

growth means population growth, growth in the use of resources, growth in global warming, growth in weather disasters, and growth in the diminishment of the natural world. Over fifty years, even 2 percent growth is huge!

Once one starts talking about global warming, growth itself becomes an issue—population growth, growth in worldwide production for and by that population, growth in food needs, growth in energy needs, growth in natural resource needs, and so on. Fossil fuel use has to be reversed to avoid global warming disasters. An economy based on growth—even as low as 2 percent—in all these areas would not prevent a global warming disaster.

Models for a new “sustainable”—that is, nongrowth—economics are being developed. How does the Piketty insight square with such economic models—if it does at all?

That is a systemic causation question that needs to be asked. For example, the main factor in population growth appears to be women’s education and the availability and use of contraception. Women’s education is affected by poverty, but every bit as much by religion. Religions like Catholicism and Islamism promote population growth, which makes it harder to control global warming. It isn’t just whether R is higher than G .

The Intertwined Systemic Effects

One of the main take-home points of this book is that framing can have massive systemic effects. The absence of adequate framing can have just as massive effects.

Framing the Piketty insight as just about inequality misses most of what we have just discussed. It misses the systemic effects.

Framing is about thought, about understanding at the deepest levels, about circuitry in your brain with strong synapses that last, about changing unconscious, automatic, effortless understanding—in other words, about changing common sense. Frame change itself is a systemic effect. There are a lot of frames to be changed. How can such overall change be effected?

It begins by strengthening the framing for the progressive moral system and for the progressive view of democracy based around empathy and the