

Connectedness in times of ecological overshoot

Citation for published version (APA):

Figge, L. S. (2017). *Connectedness in times of ecological overshoot: a quantitative analysis of the sustainability of globalization*. Datawyse / Universitaire Pers Maastricht.
<https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20170929lf>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2017

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20170929lf](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20170929lf)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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Propositions belonging to the thesis:

Connectedness in times of Ecological Overshoot: A quantitative analysis of the sustainability of globalization

By Lukas Figge

1. Globalization is a dominant feature of contemporary society and discourse; the global orientation of contemporary thought and action emphasizes the importance of quantitatively assessing globalization and its consequences. (this thesis)
2. Conflicting perspectives on the sustainability of globalization will continue to exist and shape the future of the process. Only a balanced discourse which integrates different management styles will be effective in addressing current and future challenges. (this thesis)
3. Researchers themselves construct multiple empirical and conceptual realities; the (scientific) truth and reality about globalization is therefore co-created by the scholars who set out to understand, define and measure its trends and consequences. (this thesis)
4. Sustainability Science is inter-disciplinary, makes the normative concept of sustainability operational, and aims to advance our understanding of coupled socio-ecological systems, with a specific interest in the driving forces and consequences of global change.
5. Globalization has not contributed to reconciling human demands with the Earth's carrying capacity, which remains one of humanity's greatest challenges. (this thesis)
6. The ceteris paribus nature of econometric analysis, which assumes "other things equal" is a gross over-simplification of a complex and dynamic reality.
7. The most powerful leverage points to reduce ecological overshoot seem to be: change the composition of the economy (towards more agriculture), decrease affluence, energy intensity and the economically active population. (this thesis)
8. Scenario workshops on the 'future of globalization' could yield a new narrative vision and practical policy agenda to advance a sustainable form of globalization.
9. "True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us." Socrates
10. Transgressing deadlines does not kill a PhD candidate, we remain hopeful that transgressing planetary boundaries will not kill humanity.
11. "When we meet real tragedy in life, we can react in two ways - either by losing hope and falling into self-destructive habits, or by using the challenge to find our inner strength." Tenzin Gyatso, HH the 14th Dalai Lama