

John in the snail shell - a plea for degrowth

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Abstract

John in the snail shell is a traditional Swiss-German children's song¹, widely popular beyond kindergarten and primary school. Against conventional interpretations the purpose of this work is to discover the philosophical deepness behind those inherently simple lines and transfer them into the highly revolutionary economical concept of degrowth. It is ascertained that John the snail fails to live in the present since he is constantly chasing the future while not accepting the past. The solution to his eternalism dilemma is mindfulness. Instead of wanting what he does not have and not wanting what he does have, he should rather deaccelerate life and appreciate the here and now. This is the key concept of degrowth.

¹ D Schlieremer Chind. „De Hans im Schnäggelech.“ *Di bekanntische Chinderliedli*, 1988, track 15. *Spotify*, <https://open.spotify.com/track/1yHPIG7d2BvyiyyjELs7DY>