



Presenting:

**Overthrowing the Tyranny of Economics
or, New Metrics for a New Century
by Patrick Leach**

DAAG Conference 2016

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If not GDP, how do we measure progress?

Ultimately, the measure of the wealth of a society is the range of human problems it has solved and how available it has made those solutions to its people.

- Eric Beinhocker and Nick Hanauer
“Capitalism Redefined,” *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*,
Issue 31, Winter 2014, democracyjournal.org

Suggestions for economic analyses

- Replace *Labor Productivity* with *Resource Productivity* as a measure of progress
- Revise capitalism to account for natural and social capital, not just financial capital
- Discount financial capital, but not natural capital or social capital
- Consider the Earth to be our balance sheet
 - Assets: Minerals, metals, energy sources, tasty animals and plants, stratospheric ozone, etc.
 - Liabilities: Toxic substances, severe storms, mosquitos, tropospheric ozone, etc.

More broadly...

- Multiple attributes/objectives should be treated as multiple attributes/objectives
- Tradeoffs between different types of resources and different types of capital should not be forced into an artificial calculation
- Judgment must be exercised; you cannot calculate a strategy
- ***Not everything is an economic decision***
 - *(just because you have a hammer, that doesn't make everything a nail)*

The biggest obstacle to action:

“...the values to which people cling most stubbornly under inappropriate conditions are those values that were previously the source of their greatest triumphs over adversity.”

Jared Diamond in *Collapse – How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*



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