Nowadays, we are facing a chain of almost insolvable problems: the loss of climate stability and natural diversity, the galloping globalisation and the widening gulf between rich and poor – but also the restlessness, hectic lifestyles and meaningless lives from which the inhabitants of the wealthier regions suffer.

For Andreas Weber, all these problems can be traced back to a single cause: a religion of the economy, which subordinates everything to growth and which is based on ideas rooted in a false image of life and a false conception of humanity. Weber describes and calls for a new ‘ecological economy’ that works with nature rather than against it. He is convinced that health, mental contentment, ecological growth and a lasting, just and forward-looking economy are only possible in concert – and that this is where true progress lies.

In his clear and intelligent book, Weber presents pioneers of the real ‘sustainable turn’, for instance the economist Robert Costanza, the first person to calculate the total value of all the planet’s services. And he visits model locations such as the small town of Varese in the Ligurian mountains and a hidden Alpine valley, both of which have converted to clear circular economies, generating high profits with green business and rising to above average on the happiness scale.

Only a new economy of real wellbeing – an economy of happiness – can bring the turning point, make lasting use of the wealth of nature and thus preserve our humanity.

'Weber artfully arranges scientific knowledge and philosophical reflection, literary quotes and personal experiences of nature. And the author creates passages with great poetic force – for instance when looking into the cosmos of a toad’s eye or comparing molecular activity with a bazaar.' Geo on Feeling Life

Andreas Weber, born in 1967, studied biology and philosophy in Berlin, Freiburg, Hamburg and Paris. He is now a freelance writer, journalist and editor, writing regular articles for major magazines and newspapers including GEO. Andreas Weber lives in Berlin with his wife and two children.