**Thesis Notes**

Potential economic question I want to look at is where to draw the line on economic growth and the environment. Economic growth v Environment. From when I first started studying economics to the present-day traditional learning has conditioned me to believe that economic growth is always the answer to societies problems. Don’t get me wrong, economic growth is a fierce tool in order to achieve prosperity in society. Just look at China for example. Something that is usually just classed as a negative externality is the effect economic growth has on the environment. Traditional learning puts the environment on the sideline whilst we thrive for more growth. The all-important measure of GDP.

Some more specific questions regarding this topic

* How much economic growth is productive?
  + Should advanced society’s look at de-growth?
  + In an advanced society the average human being has a much more negative effect on the environment than in a developing country
* If you tell developing countries to hinder economic growth, that is simply unfeasible.
  + When one is in poverty of course they are going to choose economic growth over negative externalities
* But at the same time, we need economic growth in order to make environmentally friendly new technology scalable. Currently economic growth is increasing at a higher rate than innovation so economic de-growth coupled with investment in more innovation may align these two parameters closer together.

So, this is the paradox of economic growth v environment. We need economic growth to get out of poverty. We know it’s bad for the environment, yet we need economic growth in order to come up with green solutions for society.

If I was to run a couple of different regressions and put economic growth as one variable and the amount of emissions released on the other what would the results be? What conclusions can I draw from this?

Economic growth and well-being?

Is innovation keeping up with economic growth?

**Theory of Economic De-Growth – primarily the abolition of economic growth as a social objective.**

Climate change, natural resource constraints and the transition to a greener economy (23% motivator) Climate change is a major driver of innovation, as organizations search for measures to mitigate or help adjust to its effects. Yet as global economic growth continues to lead to demand for natural resources and raw materials, over-exploitation implies higher extraction costs and degradation of ecosystems. (<http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs.pdf>)

**When?** Last 20 years

**Where?** A sample of developing countries and developed countries

**How?** Am I able to do a multivariable regression analysis on the happiness index with the regressors being economic growth, environmental indexes and perhaps others to study the effects on happiness

**Why?** I think it is fair to generalize that in mainstream education we are always taught that economic growth is the best way forward. But perhaps other variables must be taken into account?