When the language in use is inadequate to articulate what begs to be articulated, then it is time for a new vocabulary. A movement of activists and intellectuals, first starting in France and then spreading to the rest of the world has called for the decolonization of public debate from the idiom of economism and the abolishment of economic growth as a social objective. “Degrowth” ("Décroissance") has come to signify the desired direction of societies that will use less natural resources and will organize to live radically differently. “Simplicity”, “conviviality”, “autonomy”, “care”, “the commons” and “dépense”, the social and ritual destruction of accumulated surplus, are some of the words that express what a degrowth society might look like.

Degrowth: A vocabulary for a new era
Edited by Giacomo D’Alisa, Federico Demaria, Giorgos Kallis
Research & Degrowth, and ICTA, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
Routledge — 2014

Degrowth: A vocabulary for a new era is the first English language book to comprehensively cover the burgeoning literature on degrowth. It presents and explains the different lines of thought, imaginaries, and proposed courses of action that together complete the degrowth puzzle. The book brings together the top scholars writing in the field with young researchers who cultivate the research frontier and activists who practice degrowth on the ground. It will be an indispensable source of information and inspiration for all those who not only believe that another world is possible, but work and struggle to construct it right now.

Contributors include:
Serge Latouche, Tim Jackson, Juliet Schor, Mary Mellor, Peter Victor, Joan Martinez-Alier, Arturo Escobar, Erik Swyngedouw, Joshua Farley, Eduardo Gudynas and many others.

For more info:
www.vocabulary.degrowth.org
Degrowth: A vocabulary for a new era
is an excellent introduction
to the politics of “degrowth”
in its different meanings and
dimensions. ‘Degrowth’ for many
signifies a variety of initiatives
—time banks, local currencies,
urban gardens, solidarity economies—
proposing an alternative to capitalist
accumulation and the reconstruction
of our reproduction on more cooperative
terms. This is a volume that those
committed to building non exploitative
relations will need to consult as it offers
a map to the world of alternatives to
capitalism.”

Silvia Federici
Emeritus Professor at Hofstra University
Hempstead, New York

“The editors invite the reader to make
their own voyage through this book.
It is sage advice, for readers will wander
through a wonderland of radical
thoughts, intriguing observations and
bold visions for a different kind of world.
It’s exciting and deeply subversive.”

Clive Hamilton
author of Growth fetish and Earthmasters

“In times marked by political stupor,
it is refreshing to have such a
lightfooted guide through a universe
of anti–mainstream ideas ranging
from conviviality to ubuntu,
and from urban gardening to entropy.

Marina Fischer-Kowalski
Professor and former Director of the Institute
for Social Ecology in Vienna

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