



# RENAISSANCE IN: ECONOMICS

MANIFESTO FOR THE NEW ECONOMY

## **Sufficiency in the Producers and Consumers loop**

### ***Deepening the concept of Product Lifespan Extension within the framework of the Circular Economy***

**“Well-being In a Dematerialized Economy (WIDE)”**

PRIN project of the Italian Ministry of University and Research Funded by EU-Next Generation-EU

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# 1. Sufficiency – A Complex Concept



# Sufficiency

- Can we achieve a **good life with less**?
- Why ask this question? Because the current economic configurations relies on a huge amount of **energy** and **material** use.
- What constitutes a good life? (an intersection of multiple attributes, often combined in unexpected ways -**Complexity**).
- We know very little about how to **transform the economic system** toward sufficiency



## Objective:

To explore how sufficiency manifests among producers and consumers, which conditions are necessary and/or sufficient, and what configurations emerge in the process.

## Theoretical Approach:

Behavioral Economics & Complexity Theory.

## Assumptions:

A complex phenomenon is typically characterized by:

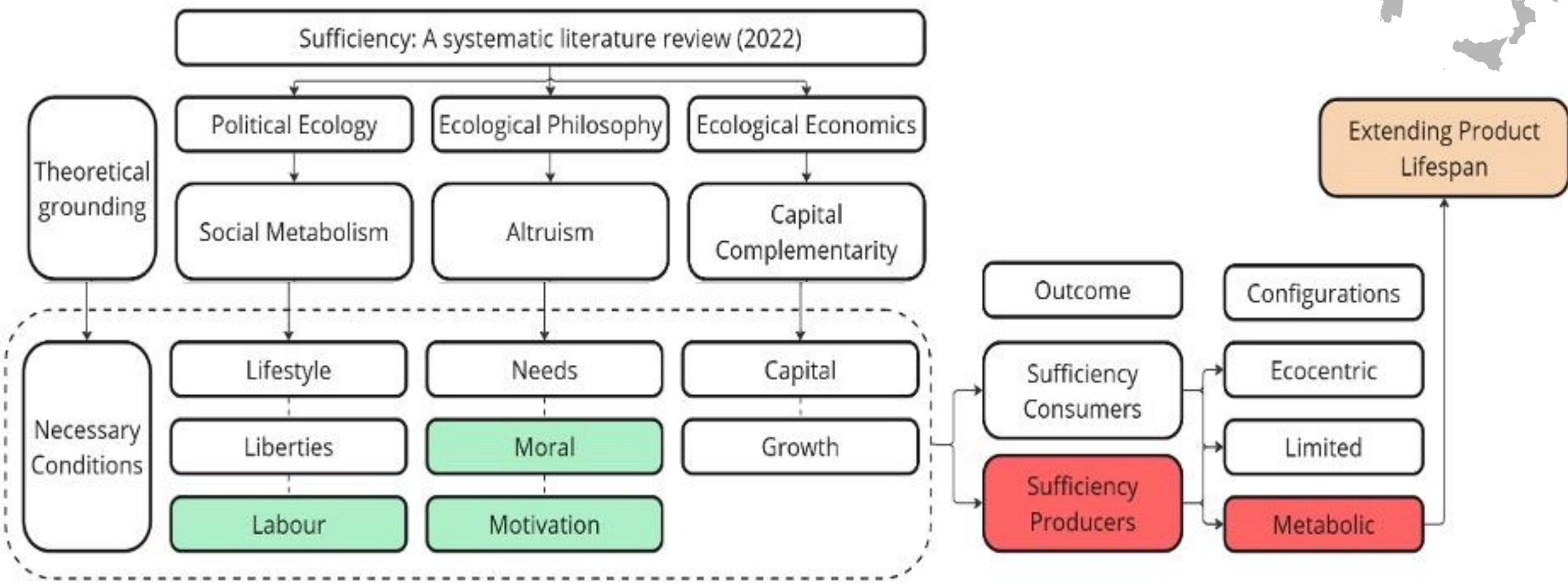
- 1) Configurations of multiple explanatory factors — rather than single variables — generating outcomes (**conjunction**).
- 2) And the possibility that different configurations can lead to the same outcome (**equifinality**).

## Method & Data

Configurational Approaches / Set-Theoretical Methods. Environmental Perceptions and Climate Change Survey, Chile (2018).



# Logical structure & Results





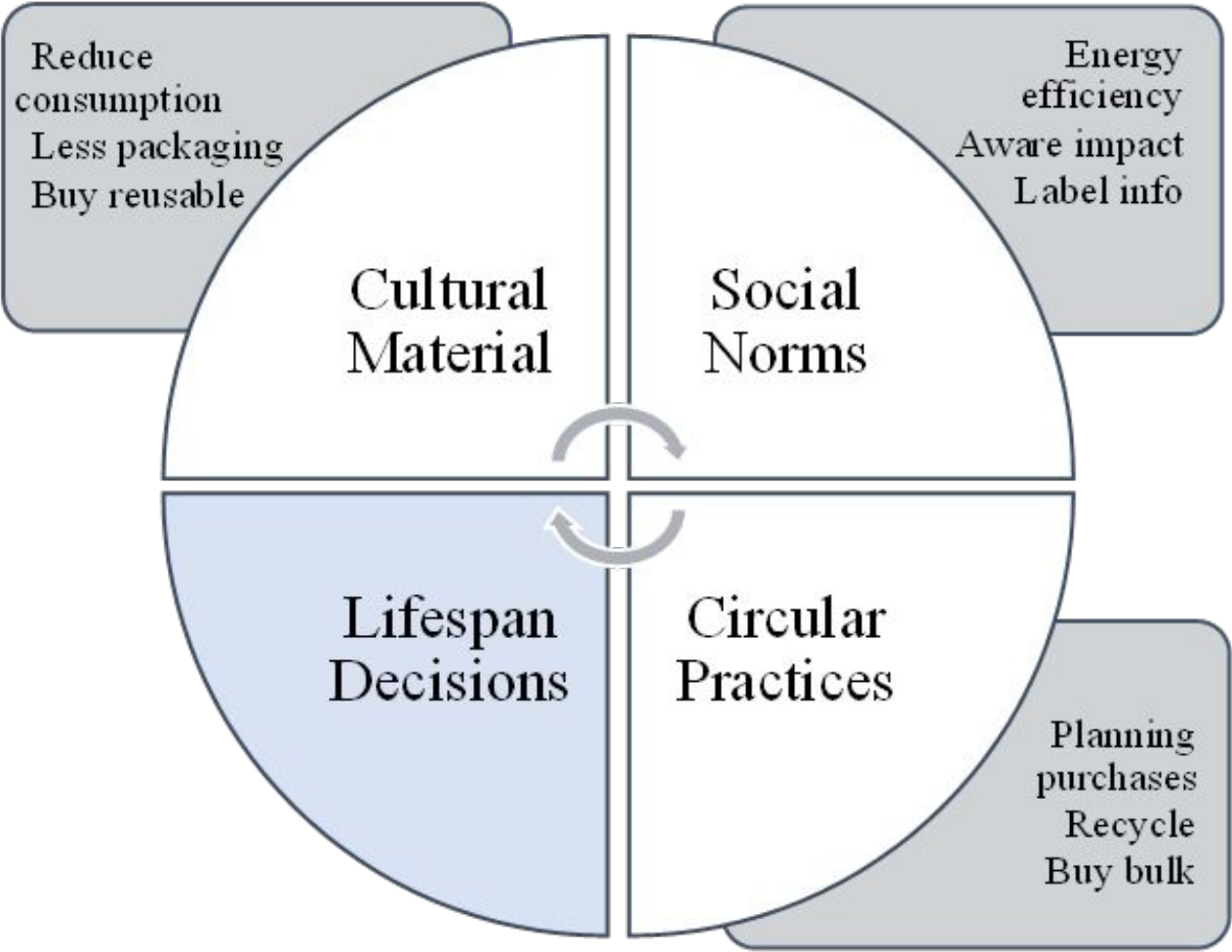
## 2. Reducing Material Scale



# Dematerialized Economy

- **Extending product lifespan** is a key sufficiency-driven strategy to reduce material scale.
- It offers high leverage within **circular economy** frameworks but poses challenges in production systems.
- A **complexity** perspective is needed to understand lifespan extension dynamics.
- Multiple attributes and practices shape extension strategies—**there is no single pathway**.

# Conditions & Energy Culture Framework







## Preliminary results:

- **Reusable** products and **energy efficiency** appear frequently but are not strictly necessary conditions.
- **Multiple sufficient configurations** lead to product lifespan extension across income groups.
- Lower-income groups focus on **functional sufficiency**; higher-income groups engage in **planned** but less lifespan-oriented practices.
- **Reducing packaging** and **bulk buying** are recurrent and correlated practices in lower and middle incomes.

Final reflections:



**Sufficiency—is inherently complex, not only in practice but epistemologically:**

We lack concrete imaginaries of a world with less, and our narratives of sufficiency are riddled with contradictions—rarely detaching from the growth paradigm.

**In seeking 'good life' case studies, qualitative sufficiency often fetishizes the Global South:**

Yet the meaning of a good life in these contexts differs profoundly, shaped by structural constraints, not voluntary simplicity.



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