

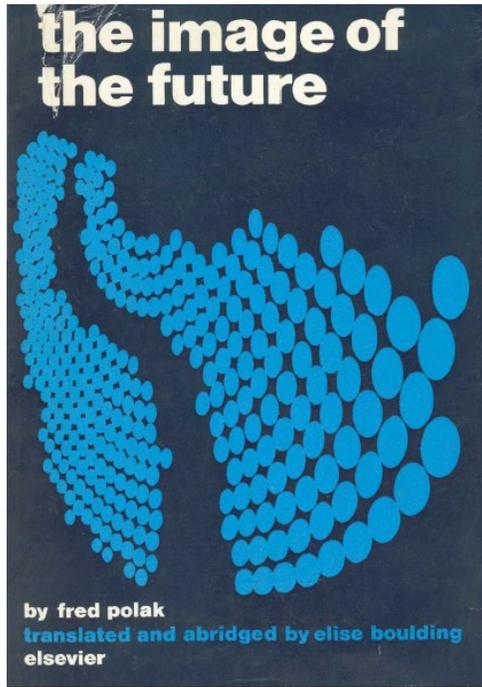


Imagining After Capitalism

ASU FUTURISTS
FEBRUARY 10, 2026

HOUSTON **FORESIGHT**
Preparing Professional Futurists

The Image of the Future

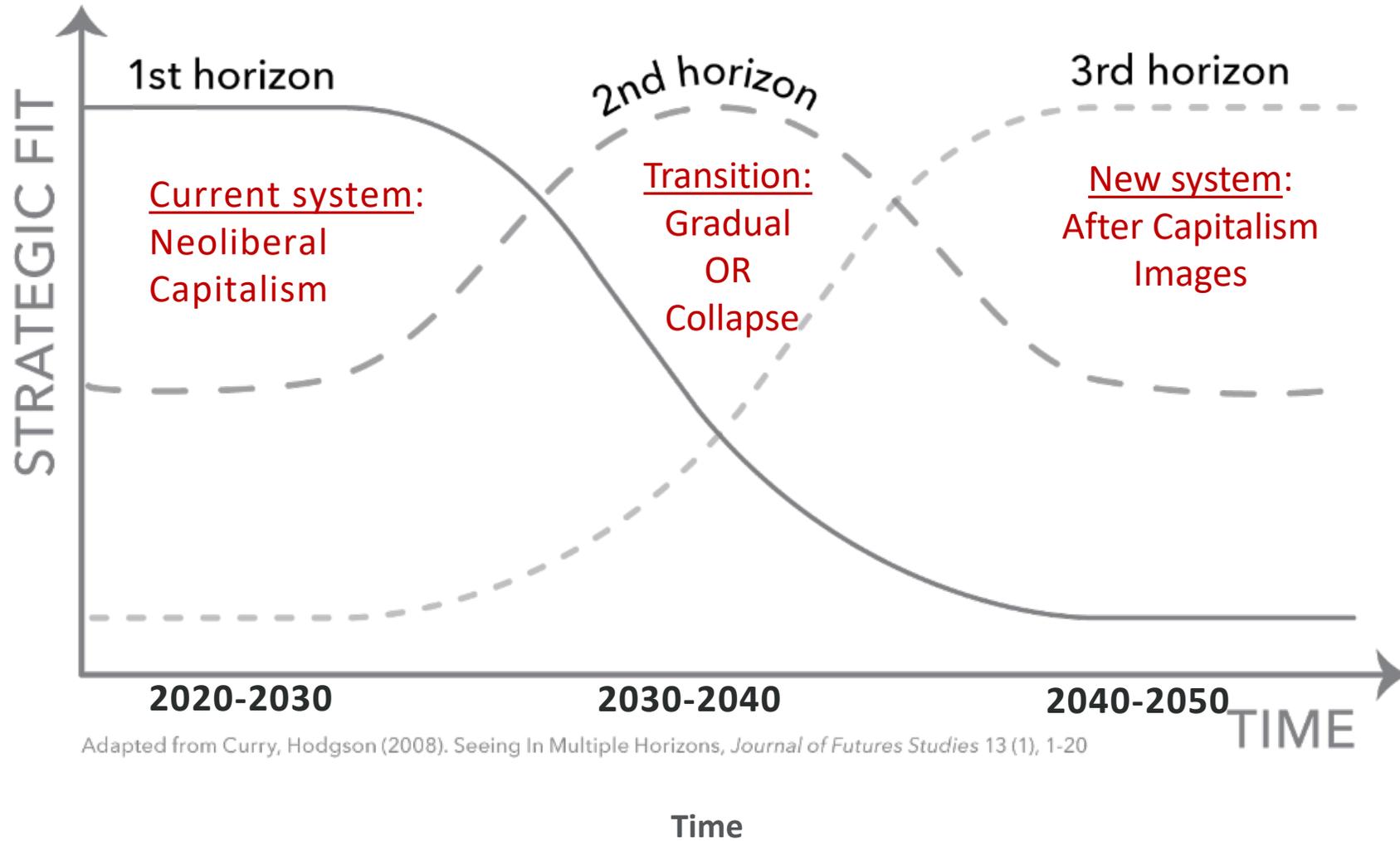


“There has been a massive loss of capacity, or even will, for renewal of images of the future.”

The rise and fall of images of the future precedes or accompanies the rise and fall of cultures, e.g., Christianity, the Enlightenment, the Renaissance, the first Industrial Revolution.

The force that drives the image of the future is only in part rational and intellectual; ***a much larger part is emotional, aesthetic, and spiritual.*** The appeal of the image lies in its picture of a radically different world in an Other time.

Three Horizons

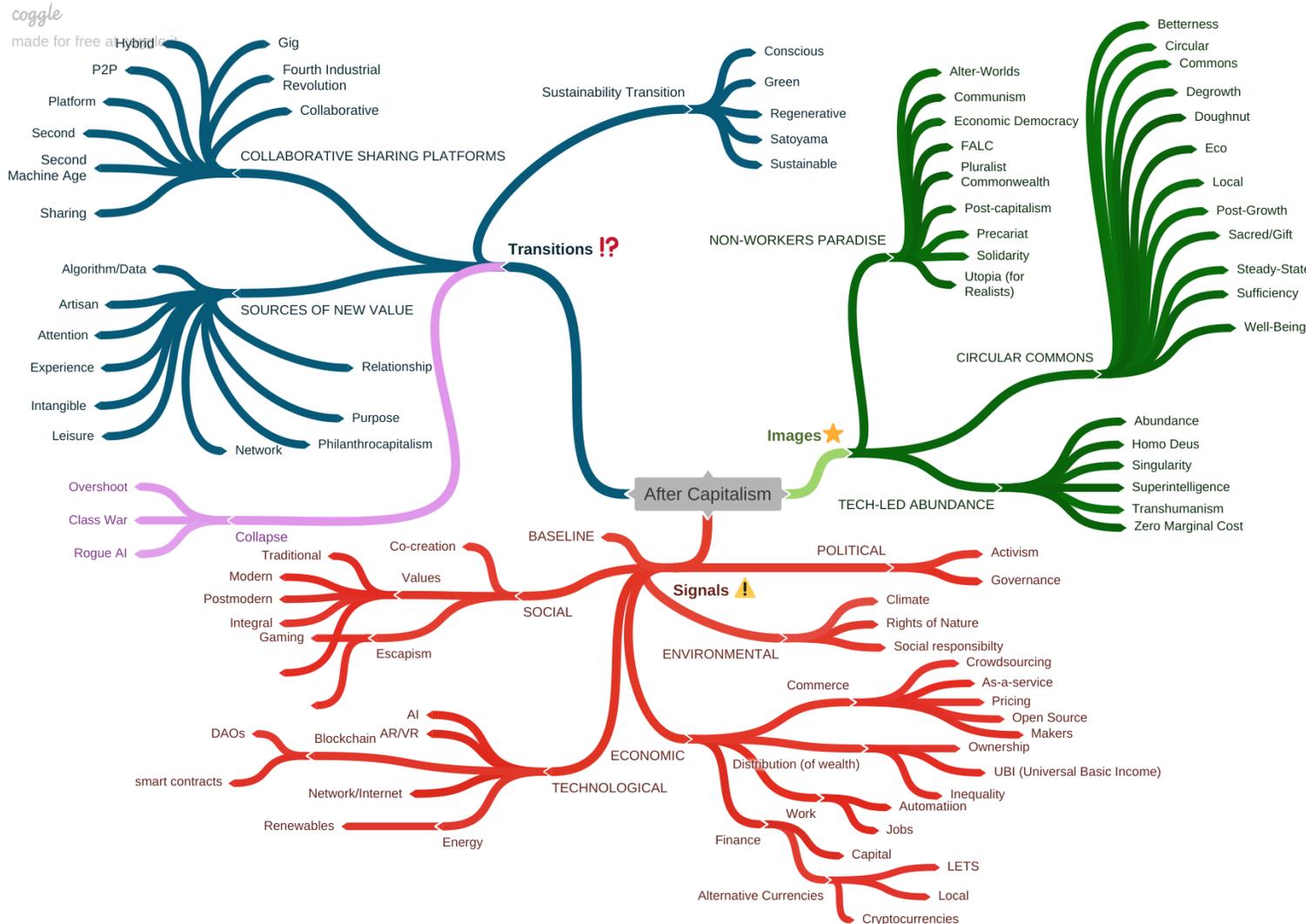


Scanning Library



Domain Map

Over 1,000 scan hits

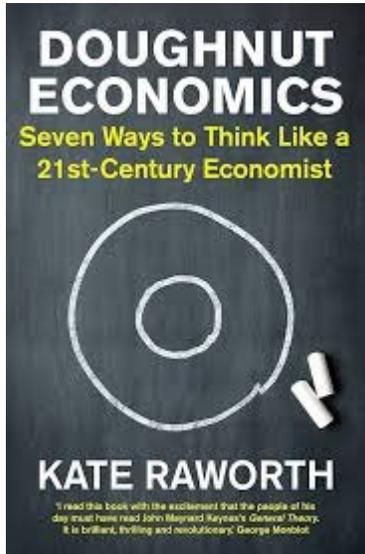


'Quiet cracking' is spreading in offices: Half of workers are at breaking point, and it's costing companies \$438 billion... "Quiet cracking" is the new workplace phenomenon sweeping offices. As AI looms over jobs and promotions stall, workers' mental health is quietly fraying. For employers, it has resulted in a...

"Quiet cracking" is the new workplace phenomenon sweeping offices. As AI ... #H1 #Signals #economic #work #quiet cracking

fortune.com · Aug 23

After Capitalism [Book] Concepts



Horizon 3 IMAGES

1. Betterness
2. Circular
3. Commons 1
4. Commons 2
5. Degrowth
6. Doughnut
7. Eco
8. Local
9. Post-Growth
10. Sacred/Gift
11. Steady-State
12. Sufficiency
13. Well-Being
14. Alter-Worlds
15. Communism
16. Economic Democracy
17. FALC (Fully Automated Luxury Communism)
18. Pluralist Commonwealth
19. Post-capitalism
20. Precariat*
21. Solidarity*
22. Utopia (for Realists)
23. Abundance
24. Homo Deus
25. Singularity
26. Transhumanism
27. Superintelligence
28. Zero Marginal Cost

Horizon 2 TRANSITIONS

29. Conscious
30. Green
31. Regenerative
32. Satoyama
33. Sustainability
34. Collaborative
35. 4th Industrial Revolution
36. Gig
37. Hybrid
38. P2P
39. Platform
40. Second
41. Second Machine Age
42. Sharing
43. Algorithm/Data
44. Artisan
45. Attention
46. Experience
47. Intangible
48. Leisure
49. Network
50. Philanthro-capitalism
51. Purpose
52. Relationship

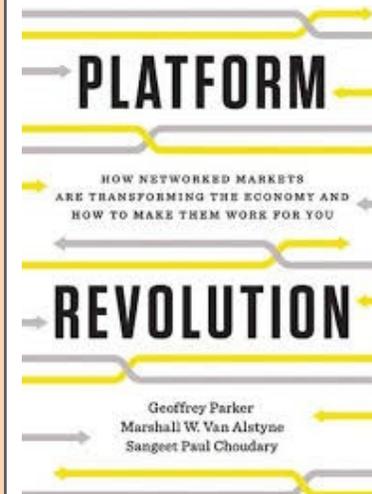
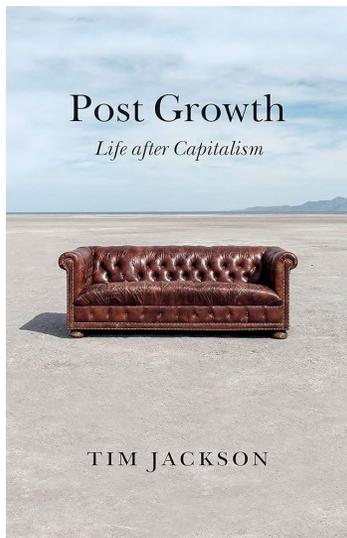


Image Analysis Template

Image analysis template			
Category	Description		
<u>Author</u>	Who proposed it and why (purpose)		
<u>Time horizon</u>	Stated, implied, or unclear		
<u>Scope:</u>	Global/regional/national or affluent/emerging/poor		
<u>Key drivers:</u>	<table><tr><td><u>Bold relevant</u> Shifting values, Technology acceleration, Inequality, Automation, Stagnation, Climate and carrying capacity, Ineffective left</td><td><u>Other</u></td></tr></table>	<u>Bold relevant</u> Shifting values, Technology acceleration, Inequality, Automation, Stagnation, Climate and carrying capacity, Ineffective left	<u>Other</u>
<u>Bold relevant</u> Shifting values, Technology acceleration, Inequality, Automation, Stagnation, Climate and carrying capacity, Ineffective left	<u>Other</u>		
<u>Key ideas</u>	The most important ideas put forth by the concept		
<u>Ideal or guiding values</u>	Something akin to an organizing principle/motivation, i.e., create a more just or fair society		
<u>Emotional, aesthetic, and spiritual aspects</u>	Is it appealing or compelling?		
<u>Personal</u>	How are individuals affected by this future? Who's bearing the most costs, who's accruing the benefits?		
<u>Pathway or plan</u>	Rough sense of steps for achieving		

A system's behavior is a function of its structure.

Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.

Neoliberal Capitalism produces . . .



Growth



Inequality



Overshoot



Accelerating Technology

The Core Problem: We Live in an Economy, Not a Society!



Why are we doing capitalism?

- Inertia, momentum.
- Despite its faults, it has been a successful system in delivered on economic growth and wealth creation [for some].

Is capitalism what we want to do?

- More and more people are answering no;
- Perhaps an equal amount are simply giving up on the future.

What we should we be doing instead?

- This is what [Imagining After Capitalism](#) is all about.

Key Drivers of Change

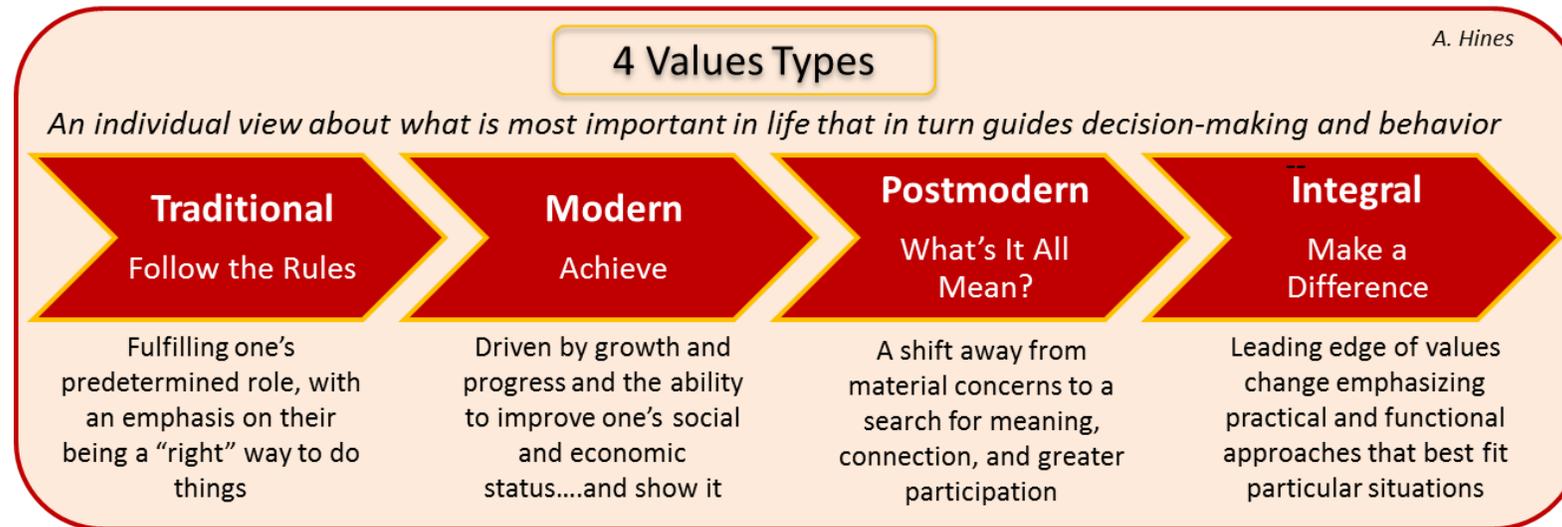
A driver is a thematic cluster of related research inputs that is driving or shaping change.

The Drivers

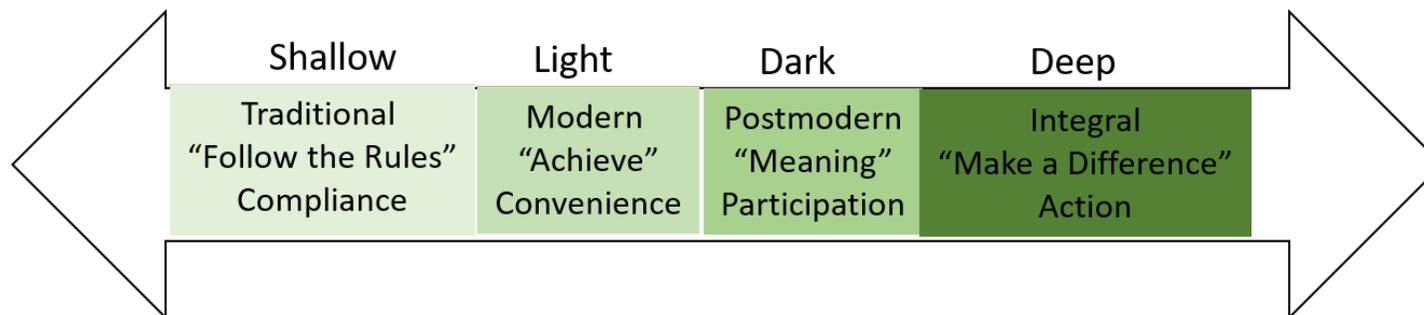
- Shifting values
- Technology acceleration
- Inequality
- Automation
- Stagnation
- Climate and carrying capacity [from Growth]
- Ineffective left

1. Shifting Values

Values are shifting from traditional and modern to postmodern and integral.

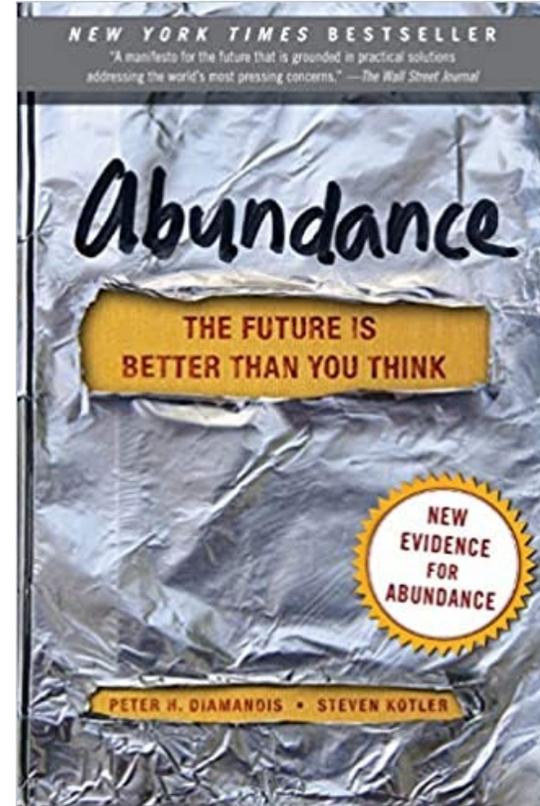
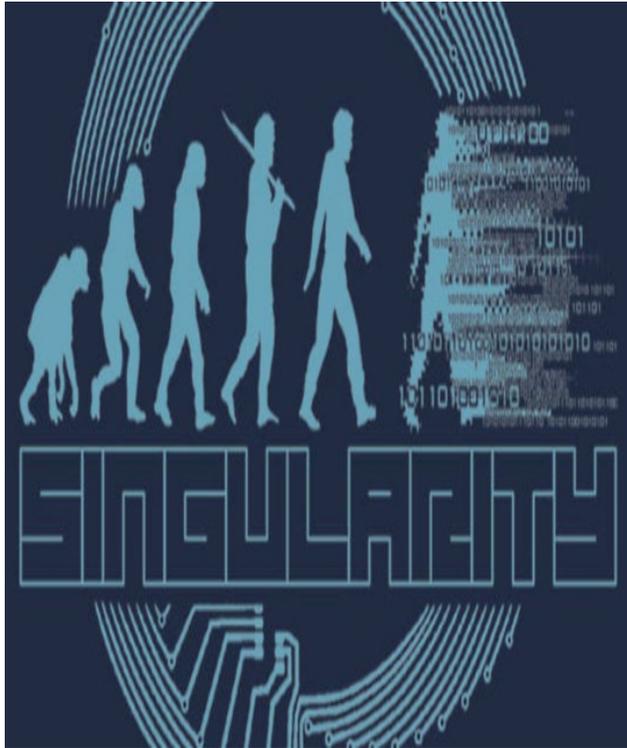


Shades of green – Circular Economy Project



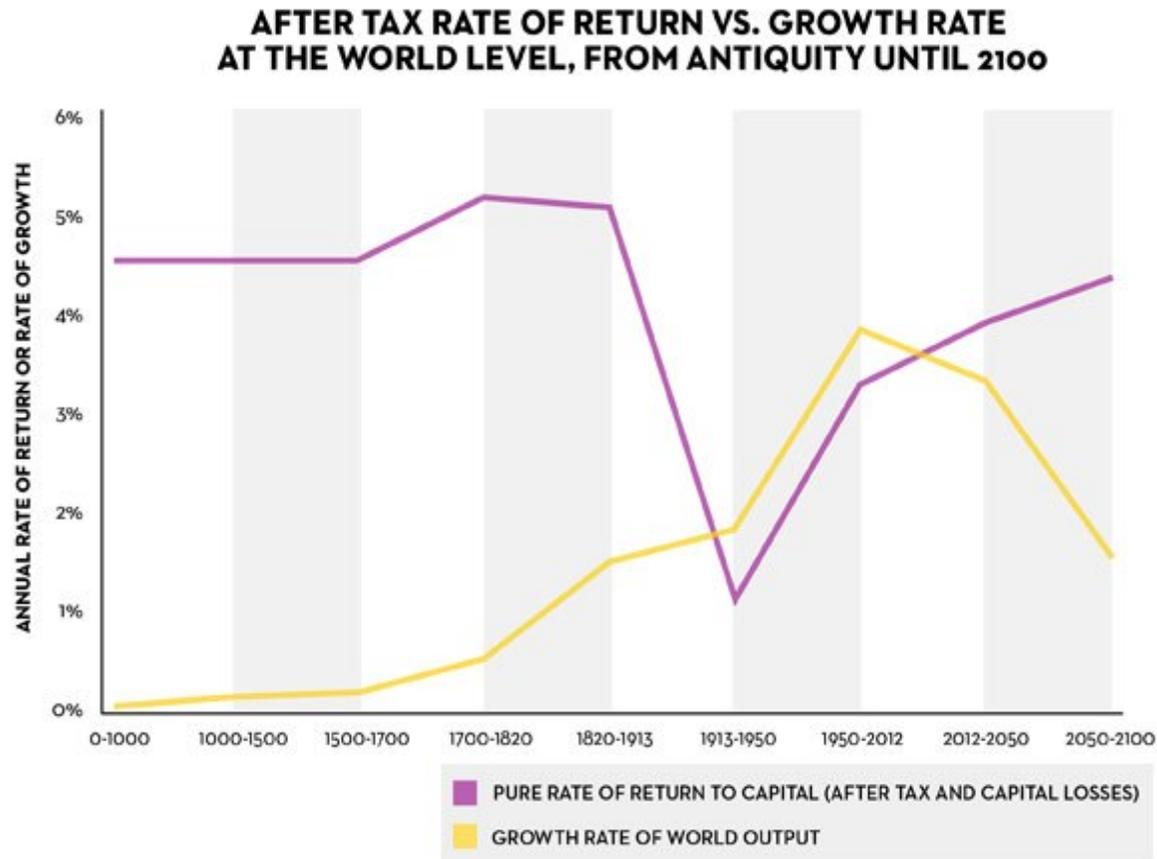
2. Technology Acceleration

Technological capabilities continue to increase rapidly, often exponentially, in a wide range of sectors.



3. Inequality

Growing economic inequality is threatening the social order.



Return on capital investments (Picketty puts at 5%) beats economic growth (puts at 1-2%). This creates an advantage for previously accumulated wealth that exacerbates inequality.

Suggestion: A progressive global tax on capital as a redistributive mechanism coupled with a very high level of financial transparency, which he admits is a utopian idea.

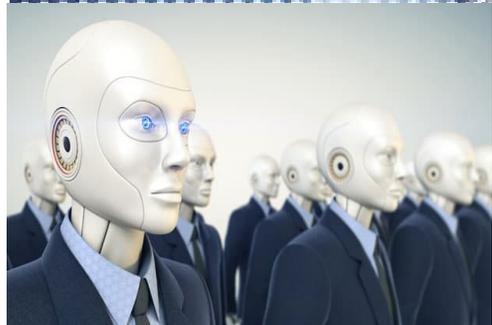
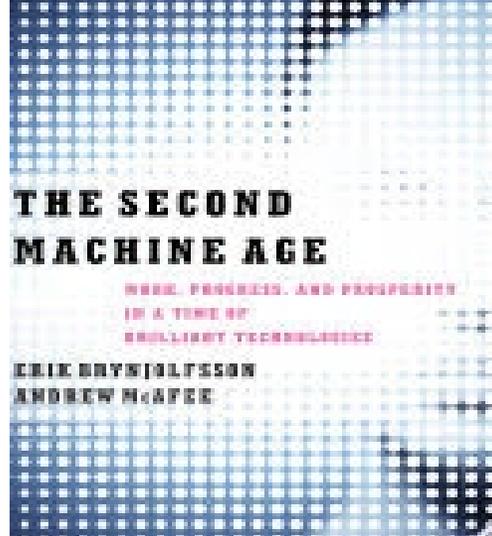
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/john-cassidy/piketlys-inequality-story-in-six-charts>

4. Automation & Labor

Automation, driven by AI, is increasingly replacing jobs.

**Creates more jobs
than it destroys**

Automation and other forms of technological progress in aggregate create more jobs than they destroy

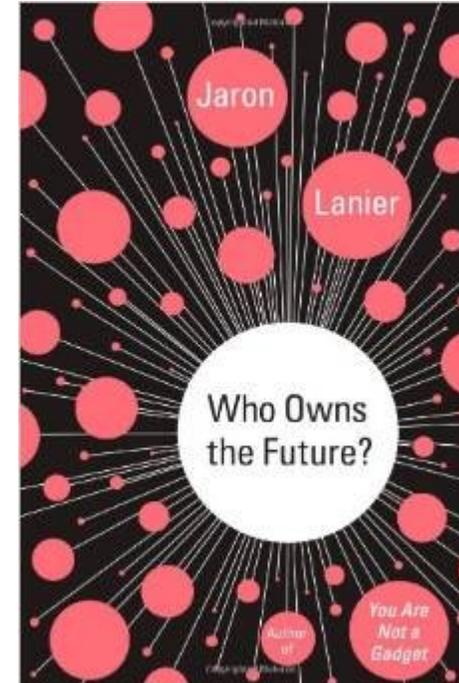
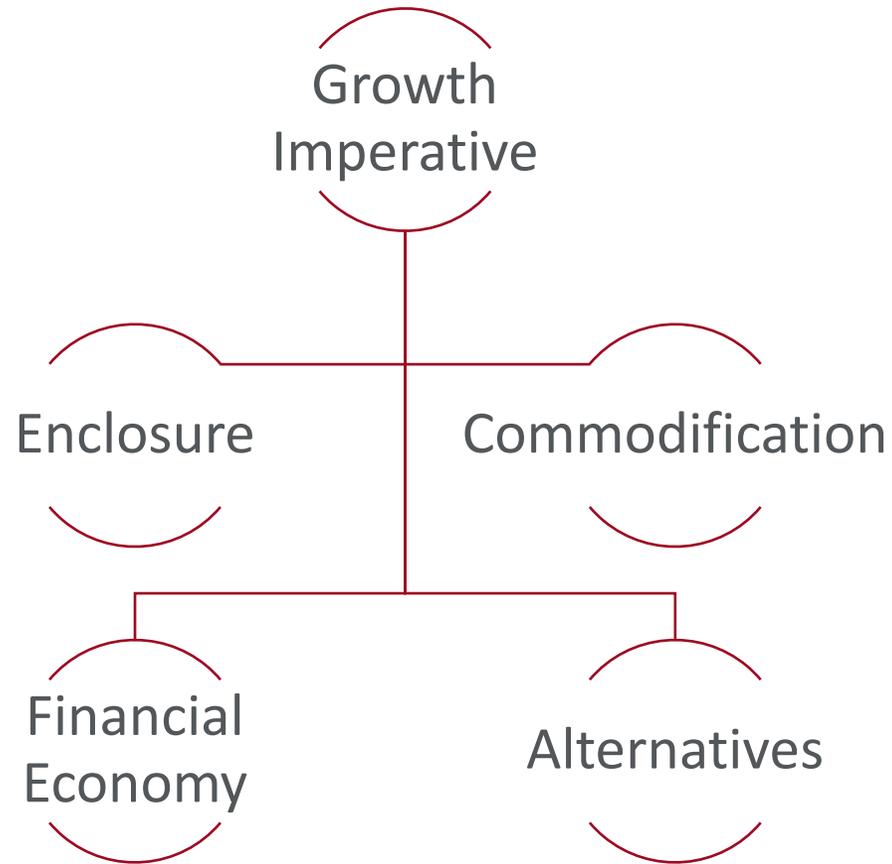


**Destroys more jobs than it
creates**

Thorny challenges:
Technological progress is going to leave behind some people, perhaps even a lot of people

5. Stagnation

Economic growth is slowing in part due to inability to pay.



Eventually there aren't enough paying customers to subsidize the free information.

6. Climate & Carrying Capacity

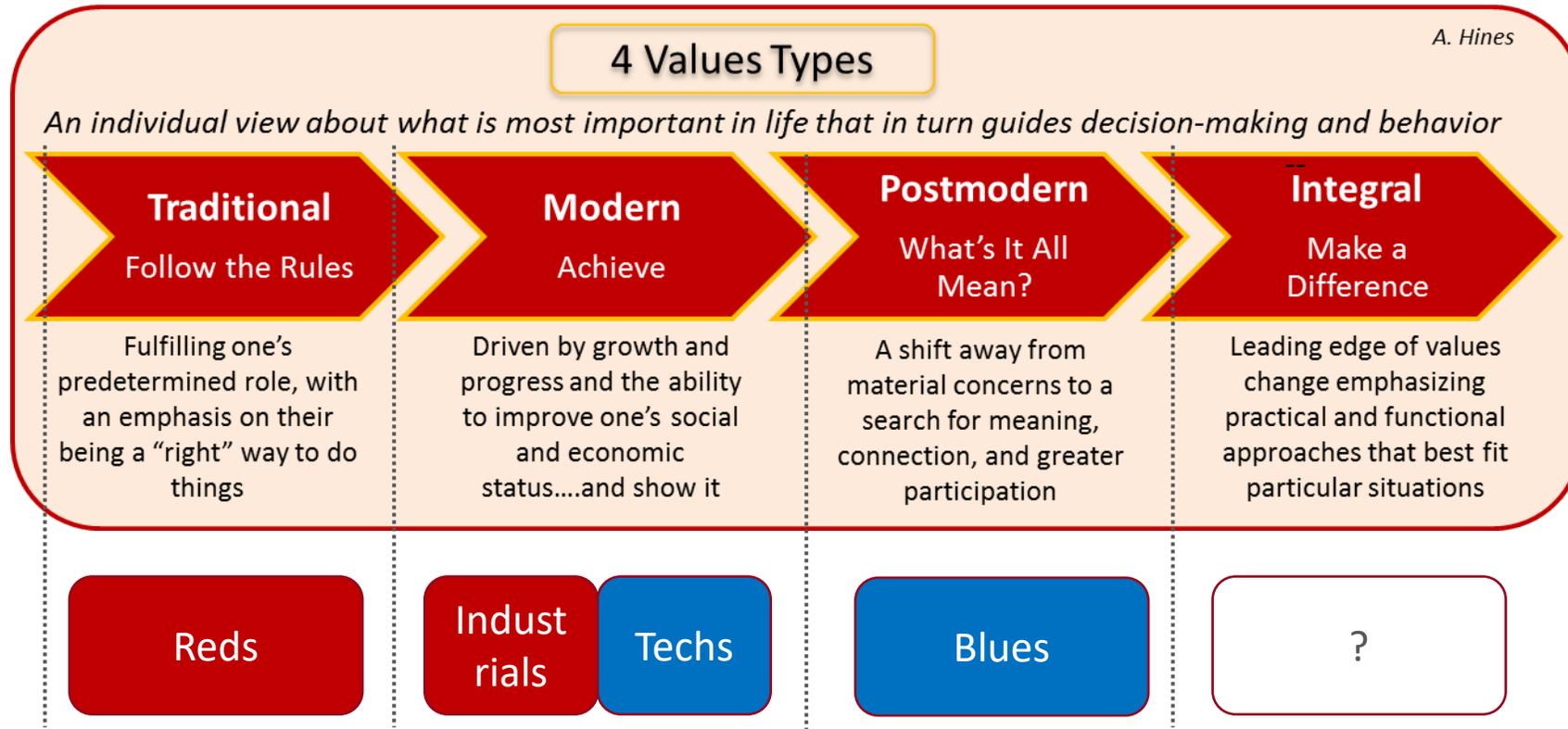
Climate change and humanity's growing ecological footprint are threatening the ecosystem.

Net Plus (Italy)



7. Ineffective Left

The far left continues to be ineffective in catalyzing change



Key Result

Three Images of *After Capitalism*

CIRCULAR COMMONS

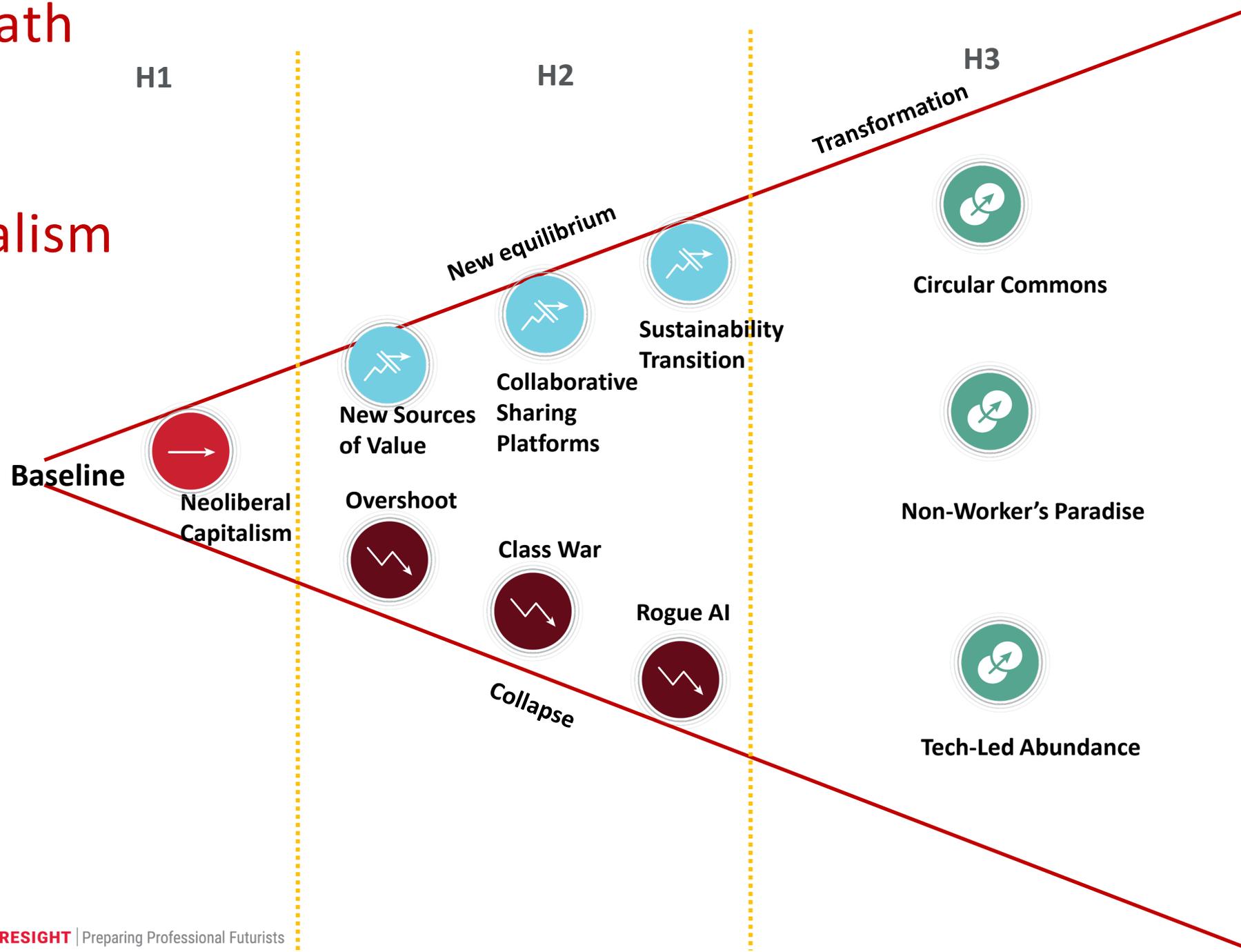


NON-WORKERS PARADISE



TECH-LED ABUNDANCE

The Path to After Capitalism



Circular Commons

Expands the concept of sustainability to embrace circular principles as part of a social, political, and economic commons.

- + Climate and carrying capacity
- + From sustainable to circular
- + Commons approach to resource management
- + *Degrowth*
- + *Reintegrating with nature*
- + Grassroots & local
- + Gift economy
- + New measures of success

Purpose environmental stewardship for saving humanity from potential ecosystem collapse



Top issues

1. If or when should we move to a circular approach?
2. How might we move to a service rather than product approach?
3. How might we reframe measures of success?

Non-Workers Paradise

A play on the attributed-to-Marxist idea of a worker's paradise, but in the After Capitalism world we are not working in paid jobs as a means of sustenance.



Key Ideas

- + Society over economy
- + Inequality reduced via redistribution
- + *UBI*
- + Confronting laziness lie
- + Left gets it together
- + Tech acceleration as enabler
- + *Organizing: Local and Direct [Democracy]*

Purpose reducing inequality to creating a *more just and fair society*.

Top Issues

4. How might we reduce “inequality” in our portfolio, i.e., more balanced approach less reliant on distinctions between premium and basic?
5. How might we incentive innovation without a capitalist reward structure, e.g., IP protection?
6. How might we move to a direct democratic approach in how we operate?

Tech-Led Abundance

Technological progress drives and leads to an abundance of wealth that fixes core distribution problem of capitalism. Goods and services, once reserved for the wealthy few, now available to ALL who need them

- + Sharp focus on tech
 - Bounty, e.g., solar
 - Enables automation; distribution figured out
 - People and machines: augmentation and transhumanists
- + *Scarcity to abundance*
- + *Most risky, geoengineering & species*
- + Zero marginal cost
- + incentivizing entrepreneurs

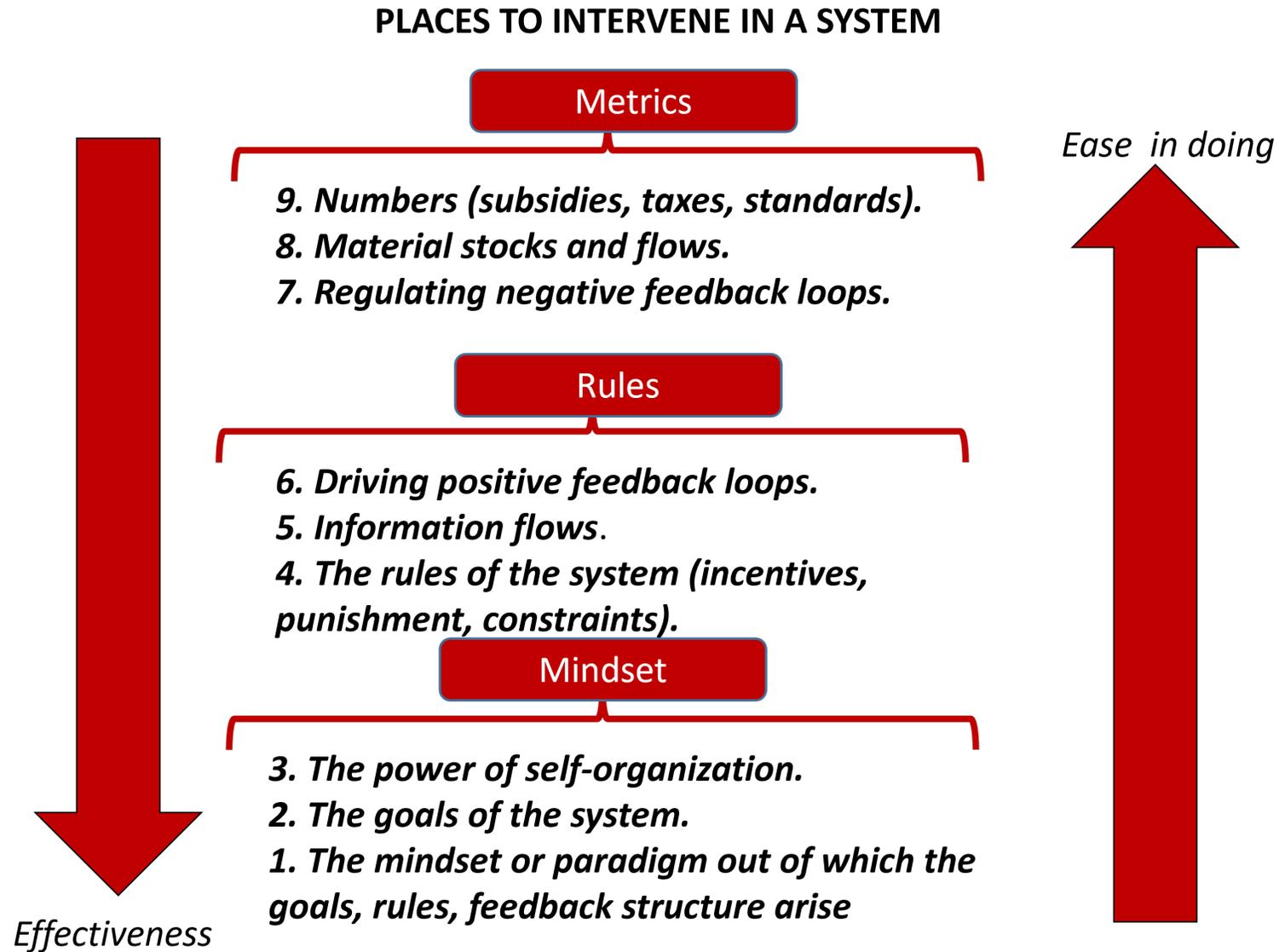
Purpose to create an abundance that solves the world's problems via technology.



Top issues

7. How do we balance people issues with an increasing reliance on technology, i.e., AI and automation?
8. What innovation would we prioritize if cost was no longer an object?
9. How might we redesign the entire system?

Places to Intervene in a System



Based on D. Meadows, "Places to Intervene in a System," *Whole Earth*, Winter 1997.

Contact Info

Dr. Andy Hines

Principal, *Hinesight* &
Program Coordinator
University of Houston
Foresight Program

ahines@uh.edu

www.andyhinesight.com

<https://www.imaginingaftercapitalism.com/>

<https://www.triarchypress.net/after.html>



IMAGINING *AFTER CAPITALISM*: TEN MINDSET SHIFTS

FROM	TO
1. ONE-RIGHT-WAY (traditional, modern, and postmodern) VALUES Or FIRST TIER VALUES	MULTIPLE WAYS (integral) SECOND TIER VALUES
2. ECONOMY	SOCIETY
3. SCARCITY	ABUNDANCE
4. MASTERS (of nature)	PARTNERS (with nature)
5. GROWTH	DEGROWTH
6. USED FUTURES (socialism and communism)	NEW FUTURES (Circular Commons, Non-Workers Paradise, and Tech-Led Abundance)
7. FULL EMPLOYMENT	FULL UNEMPLOYMENT
8. PRIVATE PROPERTY	COMMONS
9. GLOBAL AND LOCAL	LOCAL AND GLOBAL
10. ACCUMULATION	DISTRIBUTION

Key Drivers of Change

A driver is a thematic cluster of related research inputs that is driving or shaping change.



We will be ranking these drivers shortly .. Make some notes!

The Drivers

- Shifting values
- Technology acceleration
- Inequality
- Automation
- Stagnation
- Climate and carrying capacity [from Growth]
- Ineffective left

Your Turn: Circular Commons Key Issues

Instruction to tables: **Circle** the issue that you feel will be most important to enabling “After Capitalism” and suggest how you might respond to it.

Issues (Circle Top Issue)	Response to Top Issue
If or when should we move to a circular approach?	
How might we move to a service rather than product approach?	
How might we reframe measures of success?	

Your Turn: Non-Workers Paradise Key Issues

Instruction to tables: **Circle** the issue that you feel will be most important to enabling “After Capitalism” and suggest how you might respond to it.

Issues (Circle Top Issue)	Response to Top Issue
How might we reduce “inequality” in our portfolio, i.e., more balanced approach less reliant on distinctions between premium and basic?	
How might we incentive innovation without a capitalist reward structure, e.g., IP protection?	
How might we move to a direct democratic approach in how we operate?	

Your Turn: Tech-Led Abundance Key Issues

Instruction to tables: **Circle** the issue that you feel will be most important to enabling “After Capitalism” and suggest how you might respond to it.

Issues (Circle Top Issue)	Response to Top Issue
How do we balance people issues with an increasing reliance on technology, i.e., AI and automation?	
What innovation would we prioritize if cost was no longer an object?	
How might we redesign the entire system?	