

What future of the European Metropolitan Space?

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Aesop Conference

Game Changer?

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The short and medium term outlook

- World Economic Forum: The **Global Risks Report 2024** presents the findings of the Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS), which captures insights from nearly 1,500 global experts.
- In the ten year perspective the risk assessment is very bleak, with nearly **two third of respondents seeing real risk of major collapse in global systems by 2034.**

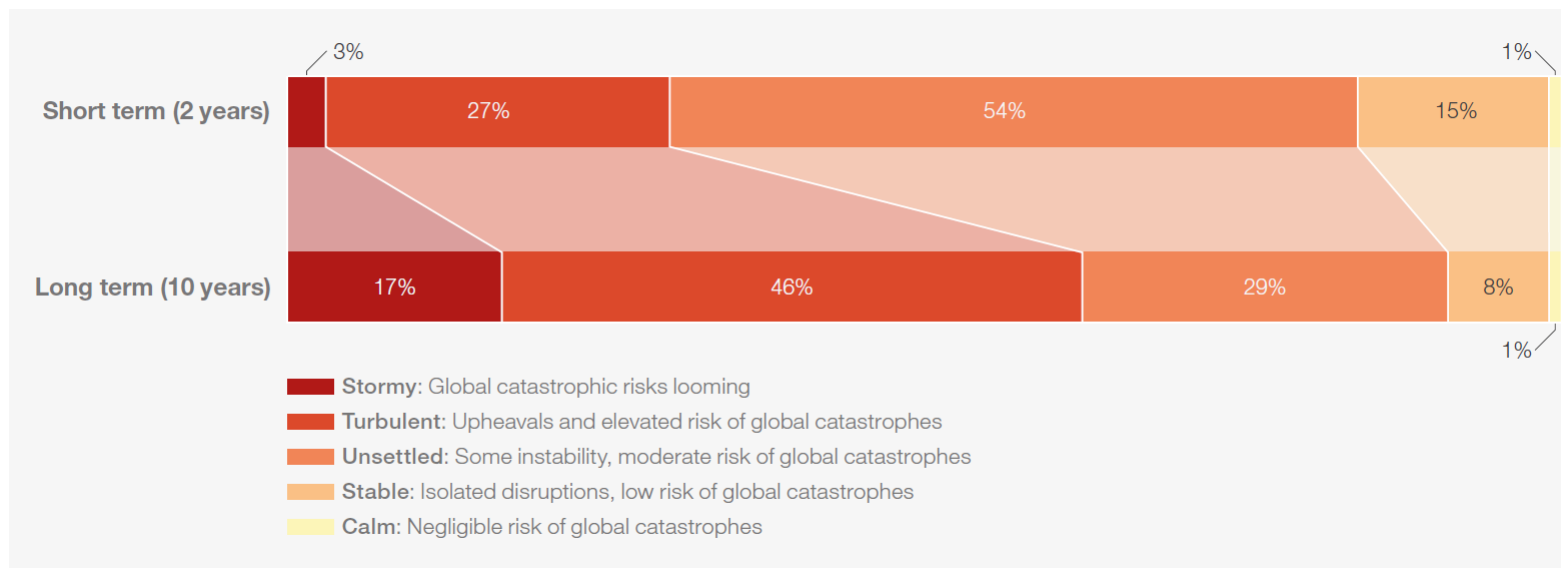


FIGURE C

Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period."

Risk categories

- Economic
- Environmental
- Geopolitical
- Societal
- Technological

2 years

1 st	Misinformation and disinformation
2 nd	Extreme weather events
3 rd	Societal polarization
4 th	Cyber insecurity
5 th	Interstate armed conflict
6 th	Lack of economic opportunity
7 th	Inflation
8 th	Involuntary migration
9 th	Economic downturn
10 th	Pollution

10 years

1 st	Extreme weather events
2 nd	Critical change to Earth systems
3 rd	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
4 th	Natural resource shortages
5 th	Misinformation and disinformation
6 th	Adverse outcomes of AI technologies
7 th	Involuntary migration
8 th	Cyber insecurity
9 th	Societal polarization
10 th	Pollution

Source

World Economic Forum Global Risks
Perception Survey 2023-2024.

Me: Whew, 2021 will be great finally getting past this covid thing

Universe: hold my beer



3:47 PM · Jan 4, 2021



New model is needed: degrowth

Abandon growth as an objective and focus instead on equity, sufficiency and human wellbeing. **It is not aggregate production what matters but what we are producing, assuring that people have access to goods they require** and that incomes are more equally distributed.

Degrowth aims for a **planned and democratic reduction of less necessary production in rich countries in a safe and just way**. This means less requirements for lower income countries, which still have to increase production to achieve core human development aims (this definition does not include GDP).

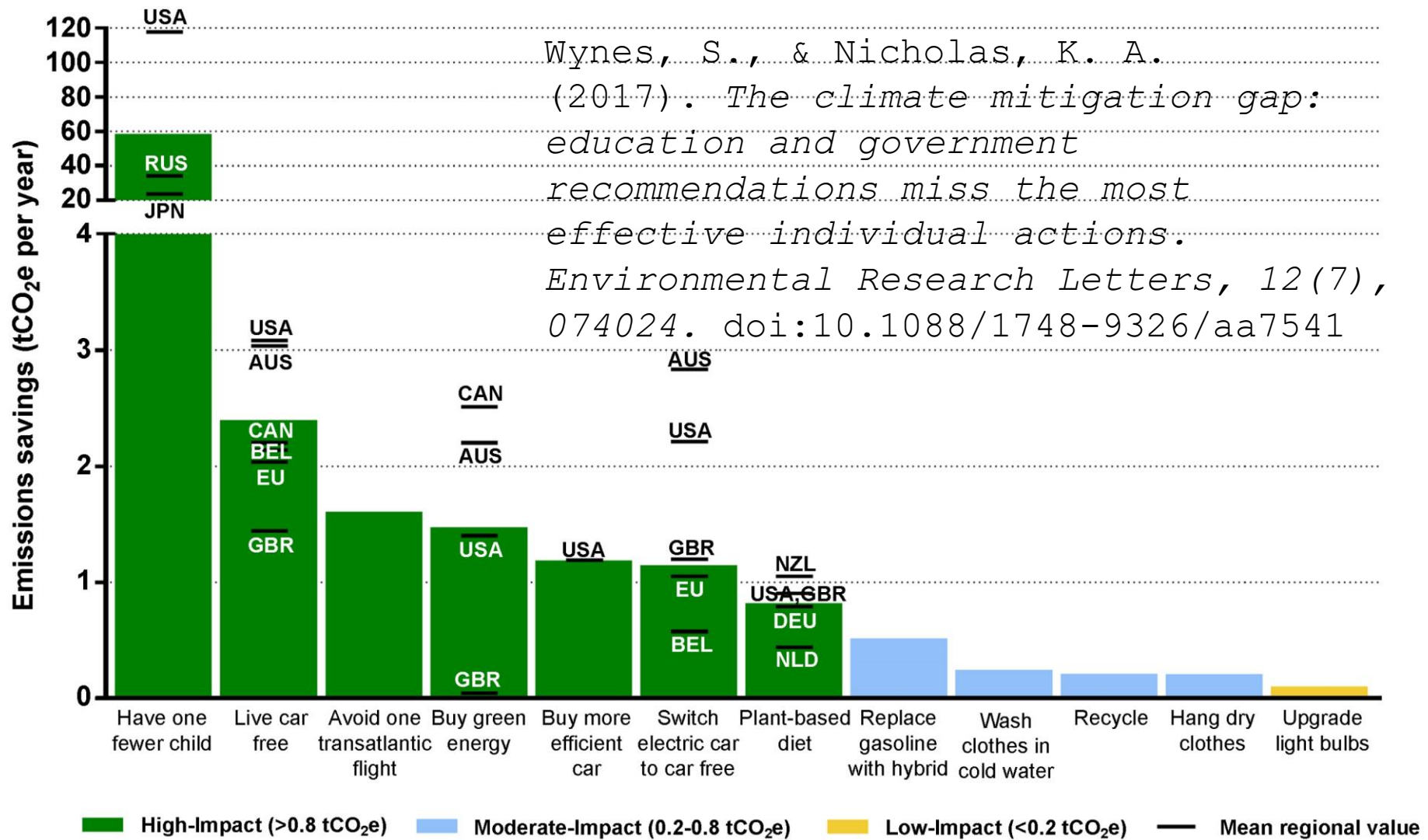
Degrowth suggestions: **decommodify public services to make them accessible to everyone: health, housing education, food, ...** Job guarantee, living wages, improve bargaining power of labour. **Socially necessary sectors have to be improved and not necessary ones to be removed.** Right to repair, extend products life.

Risk mitigation possibilities for managing global risks at all levels

- **individual and collective action** – e.g. diet, transport choices
- **local strategies** – risk of weather disasters are best addressed at local level. Intensely local actions can (potentially) solve a lot of the problems
- **international collaboration** - e.g. vaccine development during Covid, IPCC examples, COP29, first time “transition away from fossil fuel use”.

Many approaches, **no one silver bullet.**

All levels must take actions!



The present reality: world-wide and EU-wide cooperation is very slow

Any state interventions towards mitigation are **confronted with huge resistance from the side of the affected groups** (Dutch and German farmers; yellow vest movement in France)

International organizations also have difficulties to achieve real changes in climate policy issues. **Taxonomy for sustainable activities**: Germany insisted to **natural gas** while France to **nuclear power**; the Global South is **blocking that renewable technologies** should be supported instead of more polluting, outdated technologies.

If public efforts are insufficient, **radical ideas emerge**. Eco-terrorism (in a mild version the tyre extinguishers) is taking off. However, **radical actions scare the majority of society**, rarely achieving the aimed behaviour change.

713001

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to come



TOYOTA



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



 **Let's
Go
Places...**

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...to enter the UK Department for Transport to threaten to cease manufacturing in Britain if the government doesn't water down plans to legislate for a rapid switch to fully electric vehicles

 Download the TfL Go app

 Step-free from train to street

 Step-free from platform to street

District line

Upminster
Hornchurch
Dagenham East
Secunder Green
Barking
Upton Park
West Ham
Bow Road
Stratford

Hammersmith Goldhawk Road Wood Lane

 District 150m
Piccadilly 150m

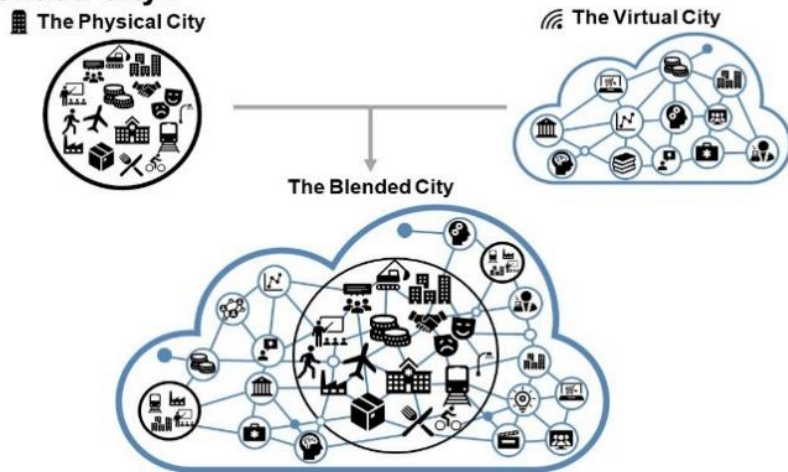
Shepherd's Bush Market

 Central White City 250m

Emerging new metropolitan model

- Resilience and capacity for institutional innovation
- Distributed Urbanisation & “Blended City”
- **New sufficiency thinking**, both in developing our strategies for the future and choosing the tools to approach these
- Implications for local democracy, social inclusion, and location politics

The Blended City?



© Greg Clark

„The crisis may provide a short window for our unaffordable, hypergentrified cities to reset and to reenergize their creative scenes.” R. Florida

Stationary, resilient metropolitan areas

Urban change based on **optimising, exploiting and transforming the existing infrastructure**; by focusing on renewal, limited densification, the 'repair' of certain areas such as city entrances, commercial zones, or business districts

- applying **new mobility strategy across the whole urban region**, based on **accessibility** instead of mobility
- linking **energy efficient renovation on housing areas with other resiliency goals** (eg less parking to allow more green)
- addressing **social problems innovatively**, as during the pandemic: eradicate **homelessness** (conversion of buildings) and **poverty** (minimum income)

Emerging examples: Girona (FUA of 131,000). Leftist-municipalist party experiments with “**postgrowth metropolitan policy**”: integral renaturalization, increase of tree cover, urban gardening, wetland restoration, in terms of environmental justice.

Metropolitan areas as key actors

- **Metropolitan areas can play key role** in the resilient, inclusive, degrowth-oriented transition through cooperation with the civil society and innovative governance across their area: visionary strategic planning is needed
- **Countries** can **issue currency** which allows them to mobilise production capacity towards democratically decided goals, limiting the influence of capital over the national economy.
- **International collaboration** is crucial, such as the **fossil fuel non proliferation treaty**, and limiting capital flight by **capital control**.
- **EU wide policies** are needed: continuing Green Deal, strengthening the frameworks for resiliency (no more land take, taxonomy), with **more direct links to large urban areas** (surpassing unwilling national governments)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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