
Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen: A Retrospective Examination of his Activist Role in Ecological Bioeconomy, Degrowth and the Anthropocene

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Résumé

Our paper critically explores the pivotal role played by Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen in both intellectual and activist realms, particularly during key moments in the environmental discourse surrounding the 1972 Earth Summit. Our study analyses the Georgescu-Roegen's contributions and their enduring significance within the framework of an ecological bioeconomy and the Anthropocene.

Contrary to the misconception of Georgescu-Roegen as a secluded academic, this paper unveils his active participation in the intellectual landscape of the early 1970s. Levallois (2010) underlines the collaboration between Georgescu-Roegen and Meadows in response to criticisms from mainstream economists advocating perpetual growth. Georgescu-Roegen actively engaged in the 1972 Stockholm Conference, collaborating with the international pacifist movement Daï Dong to draft a declaration addressing the environmental crisis and necessary socio-economic transformations. Although the envisioned economists' conference did not materialize, Georgescu-Roegen and others endorsed the manifesto "Toward a Human Economics," published in 1977. We will trace the evolution of the author's commitment over time and his pursuit of a paradigmatic shift among neoliberal economists, leading him to adopt a more radical stance in favor of an engaged human economy.

Our contribution proposes to study the basement of ecological bioeconomy including the redefinition of economic objectives, emphasizing the preservation of the human species while acknowledging solidarity with the biosphere. Georgescu-Roegen's ecological bioeconomics serves as a cornerstone for reassessing the interdependence between economic activities, social society, and nature. The emphasis on justice and biosphere respect within the degrowth framework prompts an analysis of various limits, encompassing the biosphere, growth, technology, population, and economic activities. The concept of the Anthropocene underscores the threats posed by economic excess, compelling a reconsideration of societal priorities and the fundamental purpose of the economy. **References**

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