



# Locking in or helping shift? Trends and developments affecting sustainable resource use and degrowth

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### Overview

- Why analysing trends?
- How did we do that?
- Relevant trend clusters identified
- Interlinkages and feedbacks
- Implications for resource policy and degrowth



### Why analysing trends?

"Essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful" (George P. E. Box)

- Scan the horizon for emerging issues
- Analyse and extrapolate from past/current developments
- Gather evidence and outline plausible development trajectories
- Enabling early warnings and identifying intervention points for precautionary/corrective action

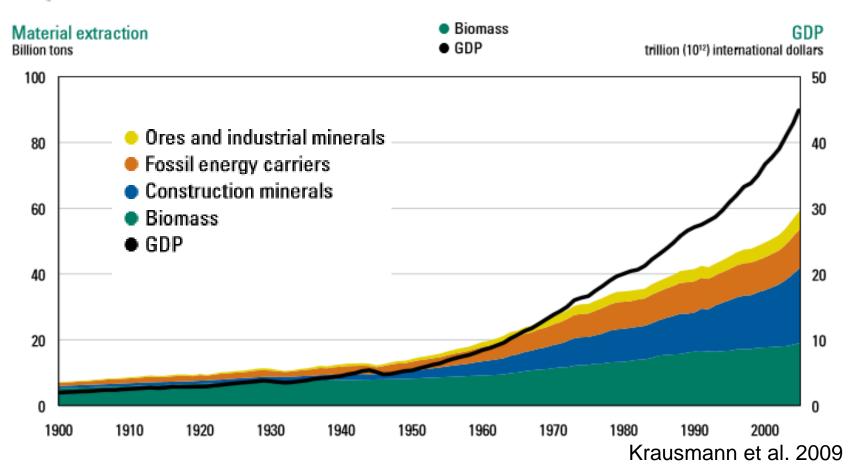
No predictions, rather fact- and expert-based assumptions





### Why analysing trends?

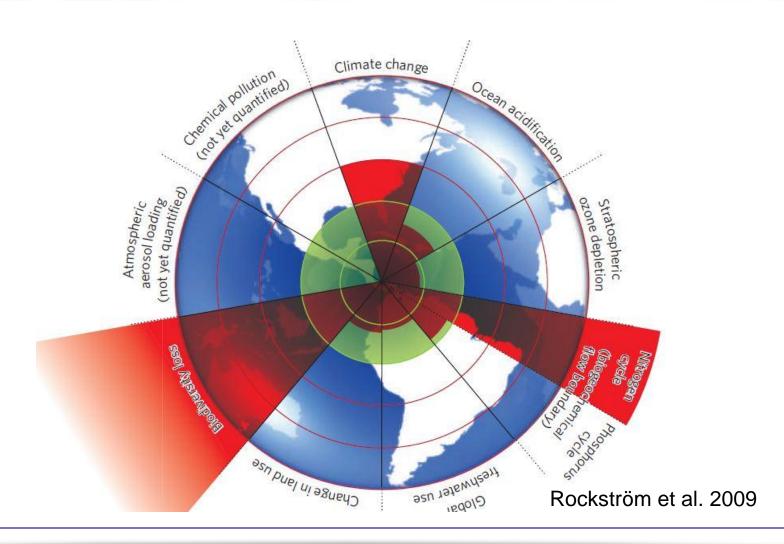
### Figure 2. Global material extraction in billion tons, 1900-2005







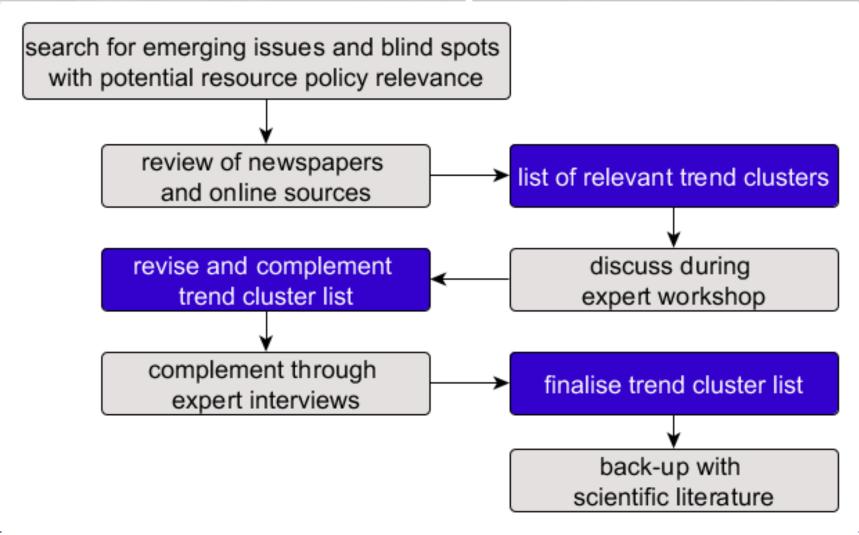
## Why analysing trends?







### **How was the analysis done?**







### Socio-economic acceleration

Westernised growth models and lifestyles spread

Pace of technological development increases

Profit maximisation prevailing as business model

Personalised and ubiquitious advertisement

Economisation of the educational system

Global capital flows increase and accelarate

anned obsolescence > Waste may counteract

Planting cravings and desires per capita resource use Conspicuous consumption

Emergence of more sustainable world views, shared economy business models, enlightened consumers





### **Digitalisation**

Digitalisation of all aspects of living (e.g. smart homes)

eCommerce and mobileCommerce increase

Digital behaviour enables personalised advertisement

More options for online participation & empowerment

Vulnerability to sabotage and manipulation raised

may

may counteract

Availability of information; options for sustainability oriented online business ratings via social media



igital work may reduce travel needs Resource needs for ICT mpulse buing

buying thresholds







### New mental models and world views

Transition initiatives spread within niches

Demand for meaningful jobs increases

More conscious eating and mobility decisions (in parts of society)

Common welfare economics on the rise in niches



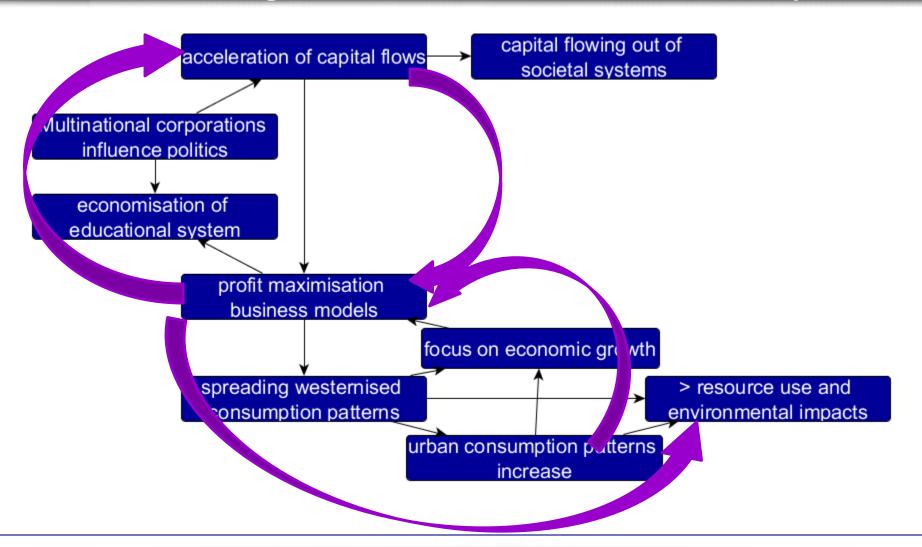
Mainly niche phenomena Can upscaling be achieved?

- > sufficiency, simplified lives
- < per capita consumption of resources
- < CO2-emissions
- < waste generation





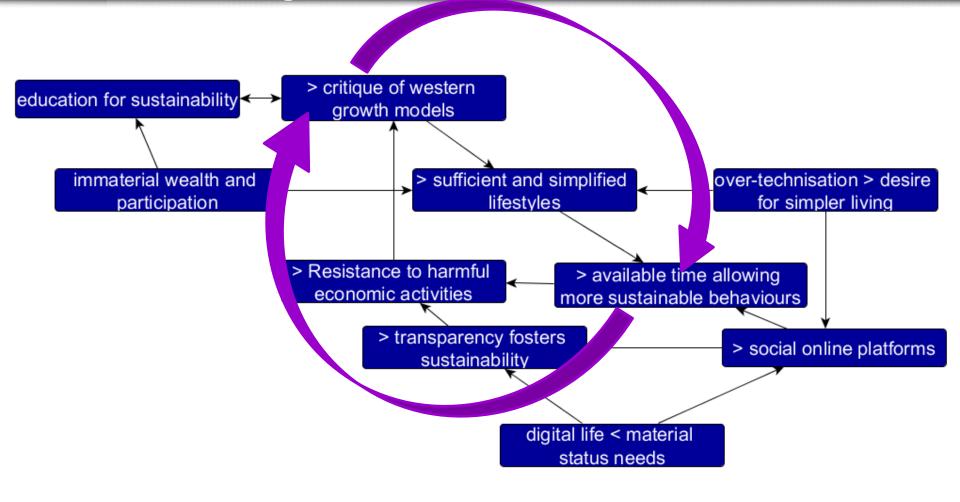
### Interlinkages and feedbacks: socio-economic system







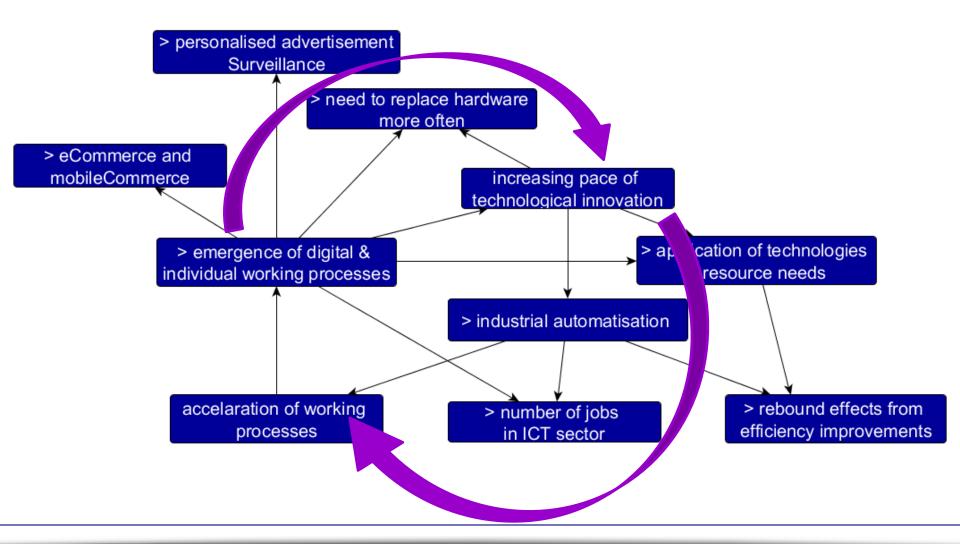
### Interlinkages and feedbacks: new mental models







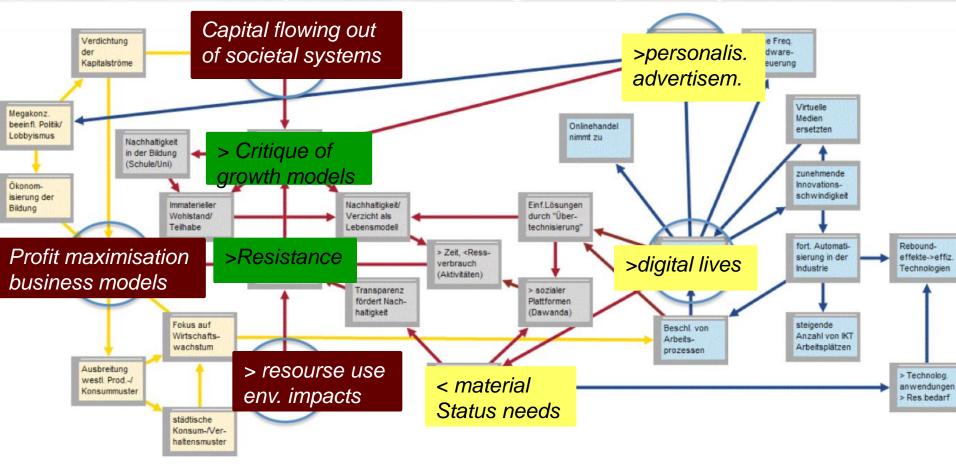
### Interlinkages and feedbacks: digitalisation







### Implications for degrowth pathways







### Implications for degrowth pathways

- Accelarating trends dominate in the short- and medium term (long term?)
- All trend clusters entail sustainable counter-trends in niches
- Financial market trends poorly understood in relation to resource use
- Intervention points should
  - create conditions conducive to counter-trends
  - slow accelaration down
  - remove blind spot on financial markets
- Degrowth momentum may just be the needed tipping point for breaking trends







# Thank you for listening.

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