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Growth in Transition

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Labour and Growth – an ecological economic perspective

- Problem in the framing
 - Labour market analysis largely happens without accounting for the biophysical analysis.
 - Ecological economic analysis largely happens without accounting for labour markets.
- Need to rethink
 - Studies in the 80s and 90s illustrated how environmental policies can have positive employment effects.
 - They worked still on the assumptions that marginal improvements in the environmental sphere will suffice and that econ growth is the prime goal.
- Searching for alternative pathways
 - The relationship between economic growth and employment varies over time and between countries.
 - Starting from well-being and services opens up possibilities for thinking about sustainable work.
 - Address unsustainable trend of income distribution.

Labour and Growth – an ecological economic perspective

- Reframing the debate
 - From social issues as showstoppers of climate policy to climate change as instigator of social change.
 - We know that development indicators stagnate after around 15-25k\$ GDP per capita.
 - On the micro-level: It's experiences that make people happy, not goods.
 - In light of biophysical limits: revisit inspiring debates about how to use labour and natural resources in a regenerative mode (A Gorz, feminist economists etc.).
 - Reducing hours worked is part of the policy mix, but it's not a pancea.

