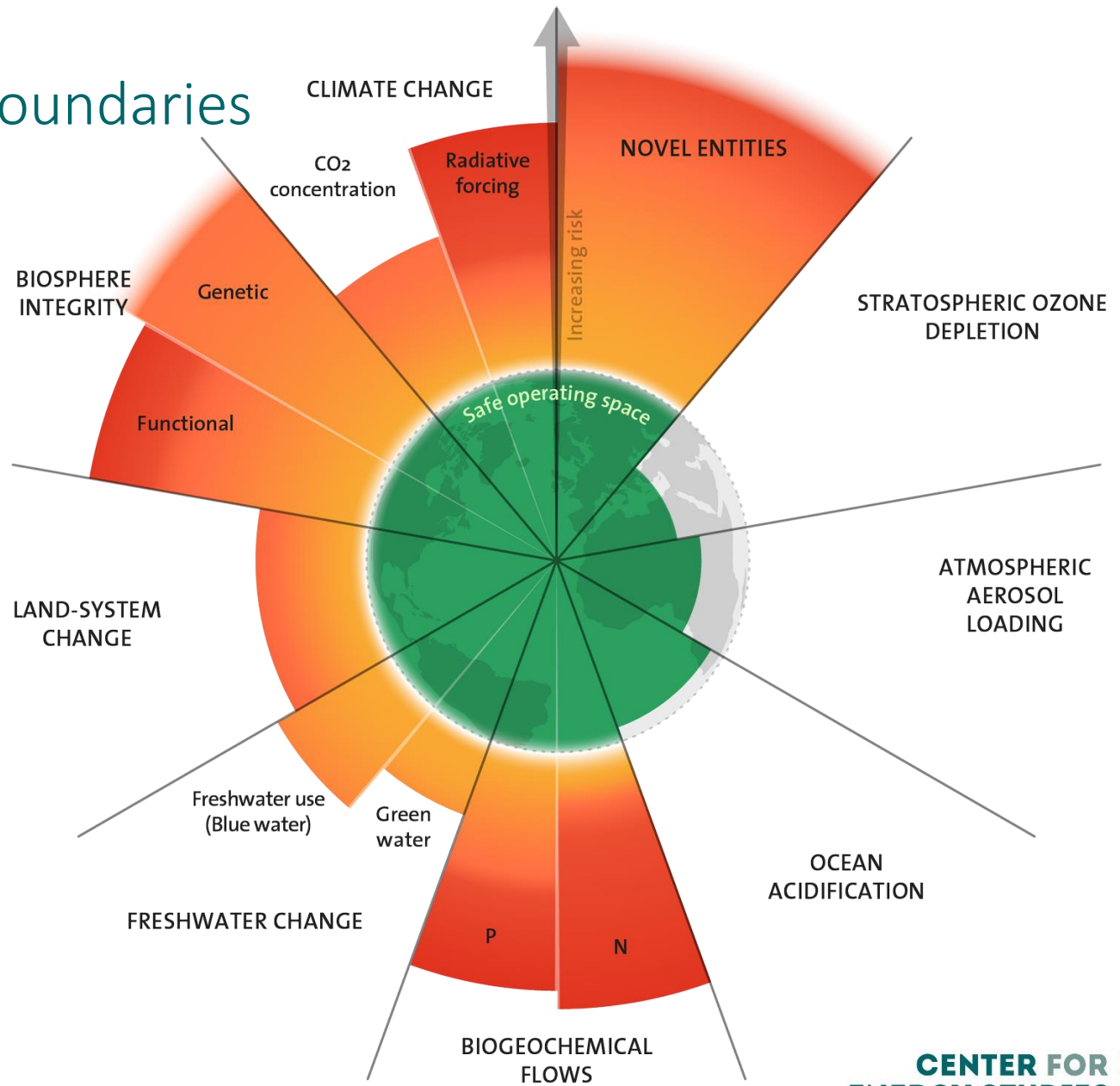


Degrowth (vs. Green Growth)

Planetary boundaries



Holocene as a reference state

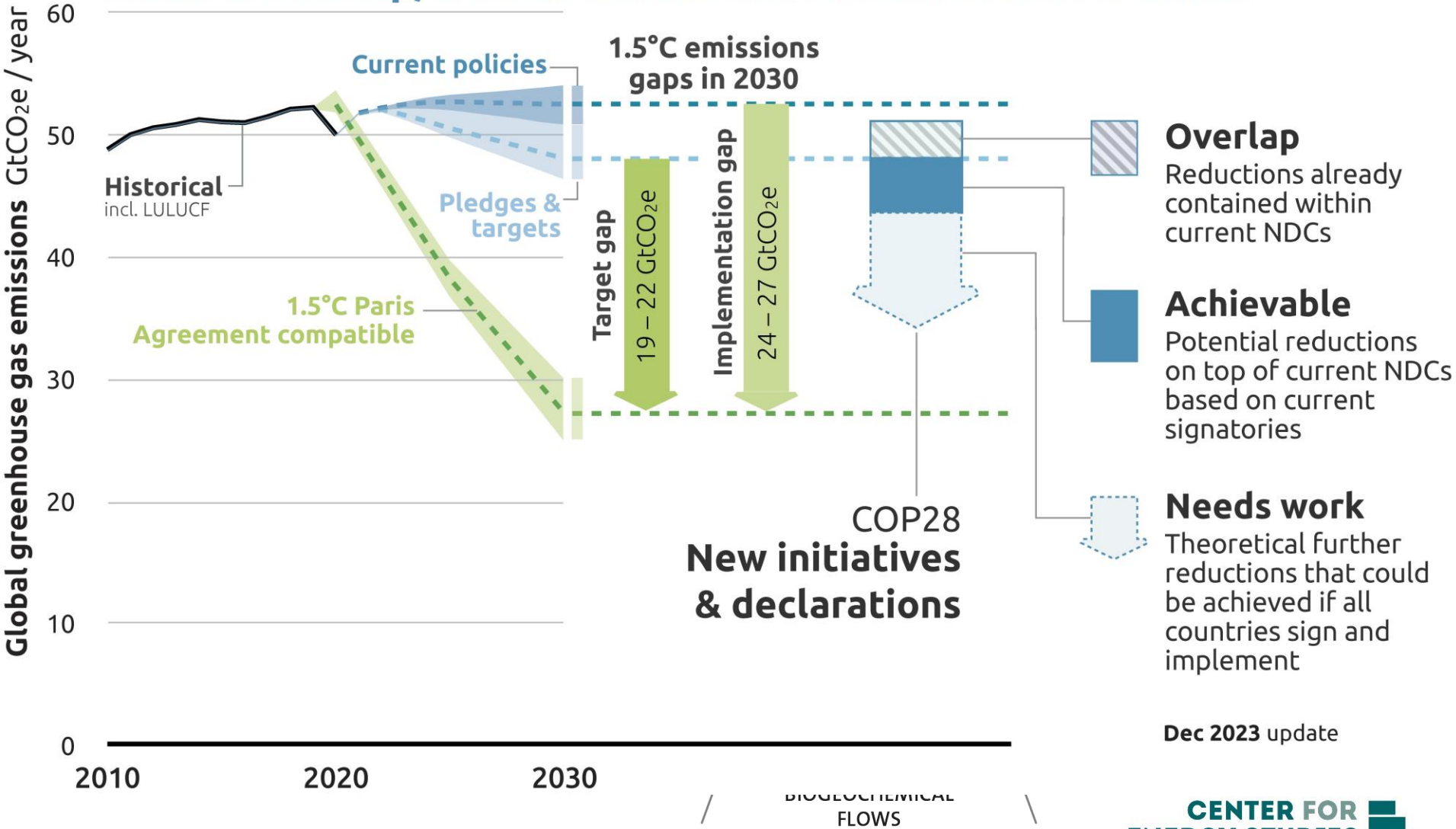
Green growth (technooptimism)

- More efficient processes, less polluting products, shift from materially intensive goods to less materially demanding services, circular economy...
- Relative vs. absolute decoupling of economy from environment.

= Despite partial improvements, the overall trend is catastrophic.
(Why?)

Estimating the impact of COP28 initiatives

What is overlap, what is achievable and what needs work?



Degrowth

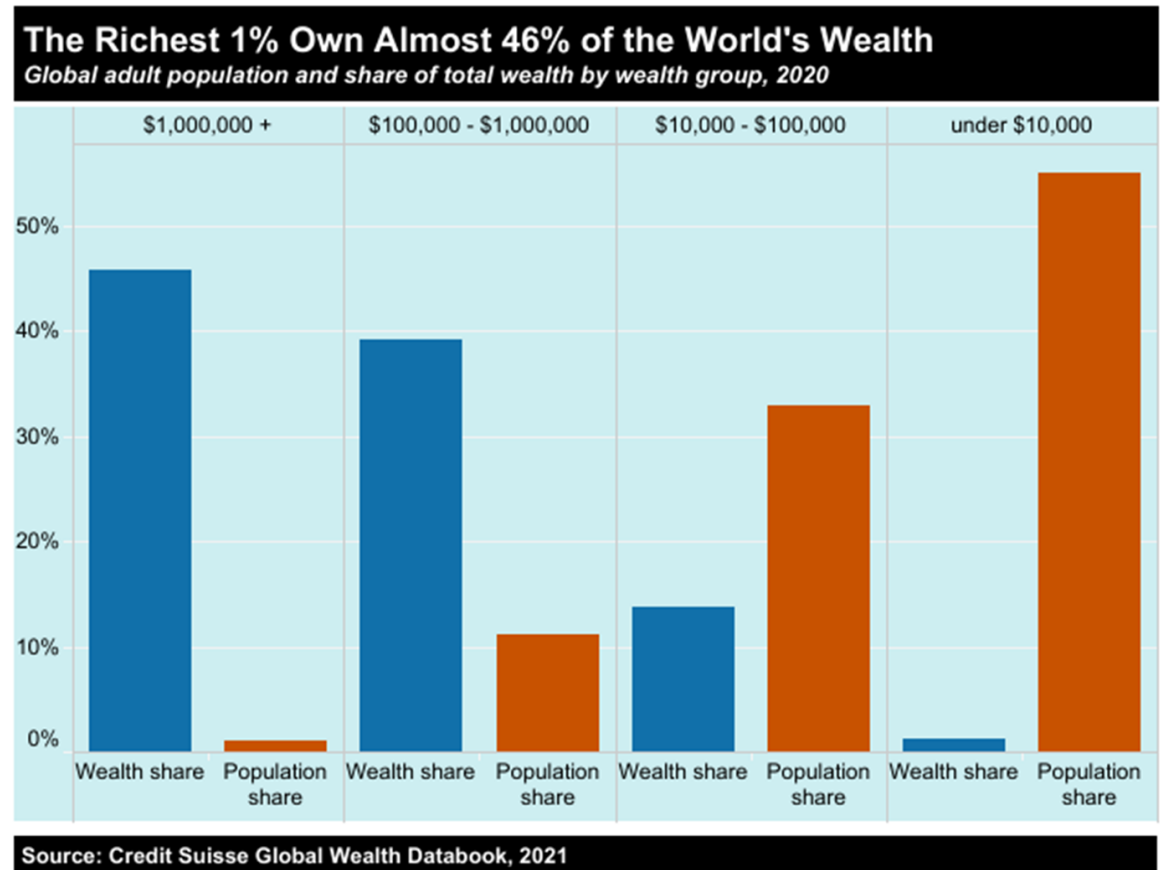
- Degrowth advocates for a deliberate downscaling of production and consumption, promoting a societal shift towards reduced resource use, ecological sustainability, enhanced life quality, and equality.
- Reformation of the originally negative Malthusianism. (1972 *The Limits to Growth...*).

Key principles

- Emphasizing ecological sustainability to live within planetary limits.
- *„Anyone who believes that exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist“* (Kenneth Bouldin, economist).

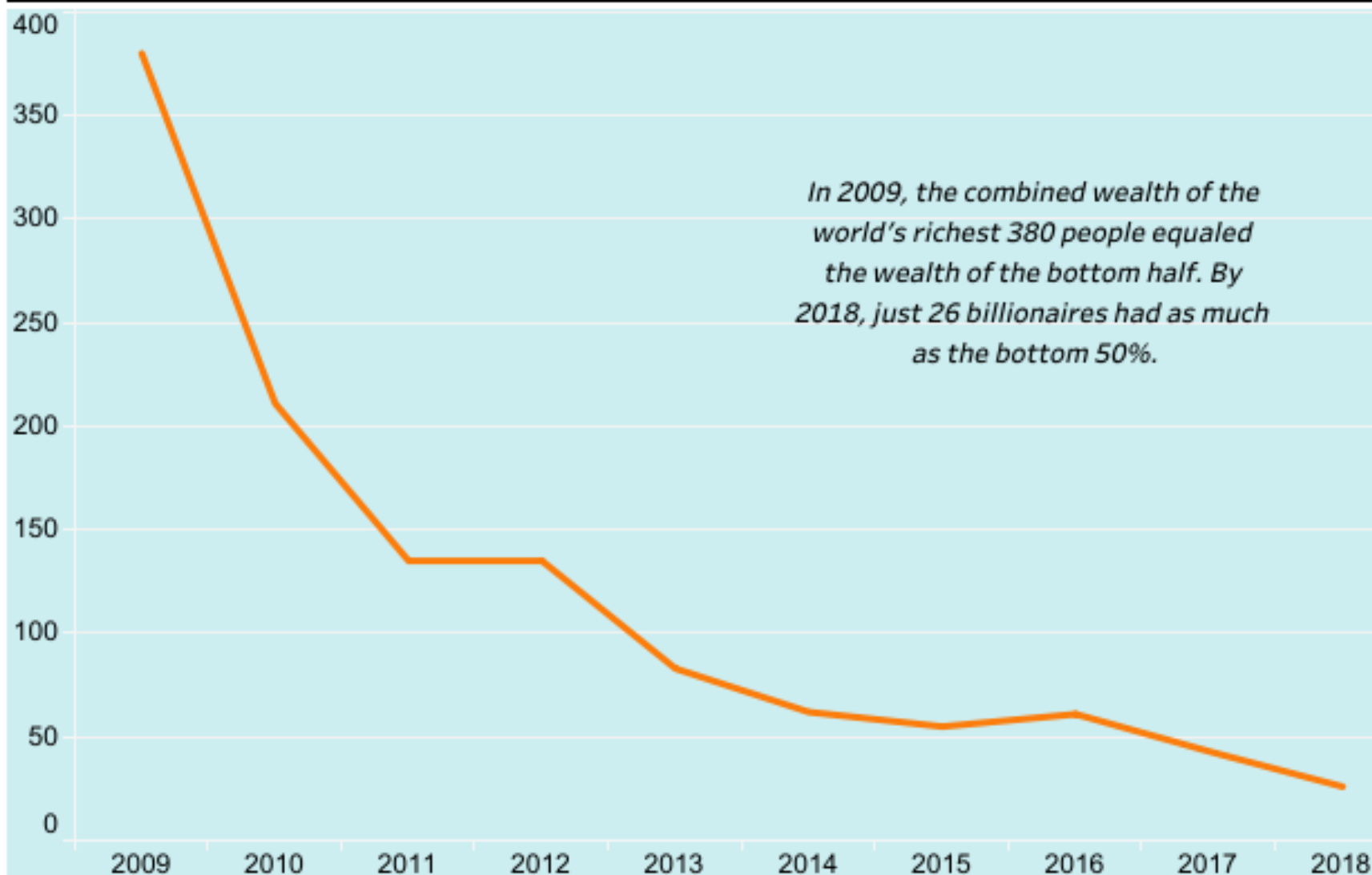
Key principles

- Advocating for economic redistribution to promote equity and resource sharing.



Wealth of the World's Poorest Shrinks Relative to Billionaires

Number of billionaires it takes to equal the wealth of bottom 50% of the global population



Source: Oxfam, 2019

Key principles

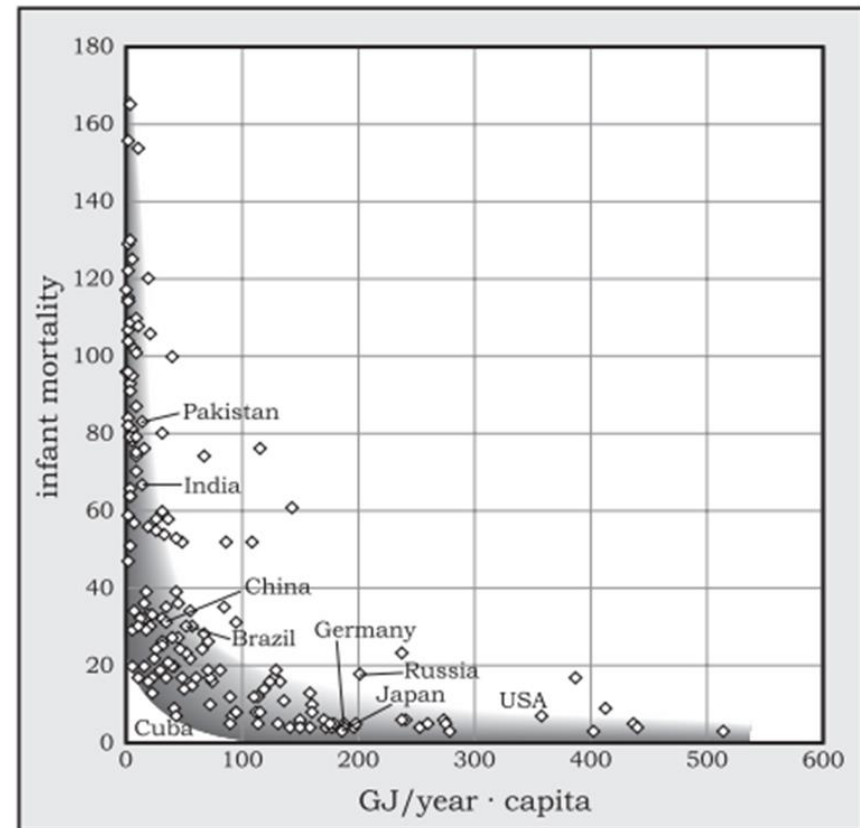
- Emphasizing ecological sustainability to live within planetary limits.
- Advocating for economic redistribution to promote equity and resource sharing.
- Encouraging reduced consumption, shifting from materialism to well-being and community values.
- Focusing locally on resilience through self-sufficiency and community-driven production.

Key principles

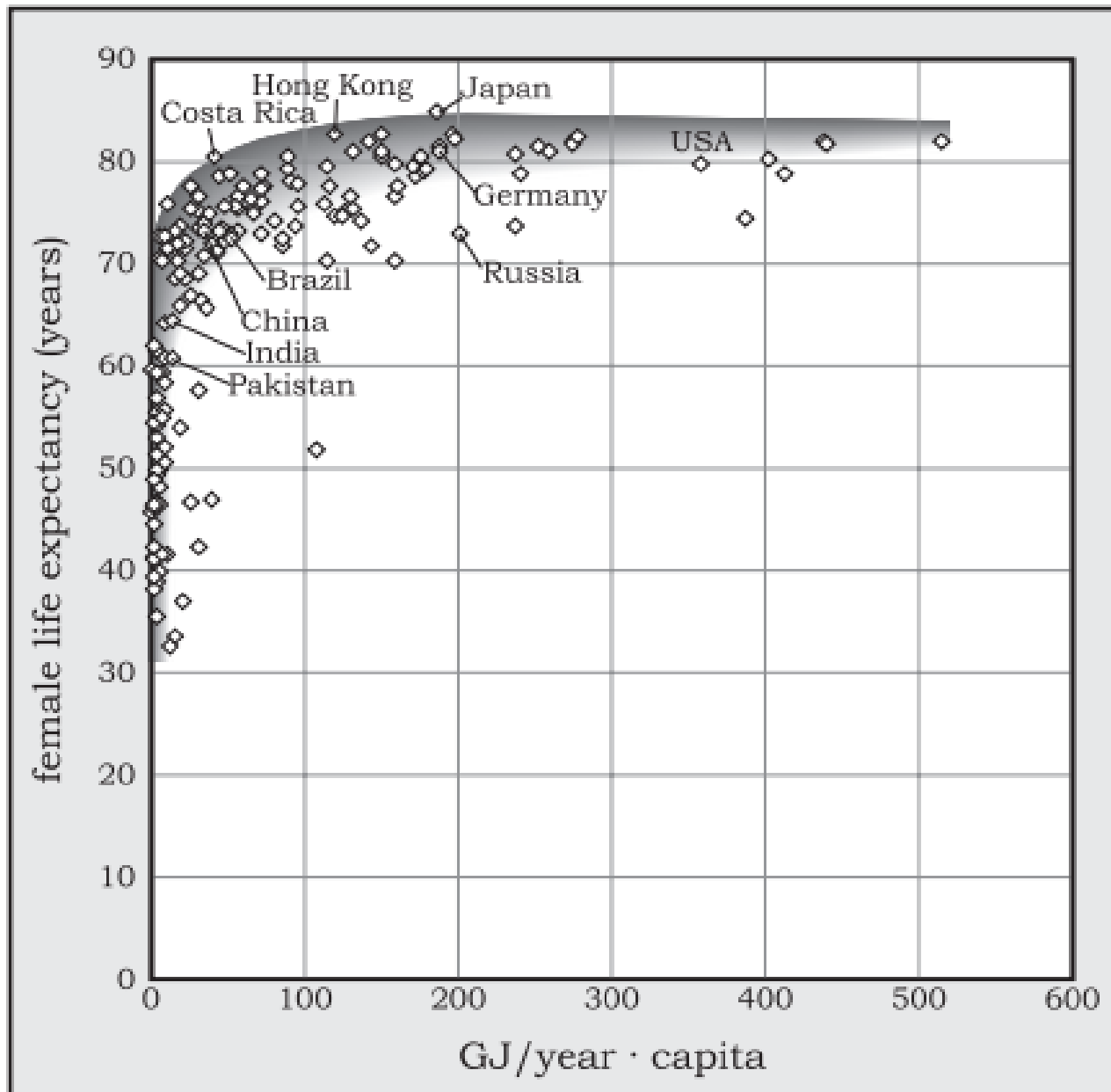
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Growth vs. development

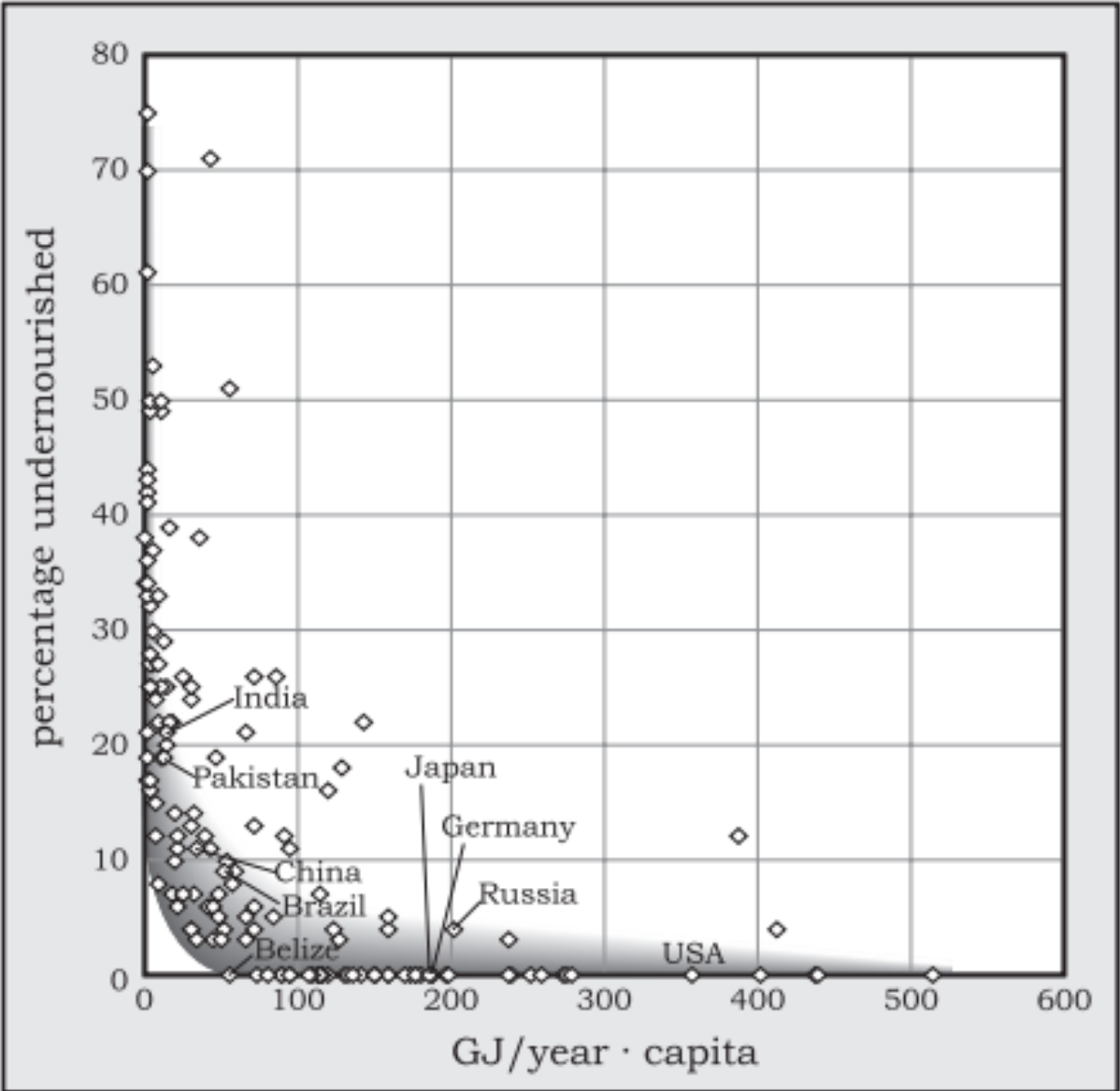
- Simple growth (increase in output, GDP) vs. development (improvement of the quality of life).



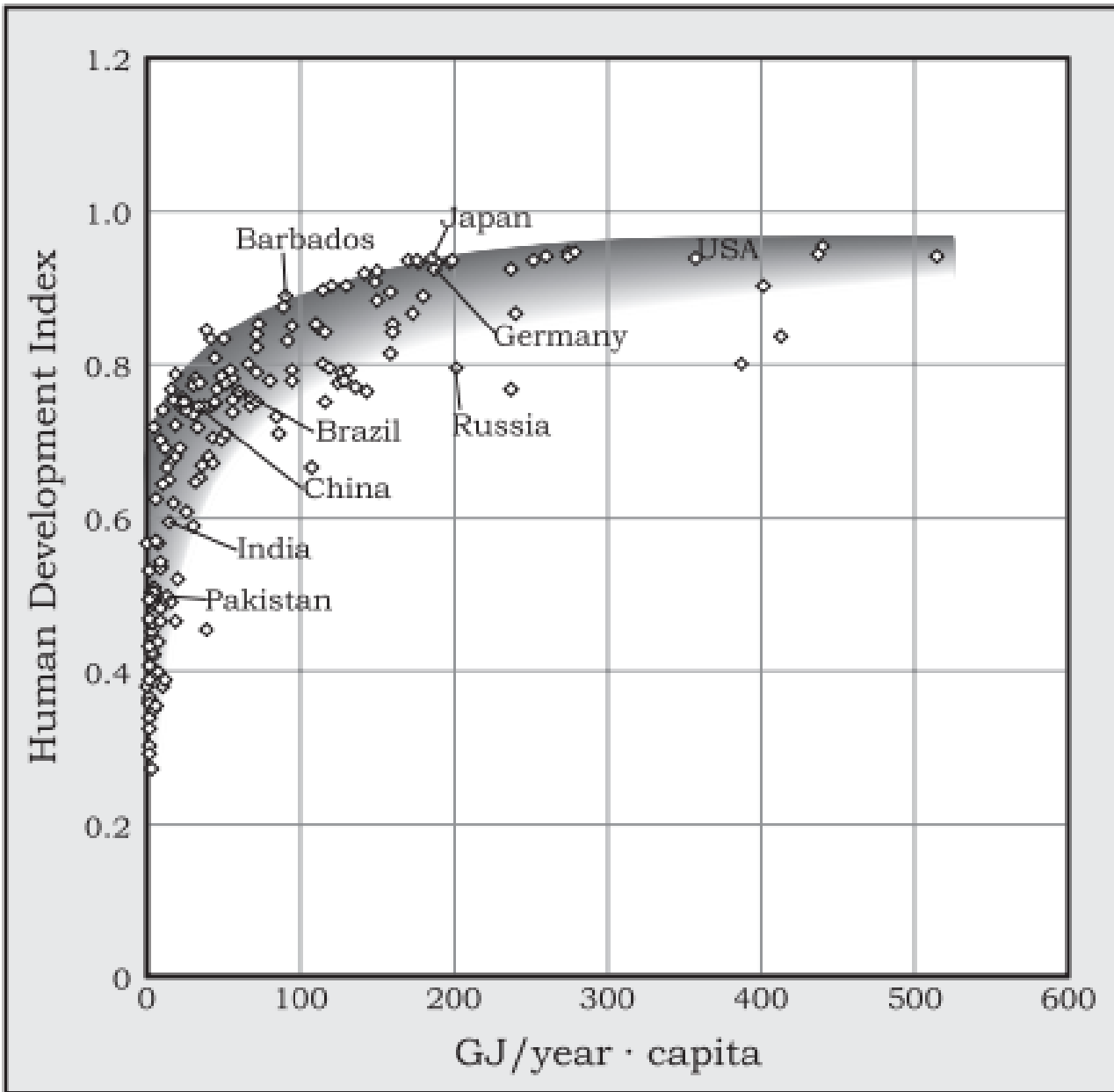
Per capita energy use and infant mortality.



Per capita energy use and female life expectancy at birth.



Per capita energy use and malnutrition.



Per capita energy use and HDI.

Is degrowth possible?

- Economic growth is essential for the repayment of debts, for the functioning of pension systems, for the stability of society.
- Degrowth is unpleasant for developed countries, but probably unacceptable for developing ones.
- We may need economic growth to introduce more environmentally acceptable technologies.

Is degrowth possible?

- Highly controversial for its questioning of capitalism.
- People would never voluntarily walk away from competitive consumerism.
- Let alone on a global level.
- Utopia or violence?

VS

- People over-consume not because of their nature but because they feel compelled to do so and because our economy is structured to incentivize consumption.
- Our political system defends the interests of capital.
- There is an increasing demand for change.

What to expect?

- Degrowth seems impossible. But so is Green Growth. And continuing on the current trend spells disaster.
- Perhaps degrowth will be forced by climate change itself - we will get poorer because we will spend an increasing share of our economy on adaptation.