



Prosperity without Growth

Economics for a finite planet

Tim Jackson
30th November 2009



Sustainable
Development Commission

People • Planet • Prosperity

- Growth is unsustainable
- De-growth is unstable

$$\text{GDP} = \text{Labour} \times \text{LP}$$



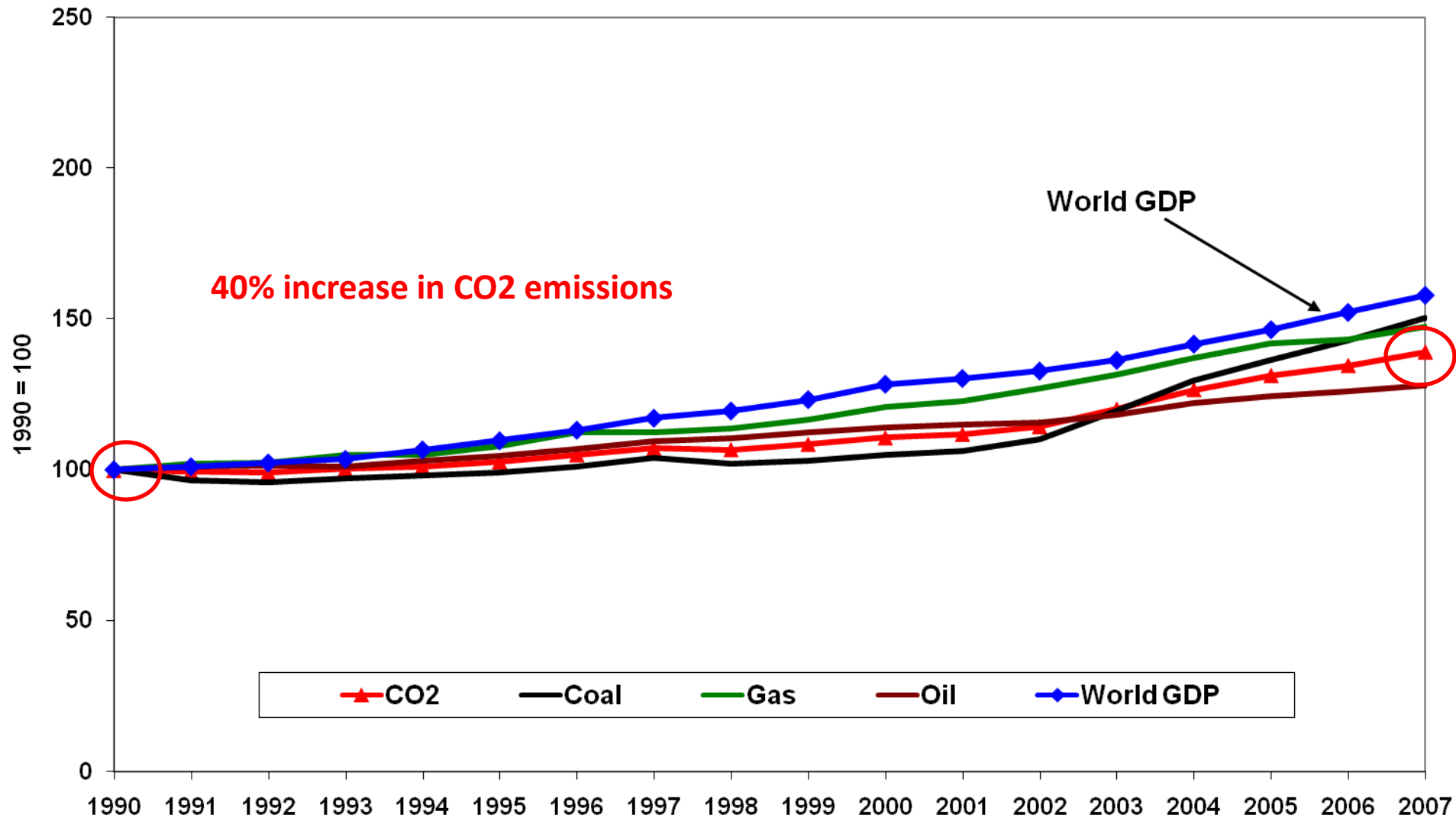
The Dilemma of Growth

Limits to Decoupling



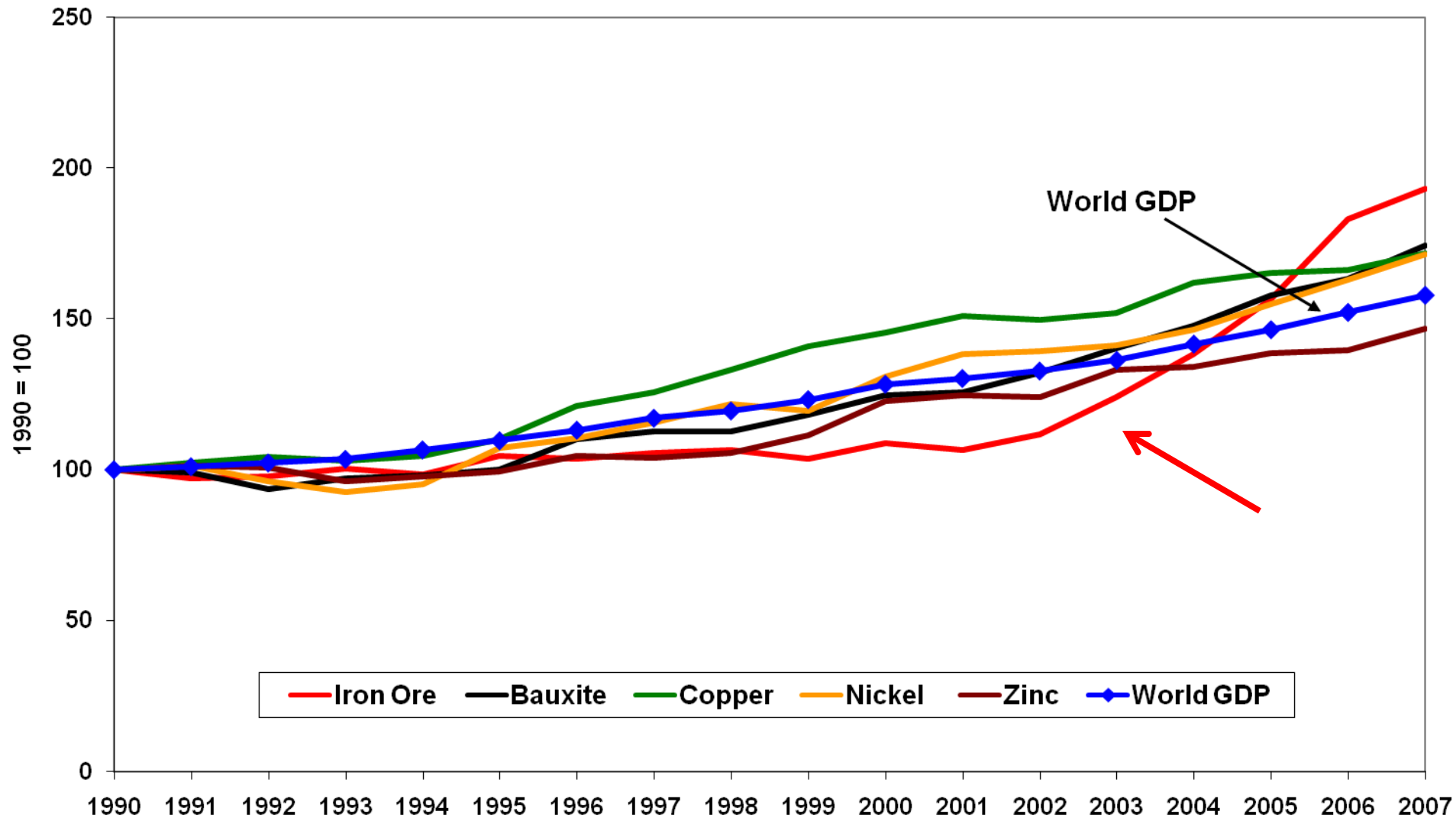
Limits to Decoupling

Source: *Prosperity without growth*, Tim Jackson (London, Earthscan 2009)



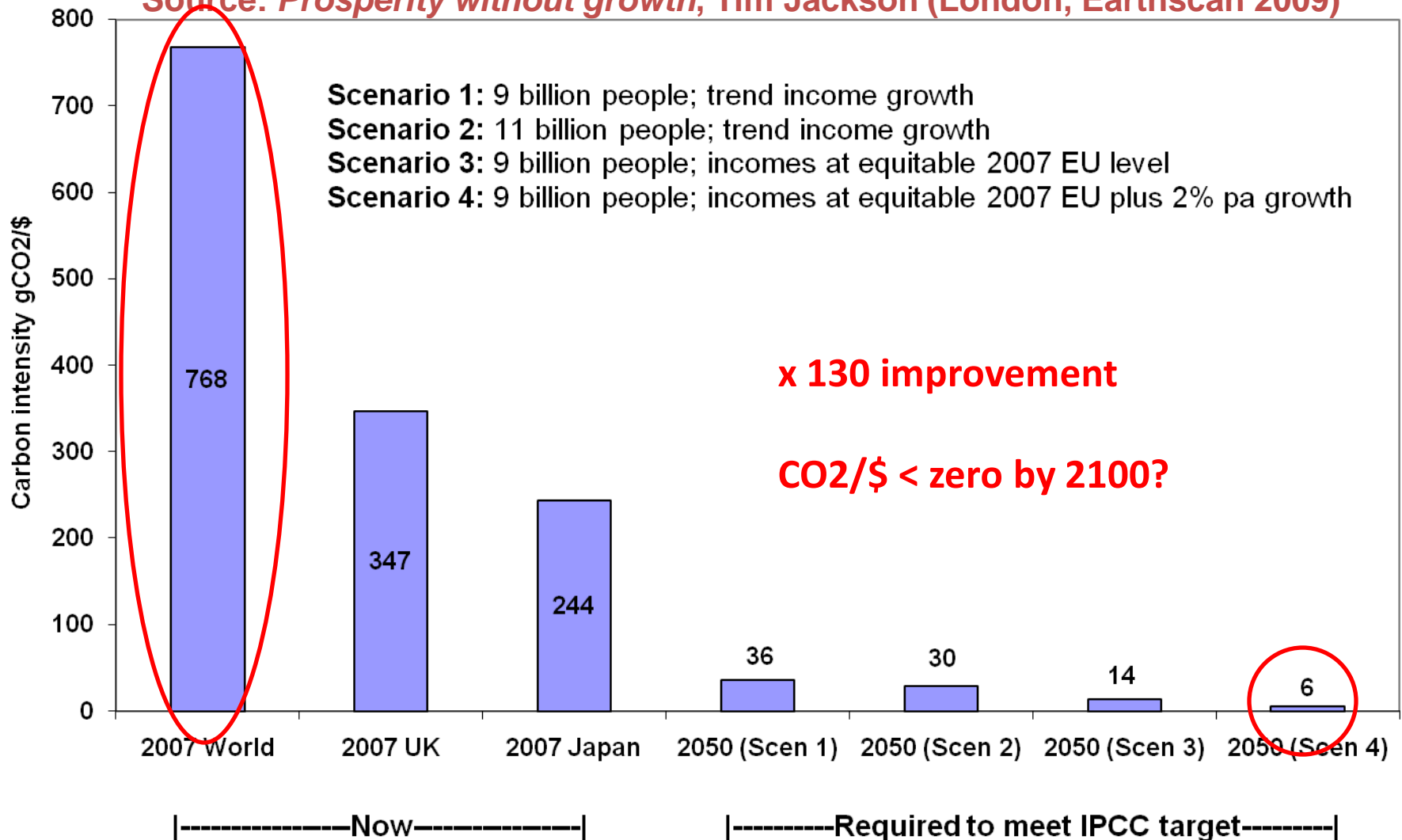
Limits to Decoupling

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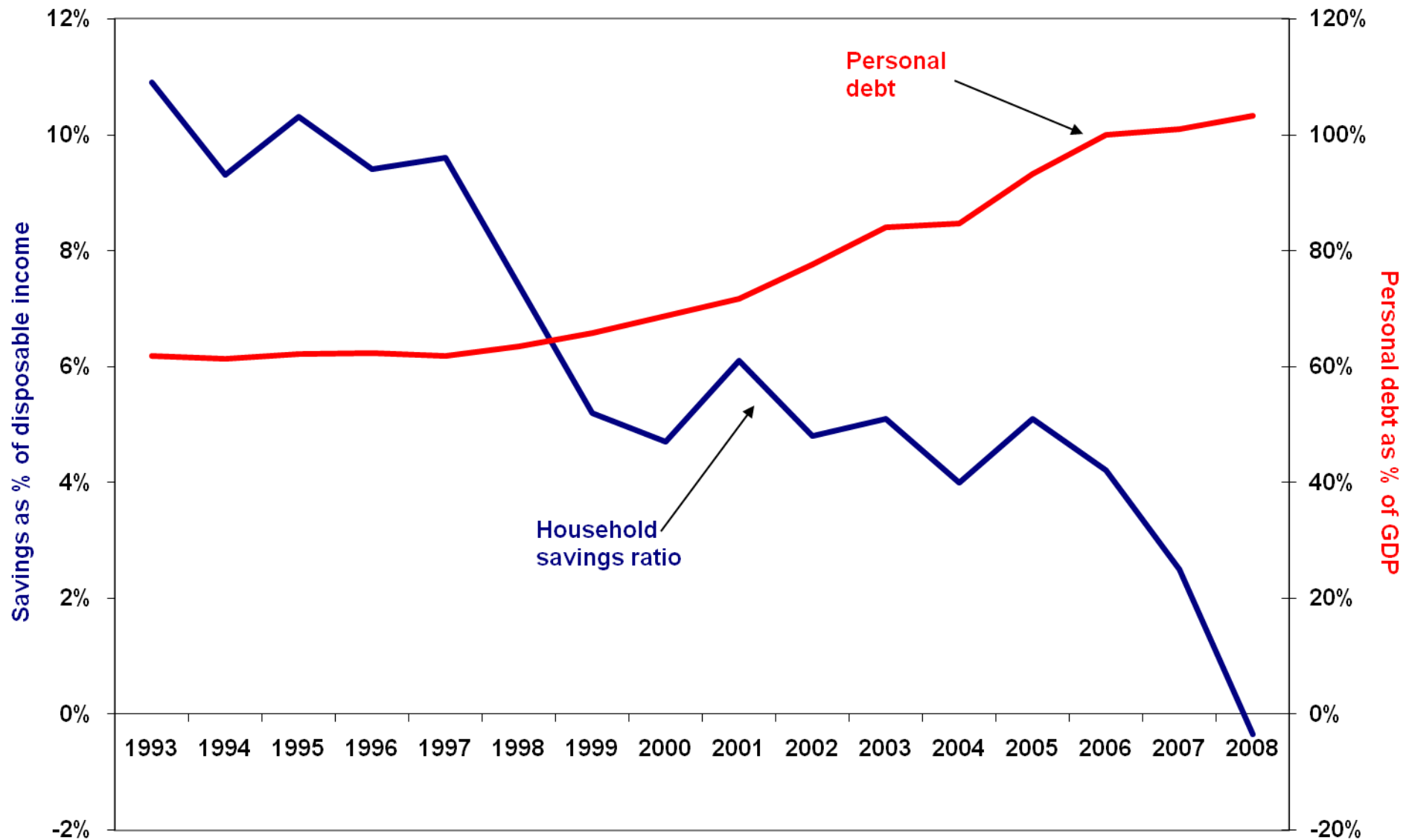


Limits to Decoupling

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The Engine of Growth



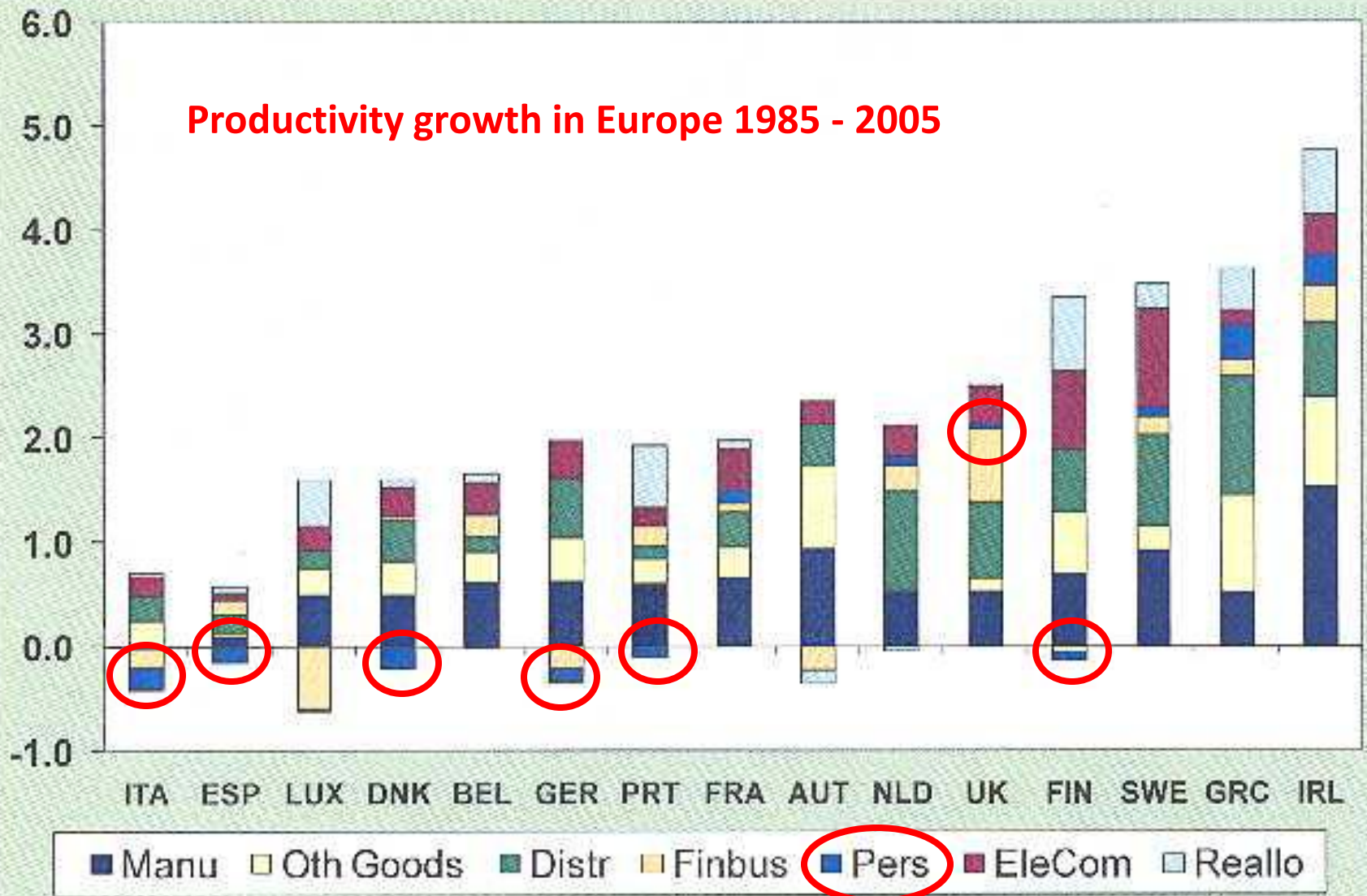
A high-angle photograph of a modern urban plaza. In the center, a cafe with a large brown umbrella and white tables is bustling with people. To the right, a bookstore with large glass windows displays books. In the foreground, a green artificial grass rooftop area features several striped lounge chairs where people are relaxing. A wide set of stairs with metal railings leads down from the left. The scene is bathed in the warm light of late afternoon, with long shadows cast across the pavement.

Economics for a finite planet

ecological investment
investment 'ecology'
rethinking productivity
sharing work v creating jobs
ecological enterprise

Economics for a finite planet

Productivity growth in Europe 1985 - 2005



A Lasting Prosperity



Prosperity consists in our ability to flourish as human beings – within the ecological limits of a finite planet.

- **material dimensions: food, shelter, clothing.**
- **social dimensions: identity, community, meaning**
- **ethical dimensions: ‘responsibilities to others’**



A Lasting Prosperity

The challenge for society is to create the conditions under which people can flourish in less materialistic ways.

- **lessons from intentional communities**
- **investing in structures and infrastructures**
- **the role of social goods and public spaces**

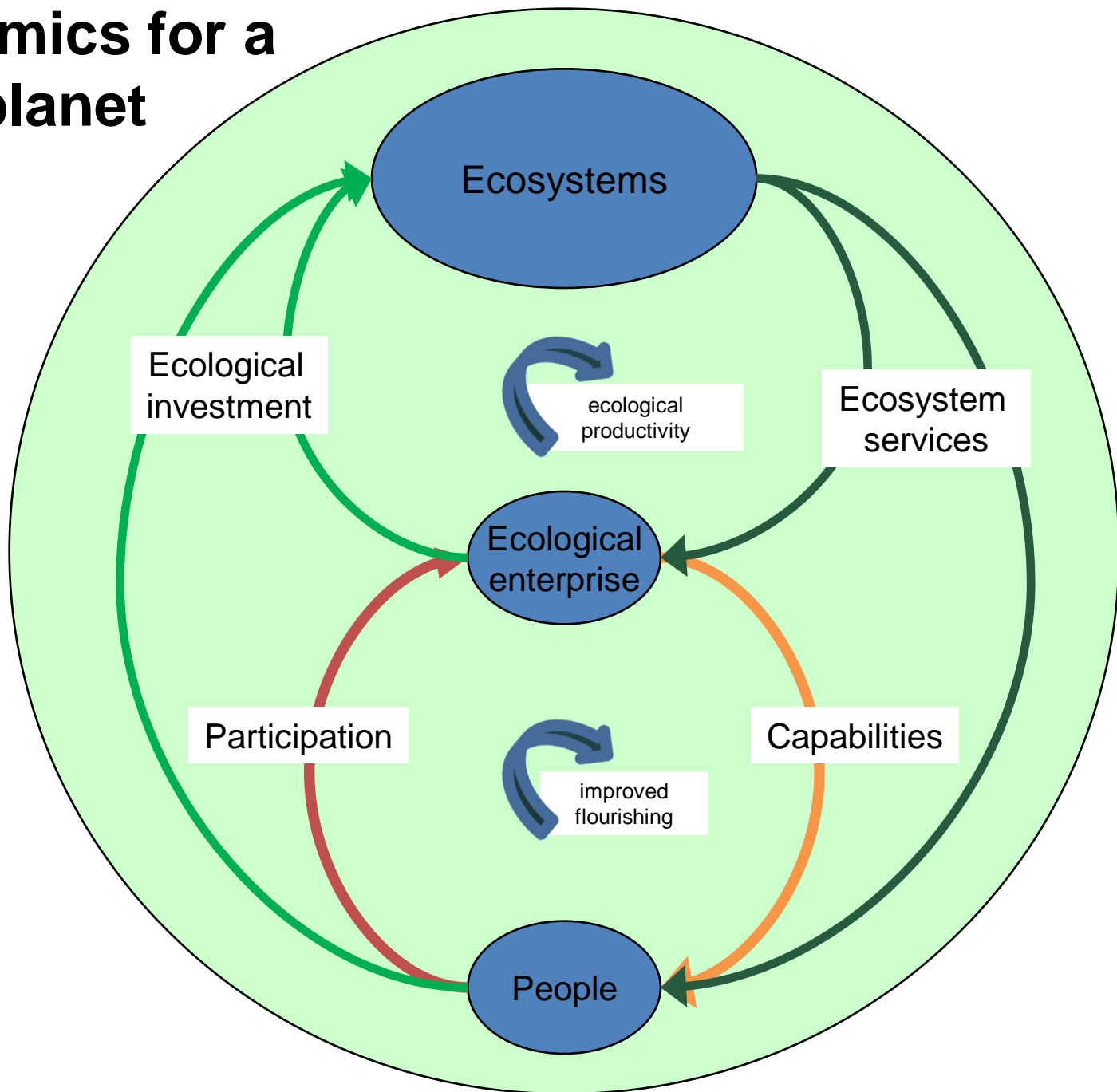
The background of the slide is a photograph of a white building. In the upper center, there is a window with a white frame and multiple panes. Below the window, on a small porch, sits a white wooden chair with a curved back and vertical slats. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daylight.

A Lasting Prosperity


‘... sites for the cultivation of a common citizenship, so that people from different walks of life encounter one another and so acquire enough of a.. sense of a shared life that we can meaningfully think of one another as citizens in a common venture’

Michael Sandel, June 2009

Economics for a finite planet



Ecological Footsteps



Establish the limits
Fix the economics
Change the social logic

Ecological Footsteps



Establish the Limits

1. Establishing clearly defined resource/emissions caps
2. Fiscal Reform for Sustainability
3. Promoting Technology Transfer and Ecosystem Protection

Fix the Economics

4. Developing the macro-economics of sustainability
5. Investing in public assets and infrastructures
6. Increasing financial and fiscal prudence
7. Improving macro-economic accounting

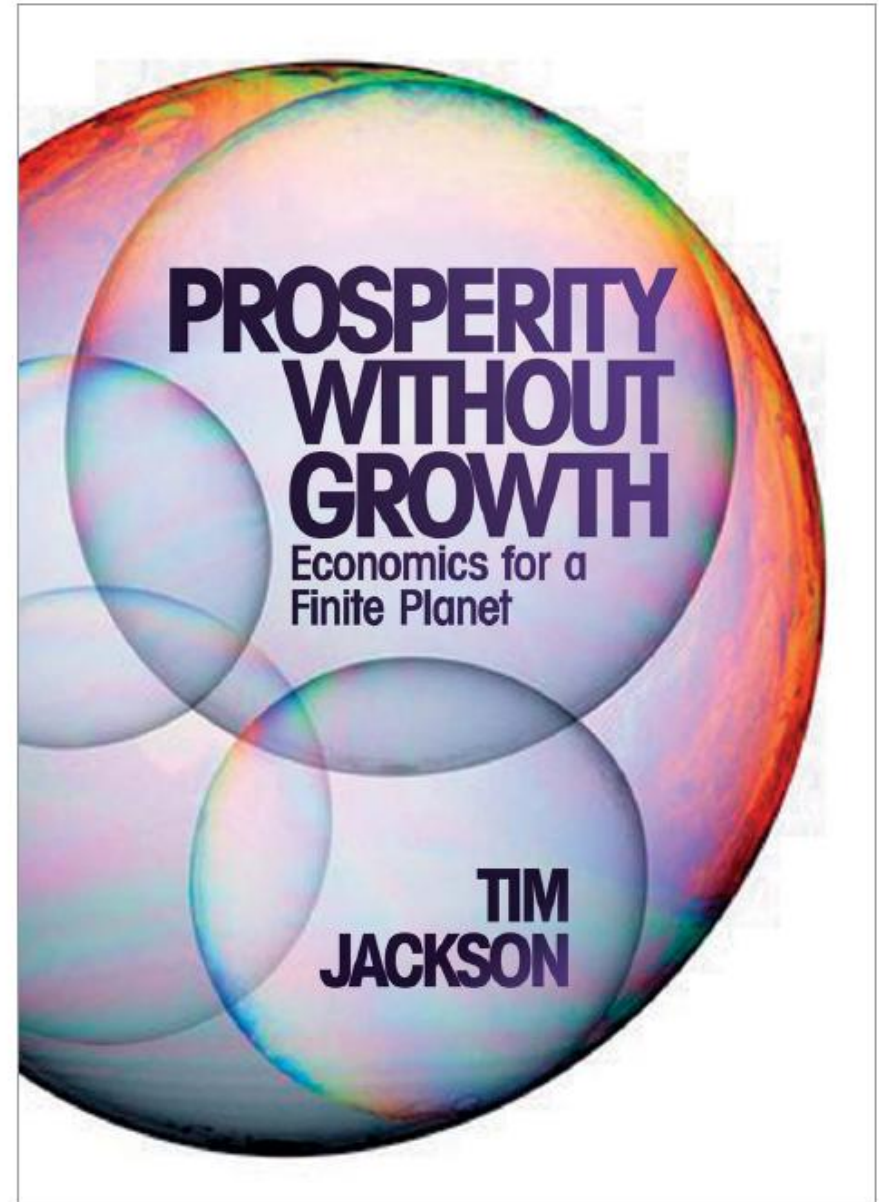
Change the social logic

8. Sharing the work and improving the work-life balance
9. Tackling systemic inequality
- 10 Measuring capabilities and flourishing
- 11 Strengthening human and social capital
- 12 Reversing the culture of consumerism

‘The crisis doesn’t only make us free to imagine other models, another future, another world. It obliges us to do so.’

President Sarkozy, September 2009

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/pwg>



› Denkwerk**ZUKUNFT**

Stiftung kulturelle Erneuerung