



Workshop 2.6



Digitalization, post-growth and sustainable development: different pathways for the global South and the global North?



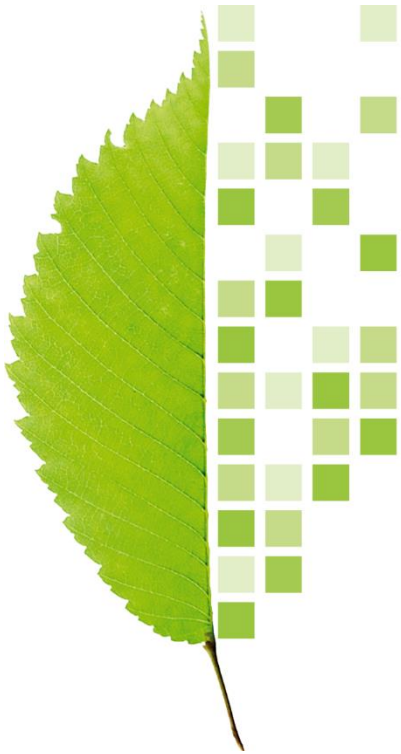
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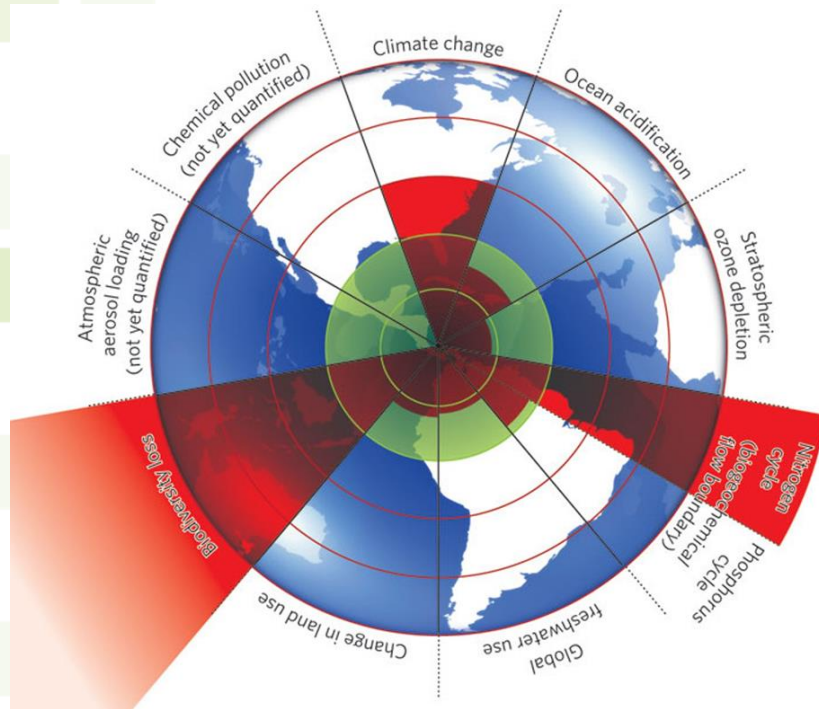


Digitalization and Post-Growth in the Global North

Ideas for organizing the future economy using the
example of Germany

Josephin Wagner, 25.09.2020

Germany's sustainability challenges



- Germany misses self-imposed climate protection targets (Oei et al. 2019)
- Biodiversity targets: values of 11 indicators are still far or very far from the target range (BMU 2017)
- ...

Germany's current development path contributes to the crossing of planetary boundaries

Obstacles on the way to sustainability



Europe

Sep 26th 2019 edition >

Not good enough

Germany's new climate-change package is widely panned

Getting to its promised target will be hard

The Economist (2019)

SPIEGEL Wirtschaft

Studie

Klimapaket belastet deutsche Wirtschaft

Der Wirtschaft droht laut einer Studie ein Wachstumsdämpfer durch das Klimaschutzprogramm der Bundesregierung. Es gibt demnach aber auch einen positiven Effekt.

Von Stefan Schultz
16.01.2020, 11.30 Uhr

Spiegel (2020)

- Urgently needed strong environmental policies are put under 'growth reserve'
- Trade-off between environmental goals and the goal to sustain growth dependent institutions that fulfill socially desired functions (Petschow et al. 2018, Seidl & Zahrnt 2012)

Germany's future economy should be organized growth-independently

What's digitalization got to do with it?

- Digitalization → fundamental transformation of production structures, infrastructures and consumption patterns
- Impacts on growth independency of employment and social security systems are ambivalent

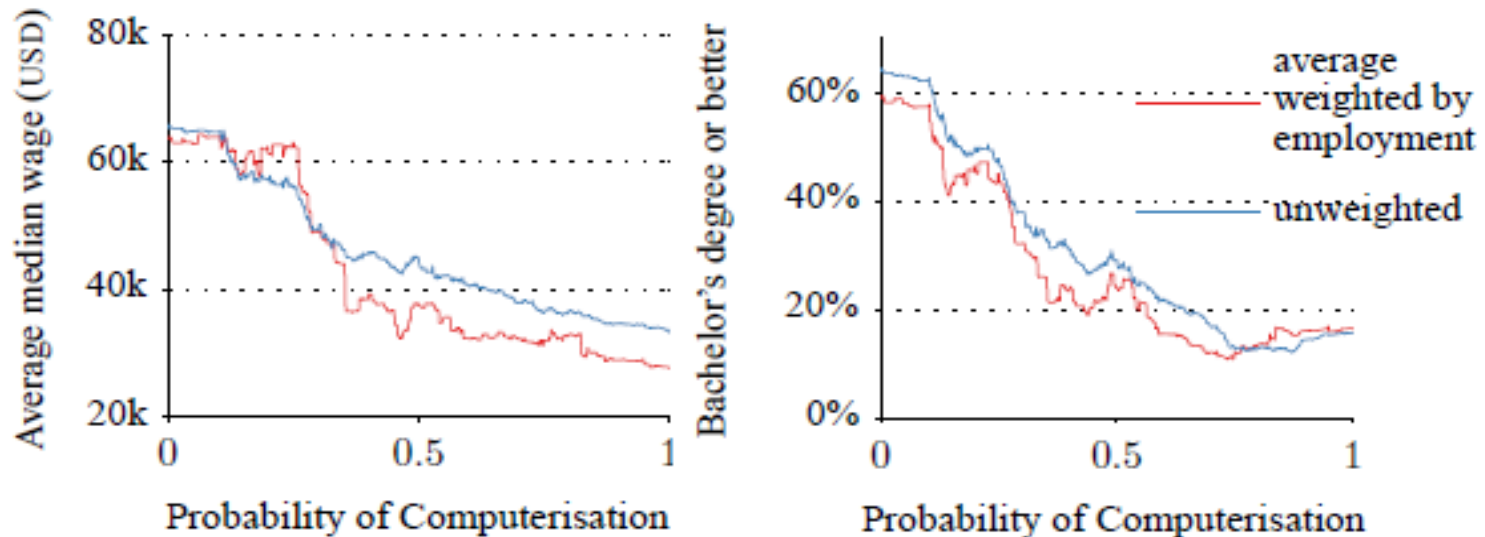


FIGURE IV. Wage and education level as a function of the probability of computerisation; note that both plots share a legend.

Frey & Osborne (2013)

What's digitalization got to do with it?

- Digitalization → fundamental transformation of production structures, infrastructures and consumption patterns
- Impacts on growth independency of employment and social security systems are ambivalent
 - Automation: Rising level of unemployment → aggravating growth dependency of social security systems
 - Instruments to **reduce growth dependency in the area of employment** (Petschow et al. 2018)
 - Change direction of technological transformation
 - Sectoral change
 - Working time reduction

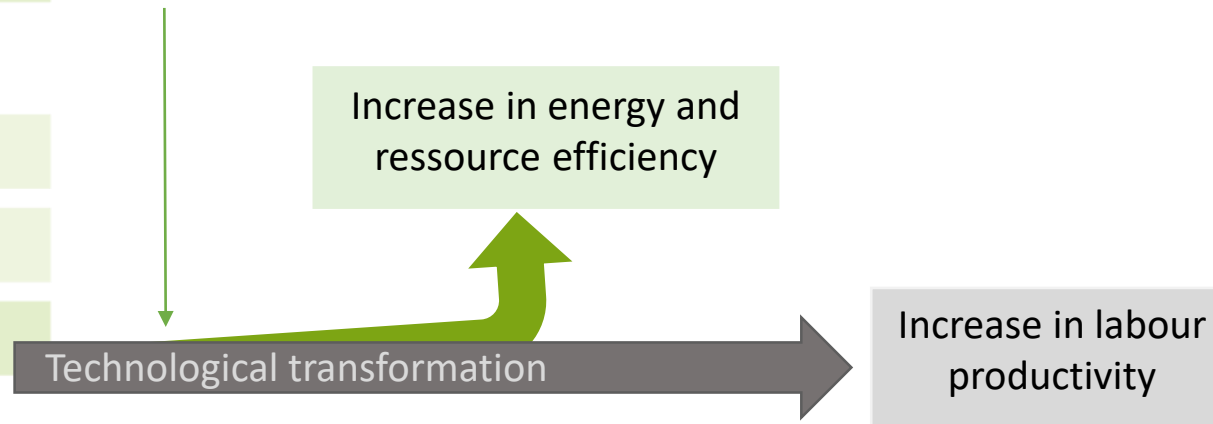
Change direction of technological transformation

Environmental taxes (Daly 2008; Binswanger et al, 1981)

Cap & trade systems (Daly 1991)


Ecological regulation (Schmelzer & Passdakis 2011)

- Goal: Make resources and energy more expensive and labor relatively cheaper
- Rising costs of resource intensive products, sinking costs for work intensive products



Own representation after Petschow et al. 2018)

Sectoral Change



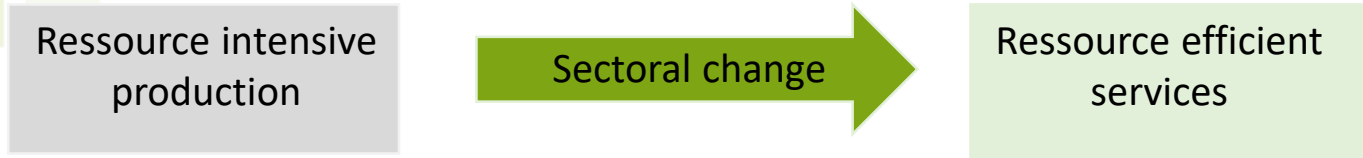
Ressource intensive
production

Sectoral change



Ressource efficient
services

Sectoral Change



product service systems



Wikipedia



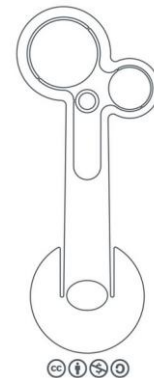
Ditex

Working time reduction

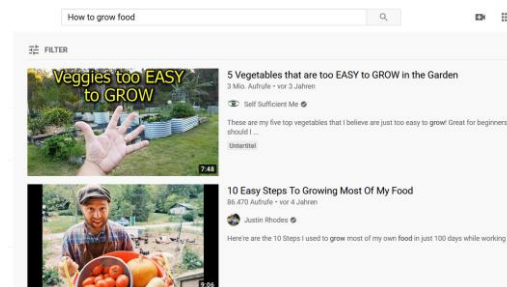
- Worries of employees (Petschow et al. 2018)
 - Working time reduction oftentimes associated with concerns about declining real wages and therefore declining standard of living
 - Possible approach: reduced dependency on wage income



fairleihen.de



Ronen kadushin



YouTube



Working time reduction

- Worries of employers (Petschow et al. 2018)
 - Growing need for coordinating working packages between employees, especially in case of job sharing
 - ICT solutions to simplify collaboration processes
→ reduce coordination costs



Image by [Joseph Mucira](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Sources

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Images:

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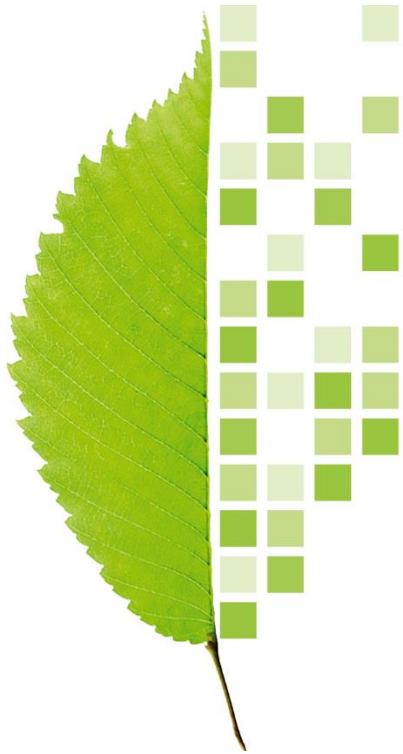
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Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+grow+food



Thank you!

www.nachhaltige-digitalisierung.de