

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Ferraris for all: Major new book argues the case for economic growth to tackle global inequality**

In the current climate of austerity, it is widely accepted that greed is rampant and the desire for growth is problematic. The 'growth sceptics' have held that view for many years, but is global economic growth really such a problem, or should we still regard it as a desirable social goal?

In his timely new book *Ferraris for all: In defence of economic progress* <sup>(1)</sup> Daniel Ben-Ami, a journalist for over 20 years, takes a positive view of rising prosperity, arguing that we can't, and shouldn't want to, stop economic progress or return to an earlier age. He says that human ingenuity can help generate more resources while enabling us to tackle current and future challenges such as global poverty, environmental damage and climate change.

Ben-Ami contends that affluence has brought improvements in technology, mobility, medical care and access to education and culture, but we take such achievements for granted or deride them. His solution is to defy the current social pessimism and reinstate strong long-term economic growth as a key goal for society by:

- Pushing human potential beyond any perceived "natural limits"
- Accepting that it is desirable for people to aspire to have more and encouraging them to strive for greater prosperity
- Using technology to produce more and cheaper energy
- Seeking to transform economies, not sustain them
- Aiming for global equality by aspiring to abundance for all

Ben-Ami says "Instead of bemoaning the existence of inequality, we should be aiming for a rise in living standards for everyone with the goal of transforming poor countries into rich ones. There are actual and potential gains to humanity from economic growth which enables humans to live longer, healthier and fuller lives and we should be aspiring to those for everyone on the planet."

In a lively and challenging style Ben-Ami argues against 'growth scepticism' from several angles. He argues firstly that it is inhumane - typically growth sceptics care more about the planet than they do about the human beings who inhabit it. Secondly he sees it as conservative: despite its seemingly radical rhetoric it is hostile to economic and social progress. Finally he views it as misanthropic with a profound loathing of the needs and desires of humanity. He concludes that growth scepticism should be rejected in favour of a positive attitude to increased prosperity and global economic growth.

Speaking about the book, David Smith, Economics editor of the Sunday Times said "The global financial crisis has produced a fresh outpouring of growth scepticism; the idea that we would all be better off in a world without economic growth. Daniel Ben-Ami has provided a timely and thought-provoking reminder of why we need growth and the benefits that it brings."

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Notes

1. The provocative title arises from a question from WORLDwrite charity workers to their international volunteers about what they would most like for all the people in their countries, and the answer was "Ferraris".
2. Ferraris for all: In defence of economic progress by Daniel Ben-Ami is published by The Policy Press on 14 July 2010 price £18.99 Hardback (ISBN 978 184742 346 7). It is available to buy from [www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847423467](http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847423467) at 20% discount, or from Marston Book Services, P O Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN. Tel: 01235 465500 plus £2.75 postage and packing
3. Ferraris for all will be launched at the Yorkshire Grey pub, Holborn, London WC1X 8HR at 6pm on 14 July 2010 and all are welcome. RSVP by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July to [danielbenami@yahoo.com](mailto:danielbenami@yahoo.com).
4. Daniel Ben-Ami has worked as a journalist for over 20 years, specialising in economics and finance. He has contributed to many national newspapers and specialist publications as well as many appearances in the broadcast media and is the author of Cowardly Capitalism (Wiley, 2001). His website and blog can be found at [www.danielbenami.com](http://www.danielbenami.com). Media enquiries to:
  - Daniel Ben-Ami tel: +44 (0)7906-834428 Email: [danielbenami@yahoo.com](mailto:danielbenami@yahoo.com)
  - Kathryn King, Marketing Manager, The Policy Press: tel : +44 (0)117 331 4097 mobile +44 (0)777 993 6338 email: [Kathryn.king@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Kathryn.king@bristol.ac.uk)
5. The Policy Press ([www.policypress.co.uk](http://www.policypress.co.uk)) is a leading social science publisher based at the University of Bristol and is committed to publishing books that make a difference.