

Doughnut economics, recommoning and multifaceted wellbeing: the true meaning of mobility and work

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Abstract

The current globalising capitalist economy has continued to reward wealth more than work. Hypermobility of wealth and human resources has led to worsening environmental degradation, climate crisis and extreme socio-economic polarisation. It is high time we reflected on the value and nature of mobility and work. Urban mobility should be seen as a tool to facilitate our building of communities, not about the seeking of monetary return. Unless we reclaim the true meaning of work—to promote environmental sustainability and develop positive human relationships in the course of satisfying one another's socio-economic needs, we are giving up the wellbeing of the earth and ourselves. We have to realise that pursuing doughnut economics (Raworth, 2018), that is, economic systems that respect the ecological ceiling and safeguard the social foundation, is vital for the sustainability of the earth and homo sapiens. To counteract the destructive trend of privatising nature and culture, we also need to resurrect the practice of recommoning and assume collectively our duties to take care of the ecological systems that embrace us, socio-economic and spatial beings. Pursuing doughnut economics and recommoning will provide ecological, safe, socio-spatially just spaces for regenerative human activities that can nurture positive human relationships and purposeful undertakings, all essential for the psychological and social wellbeing of urbanites. Cyborgs may not care about the meaning of mobility and work but as homo sapiens, we need to reflect and act on this matter urgently.