


Ian Roderick
Director, Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems

Equity within Limits
Principles, Practices and Policies
Welcome and thank you

CONVERGE
An FP7 research project



How did this all start?

Contraction & Convergence™



Aubrey Meyer – Global Commons Institute



Contraction & Convergence™

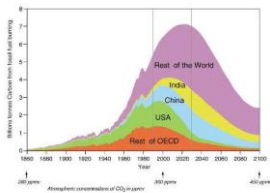


Figure 18. Illustrating the proposal "Contraction and Convergence", leading to stabilization of atmospheric carbon dioxide at 450 ppm (from GCI)

Smooth transition to safe levels – mitigation.

Equity, Equality, Justice, Fairness
Planetary boundary – climate change

A village south of Bristol, UK



Objective:

- have no detrimental physical impact on the planet.
- converge with other communities in equity and justice.



Individual Action
Change light bulbs, avoid plastic bags, insulate, buy fair trade, ride bikes, etc.

Community Resilience
Micro-generation, ban plastic bags, aggregated buying, local production, local currency, etc.

Global Convergence
Co-operating with neighbouring groups, global connections, fair trade status.

Converging World Group

Fairtrade status
Ecotourism / responsible travel
Link to S.C.A.D, in Tamil Nadu

CONVERGE

RETHINKING GLOBALISATION IN THE LIGHT OF
CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE

"How, given the current situation, do we manage and allocate, today, the Earth's resources for the survival of a projected global population of 9 to 10 billion people in 2050 - and for their offspring indefinitely?"

A four year, eight partner project.



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Can we extend the idea of Contraction
& Convergence™ to other complex
global issues?

C&C - limited approach

Finding explicit global limits or caps and then allocating per capita amounts in some equal or fair fashion has potential in only a limited number of cases - it is fraught with difficulties.

How do we cope with the messiness and complexity that we face when we consider the vast web of dependencies?

A way forward?

- Fairness in outcomes for the use of differing amounts of materials and energy as appropriate for the local context to provide.
- Creating and enhancing processes of change that bring the quality of services ever closer together while minimising everywhere our material and energy use today and for all future generations.

Convergence of the quality of services to people, across and within nations, constrained by the limits of the planet.

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A unifying framework for:

Non-renewables: minerals, fossil fuels, atmosphere, species

Semi-renewables: water, forests, soil, biosphere...

Renewables: solar energy, food...

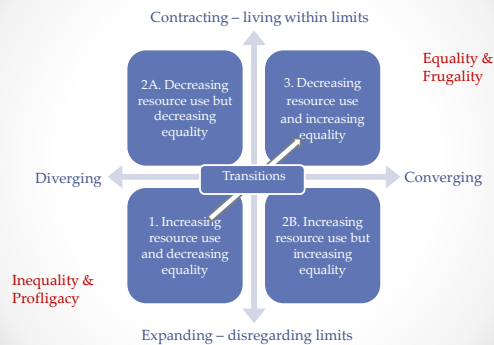
Human structures: habitat, trade, wealth (economics), institutions...

Services: education, health, security, justice, well-being, defence

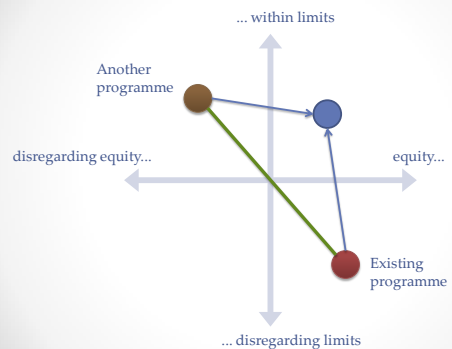
Knowledge: scientific, agricultural, medical, technical ...

Culture: access to information and freedom of expression

Convergence



Coupling



Project objectives

- Explore and test the concept of convergence
- See how existing policies support convergence
- Test convergence with local stakeholders
- See how community engagement with convergence might work
- Collect and analyse case studies of convergence
- Perform an interdisciplinary analysis to build new understandings into a multi-scale conceptual framework for convergence
- Recommend how to integrate convergence into policies: EU, national

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Research questions

- What are the environmental and social factors that exhibit convergent or divergent characteristics within the processes of globalisation?
- What measures, indicators and evaluations are possible to substantiate this worldview?
- Where do policies and goals for sustainable and just societies, at international, EU and national levels, conflict with convergent processes of globalization and where do they reinforce divergence?
- Can the many movements for sustainable communities and individual actions be framed in the context of convergence for whole system change?**
- Is it possible to discover or invent community engagement methods for sustainability that create new forms of convergent processes within a global context?
- Can we reframe the main internal and external policies of the EU for sustainability - using convergence concepts?

CONVERGE ... equity within limits