

Growth at all costs: at what cost?

Examining characteristics of citizens who support economic growth over reducing greenhouse gas emissions: a study of 5 countries.

This research was supported by the Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Awards, University of Victoria, Supervised by Dr. Colette Salemi and Dr. Katya Rhodes



Emma Watson, Department of Economics, August 11th, 2025

Survey Data:

- Australia (n=1029)
- Chile (n=1000)
- Mexico (n=1001)
- Morocco (n=1008)
- United Kingdom (n=1009)

Data was collected in a 20-minute web survey conducted by Qualtrics in 2023



Results:

Which of the following do you think your government should do?

Green Growth

Try to grow the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the same time

Agrowth

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions regardless of any impacts on the economy

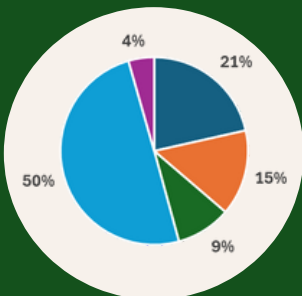
Growth-at-all-costs

Grow the economy regardless of any impacts on greenhouse gas emissions

Degrowth

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shrink the economy at the same time

No response/Don't know



15% of all survey participants selected growth-at-all-costs: a paradigm that believes the government should grow the economy regardless of any impacts on greenhouse gas emissions

Research Process:

Using R, I made a series of crosstabulations and charts to examine any correlations between GAAC and gender, education, and country.

Using World Values Survey and World Development Indicators, I examined other potential contributing factors to this belief: trust in government, GDP per capita, education levels.

I reviewed literature on outcomes of environmental education policy, and gendered aspects of extractive industries.

Where does this belief stem from?

Drawing inferences from the sample.

Education

- Environmental education
- Trust in government
- Information sources

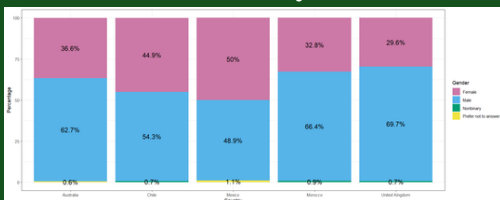
Economic Conditions

- COVID-19
- Brexit
- Unemployment

Gender

- Masculine identity tied to industry
- Male pressure to provide

GAAC Belief by Gender



59.8% of those in favour of GAAC identified as male

References

