

Away from the "Internet of Ecocide": inviting radically open participation in Internet protocols standardisation

Vesna Manojlović / BECHA@UnCiv.NL

AMRO, Linz :: 10 May 2024
<https://art-meets.radical-openness.org/2024/>

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Living Planet meets Open Standards



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<https://becha.unciv.nl/>

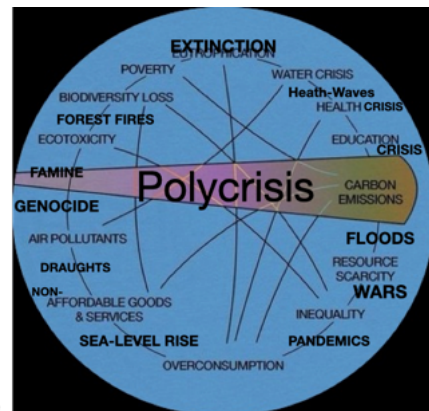
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- I'm a hacker, mother, activist ...
 - ... engineer, Community Builder, mediator
- émigré from ex-Yugoslavia.
- live & work between Amsterdam & Lika (Croatia).

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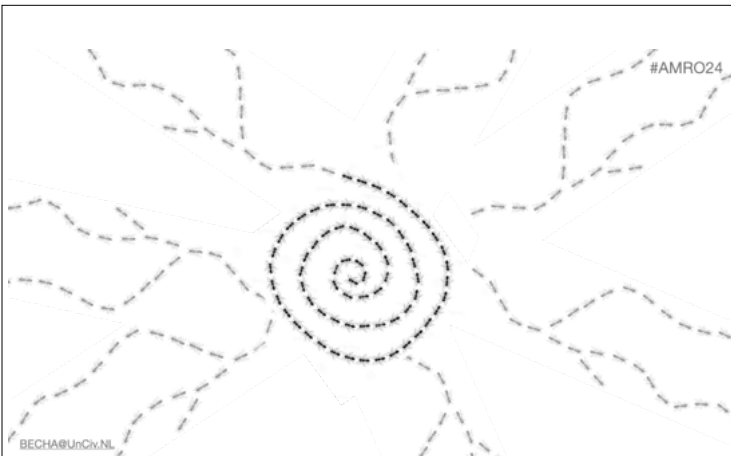
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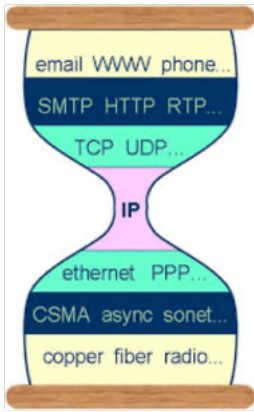
Crossroads

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- Death spiral of:
 - anthropocentrism, extractivism, individualism, consumerism...
 - supremacies, oppressions, hierarchies, dominations, inequalities...
 - control, surveillance, exploitation, addictions, extremisms...
 - privatising, profits, conquests, imperialism, colonialism, corruptions...
 - fallacy of progress, fallacy of (infinite) growth, fallacy of saviours...
 - body-mind division, violence, private property, slavery...

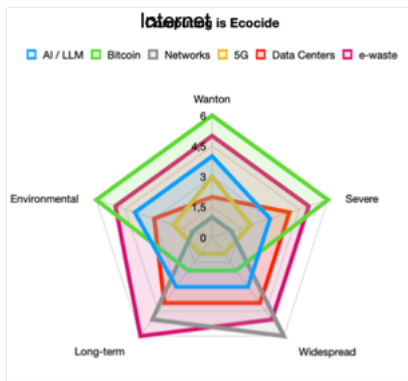
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Against Techno-Optimism!

- Internet **INFRASTRUCTURE** (as opposed to "web"/applications)
- **Layered** architecture, enabling: "network of networks"
 - end-to-end connectivity, "permission-less innovation", decentralisation
- Tech/Science/Net has **NOT** fulfilled its emancipatory promises:
 - education, empowerment, equality, liberation, "democracy", social justice ...
- Instead: cat videos & ecocide



Against Ecocide

- ^^^ based on: "Computing as Ecocide", by Rob Comber and Elina Eriksson: <https://limits.pubpub.org/pub/a8h46wqy/release/1>
- My article: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/magazine/ai-climate-change-what-role-paris-targets-2023-09>
- My collection of links: https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/AI_is_ecocide
- Newest article by Reynard Loki <https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/05/02/should-harming-the-planet-be-a-crime-the-case-for-ecocide-laws/>

RIPE & Diversity

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- Diversity <https://ripe.net/diversity>
- Academic Grants: <https://ripe.net/raci>
- Travel Grants: <https://ripe.net/fellowship>
- Community Projects Fund: <https://ripe.net/cpf>
- Free learning: <https://ripe.net/training>
- FLOSS Hackathons: <https://labs.ripe.net/hackathons/>
- https://labs.ripe.net/author/gergana_petrova/diversity-at-ripe-meetings-academics-newcomers-women/

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Vesna's RIPE Diversity Links

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- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/building-bridges-between-diverse-communities-at-ripe-85/>
- video from NLNOG 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycrl7NI8sOY>
- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/data-feminism-from-data-ethics-to-data-justice/>
- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/diversity-matters-at-ripe-83/>
- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-safety-net/>
- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/spring-and-summer-events-season-2022/>
- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/the-history-of-the-yugoslavian-internet-live-at-see-10/>

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IETF & "Diversity"

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- <http://ietf.org/diversity/>
- <https://criticalinfra.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LoudMen-CorinneCath-CriticalInfraLab.pdf>
- <https://www.ietf.org/blog/report-experience-of-women-participating-in-the-ietf/>
- Systems: <https://www.ietf.org/participate/ietf-systems/>
- <https://www.irtf.org/travelgrants/>
- <https://www.ietf.org/meeting/hackathons/>
- ISOC: <https://www.internetsociety.org/fellowships/mid-career>
- ICANN: <https://www.icann.org/fellowshipprogram>

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Social Scientist about Operators' Community



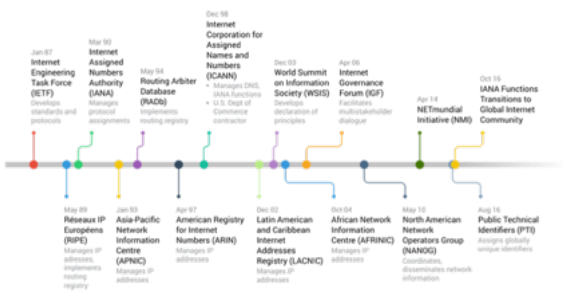
- **Uta Meier-Hahn: "Internet Interconnection: Networking in Uncertain Terrain"**
 - https://labs.ripe.net/author/uta_meier_hahn/internet-interconnection-networking-in-uncertain-terrain/ (2015)
- **The Regulatory Conditions of IP Interconnection (2016)**
 - https://labs.ripe.net/author/uta_meier_hahn/the-regulatory-conditions-of-ip-interconnection/
- **The Internet was Built on Trust. But What Does it Run On? (2017)**
 - https://labs.ripe.net/author/uta_meier_hahn/the-internet-was-built-on-trust-but-what-does-it-run-on/

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Internet governance timeline

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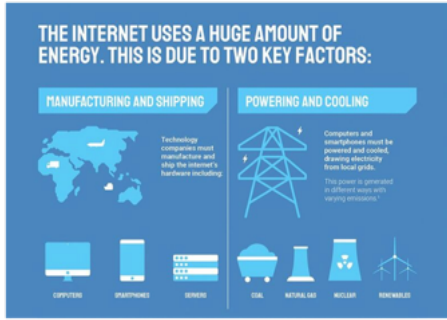


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“Data is the New Oil”



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RIPE Meeting Talks on Sustainability



- RIPE75 (October 2017): “Internet Services and Energy Demand”, Mike Hazas <https://ripe75.ripe.net/archives/video/154/>
- RIPE81 (October 2020): Sustainable ICT Procurement, Michael Oghia, <https://ripe81.ripe.net/programme/meeting-plan/bof/#mon14>
- RIPE84 (May 2022): Towards a Fossil Free Internet, Chris Adams, Green Web Foundation <https://ripe84.ripe.net/archives/video/751/>
- RIPE85 (October 2022): 13 Propositions for a Burning World, Tobias Fiebig, MPI INF; Doris Aschenbrenner, Aalen University <https://ripe85.ripe.net/archives/video/877/>
- RIPE86 (May 2023): The Environmental Impact of Internet: Urgency, De-Growth, Rebellion, Vesna Manojlovic <https://ripe86.ripe.net/archives/video/1001/>
- RIPE87 (November 2023): The Internet of Tomorrow Must Sleep More and Grow Old, Romain Jacob, ETH Zurich <https://ripe87.ripe.net/archives/video/1143/>

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Internet Governance & SDGs



- **February 2024, EURALO** <https://atlarge.icann.org/ralos/euralo>
- **EuroDig**: https://eurodigwiki.org/wiki/WS_04_2023
 - Greening Internet Governance: **EuroDig 2020** https://eurodigwiki.org/wiki/Greening_Internet_governance_-_Environmental_sustainability_and_digital_transformation_-_2020/2021
- **IGF 2023**
 - “Climate change and Technology implementation” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsipqX_U5EA
 - https://labs.ripe.net/author/gergana_petrova/igf-2023-liveblog/
- **2021**: <https://seedig.net/seedig7-sustainable-future/>
- **ITU in 2020**: “reduce ICT GHG emissions by 45% by 2030”

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IETF / IRTF & “Sustainability”

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- IETF’s “e-impact”: <https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/e-impact>
 - “Full understanding of Internet’s environmental impact
 - Continuous improvement of our technology.
 - Launching research relevant activities”
 - <https://mailman3.ietf.org/mailman3/lists/green-bof.ietf.org/>
- IRTF: GAIA: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/rg/gaia/about/>
- IAB: BIAS workshop: The Internet is an important tool to reach the SDG <https://datatracker.ietf.org/group/biasws/about/>
- RFC8890 <https://ftp.ripe.net/rfc/rfc8890.pdf>
- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/the-internet-is-for-the-empowerment-of-end-users/>

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Internet Industry & Climate Action



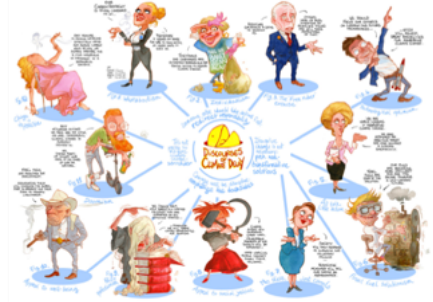
- **“Energy Consumption in Data Centres and Broadband Communication Networks in the EU” (2024-02-16)**, (by European Commission’s Joint Research Centre) <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC135926>
- **“The central role of climate action in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals”** by Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-47746-w>.
- **GSMA “2024: State of the Industry on Climate Action”** <https://www.gsma.com/betterfuture/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Mobile-Net-Zero-2024-State-of-the-Industry-on-Climate-Action.pdf>

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“Delay is the New Denial”

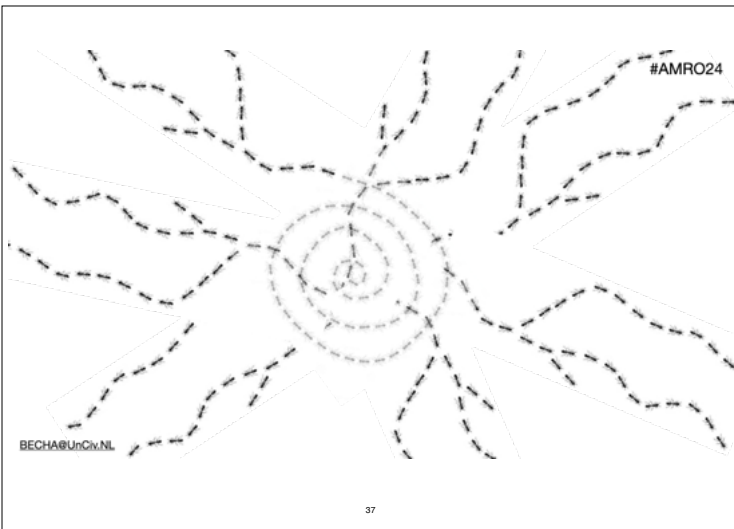


https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342596680_Discourses_of_climate_delay

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Alt. Crossroads to Utopia #AMRO24





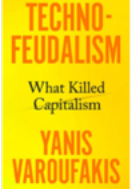

- Climate Justice
- Counter-Computings
- DeGrowth
- Aware Academics
- (science) / Climate Fiction
- SolarPunk / LunarPunk
- Re-Topia
- Rebellion
- Art
- Activism
- Anarchism
- Animism

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Technical Is Political

Power
↑
Privilege
↑
Preference
↑
Difference

• “No research on a dead planet” <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feduc.2023.1237076>

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Reparations

Limitations

Solidarity

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Climate Justice in Tech #AMRO24

- <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/towards-climate-justice-in-tech/>
- Limiting extractivism & decreasing growth
- Reparations: giving back to the most affected communities
- Acting in solidarity with the frontline communities & centering marginalised groups; mutual aid

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COUNTER COMPUTING: <https://counter-n.net/>

- → decolonial computing, Stefanie Wuschitz,
- → insurgent computing, Anna Engelhardt
- → minimal computing, Andrew Lison
- → permacomputing, Marloes de Valk, Ville-Matias Heikkilä
- → more-than-binary computing, Juan Pablo García Sossa
- + frugal computing, Wim van der Bauwhede
- + junkard computing, Jennifer Switzer
- + off-the-grid / SolarPunk & <https://doingthedoughnut.tech/>
- + low-tech, “green tech”, slow tech, durable tech, circular tech
- + <https://art-meets.radical-openness.org/2024/program/reorganizing-the-internet/>

Vesna Mangjovic | RISEM | May 2023

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Inspiring Examples



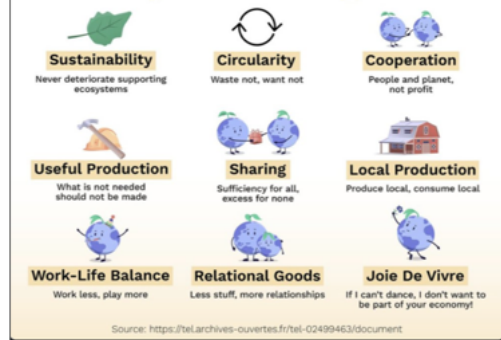
- Reduce, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle (equipment)
- Community Networks, Mesh, Low-power networking, disaster-recovery net
- Decolonising the Internet, Feminist Internet, Solar Internet
- Low-tech, Slow tech, Retro-tech, Green Tech, Appropriate Technology
- Counter Computings: Frugal-, Convivial-, Benign-, Permacomputing
- Self-hosting, federation, decentralised networks

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Principles of Degrowth



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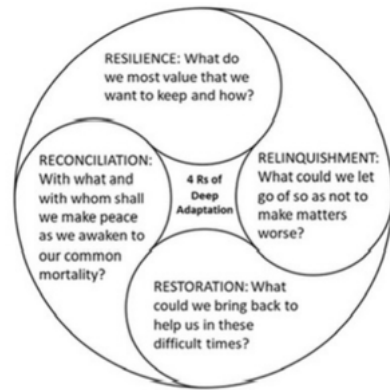
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DeGrowth Links

- A Degrowth Perspective on Artificial Intelligence - Analysing the Appropriateness of Machine Learning to a Degrowth Context <https://www.research-collection.ethz.ch/handle/20.500.11850/622669>
- Degrowth can work — here's how science can help: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-04412-x>
- Digital Degrowth https://zagreb.degrowth.net/en/9_int_dg_conf/public/events/184
- Academic Journal on Degrowth (May 2023) : feminist, anarchist, decolonial views <https://www.degrowthjournal.org/issues/2023-volume-1/>
- Combatting climate change & #Polycrisis means embracing degrowth <https://climateactionaustralia.wordpress.com/2023/01/22/why-combatting-climate-change-means-embracing-degrowth-polycrisis/>
- <https://www.noemamag.com/degrowth-in-japan>
- <https://jornbettin.com/2023/07/04/enough/>

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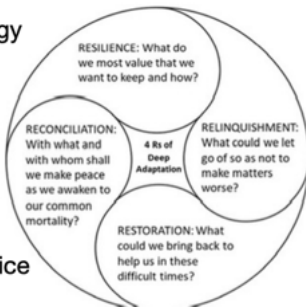


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Re-topia

- Rebellion
- Renewable Energy
- Redirecting
- Reciprocity
- Reparations
- Restorative Justice



- Reusing
- Repairing
- Recycling
- RetroFitting
- ReWilding
- Regeneration

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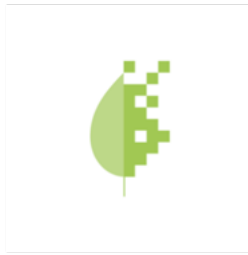
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Join Activist Communities

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- APC.org & <https://feministinternet.org/>
- RightsCon.org
- Bits und Bäume : <https://bits-und-baeume.org/en/>
- Scientists Rebellion : <https://ScientistsRebellion.com>
- digital-rights-climate-justice@groups.io
- Rebellion.Global
- Counter Cloud Action Day <https://diagram.institute/12o/>
- Digital Depletion Strike <https://multiplace.org/8m>



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Academia, (h)Activists, NGOs...



- **Computing Within Limits** <https://computingwithinlimits.org> (18-19.June)
 - <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/computing-within-limits-2023/>
- **Communities for climate action in tech**
 - <https://wiki.mozilla.org/Projects/Sustainability/Research>
 - <https://www.sigplan.org/Resources/Climate/>
 - <https://climateaction.tech/community/>
 - <https://www.apc.org/en/news/mobilising-collective-action-environmental-justice-and-sustainability-2020>
 - <https://www.apc.org/en/project/technology-environmental-justice-and-sustainability>
 - ACM SIGCAS: Computers and Society <https://www.sigcas.org/events/sigcas-showcase-2022/>
 - Theoretical Computer Scientists for Future (tcs4f.org) made a pledge to "reducing our emissions by at least 50% before 2030 relative to pre-2020 levels."
 - <https://www.nsuweb.org/circle-g-sustainability-ethics-environment-call-for-papers/>

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O.R.C.A.

<https://linktr.ee/orcamsterdam>



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"Algorithmic Sabotage Research Group"

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- <https://tldr.nettime.org/@asrg/112240241594621190>
- "While the whole of society is being subsumed by algorithmically ordered relations and enrolled in machinic optimization, the history continues to show that liberation from the imposition of these power relations is a process brought about by collective organizing, mutual care and #solidarity .."
- Given the urgent need to provide some kind of balance as the "algorithmic empire" becomes a multiplier of epistemic injustices, administrative violence and algorithmic states of exception, the Algorithmic Sabotage Research Group (ASRG) proposes "algorithmic sabotage" as a form of constituent counter-power and the basis for an alternative radical political tactic that resists necropolitical authoritarianism and militantly refuses reductive optimisations and statistical segregation through a perspective of care and mutuality, while pushing for structural alternatives ."

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F**k Off g00gle

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- <http://anarchistnews.org/content/invisible-committee-returns-fuck-google>
- <http://www.crimethinc.com/texts/ex/digital-utopia.html>
- <http://bloom0101.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/fuckoffgoogleeng.pdf>
- <https://tarnac9.wordpress.com/texts/the-coming-insurrection/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/may/02/google-microsoft-pact-antitrust-surveillance-capitalism>
- <http://www.googletransparencyproject.org/articles/googles-european-revolving-door>
- <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-04-01/how-much-water-do-google-data-centers-use-billions-of-gallons>
- <https://locusmag.com/2020/01/cory-doctorow-inaction-is-a-form-of-action/>
- <https://www.wired.com/story/google-limit-gebru-ai-what-really-happened/>
- + <https://nl.crimethinc.com/2024/05/08/ahead-of-another-summer-of-climate-disasters-lets-talk-about-real-solutions>

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Against Big Tech

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- Digital Disobedience <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/DigitalDisobedience>
- Against Cloud: https://wiki.techinc.nl/MeshNet#Cloud_Problems
- Against Data Centers: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#Data_Centers
- Against Techno-Colonialism https://wiki.techinc.nl/Hackers_tribes#Decolonising_Internet
- Against Centralisation / Consolidation: https://wiki.techinc.nl/MeshNet#Email_Problems

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Internet of Empathy

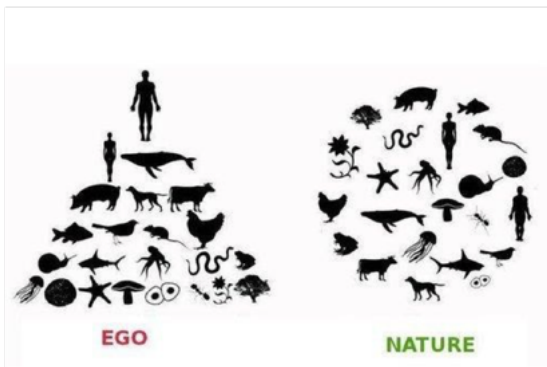


- From: "To Our Friends" by The Invisible Committee <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/our-friends>
- Positive freedom of connectivity, interaction and involvement
 - Instead of libertarian "freedom" as independence and self reliance
- This freedom comes at the price of greater responsibility
- "the intrinsic value of a network does not lie in the sovereignty and independence of its nodes, but in their connectedness,"
- Empathy is willingness to engage with the Other, and willingness to enrich network with our contributions
- & "Guide to Empathetic Technical Leadership" <https://empathetictechnicalleader.com>
- FREE to read online: <https://leanpub.com/littleguide/read>

Vera Menzies | BatCCoN17 | September 2017

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Sacred InterDependences

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- Dreamtime
- Martin Prechtel, Tzutuji shaman <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/304/saving-the-indigenous-soul>
 - the spiritual debt that must be paid for the creation of technology (e.g. knife)
 - hollowness that's been carved out of the universe by human ingenuity, and so must be refilled with human ingenuity. A ritual gift equal to the amount that was removed from the other world has to be put back to make up for the wound caused to the divine.
- Batja Mesquita, (emotions) "Between Us"
- "Group Empathy" https://wiki.techinc.nl/Hackers_tribes#Group_Empathy
- Starhawk: "Fifth Sacred Thing" <https://starhawk.org/writing/books/the-fifth-sacred-thing/>
- Daniel Quinn, "The Story of B" <http://www.davidsheen.com/b/>
- Philip Shepherd: "Radical Wholeness" : <https://embodiedpresent.com/>
- Tricia Hersey: Rest is Resistance <https://thenapministry.com/>
- Neurodiversity: <https://autcollab.org/knowledge-repository/ecologies-of-care/>



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More-than-human Consciousness

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- PLANT INTERNET /
- Wood Wide Web /
- Slime Mould /
- Bacteria ... /
-

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“Alternative” Narrative / Myths / Ethics



- "...a society predominantly concerned with preserving its existence (but not endlessly expanding), a society with a modest standard of living, conservative of natural resources, with a low constant fertility rate and a political life based upon consent; a society that has made a successful adaptation to its environment and has learned to live without destroying itself or the people next door...that is the society I want to be able to imagine — I must be able to imagine, for one does not get on without hope."

— "A Non-Euclidean View of California as a Cold Place to Be", Ursula K. Le Guin

- Ursula K. LeGuin: "The Dispossessed"
- Starhawk: "Fifth Sacred Thing"
- Octavia Butler: Parable of the Sower
- "Biophilia" ; Solarpunk ; "DeGrowth"
- Mitakuye Oyasin; Ubuntu; Shamanism; Dreamtime



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More Utopia Links

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- Ursula K. Le Guin: <https://web.archive.org/web/20180628075056/http://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/ursula-k-le-guin-a-non-euclidean-view-of-california-as-a-cold-place-to-be>
- ZaMir <https://wiki.techinc.nl/TacticalMediaRoom#ZaMir>
- - Speaker for the Dead, Orson Scott Card
- - WalkAway, Cory Doctorow
- - Beyond Civilisation (series), Daniel Quinn
- - Diamond Age, Neal Stephenson
- - HumanKind: Timothy Morton

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Workshop: Internet of Squirrels

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11-05-2024 12 CEST



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Workshop Questions

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- "How can we minimise the detrimental environmental impact of the Internet on more-than-humans?"
- "How can Internet Governance organisations make their work more accessible, more inclusive, more just - or at least more FUN!"
- "What does the Utopian Internet look like?"
 - (as opposed to Luxury Internet / Internet of Affluence / Gargantuan Internet / Gilded Internet / Capitalist Internet of Surveillance)
- "How can squirrels contribute to, and benefit from, the technical Internet standards?"
 - (squirrels as a symbol for non-geek-humans, animals & ecosystems.)

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