

Metamorphosis from illusory, irrational, man-made economics to real, rational, innate socio-ecologies

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Abstract

Background: Earth has an aeonic memory, accumulated during its 4.54 billion-year existence. This cumulative memory inherent in nature would be available to us humans, one of its species, for global, regional and local decision-making, if we steered towards it instead of insisting on man-made governance structures. All economic systems of the history of humankind have failed, one after another, as they have forced societies to serve their plutocratic purposes. The next one to go is market economy, which has become a vicious circle of economic crises, exploiting people and nature. Market economy, like previous economic systems, accelerates climate change, loss of biodiversity and polarisation between rich and poor. Institutional interventions to dilute these effects by legislative and market-based instruments have flunked. Resulting, increasingly frequent extreme weather conditions, loss of species and fertile soil, and inhumane living conditions have fed each other in developing countries for decades, but only their emergence in developed countries is opening the decision-makers' eyes to the threatening future. There cannot be any ecologically, socio-culturally or economically sustainable development in the USA, Europe or Australia either, if everyday life becomes mere survival from perpetual droughts, storms and floods in which ever more communities and ecosystems are destroyed.

Research goal and method: It is possible for us to prevent disastrous ecological spirals by rebuilding our human systems to match the nature's ecosystems. The illusory, irrational, man-made macro-meso-micro-economics needs to be replaced by the real, rational, innate macro-meso-micro-socio-ecologies that governs all life on Earth. Instead of linear, or even lateral, thinking we need latent and lapidary thinking. This paper outlines through theoretical methodology a metamorphosis from economics to socio-ecologies to guide the future of humankind on Earth.

Theoretical framework: Rachel Carson (1962) first illustrated the potentially fatal interconnectedness of all life on Earth. Since then environmental science has made huge steps to learn to understand the complex interrelations within and between ecosystems and to try to find ways for the humankind to change course towards a more sustainable future (Wright and Boorse 2013). Yet, like Carson's grave findings evoked rage and denial induced by guilt and indignation among politicians and industry representatives, the ominous findings by present-day environmental scientists now tend to be, if not denied, then at least mostly ignored by politicians and industry representatives in their decision-making. The attempt of this paper to replace their "sacred" economic system by a socio-ecological system will cause outrage. Nevertheless, this needs to be done, if the human species wishes to survive in the long term and does not want to abolish nearly all life from Earth. Nussbaum and Sen (1993) developed a capabilities approach for socio-cultural sustainability as an alternative to the neo-classical economists' view that a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the only reliable measure of social, economic and political progress. While many countries are planning to supplement GDP with qualitative measures, only Bhutan has actually replaced GDP by Gross National Happiness (GNH), an indicator of the quality of life measuring holistically ecosystem biodiversity, social conditions, economic development and political circumstances.

Findings: This paper goes even further by modelling the human (economic, social, cultural and political) systems on natural ecosystems to ensure their match, leading to genuinely sustainable development.

References

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Nussbaum M, Sen A. 1993. *The Quality of Life*. Clarendon Press: Oxford.
Wright RT, Boorse D. 2013. *Environmental Science: Toward a Sustainable Future*, 12th ed. Benjamin Cummings: San Francisco.