

My current topics of research are all encompassed by the role of the State in the transition: to argue for smart green growth as the optimal policy direction and for a global sustainable golden age as the possible outcome (for a positive sum game between business and society and between advanced, emerging and developing countries):

1. *Explaining the nature of the current moment (economically and politically) and the need for the return of an active state.*

The political phenomena we are living through confirm that we are in the equivalent of the 1930s. The bad thing is that people are suffering and angry messianic leaders are winning their support; the good thing is that the technological potential is there for unleashing a golden age.

2. *Questioning the gloomy predictions about the structural unemployment prospects from robotics, AI, etc.*

Every technological revolution has brought destruction of old industries, skills and jobs bringing particular sectors to much higher productivity and wealth creation. But new activities and jobs appear elsewhere in the economy, precisely thanks to the higher wealth creation in the advanced sectors. But it is not automatic and markets alone cannot do it.

3. *Showing that the new jobs are associated to the new lifestyles enabled by every technological revolution, as well as to the new production and commercial methods and models*

The 'smart green growth' idea is not only for protecting the environment but for maximising job creation nationally and globally. I am particularly working on a rental business model for durable goods that could create masses of jobs for the semi-skilled.

4. *Arguing that such a new lifestyle must be (and has historically been) promoted by state policies, taking into account the new technologies available*

It is a question of accelerating the changes that are already taking place among the elites responding to new knowledge and technologies and using taxes, tariffs, subsidies, regulation, funding, investing and all other policy instruments

5. *Suggesting that a new 'European Way of Life' (following the Nordics) could replace the 'American Way of Life' as the aspirational model for the world*

It has historically occurred that the new way of life is initiated by the richer, more educated and younger groups of the more advanced country (or countries) and it gradually spreads across society as far as income distribution and economies of scale allow

6. *Showing that Golden Ages have been guided by a 'tilting of the playing field' achieved by State policies in an appropriate direction or directions*

I am now doing the research to show that even at the high point of the free market economy during the Victorian boom in Britain, the State was extremely active in creating all the advantages for industry with urbanisation, breaking the craft barriers and facilitating foreign trade

7. *Arguing the need for strong local and supranational institutions, apart from the national level*

The nature of this revolution requires such an institutional structure. I am looking at how previous revolutions shaped the nature (and the levels of action) of the State.

8. *Arguing the need for full global development as good for those countries but also necessary to create specialised demand for the prosperity of the advanced world*

Historically, one of the elements of all golden ages has been the creation of dynamic demand for the types of products that the more advanced countries could specialise in, given the specific technological revolution. In mass production, high taxes funded the Cold War and the Welfare State providing demand for military high tech and for mass consumer products. These products are now part of the Asian specialisation. I believe that the advanced world could now specialise in capital goods, infrastructure, engineering and many other services tailored to the needs of the developing world. The funding of development could require a global corporation tax (possibly on financial transactions) to fund a Marshall plan.

9. *Analysing proposals for adapting the Welfare State to the new conditions*

Since jobs for life are no longer the norm and long lifespans increase the duration of pension-based living, radically new arrangements will be needed. Flexicurity?
Universal basic income?

10. *Analysing proposals for adapting other aspects of society to the new conditions*

From education to participatory democracy, we are in a world that is very different from mass production and much institutional innovation will be needed.

11. *And so on...*