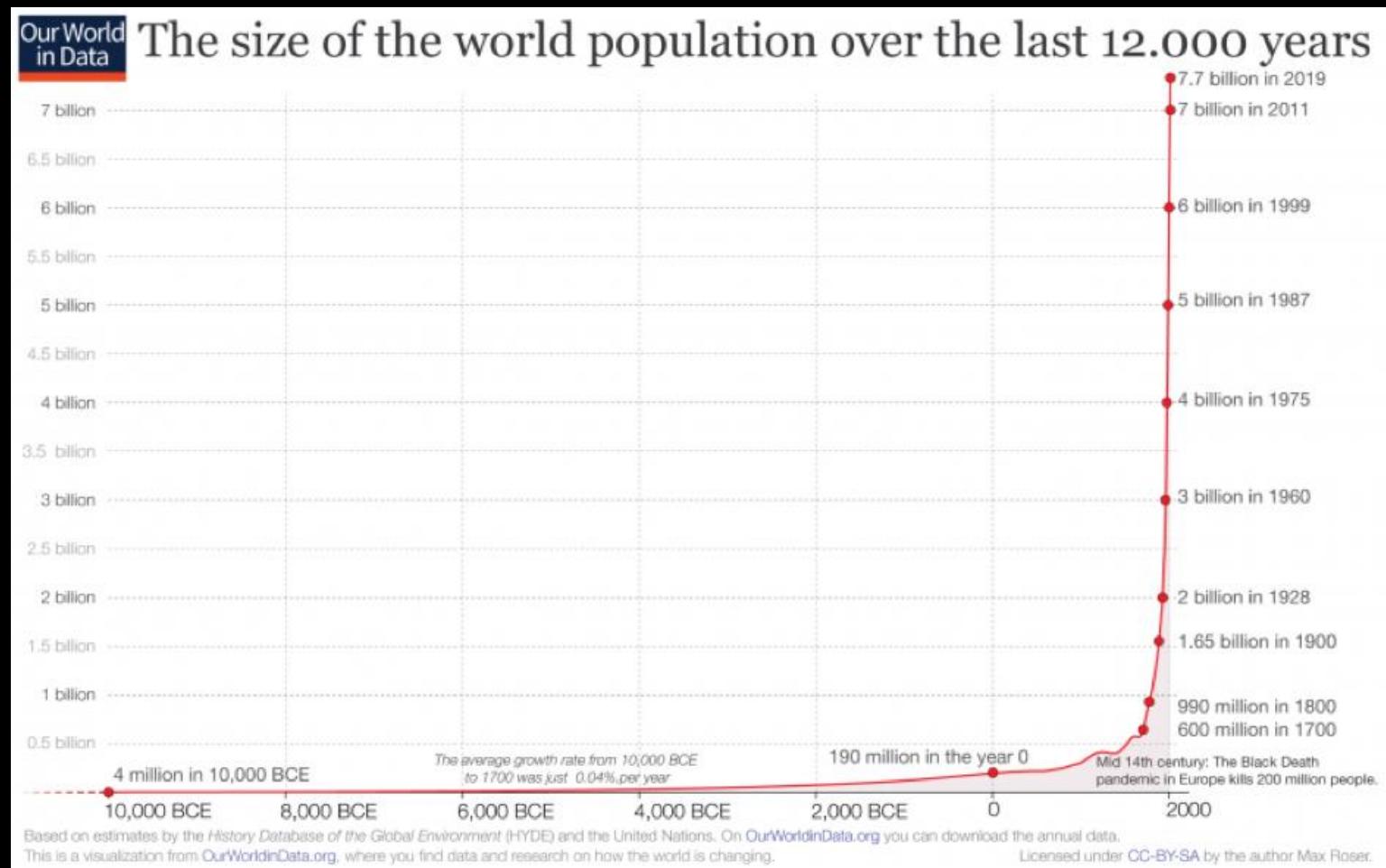


# One-Child Ethics in the Paradigm of Postcolonialism: Identifying Problems

**Jan Greguš**

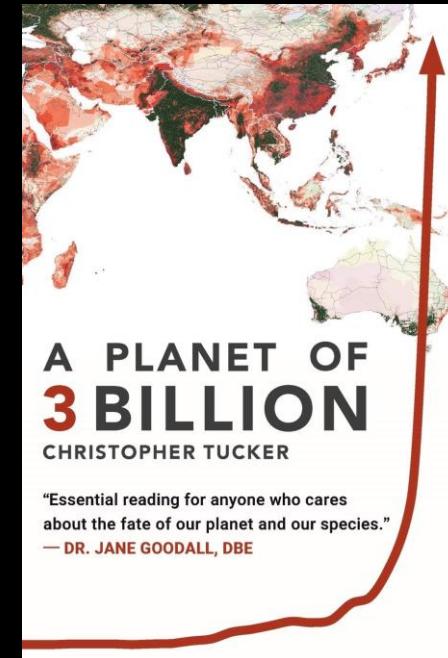
Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Czech Republic  
Czech Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, [www.kontracepce.cz](http://www.kontracepce.cz)

# The Population Growth



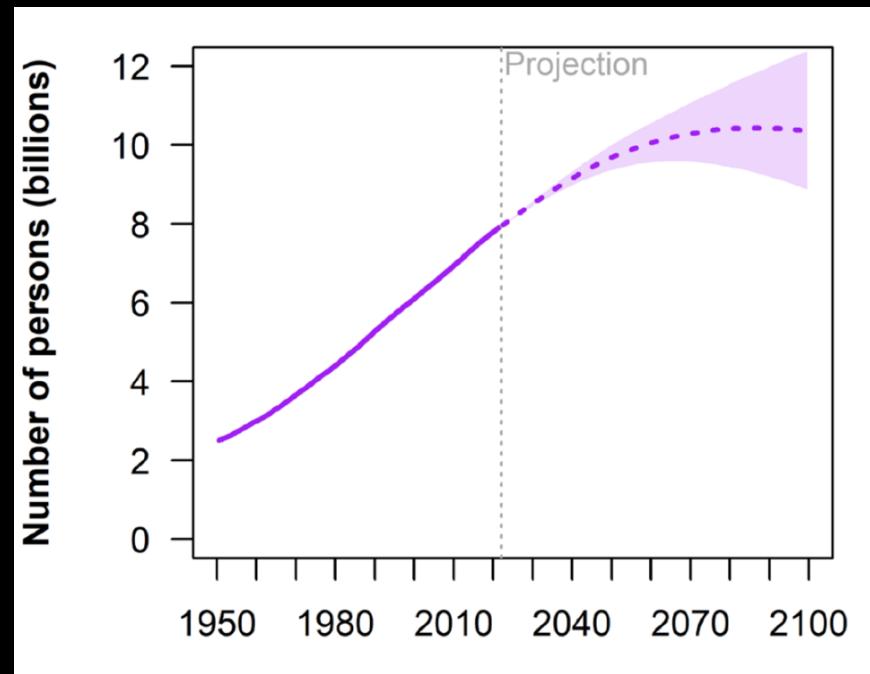
# The Sustainable Numbers

- **1.5 – 2 billion** (Daily et al. 1994)
- **3 billion** (Pimental et al. 1994)
- **2 billion** (Daily et al. 2010)
- **3.1 billion** (Lianos and Pseiridis 2016)
- **3 billion** (Tucker 2019)
- **0.5 – 5 billion** (Dasgupta 2019)



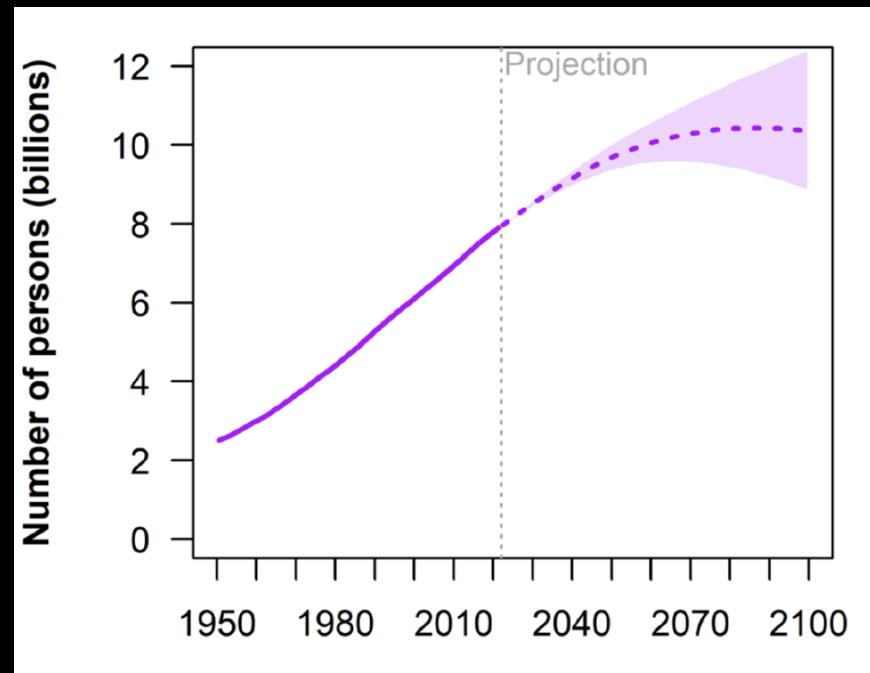
# The Unsustainable Numbers

- 2022 ... 8 billion
- 2011 ... 7 billion
- 1999 ... 6 billion
- 1987 ... 5 billion
- 1950 ... 2.5 billion



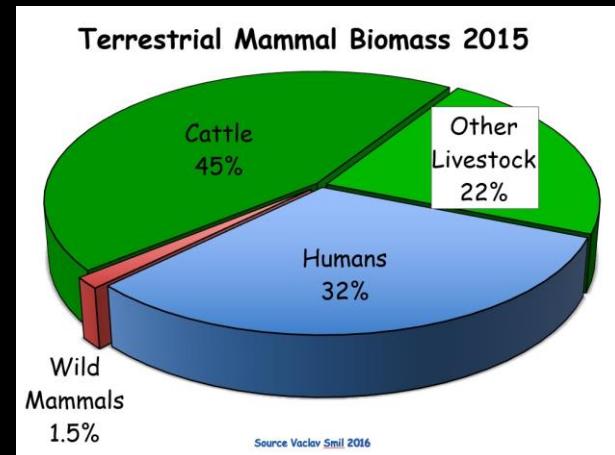
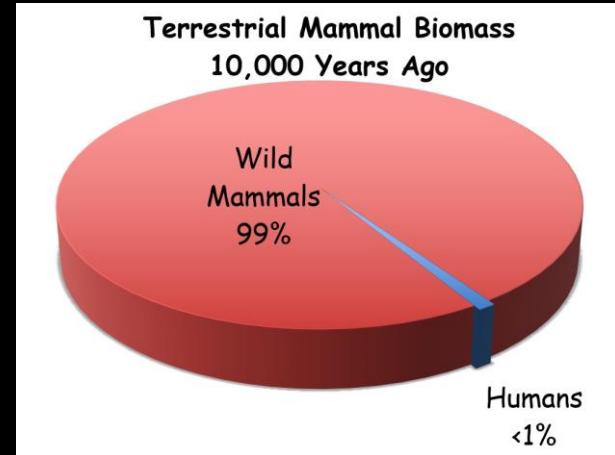
# The Unsustainable Numbers

- 2100 ... 10.4 billion
- 2086 ... 10.4 billion
- 2050 ... 9.7 billion
- 2030 ... 8.5 billion
- **2022 ... 8 billion**



# The Population Problems

- **climate change**
- environmental **degradation and pollution**
- resource depletion
- increase in municipal waste
- **biodiversity loss**
- deforestation, desertification
- mass species extinction (**species genocide**)



# The Population Problems

- water scarcity, food insecurity, mass starvation, malnutrition
- pandemic emergence, inadequate healthcare services
- increased poverty, slowing economic growth, inadequate housing
- forced migration, climate refugees
- radicalization, extremism, widespread conflict, resource-driven wars

# The Population Problems

- major obstacle to achieving *Sustainable Development Goals*  
(1) No poverty, (2) Zero hunger, (3) Good health and well-being



# The Fear of Population Collapse

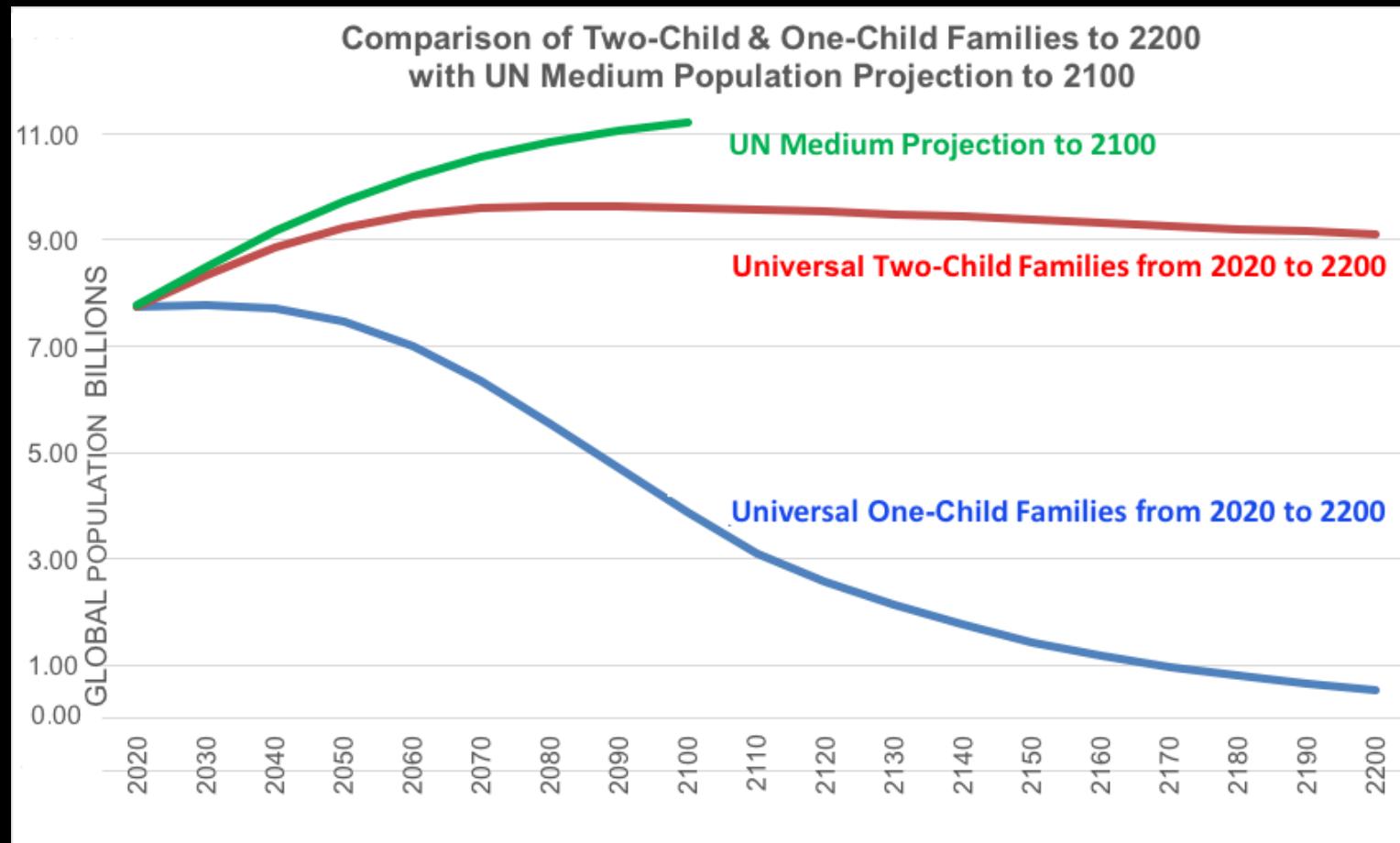


# The Necessity of Degrowth



„Unlimited growth is the doctrine of the cancer cell.“ (Crispin Tickell)

# One-Child Understanding



# One-Child Ethics

- recent years increase in philosophical attention to population matters, environmental sustainability, and reproductive ethics
- a growing number of philosophers taking closer look on ethical dimension of reproduction and how to establish what it is morally justifiable to limit it, to what extent individual reproductive practices should change, etc.
- the most ethical way, they conclude, is to embrace voluntary limiting ourselves to one-child families = one-child ethics) (+ focus on consumption)

# Proponents of One-Child Ethics

- Travis Rieder (Toward a Small Family Ethic)
- Sarah Conly (One Child: Do We Have a Right to More)
- Jonathan Austen (Save the Earth ... Don't Give Birth)
- Philip Cafaro (Just Population Policies for an Overpopulated World)
- Christopher Tucker (We Know How Many People Can Earth Support)
- Carol Kates (Reproductive Liberty and Overpopulation)
- Paul Ehrlich (The Population Bomb)

# Problems of One-Child Ethics

- a reasonable concern about practical implications of such ethics (sexist, eugenistic, racist outcomes) Craig Stanbury
- fertility in the Global North decreasing, in the Global South still high
- though proponents send the message universally, it seems it is meant for the people of the Global South; also, they are white rich people

# Problems of One-Child Ethics

- a world of postcolonialism, new emerging states, new emerging ways of thinking and discourses --- messages coming from the Global North concerning something as personal and sensitive as desired family size and reproduction raise suspicions and may be viewed neocolonial
- one-child ethics must not be enforced from the top, but has to take roots in postcolonial discourse and African thinking, must be respectful of differences and developments in African societies

# Thank You for Your Attention

- One-Child Ethics in the Paradigm of Postcolonialism – Part 2: Seeking Intersections (African philosophy dealing with real issues such as poverty, unequity; intercultural inspirations and transfers – democracy, human rights, cultures, family planning; Ubuntu)

[jangregus@seznam.cz](mailto:jangregus@seznam.cz)