CASE and New Economics Foundation public discussion

About time – Examining the case for a shorter working week

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Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: #lsetime
TRUE WEALTH

How and Why Millions of Americans Are Creating a Time-Rich, Ecologically Light, Small-Scale, High-Satisfaction Economy

Juliet B. Schor

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE OVERSPENT AMERICAN

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED AS PLENTITUDE
chronic unemployment US
Unemployment in the UK 1992–2011

Number, millions

Unemployment - Nov-Jan: 2.53m
Claimant count - Feb: 1.45m

Source: ONS
Greater concentration at the very top
Share of total income accruing to the top 1% and 95-99%, 1947-79 and 1979-2008

Source: Piketty and Saez.
WORKING HOURS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, 1870-1973

[Graph showing the trend of working hours in France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, UK, and US from 1870 to 1973.]
Working Hours in Selected Countries, 1973-2007
Figure 4.1 Annual Hours Worked, U.S. 1967-2006

Source: Mishel, Bernstein, & Shierholz (2009, Table 3.2)
Figure 4.2 Ecological Footprint and Hours Worked Across Countries, 2005

Sources: Ecological Footprint from Global Footprint Network (2008); hours from The Conference Board and Groningen Growth and Development Centre (2008)
The triple dividend of shorter hours

• **Benefit #1**: shorter hours lead to lower unemployment and more job creation

• **Benefit #2**: shorter hours reduce ecological and carbon footprints

• **Benefit #3**: shorter hours give people more free time, reduce stress, enhance family life and community.
Step #2: New ways of consuming

You don’t wear 25% of the clothes in your closet. Join thredUP and start exchanging them for some that you will!
thredUP: the Netflix of Clothing
What is the fastest growing form of transportation in the world?

Bike Sharing
The rise of sharing
Step #3: High tech self-provisioning, i.e., DIY

Urban food growing and agriculture, permaculture

Alternative home construction using low-cost, natural materials (earth, straw, stone)

Micro-generation of energy

Small scale manufacturing using “fab lab” technologies
Plenitude Emerging
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