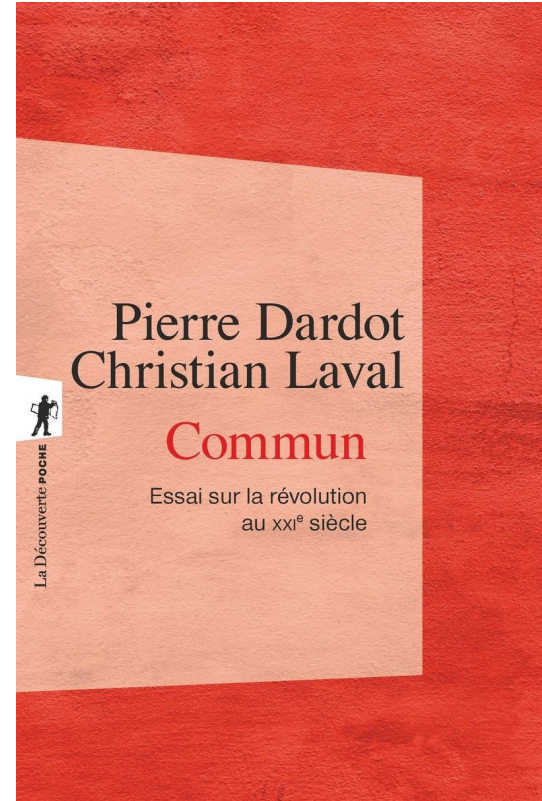
## 4. Commoning & degrowth: a strategic alliance

1. Commoning as political substance
2. Commons as socio-ecological substance
3. Commoning as common sense



## 5. Commoning as political substance

- Commoning as a diverse set of practices shaped by their context, but based on sharing, direct democracy, cooperation and solidarity.
- Commoning becomes the political substance of degrowth, preventing excessive institutionalisation and ensuring the fulfillment of 2nd principle
- Also good for commons, since a degrowth orientation avoids cooptation for profit or growth.





## 6. Commons as socio-ecological systems

- Commons as complex socio-ecological systems that can be coupled creating commons ecologies, increasing autonomy and ultimately becoming a viable alternative of subsistence and well-being.
- Practical way of thinking about the organisation of a degrowth society and the transition to it.
- It keeps commons within ecological limits. More-than-human and future generations.



## 7. Commoning as common sense

- Commoning as a transformation of subjectivity that highlights interdependence between collective and individual well-being.
- Commoning is practised by everyone to a some extent, so it provides a grounded point of connection.
- Adding a degrowth component might add slowness to commoning subjectivity, bringing about a more joyful militancy.

C mmo Space  
Com on Sp ce  
ommo Spac  
Co mon S ace  
C mmon Sp ce  
C mmo pace  
Common Space  
Com on S ace  
Commo Spac  
C mmon S ace  
Common p ce  
Com on Spa e  
C mmo Spac  
Common Sp ce  
Common Space