

Heat, Greed and Human Need: Climate Change, Capitalism and Sustainable Wellbeing

Tuesday 20 February 2018 14.00-15.30

8 West 3.22

Professor Ian Gough

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Abstract

This lecture asks how far can dangerous global warming be averted, without worsening deprivation and inequality. I argue that the satisfaction of human needs – as opposed to wants – is the only viable measure for negotiating trade-offs between climate change and human wellbeing, now and in the future. A transition is proposed, moving from ‘green growth’ to ‘recomposing’ patterns of consumption in the rich world, cutting high-energy luxuries in favour of low-energy routes to meeting basic needs. This in turn can prepare the way if necessary for an economy that flourishes without growth. Implications for business and higher education institutions will be outlined.

Biography

Ian Gough is Visiting Professor in CASE (Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion) at the London School of Economics, an Associate of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment also at the LSE and Emeritus Professor at the University of Bath. His books include *The Political Economy of the Welfare State; A Theory of Human Need*; and *Wellbeing in Developing Countries*. Some of his essays are published in *Global Capital, Human Needs and Social Policies*. He has just completed a book titled *Heat, Greed and Human Need: Climate Change, Capitalism and Sustainable Wellbeing*, published in October 2017.

All welcome. Please register [here](#)