

“A Safe and Just Space for Humanity: can we live within the doughnut?”

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Humanity’s challenge in the 21st century is to eradicate poverty and achieve prosperity for 9 billion people within the means of this one planet. The ‘doughnut’ concept (shown above) brings together the outer limits of resource use, set by the nine planetary boundaries (Rockstrom et al 2009) with the inner limits of resource use set by human rights, creating equivalent social boundaries (Raworth 2012). Between planetary and social boundaries lies an environmentally safe and socially just space in which humanity can thrive. It is also the space of inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Moving into this space demands far greater equity – within and between countries – in the use of natural resources, and far greater efficiency in transforming those resources to meet human needs. The challenge also raises new perspectives on the kind of economic system – including its aims, structures, and measurement – that can bring us into this space. What do you think it will take to get into the doughnut?...

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Video: 'RSA Doughnut Economics': www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqJL-cM8gb4

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