

MASTER THESIS REVIEW

Author: Oscar Antonio Rodríguez Valdiviezo
Thesis: Analysis of the social foundation of the safe and just space framework: dimensions, indicators, and thresholds
Reviewer: Mohamed Htich

Content

The book is clearly structured. The author's rationale for reviewing the theory of donut economics under the name of Safe and Just Space is also explicitly stated.

In terms of methodology, the author demonstrates that the objective of his analysis does not require an extensive quantitative approach, since he proceeds to a quasi-review of the social foundations of doughnut economics. This however does not mean that such an approach should not be considered.

The analysis is of good quality in the sense that it is clearly outlined, and the ideas presented all contribute to the overall conclusion. However, the author repeatedly stresses that "no one has challenged the theory of donut economics before" as a primary motivation for his thesis, which would be insufficient.

Literature and references

Almost most of the works cited in this paper are official documents or reports of supranational institutions, which is related to the content that the author discusses. However, there is a certain lack of consideration of purely academic works (<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2019.1653531>) that are directly related to the subject of the thesis. Specifically, research on the pillars of sustainable development in the broad sense, which would have enriched the introduction of the thesis. In the narrow sense, the author could have also cited research on the social pillar of sustainable development ([Social Dimension of Sustainable Development : Guidance and Application \(diva-portal.org\)](https://diva-portal.org/)) and used it to strengthen his position regarding the theory of doughnut economics.

Formal requirements

Overall, the thesis is well written, the figures and tables are also well elaborated. However, it would be useful to see an appendix section where the programs used to create the circular figures and the data structure used to do so are specified.

Topics for discussion

The author argues that the notion of equity that Raworth includes in the social foundations' framework is a measure of economic inequality (P. 23). However, if there is one criticism of the theory of doughnut economics, it is that it does not recognize that income inequality is a root cause of the social foundation deprivations in almost all societies. It is therefore clear that the framework does not confuse the two equity and equality and that, contrary to what the author says, the notion of equity is not a vague notion compared to that of equality but considers the varying material conditions of individuals. The question is therefore how the author can justify such a confusion?

Overall evaluation and proposed grade

In summary, the thesis presents a serious effort to revise the indicators used in the Safe and Just Space concept. In addition, the proposal of a Reinforced Safe and Just Space can be considered as innovative and, above all, useful due to the persistent need for this kind of indicators frameworks to be reviewed and updated and even reinforced.

The final conclusion that the Socially Safe and Just Space is not an accurate measure of human well-being seems convincing and proves the good intention of the work.

I do recommend the thesis for defense with grade A.

Date:
13/06/2022

Signature:

