Deconstructing Wealth
Content

• A few concepts
• Recent socio-economic history
• Oil and politics
• A permanent crisis?
Wealth

An abundance of materials and resources

The permanent availability of materials and resources
Oil will not run out: production peaks

Source: ASPO Netherlands
• 4 periods

• Post WW2 economic take-off

• Oil (?) crisis and cold war endgame

• Acceleration phase

• New crises
Distribution of wealth

• supermarkets
  – Standardized hierarchical plan economies
  – Limit choice to the amount the system can handle while convincing the client she has a maximum amount of freedom
  – A standardised labor market and living wages
  – Specific spatial planning
Global supermarkets

• The Internet
• Travel industry
• Entertainment industry
Result

• Wealth accumulation through this (super) market economy tends to produce genuine feelings of happiness and belonging
• The suburban supermarket model is an enormous global success
How did this happen?

• Semi-planned economies making institutions which give access to
  – Space
  – Transport
  – Raw materials
  – Stable finances
  – Workers as consumers
  – Reasonable income distribution
Threats

• Resource
  – Oil and gas
  – Other materials
  – Space
  – Pollution

• Political
  – Monetary instability
  – Fundamentalisms

Market
Marx
2 periods of growth

• US/USSR dual hegemony
- Industrial growth; coal, steel, gas
- Transport is a problem, not an asset
- Global population growth accelerates
- Most of the world population profits
- Era of the past future, rising expectations
Crisis

- Gov't leadership called into question
- Income distribution questioned
- First oil crisis
- Loss of monetary stability
- End of the past future
Acceleration

• Political leaders lead by non-decision
  - Institutions still run on institutional memory (limited roll back)
• Only part of world population profits (IMF)
• Large role for new technologies
  Containers
  Internet
  Mass air travel
The new crisis

• Politics are back (anti-globalism, terrorism, Al Gore)
• PO takes away acceleration not the rest

High level of awareness of PO,
Not much in terms of policy visible
Blame games?
Where do we act?

- International institutions
- Local initiatives
- Approach key economic and institutional players in a language they understand