* Attempting to determine the relationship between consumption and fulfillment of human needs
* Consumption can be expressed as carbon footprint, energy consumption, or expenditure

What is the current state?

* Decent Living Standards shows many countries are consuming well above what is required for DLS
* Vita et al. shows that increasing consumption often has diminishing marginal returns, or little relation at all, with fulfillment of needs as quantified by indicators

What is missing?

* Vita et al.’s data is not very comprehensive – low-income countries are all but excluded
* Vita et al. only captures a snapshot – the marginal benefit of consumption, rather than being expressed for each country
* Decent Living Standards doesn’t show countries’ progress to metaphysical requirements for a meaningful life
* Quantifying Max-Neef’s taxonomy of human needs via objective indicators

What is the scientific question we are trying to answer, and how?

* What is the marginal benefit of consumption?
* How does the instantaneous rate at which countries achieve fundamental human needs relate to marginal increases in consumption?
* Perform regressions: Y-to-Y changes in indicators vs. Y-to-Y changes in consumption
* Why do countries differ in the marginal benefit of consumption?
* Resource stocks like infrastructure allow consumption to only happen once

When some countries have greater spending, the effects may spill over onto other countries through trade and diffusion without those countries having high consumption

Preferring credible data with only a small scope to unreliable data with large scope

No need to add many new indicators

Preferring data sets that cover a significant period of time to sets that cover many countries

Additional notes on indicators:

* Housing price-income ratio is listed for 105 countries in the World Population Review but its source is Numbeo (which is not very reliable)

Possible subjective indicators from OECD:

* Social support

Housing overcrowding is supported by Decent Living Standards

Long-term unemployment captures non-cyclical unemployment – prefer over ILO unemployment which covers many more countries but fewer years

Considering dropping artist salary measure because:

* Values are not PPP-adjusted
* ERI’s methodology is not transparent in how they define “Artist” and how they conduct surveys

Creative goods exports as a percent of total trade

May go back through SPI indicators and see if the original sources of the data include more data points