

Abstract submitted by Emet Değirmenci

Title:

Volunterily simplicity challenge in a capitalist realm

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The capitalist growth economy brought us conspicuous consumption and the greed which will cause destruction of current and future ecosystems.

Since the worldwide 2008 food crises, people have started to question more than before how to reverse this detrimental reality. This is called minimalism, simplicity which leads to a steady-state (degrowth) economy. Examples of this concept ranges from tiny houses at individual level to cooperative living such as sharing water resources, land, and other commons. These grass root level movements are different than the sustainable development concept which was introduced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

According to Sustainable Development, the carrying capacity defines how many people should live in bioregion, which can be manipulative. At this workshop, we will be exploring the questions and answers - how can we apply voluntarily simplicity to satisfy our needs and desires at the individual and social level for an egalitarian and free ecological transformation.

CV:

Emet Değirmenci is a co-founder of the Social Ecology Groups in Turkey in early 90s. (<http://ekoloji.org/>) She is the publishing editor of a book, Kadinlar Ecoljik Donusumde (about Women's Activism in EcologicalTransformation) in 2010 and the founder of a multicultural foodrestoration project, Innermost Gardens with ecological principles in Aotearo, New Zealand in 2007. (<http://www.innermostgardens.org.nz/>). Emet is now teaching ecological designs as well as focusing on her recent book projectabout food sovereignty.