

## Discussion 2

### Econ 100B, Summer 25 (Session 2)

#### 1. Degrowth Manifesto

Read the following NYT article (pdf can be found in the course files), and then answer the following questions in your post:

- (a) Saito argues that an already-wealthy country that insists upon an “endlessly expanding economy” will produce obviously wasteful spending. What are your initial thoughts on this?
- (b) What are some of the impacts (good or bad) that a continued focus on consumption has lead to on aspects like personal well-being, the environment, **how we spend our time**, etc? Also, do you think this focus has lead to changes in economic equality?
- (c) What does Saito argue Marx realized during his twilight years about capitalism? What do you think about Marx’s realization?
- (d) Is this thought limited to Japan? What does the article say about Bernie Sanders and the US fall-out of the 2008 financial crisis?
- (e) Does Saito argue that we have to give up all the pleasures of life? Does he argue that we have to return to some idyllic agrarian lifestyle?
- (f) What does Saito say achieving degrowth communism is about? (hint: public goods) What does that imply about GDP? What could we use as an alternative? What do you think about using this measure as opposed to (or alongside of) GDP?
- (g) What is Saito’s vision for the future? What are your thoughts on this?

2. Please also respond to at least two other students’ posts.