



ESEE2026

16th Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics

Looking for (the) Just Judges

Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Well-Being
in Turbulent Times

Welcome!

We're waiting for everyone to enter and take a seat
before we start...



ESEE2026 – Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Addresses
 - Petra De Sutter - Rector of Ghent University
 - Carine Smolders – Research Director, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
 - Alexandra Köves – ESEE President
- Opening by Brent Bleys (co-chair of ESEE2026)
- Opening Keynote
 - “Energy: a Capital Problem” by Lucas Chancel (Sciences Po Paris)
 - Discussant: Milena Büchs (Leeds University)
 - Q&A with the audience
 - Chair: Bart Defloor (Ghent University)
- Outreach and Practicalities by Bart Defloor (co-chair of ESEE2026)





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June 30th, 2026





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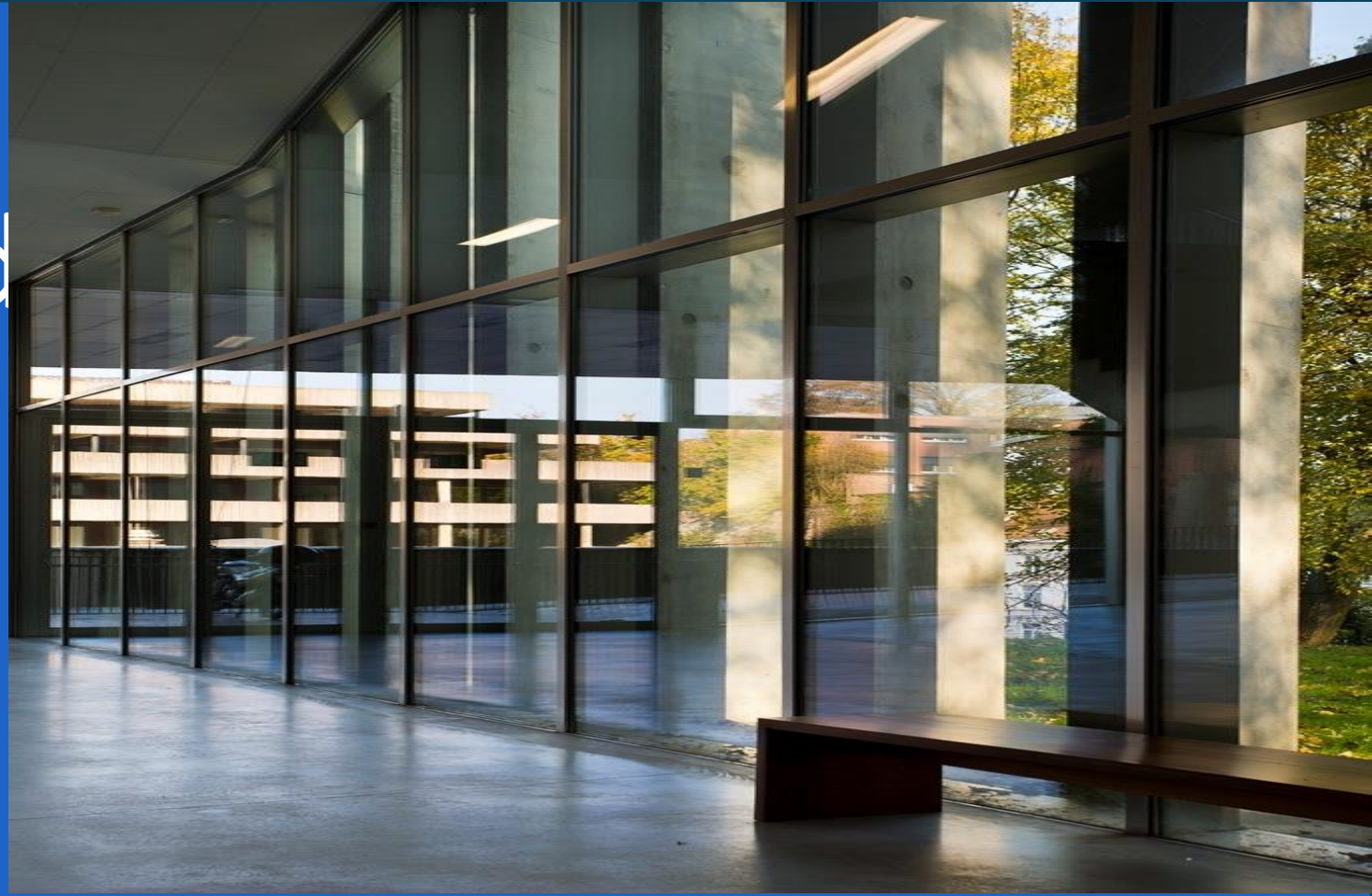
Welcome Address by prof. Carine Smolders

Research Director of the Faculty of Economics
and Business Administration (UGent)

June 30th, 2026



Faculty of economics and business administration





6400



Bachelor's & Master's Programmes

Business Administration

Business Economics

Business Engineering

Economics

Public Administration and Management



50



Doctoral Degrees

Business Administration (DBA)

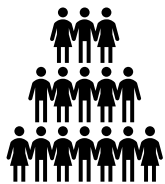
Business Economics

Economics

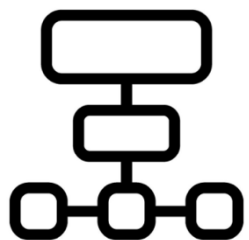
Public Administration and Management



ESEE2026



718



5

Economics

Accounting, corporate finance and taxation

Marketing, innovation and organization

Business informatics and operations management

Public governance and management



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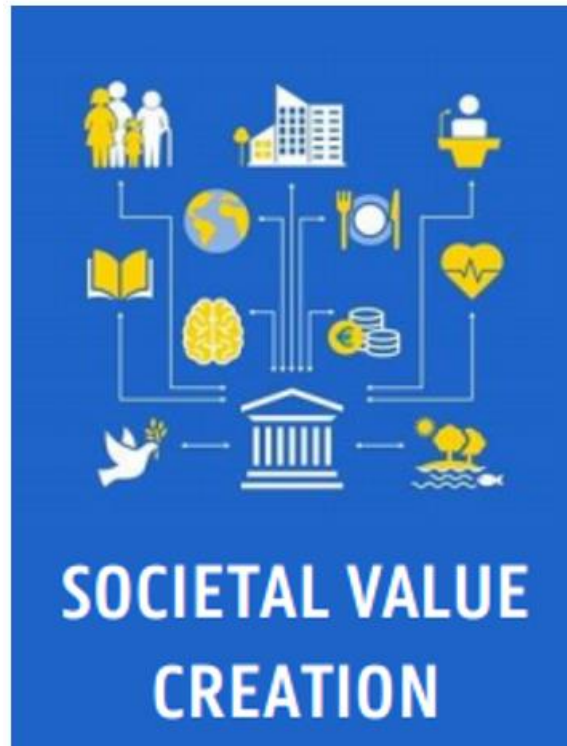
Accreditation for the entire Faculty



Accreditation for the Public Administration and Management programs



International Commission
on Accreditation of Public
Administration Education
and Training



Disseminate research to society at large

Build societal engagement

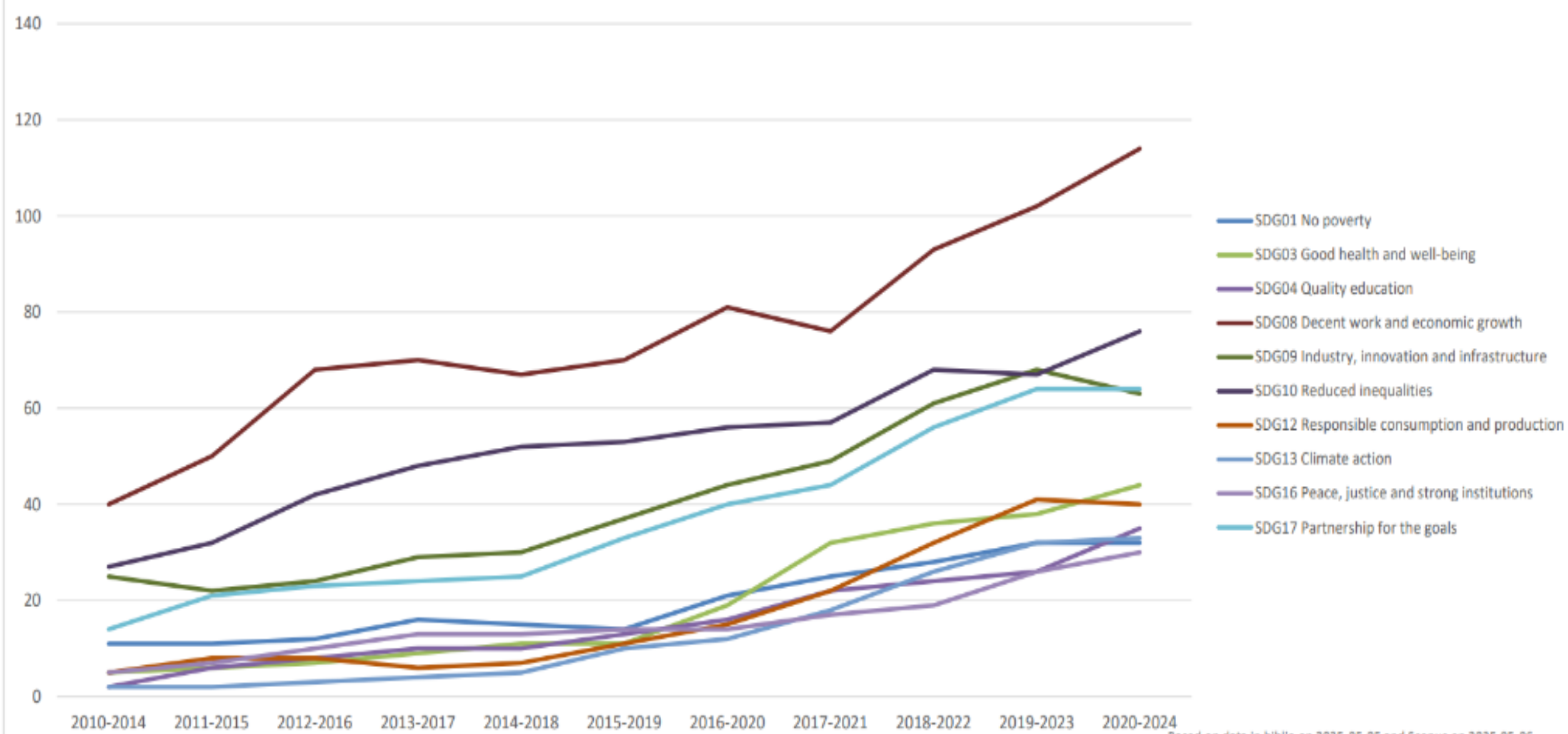
Make societal impact a superpower of the faculty

Connecting with society through life long learning



ESEE2026

UN Sustainable Development Goals - Number of Publications per SDG per 5 year time window
The SDGs most covered by FEB publications



Based on data in hihlio on 2025-05-05 and Scopus on 2025-05-06

Faculty of economics and business administration

Many thanks to the organizers and all the volunteers (staff and students) engaged!



Have a nice conference!



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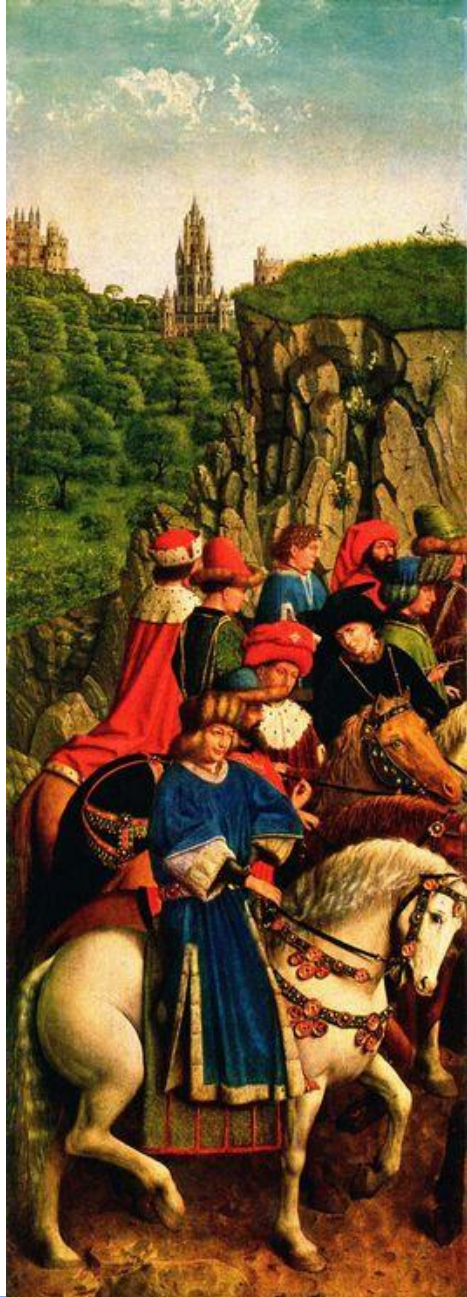












... volgens pestovereenkomst Redactie { 17.30.56-17.30.57 Em. Jacquemainlaan,

Een Paneel uit het Veelluik van "Het Lam Gods" gestolen

OPHEFMAKENDE DIEFSTAL TE GENT

Nachtelijke inbraak in de St-Baafskerk

DE ONTDEKKING

Te Gent is in den afgelopen nacht een ophefmakende diefstal gebeurd, waaromtrent men zich afvraagt of te openen. Iedereen kan het met een haakje open maken. De bewaker wou zich dan onmiddellijk rekenschap geven of het schilderij er nog volledig was en hij trok het gordijn weg dat het beschermt, waarop hij met ontzetting vast-

NATIONAL INCOME, 1929-32

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

TRANSMITTING

IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 220
(72D CONG.) A REPORT ON NATIONAL
INCOME, 1929-32



JANUARY 4, 1934.—Referred to the Committee on Finance

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1934



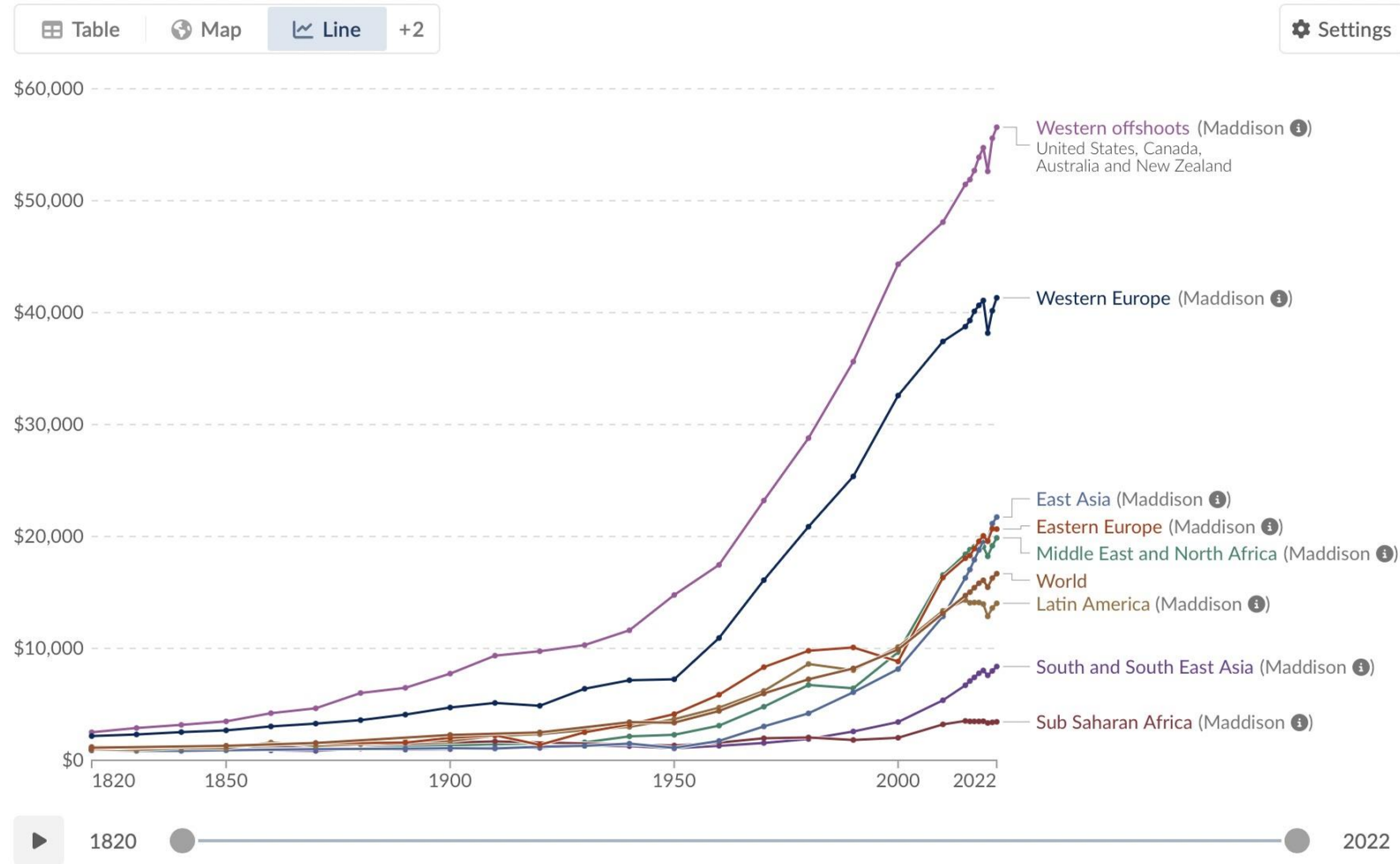


“The welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income.”

Simon Kuznets, 1934

GDP per capita, 1820 to 2022

GDP per capita is a country's gross domestic product divided by its population. This data is adjusted for inflation and differences in living costs between countries.

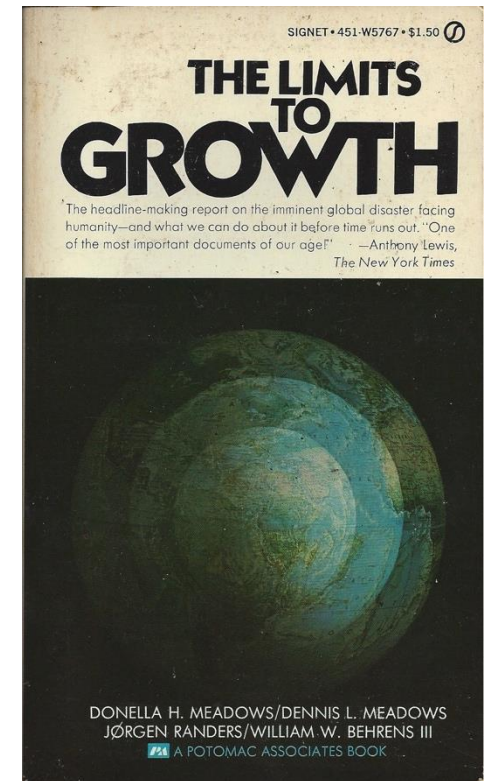
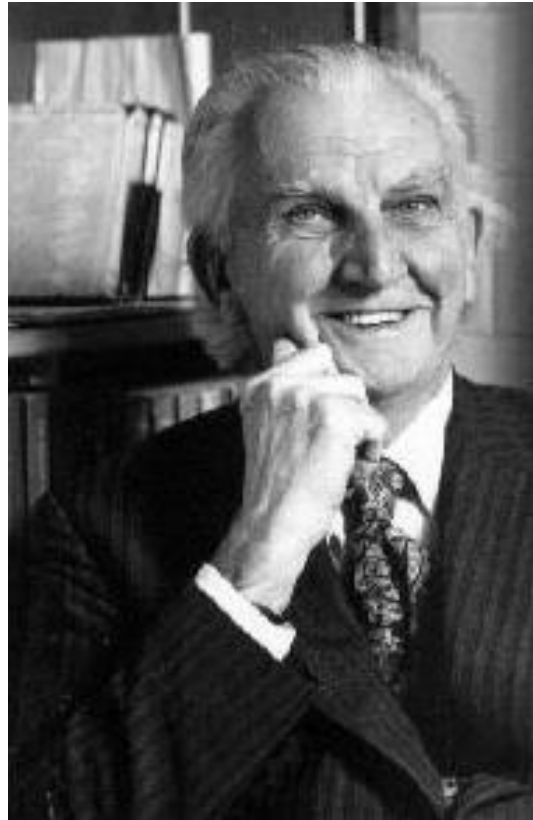
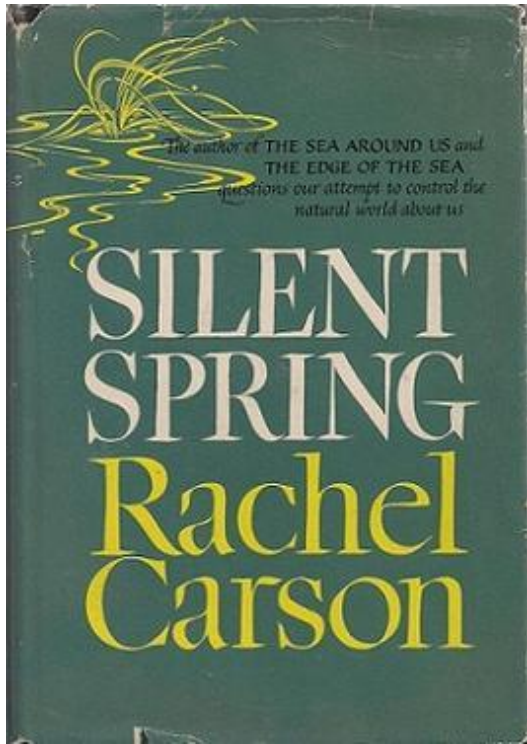


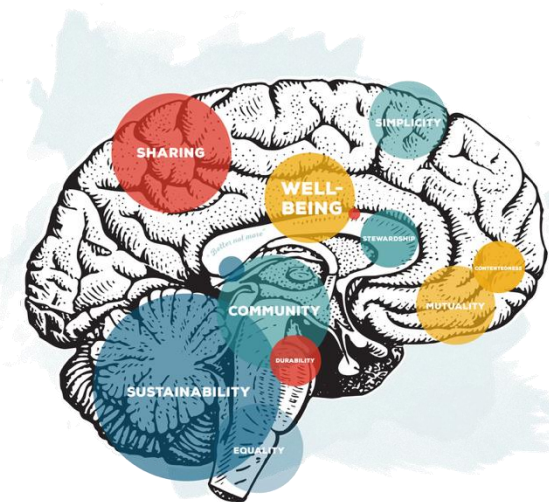
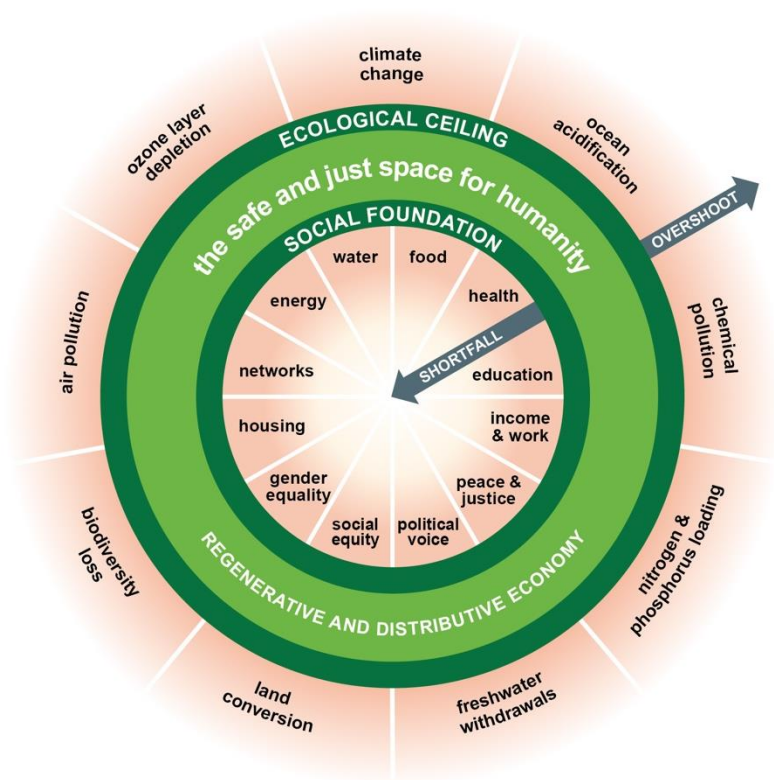
Data source: Bolt and van Zanden – Maddison Project Database 2023 – [Learn more about this data](#)

Note: This data is expressed in international-\$ at 2011 prices.

OurWorldinData.org/economic-growth | CC BY







SUFFICIENCY

MOVING BEYOND THE GOSPEL OF ECO-EFFICIENCY



maps

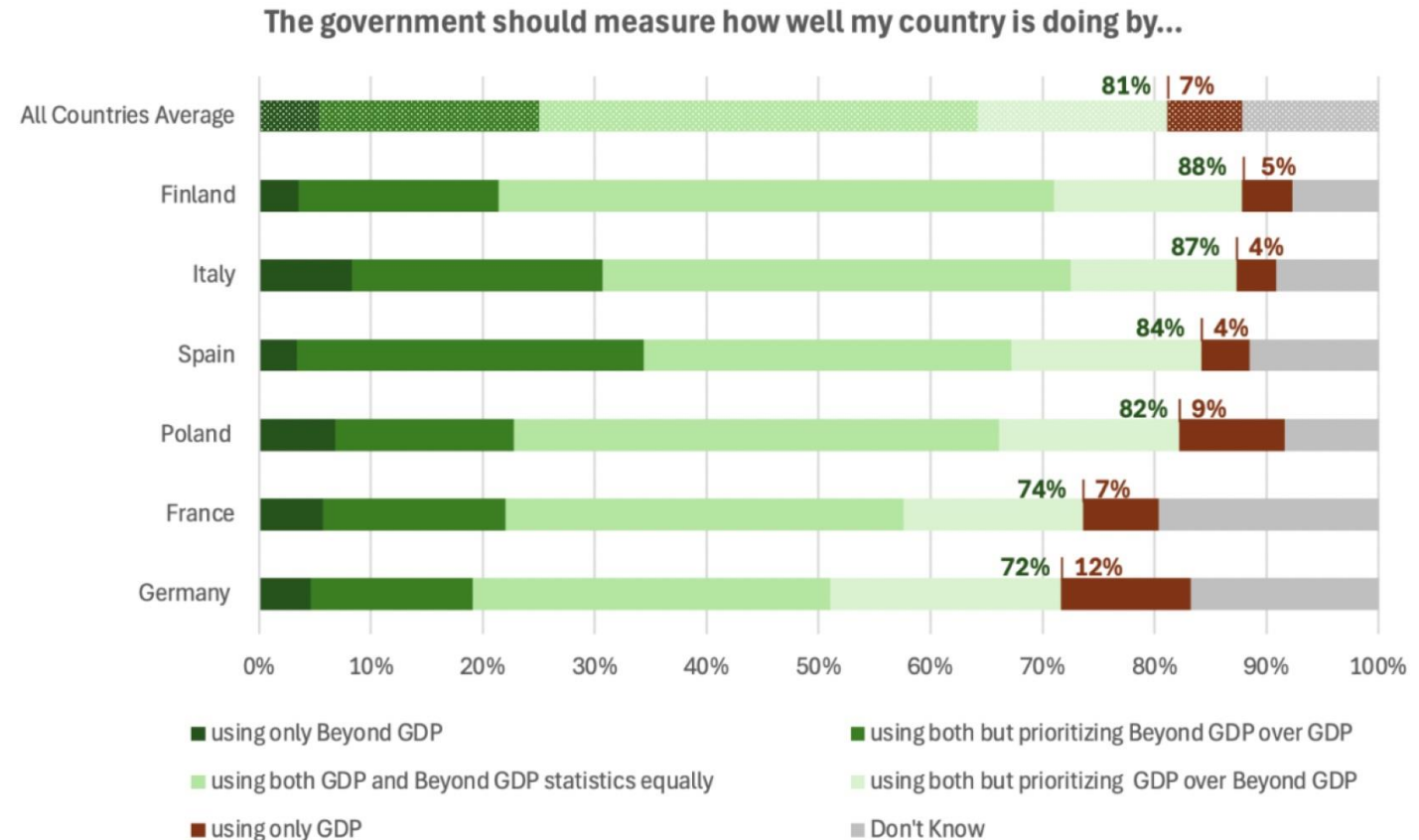
Models, Assessment, and Policies
for Sustainability



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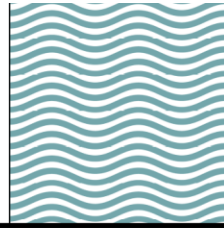
UGent contributions to EE - (1) MERGE



UGent contributions to EE - (2) ToBe



Towards sustainable wellbeing: Integrated policies and transformative indicators.



Deliverable D2.1

The Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare for the EU27 and beyond: methodology, data and results

WP2 - Empirical analysis of different processes of economic growth

Grant Agreement 101094211

Version 1.0 | June 2024

HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01 -
Towards sustainable wellbeing: Integrated policies
and transformative indicators.

Time period	GDP/capita	ISEW _{BCE} /capita	ISEW _{BCEPA} /capita
Inflation Rate	-0,072**	-0,130***	-0,287**
R&D	0,116	0,550	2,272
Years of Education	-0,004	-0,002	-0,004
Population Growth	-0,800***	-0,279	0,222
Capital Formation	0,158*	0,082*	0,979***
Govn Consumption	-0,672***	0,051	0,523
Trade Openess	0,021*	0,005	-0,015
TFE, CFE, 4 Lags of y	YES	YES	YES
# Observations	648	648	648
# Clusters	27	27	27
Adjusted r ²	0,9991	0,9991	0,9901

Govn consumption: crowding out reported in growth literature not found for welfare!

Trade openess: openess is related to higher GDP levels, yet when taking environmental costs of trade into account, no relation is found



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UGent contributions to EE - (3) DEER

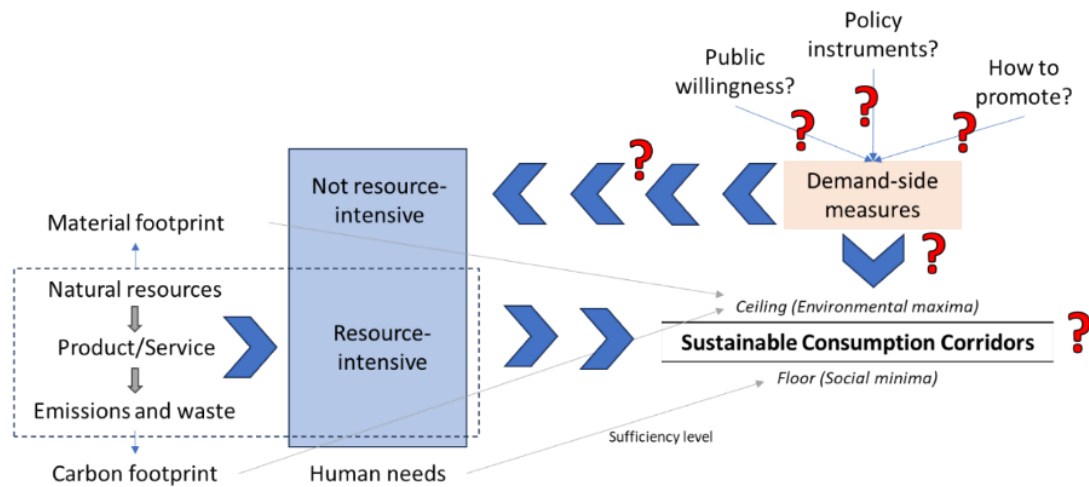
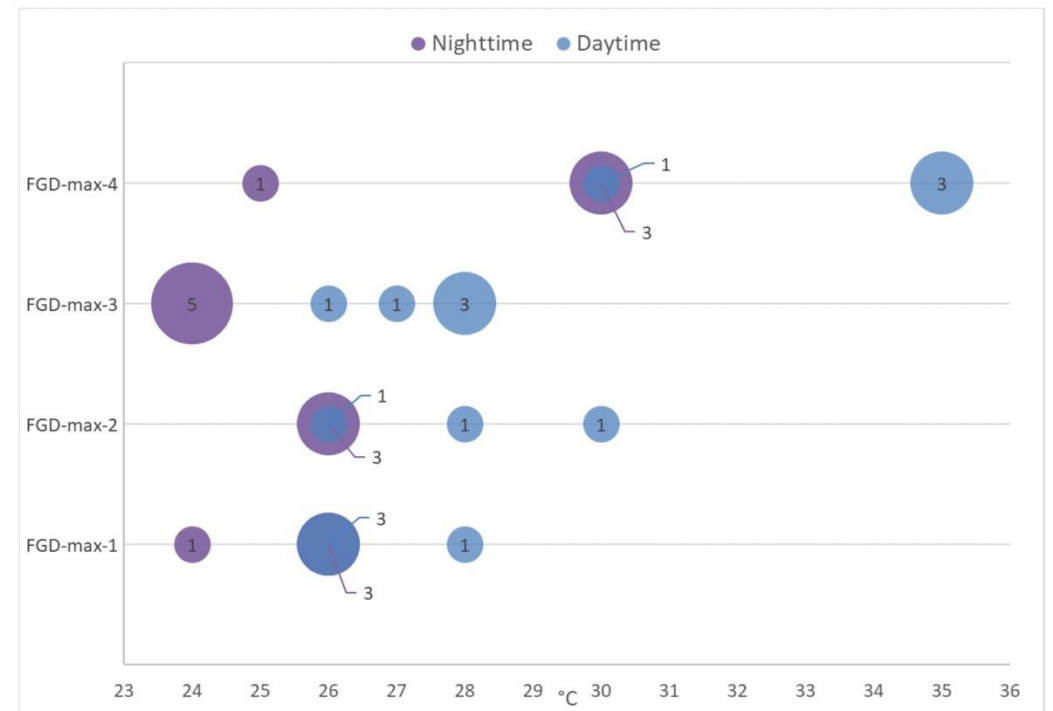
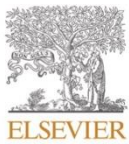


Figure 7: Proposed Socially Acceptable Maximum Residential Indoor Temperatures



UGent contributions to EE - (4) Sufficiency

Ecological Economics 247 (2026) 109034



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Ecological Economics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ecocon



ANALYSIS

“Having enough” is not enough: The value of “wanting more” in subjective sufficiency measures

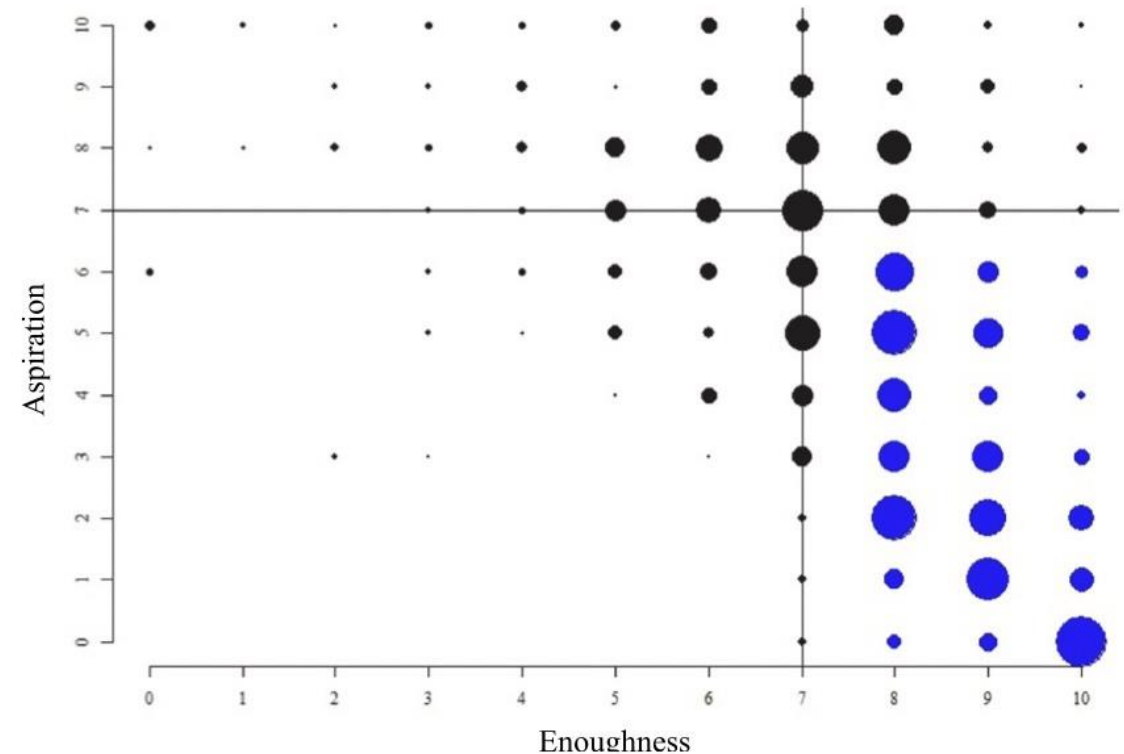
Damaris Castro^{*}, Brent Bleys

Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Ghent University, Tweakerkenstraat 2, 9000 Ghent, Belgium



ABSTRACT

The notion of sufficiency has gained considerable traction over the past decades due to its benefits for environmental sustainability, well-being, and socio-ecological justice. However, little is known about societal readiness for sufficiency. In this article we develop single-item and aggregate measures of subjective sufficiency in the material domain, combining two dimensions: enoughness (“on a material level, I feel that I have enough”) and aspiration (“on a material level, I would like to have more than I currently have”). Using Flemish survey data from 2020 ($N = 1623$), we address four research objectives: assessing the prevalence and methodological validity of the developed measures, exploring socio-demographic and personality characteristics associated with subjective sufficiency, and examining its relationship with life satisfaction and subjective income sufficiency. We find that aspiration plays a critical role in shaping aggregate sufficiency measures, and that most of the population experiences subjective sufficiency, with prevalence ranging from 55% to 71% depending on the measure. Moreover, the experience of sufficiency is more common among women, homeowners, high earners, home-makers, and conscientious individuals, follows a nonlinear age pattern and is less common among materialistic individuals. A four-group typology demonstrates that single-dimension approaches misclassify 24.1% of respondents. Subjective sufficiency is positively associated with both life satisfaction and subjective income sufficiency. The measures developed in this study provide valuable tools for gauging subjective sufficiency experiences, which could offer insights into psychological preconditions for sufficiency practices. Ultimately, our findings guide policymakers with tools to identify population segments differing in their readiness for sufficiency transitions.



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Sustainable and inclusive wellbeing



Ecosystems / biophysical foundation

- Access to social protection and services (orange dot)
- Labour policies and care economy (purple dot)
- Economic systems transformation (dark blue dot)
- Climate, environment, and resources (green dot)
- Democratic governance (pink dot)
- Overarching (light blue dot)



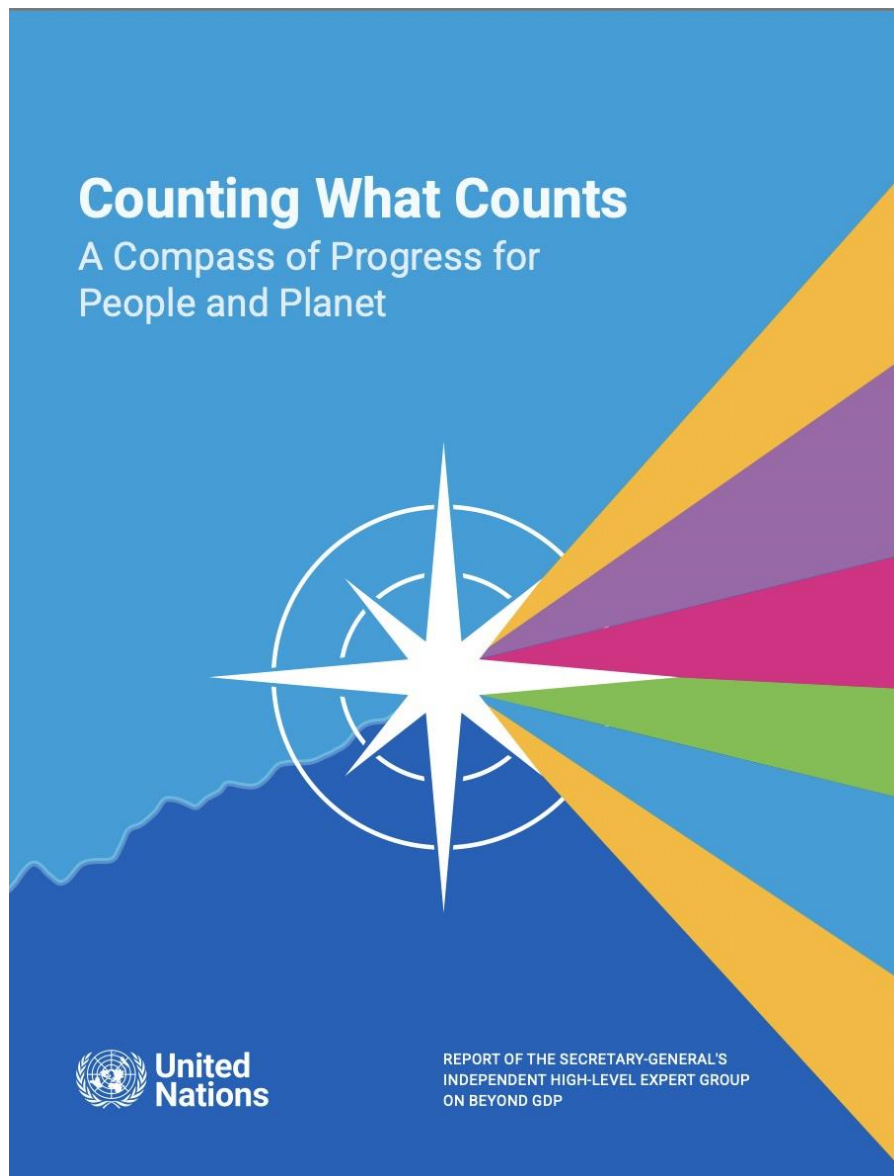
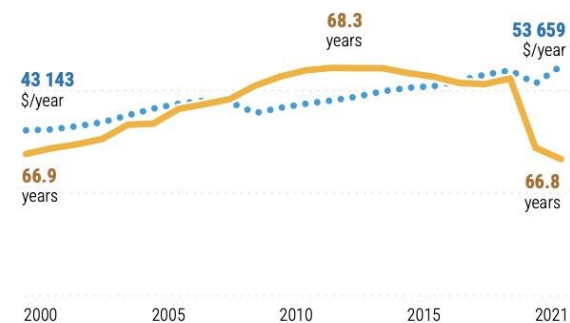


Figure 1: Trends of key dimensions of progress compared to GDP



HEALTH NORTHERN AMERICA

Median healthy
life expectancy at birth

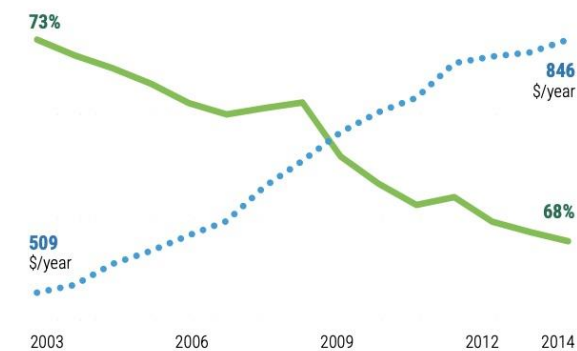


Source: World Bank and WHO

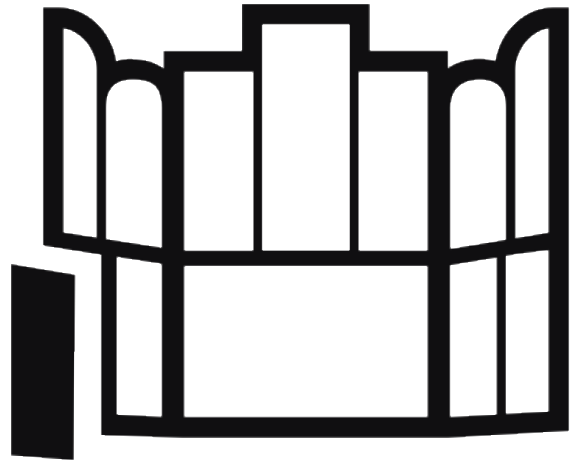


ENVIRONMENT EASTERN AFRICA

Biodiversity Intactness
Index

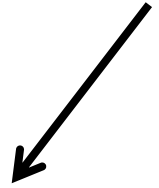


Source: World Bank and The Natural History Museum, London



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You?



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Keynote speech by prof. Lucas Chancel

(separate slideset)

June 30th, 2026





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Discussant prof. Milena Büchs

June 30th, 2026



Energy: A Capital Problem Discussant

**ESEE Conference Ghent
30 June 2026**

Professor Milena Büchs

Ecological Economics



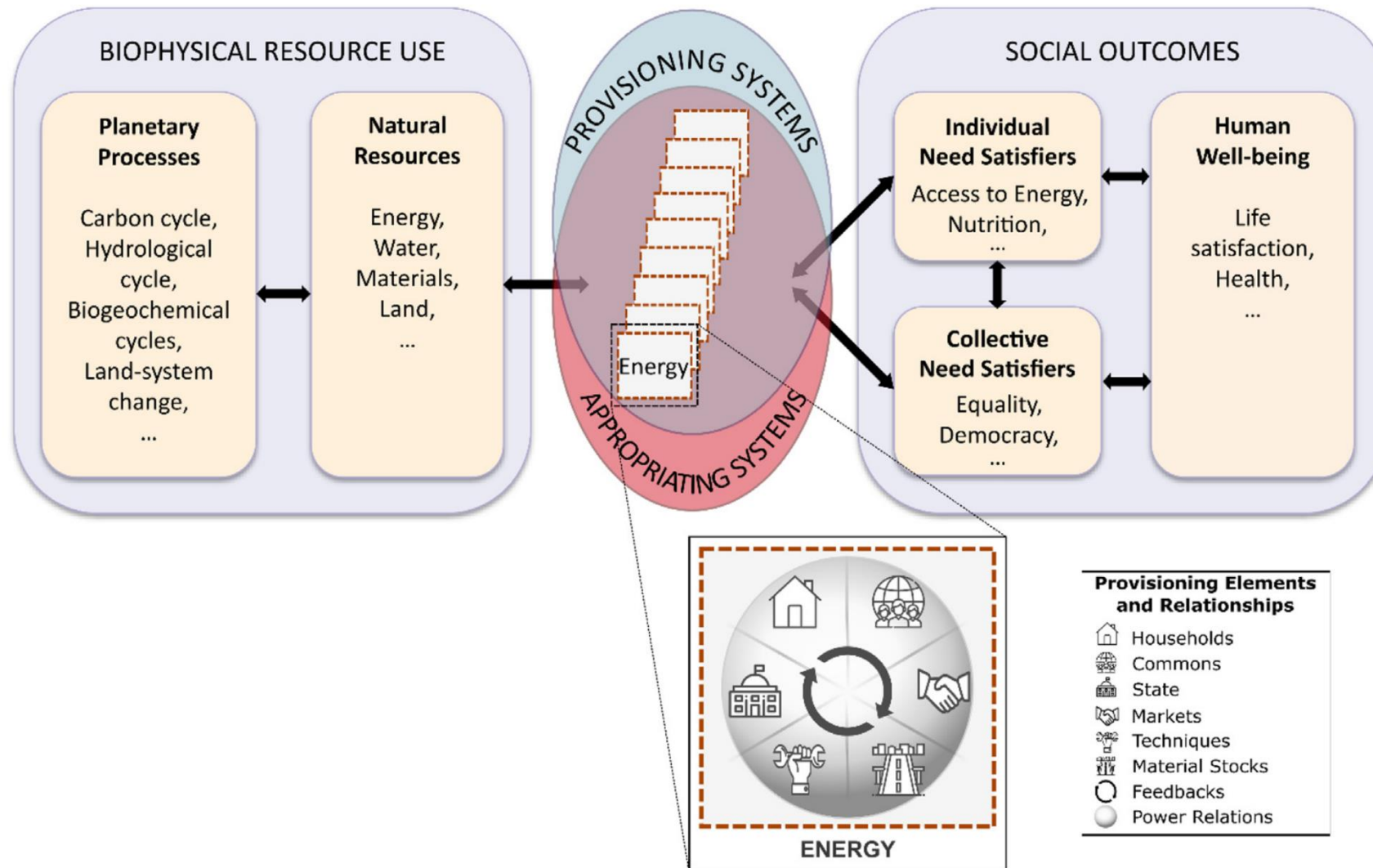
Inequality

Tackling inequality & fair distribution = core concerns in ecological economics

Economic system

- Provisioning systems
- Universal Basic Services
- Capitalism
- Ecologically unequal exchange

Provisioning systems

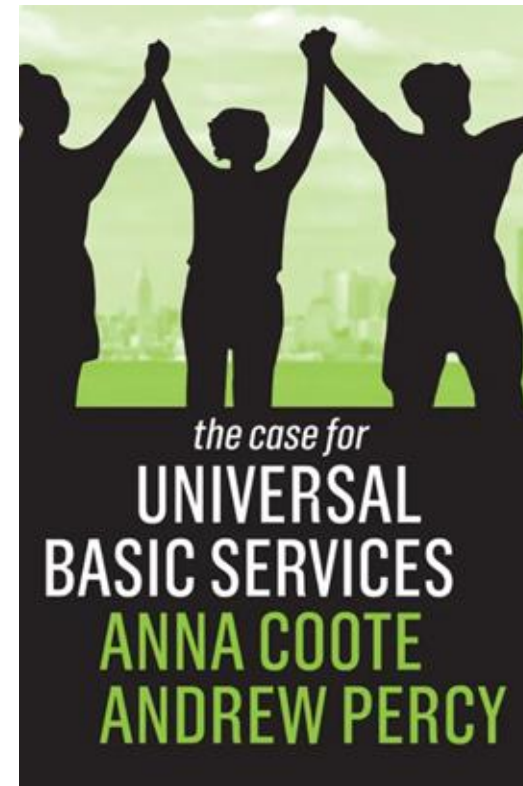


Universal Basic Services

Institute for Global Prosperity (2017). Social prosperity for the future: A proposal for Universal Basic Services, UCL

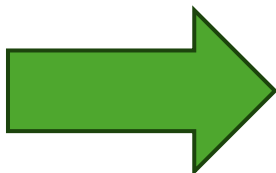


Coote, A. and A. Percy (2020). The case for universal basic services. Cambridge, Polity Press.



Health care
Education

Social care
Housing
Transport
Digital access



Apply UBS to energy / electricity

Capitalism

Is capitalism inherently growth dependent, or is it compatible with post-growth?

Not compatible

Imperative of continuous profit maximisation and accumulation

- Functioning of the economic system
- Social stability, addressing systemic power asymmetries

Compatible

Profits can be fully redistributed to society, no accumulation

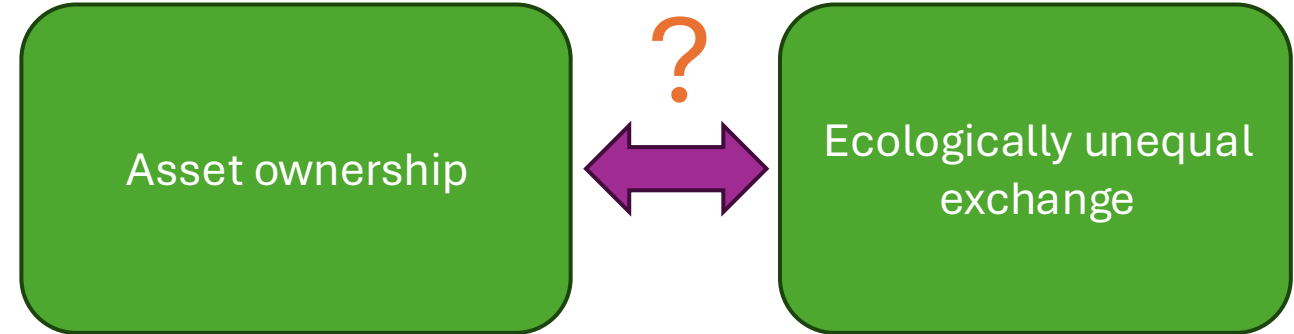
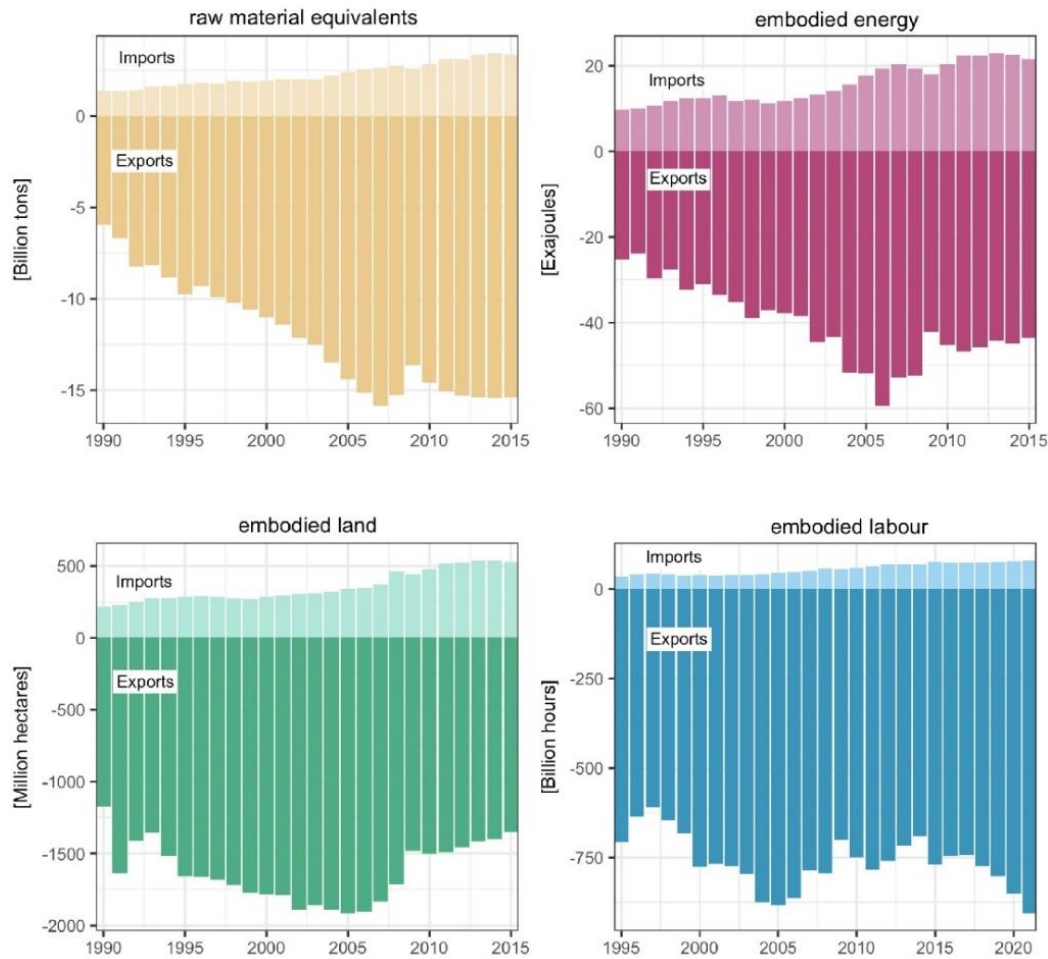
Role of asset ownership?

How relevant to understanding relationship between capitalism and growth?

Is broader energy asset ownership seen as a step beyond capitalism or not?

Büchs, M., T. Hirvilammi, T. Webb and D. Leoni (2026). "Growth dependence of welfare states: a semi-systematic review of drivers and policy responses." *Lancet Planetary Health* (in press)

Ecologically unequal exchange



Exports and imports of embodied labour (hours) by the global South, 1995–2021

Hickel, J., M. Hanbury Lemos and F. Barbour (2024). "Unequal exchange of labour in the world economy." *Nature Communications* 15(1): 6298.

Thank you!





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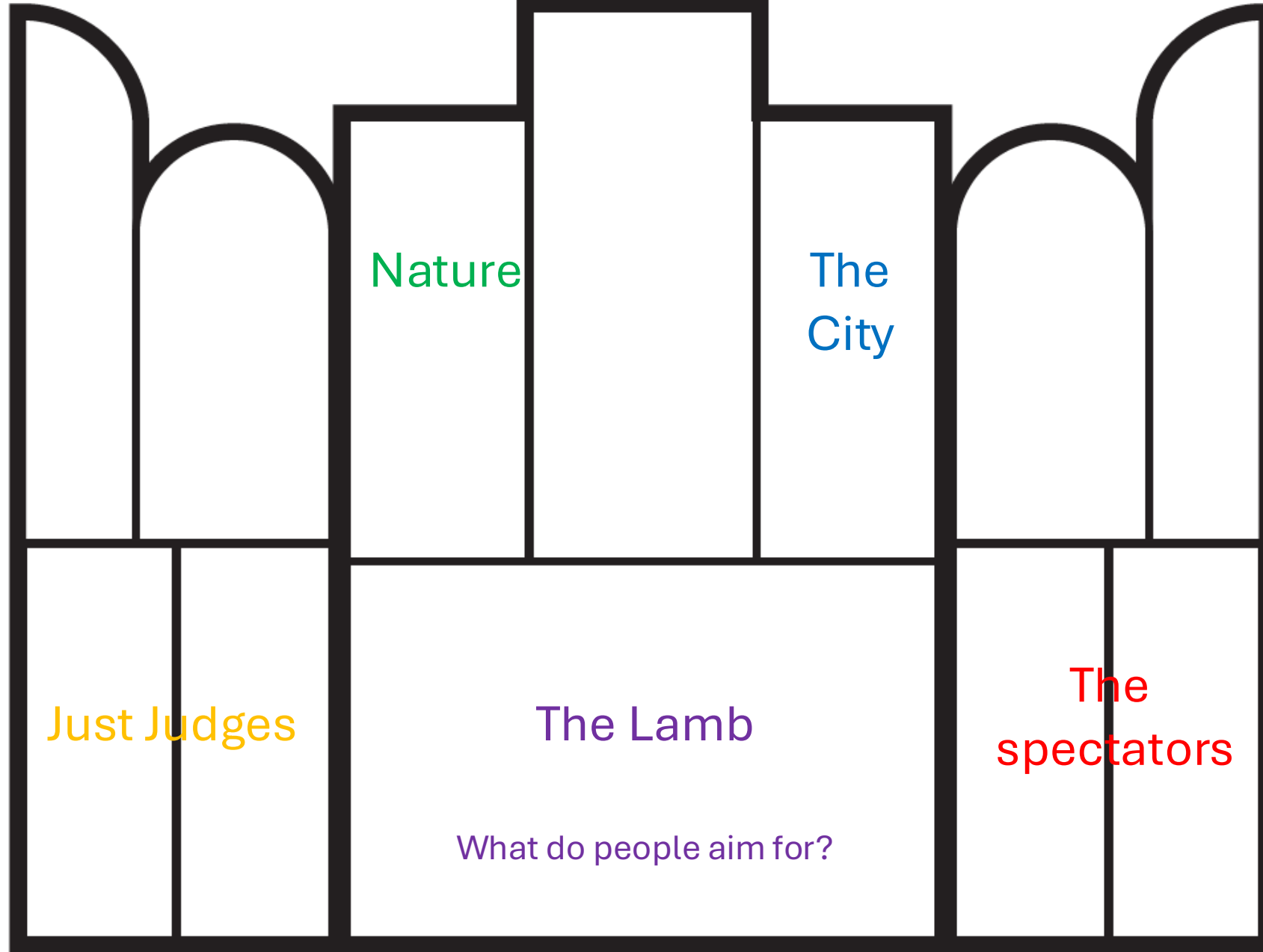
June 30th, 2026











Who protects the
common good

What does society
look like?



how we see the world right now

pollution,
natural
disasters and
waste



overpopulation

"only
influencers
matter"



everyone judges
"post or it didn't
happen"



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how we see the world in 20 years

a balance
between
nature and
industry



"digital
generation"



equality



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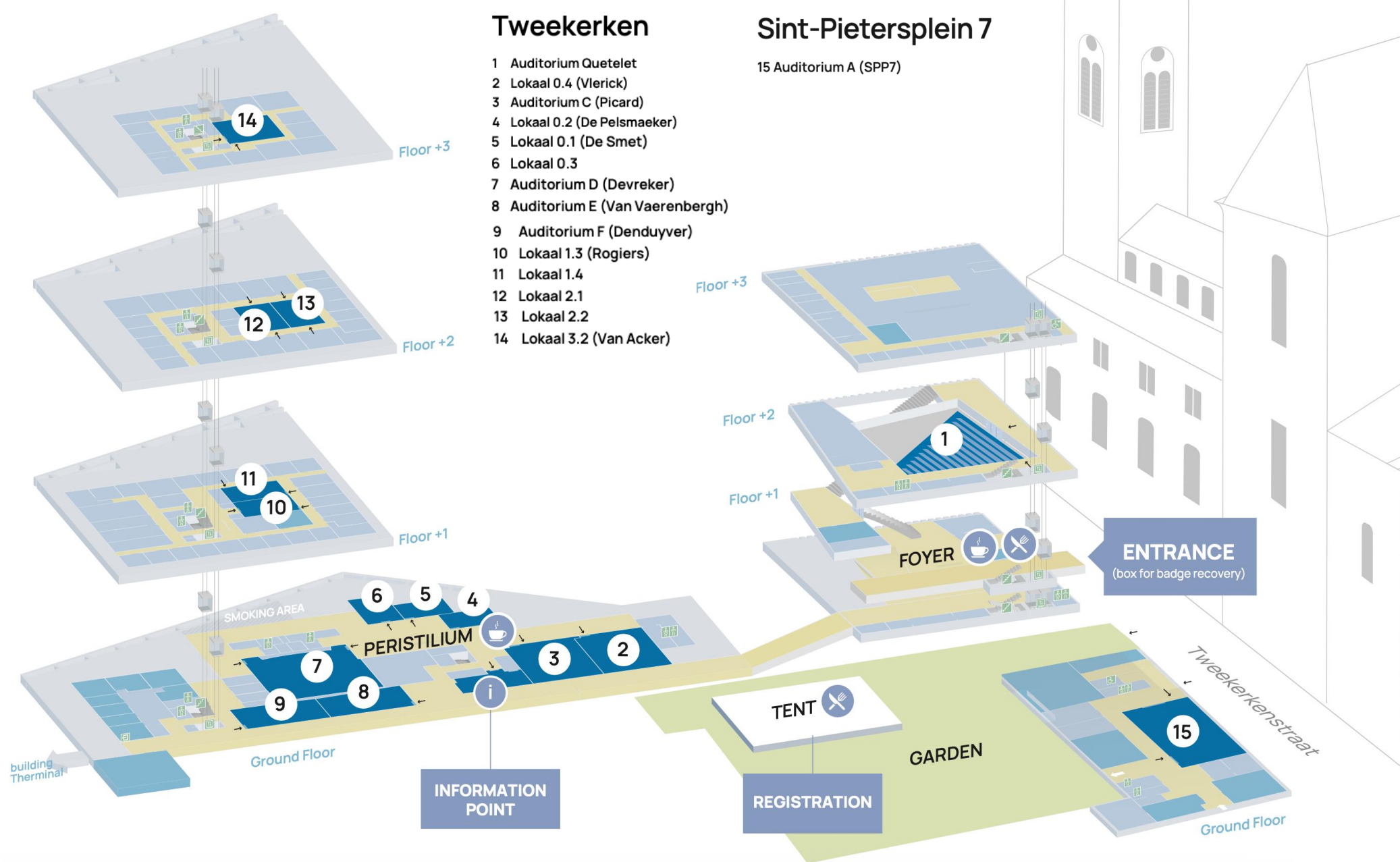
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Practicalities by prof. Bart Defloor

Co-chair of ESEE2026

June 30th, 2026





Booklet backside

- Whatsapp: community ESEE2026
 - Number of groups
- **Internet / WIFI:** Eduroam or login and password



ESEE2026

Badges and lanyards will be re-used after ESEE2026

Please deposit them in the box
at the entrance of Twekerken
(see inside map) at the end of
the conference.



You can join the
ESEE2026 WhatsApp
community for
informal meetups and
gatherings



SINT-BAAFS

Visit the
Mystic Lamb
in the St. Bavo
Cathedral



Check out
the full ESEE2026
programme in
ConfTool

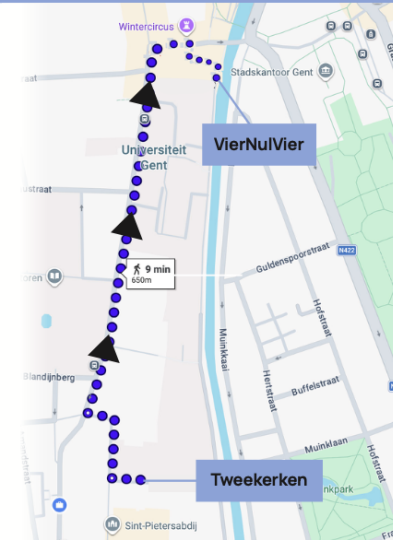


vierNulvier

Conference Walking Dinner @ VierNulVier

Thursday June 2nd
from 18:30 onwards

Entry via Parijsberg



WIFI

Eduroam is available
everywhere on the
campus

Or, alternatively, you can join the "guest wifi" via:

Network: UGentGuest
Login: guestEsee20
Password: gsRW7wRx



ESEE2026

June 30th, 2026

Opening reception

- Belgian
 - Fries
 - Beers
 - Mayonaise
- Brazzmatazz