

Internet of Squirrels

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If we want to have “sustainable Internet”, we have to “consider the squirrels”!

Squirrels are a symbol for **all** more-than-human beings & ecosystems: trees, rivers, soil, insects, fish, forests, cats, sea-weed...

Considering squirrels is an analogy for **ecocentric** attitudes.

Squirrels are a metaphor for all those humans with **no** own voice: the disconnected, the marginalised, the exploited, the oppressed, those not yet born... and who I take the responsibility to speak **for**.

“Internet of Squirrels” is a direct opposition to “*Internet of Things*”, a reminder that we will not achieve “Internet sustainability” through the technological fixes, but that the solutions to our technical problems are, in fact: **social, political, ecological and spiritual solutions**.

In first approximation, I use squirrels as “the other” - but taken to the **extreme**; in order to “move the goal posts” of radical Diversity, Equity & Inclusion!

- for the engineer, squirrel is a “customer”
- for the network operator, squirrel is a “End User”
- for the academic, squirrel is a “research subject”
- for the content provider, squirrel is a “consumer”

On a technical level, Internet of Squirrels represents basic, modest, green connectivity for all, within planetary boundaries, harmless for squirrels: Internet “on the squirrel scale”.

Principles of Internet of Squirrels: ecology, sufficiency, reciprocity, empathy, ecocentrism (not anthropocentrism!), solidarity,

On a metaphysical level, Internet of Squirrels acknowledges existence of meaningful connections & communications “networks” among (& between) non-human species (murmurations of birds, mycelia networks, ant colonies, crows, Wood Wide Web, dolphins, slime mould, parrots...), and non-technological networks within human cultures.

References: https://wiki.unciv.nl/index.php?title=Speaker_For_Squirrels

Squirrels are symbol of innocent victims that are facing extinction, if we continue with developing “*Internet as ecocide*”, within the current social (economic, political, philosophical/spiritual) conditions.

ANTi Ecocide

ANTi Cloud

ANTi Data Centres

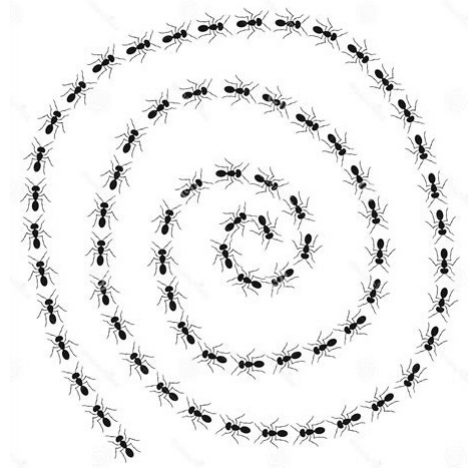
ANTi Big Tech

ANTi Fossil Fuels

ANTi Patriarchy

ANTi Techno-Colonialism

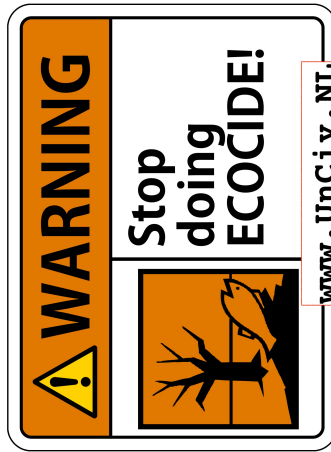
ANTi Techno-Optimism



High-speed Internet & other “advanced digital technologies” (quantum communication, 5G, 6G, HD video, VR, blockchain, AI, online gaming, etc), is what I call the “**Internet of Ecocide**”:

Luxury, Excessive, Gargantuan, Gilded Internet... Internet of Affluence, Internet of Exploitation

“Internet of Ecocide” is damaging for the environment: burning fossil fuels, slurping up water, digging-up rare metals, occupying land, extracting value from many for the profits of the few, while externalising pollution (destroying habitats, dumping e-waste — even in space! —, generating CO₂ emissions)...





Quotes:

“imagine... 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.” ~~ Ursula K. LeGuin, *California...*

“expansion of industrialized Internet production as separating organisms from their relational ecologies and coercing them into maximized production, under late capitalism’s growth imperative...”

“(I) approach Internet systems through the concept of more-than-human freedom. (I) aim to bring together the focus on Internet sovereignty and a more-than-human perspective to the organisms involved in Internet creation.”

— <https://morethanhumanfreedom.wordpress.com>
(paraphrased, replacing “food” with “Internet”)



Degrowth is a social movement and a research framework which advocates for a transition to sustainable and just forms of social organization. The foundational insight of degrowth is that there cannot be endless growth on a finite planet.

Like all punk, **solarpunk** goes against the current ruling philosophy and requires a full system change. It lets care be the guide instead of greed. Solarpunk sees humans as part of the natural ecology, not apart from it as our current industrialized society does. There is great emphasis on getting your hands in the dirt following bio-dynamic permaculture and regenerative principles, to tend to your environment and grow your own food. Care of each other, care of ourselves and care of our environment are all intertwined. Solarpunk holds technology in its heart as a way to support this equal, care-driven, non-polluting meaningful life. It focuses on hyper-local, small, self-governing networks while also making the best of being connected global citizens. Without the capitalist push for the biggest economic benefit but with the eco-socialist spread of resources and benefit for all. Life would maybe have a slightly slower pace, but there would be much more to enjoy along the way.

— By Priscilla Haring-Kuipers

“... those who have no physical voices, but whose biological presence keeps us breathing...” — My Octopus Teacher” video

“... humanity (must) give up some of its core beliefs, from the fantasy that we can control the planet, to the notion that we are ‘above’ other beings.”

— Timothy Morton: *HumanKind*

Consensus includes “the Voices who spoke for the Four Sacred Things: Deer, Hawk, Salmon, Coyote”

— *Starhawk: The Fifth Sacred Thing*