

A Planetary Momentum

Asymmetric Shocks, Global Preparedness for Change and the Rise of a New Paradigm

Has COVID-19 pandemic changed the world? The world has suffered many infectious pandemics, e.g. plague stretching through many centuries and spreading around the world. COVID-19 compressed the horror of centuries into a few months extending through global space. The world today will never again be as it was just a few months ago. The social structure of our world has already changed and a major economic crisis is looming. In addition, COVID-19 has had a significant psychological impact.

COVID-19 requires coordinated global action now. Many of these actions belong to our existing toolkit, but COVID-19 has also accelerated the demand for actions based on a new social, economic and political paradigm. Over the past decade, the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) has emphasized the need for a new paradigm: human-centered and humanity-centered. Some responses to COVID-19 based on existing policies and methods threaten to undermine democracy and human rights, underlining the absence of human-centered attitudes. Therefore, a new paradigm is essential. Its realization will require the commitment and active involvement of all of us.

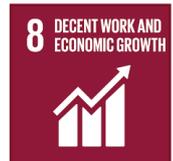
Leadership is needed at all levels to transform the growing disunity into global solidarity based on complementary top-down and bottom-up initiatives. Academia should analyze the risks and formulate paths to innovation and cooperation combined with personal responsibility. Attention should be paid to decision theory, rational choice and values in framing solutions taking into account the complex relations, interactions and reciprocal immediate and long-term influences involved. All sectors should seize the opportunity to alter established practices which have failed and have no future. Lessons concerning the weaknesses of social systems must be studied in depth and analyzed to understand why and how conventional thinking has led to global crises, the vulnerabilities generated by globalization and networking, and the ideas needed to foster effective social innovation. It calls for changes from technology-driven society to human and humanity-oriented technology

utilizing opportunities generated by the digital revolution, as illustrated by web-based distance learning, which is already permeating our education system and work places.

As the Inter Academy Partnership has stressed in a recent statement, we need "collaboration based on the whole-of-governments and the whole-of-society." WAAS is guided by the motto of 'Leadership in thought that leads to action' and 'Striving of the best minds for a solution of present problems... and demands for the future'. The duty of academies, universities, research institutes and of each individual scientist is to contribute towards progress in each and all scientific disciplines. Since our world, our problems and tasks are complex and interdependent, it is necessary to strengthen transdisciplinary and holistic approaches. COVID-19 highlights changes essential for human survival and the need for a moral paradigm change.

We hope to soon see our schools, universities, workplaces, concert halls, and public buildings as full as they were before. But we also hope humanity has learned that the destruction of social cooperation is as dangerous as the loss of biodiversity, climate change, pollution and overconsumption which threaten to destroy the resilience of human society. To survive, we need empathy, solidarity, understanding and creativity. We are faced with an enormous and difficult task. We can accomplish it now.

**– Ivo Šlaus, Stefan Brunnhuber, Jüri Engelbrecht,
Garry Jacobs, Donato Kiniger-Passigli,
Thomas Reuter and Alberto Zucconi**



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Global Issues & Future of Humankind: Online – May 20 2020

**IEEE Intl. Conference on Systems, Man & Cybernetics
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SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION E-CONFERENCE REPORT

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Upcoming Events



World Academy of
Art and Science

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Unique Moment for Planetary Momentum
e-Conference – June 13-17, 2020



United Nations
Office at Geneva
UNOG

An Invitation to Collaborate

WANTED: Practical Solutions & Catalytic Strategies

Humanity is presently facing a nexus of challenges of unparalleled scope, magnitude and complexity. COVID-19 is only the most visible and immediately impactful challenge, posing severe threats to the health, wellbeing, livelihoods and economic security of untold millions around the world. The urgency of this crisis has nearly eclipsed attention to other immanent threats to human security—global warming, war, financial instability, economic insecurity, rising inequality, revival of the arms race, the retreat from democracy, uncontrolled migration, disruptive emerging technologies, declining confidence in science and public institutions, populism, and polarization of society. The unparalleled series of asymmetric shocks they impose can only be effectively addressed by concerted, coordinated multilateral action by and on behalf of all nations in the world community and our international agencies for global governance. New ideas and strategies are urgently needed to reverse reactionary trends and direct global society toward a new paradigm in human development. The time has come to come together to create the essential global leadership needed for the 21st century. ***This is a Planetary Moment and a time for global leadership to generate Planetary Momentum.***



The World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS) in partnership with the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is pleased to issue this call for papers and proposals to representatives of international organizations, national governments, NGOs, media, business, and other civil society organizations and expert individuals to contribute to catalytic practical solutions to address pressing global challenges related to Health, Education and Wellbeing; Peace & Security; Governance & Human Rights; Finance, Economy & Employment; Energy, Ecology & Climate; and Science & Technology. ***Conference presentations and recommendations will be eligible for publication by WAAS, presentation at the main conference at the United Nations Office at Geneva on October 27-28, 2020 and inclusion in the final report to the UN.***

How you can contribute:

- Present a paper or video at the conference
- Conduct a panel on solutions to a critical issue
- Organize one or more sessions
- Register to attend the conference

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: APRIL 30, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information on the GL21 Global Leadership Project

To [submit](#) a proposal to contribute

To [register](#) for the conference

For specific inquiries contact support@worldacademy.org

WAAS–GlobalMindED 2020 for Earth Day



WAAS is partnering with [GlobalMindED](#), [Foundation for Climate Restoration \(F4CR\)](#), and [The Alliance Center](#) to co-produce a series of webinars during the Earth Day week of April 20-24 focusing on the urgent need for climate restoration and dynamic global leadership for social transformation.

The GlobalMindED 2020 **Webinar Series will be featured on the Zoom platform Monday through Friday on April 20-24 at 8AM PST, 11AM EST, 5PM CET.**

GlobalMindED is an innovation network of inclusive leaders committed to closing the equity gap by creating a capable, diverse talent pipeline across industries and sectors nationally and globally through education, entrepreneurship, employment and economic mobility. The mission of F4CR is to catalyze action to build full capacity by 2030 to restore the climate by 2050. The Alliance Center is a network of non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, government agencies, academic institutions and community members to collaboratively create sustainability-focused solutions.

The pandemic has revealed our individual and collective vulnerabilities and interdependencies and requires coordinated global action now. This program will examine ways to respond to the new socio-economic conditions and the planetary momentum for change induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on preparedness for transformative change toward a new social, economic and political paradigm. Leadership is needed at all levels to transform the growing disunity into global solidarity based on complementary top-down and bottom-up initiatives. Eminent leaders of international organizations and initiatives partnering with WAAS will discuss the psycho-social, cultural, economic and political impact of the pandemic that made the world stop but gave the planet a moment to breathe and the new leadership needed to take us to the new paradigm of human development aligned with natural laws and planetary boundaries.

The **PROGRAM** of the webinar series is as follows. **Please click on the day and date to register:**

Monday, April 20: Mobilizing Climate Restoration Movement. *Movement-builders from multiple generations weigh in on the importance of climate restoration and their strategies for building momentum.*



Tuesday, April 21: Global Leadership for Sustainable Planet. *Eminent leaders of international organizations and initiatives partnering with the World Academy of Art and Science will discuss the psycho-social, cultural, economic and political impact of the pandemic that made the world stop but gave the planet a moment to breathe and the new leadership needed to take us to the new paradigm of human development aligned with natural laws and planetary boundaries.*

Wednesday, April 22: Governments, Diplomacy, and Grassroot Activism. *Diplomats, policymakers, faith leaders, and activists will discuss the role of diplomacy and grassroots activism in the climate restoration movement.*

Thursday, April 23: Financing Global Solutions and Regenerative Culture. *Change makers from diverse disciplines and organizations discuss designing globally minded system for ecological economies, regenerative cultures and new social architecture.*

Friday, April 24: Youth Voices and Next Steps for Climate Restoration. *Young, inclusive leaders ages 16-18 will discuss what climate restoration means to them and how they are activating their networks, ideas and innovations to bring this change to the world.*

The Fellows and their respective organizations and networks are invited to join the positive global momentum building up in the midst of the crisis and to mark the Earth Day with WAAS and our valued partners. We invite you to join the webinars and participate in the exploration of globally minded system for ecological economies, regenerative cultures and new social architecture.

Announcing the Inauguration of GLOBALISTICS 2020: GLOBAL ISSUES & FUTURE OF HUMANKIND *with a special online session* Global Social Transformation

Organized by Moscow State University in collaboration with UNESCO, WAAS and The Club of Rome
May 20, 2020 – 11:00 to 17:00 CET



The inaugural meeting will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN, the 60th anniversary of WAAS and the 50th anniversary of The Club of Rome.

The e-conference will inaugurate Globalistics 2020, the 6th International Scientific Congress, originally scheduled to take place in Moscow at this time.

Subsequent online proceedings will be held during the third and fourth weeks of May.

The online sessions are expected to initiate a rich discussion among the participants on global leadership and social transformation, which are the focus of the **UNOG-WAAS' project 'Global Leadership for the 21st Century.'**

Session 1: Inauguration and perspectives on the world today by MSU, UNESCO, WAAS & CoR.

Session 2: Present challenges of global transformations, new tasks related to Global Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Global Social Transformations (GST) moderated by UNESCO and MSU.

Session 3: Pathways for political, social, economic and ecological transformation based on an inclusive conception of global security—the role of global leadership, international organizations and “think-tanks” to assist the decision-making process moderated by WAAS and MSU.

Session 4: “Emerging from emergency”—a new role and a new meaning in the light of the present situation with COVID-19 which is radically changing the world.

Details of the agenda will follow shortly. [Register here](#) to participate in the online meeting.

CADMUS



Cadmus is a biannual print and electronic journal focusing on economy, security and global governance. It is a journal for fresh thinking and new perspectives that integrates knowledge from all fields of science, art and humanities to address real-life issues, inform policy and decision-making, and enhance our collective response to the challenges and opportunities facing the world today.

ERUDITIO



Eruditio is a biannual electronic journal for examination of ideas and perspectives focused on the social consequences and policy implications of all forms of knowledge on a global basis. The vision of the e-journal complements and enhances the Academy's focus on global perspectives in the generation of knowledge from all fields of legitimate inquiry.

Click here to subscribe to free electronic versions of *Cadmus & Eruditio*

IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man & Cybernetics (SMC) Toronto – October 11-14, 2020

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR WAAS SPECIAL SESSIONS



Session 1: “Mixed Reality, Symbiotic System Science and Digital Twins (MR3SDT)” (SMC Special Session Code: h617e)—focuses on the integration of single techno-social components in a wider techno-social scenario with an emphasis on latest attempts at integrating them to social

needs, to arrive at enhanced social operational benefits. Many IEEE conferences have witnessed the incoming digital transformation effects and a rapid growth of interest in autonomous system (AS), mixed reality (MR) environments, human-centered symbiotic autonomous system (HCSAS), and digital twins (DT), for rapid system development and human education, under the symbiotic system science (3S) perspective. Mixed Reality (MR) is the merging of real and virtual worlds to produce new environments and visualizations, where physical and digital objects co-exist and may interact in real time. Symbiotic System Science (3S) is the growing scientific area which is taking a leadership role in bringing about symbiotic relationships between symbiotic autonomous systems (SAS) and human beings at its best. It has different subcategories as Human-Centered-SAS (HCSAS), Human-Tailored-SAS (HTSAS), Individual-Centered-SAS (ICSAS), etc. able to address and to effectively face the problem of multiscale ontological uncertainty management (OUM) at any level. Several industries like General Electric (GE), Tesla, and NASA are creating digital twins (DT) defined as digital replicas of their products like airplanes, cars, satellites, etc. The idea is to mirror a physical analog object in bits (i.e., a physical digital system, not resembling the original object in shape, but in its behaviour) keeping the bit replica synchronized with the physical one. DTs could even be considered additional tools for education, rather than studying and training on the analog object exclusively. We need to exploit all those practical and conceptual resources at their best under the ethical perspective of STEM vs. STEAM, and more integrated approaches than the past ones. The focus of the MR3SDT special session is to present latest papers on more attempts of integrating those resources to social needs, to arrive at enhanced social operational benefits.



World Academy of
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Session 2: “Hybrid Reality” (SMC Special Session Code: 222gi)—focuses on the new social hybrid reality emerging out of the dynamics of people’s life worlds in smart environments, experiencing the implications of new technologies. The main goal is to present latest attempts of hybrid reality addressing social needs, to arrive at enhanced social operational benefits with convenient economic returns. Hybrid reality refers to the dynamics of people’s life worlds in smart environments, experiencing the implications of new technologies. The main focus of the Hybrid Reality special session is the close interconnection of technology and people, either individuals or groups, addressing every instance of their behaviour, and its main goal is to present latest papers on more attempts of integrating those resources to social needs, to arrive at enhanced social operational benefits with convenient economic returns.

We invite all WAAS Fellows to play an active part in these two events by submitting papers to address larger and larger audiences in many different areas.

For more information on SMC 2020: <http://smc2020.org/>

For paper formatting & template, please use the following link: <https://conf.papercept.net/conferences/scripts/start.pl>

Do not forget to add the SMC Special Session Code to your paper!

- **Special Session** draft Paper submission deadline: **April 30, 2020**
- **Acceptance notification** for Special Session Papers: **June 15, 2020**
- **Final papers** due for Special Session: **July 22, 2020**

For any question or technical support related to SMC2020 submission, please contact ieeesmc2020@outlook.com

Looking forward to your active participation in these WAAS-IEEE unique events.

Garry Jacobs: <https://worldacademy.academia.edu/GarryJacobs/CurriculumVitae>

Rodolfo A. Fiorini: <https://www.deib.polimi.it/eng/people/details/60626>

Witold Kinsner: <https://site.ieee.org/wieils-toronto-2018/witold-kinsner-bio/>

For further information, please contact fiorini@worldacademy.org

Social Transformation E-Conference Report



World Academy-Club of Rome Online Roundtable, 9th March 2020



Conscious Social Evolution



The World Academy of Art and Science and the Club of Rome (CoR) collaborated to organize an online roundtable on Catalyzing Rapid Social Transformation. The online meeting was convened as the three-day event scheduled to be held at Dubrovnik in the second week of March 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The one-day online meeting on March 9th brought together 22 WAAS Fellows and CoR Members, to examine the underlying process of social evolution that has been driving and guiding global social evolution over

the past few centuries, and to explore catalytic strategies that could be leveraged to promote conscious social transformation.

The meeting was an important step in WAAS and CoR's joint efforts to promote global progress on a wide range of critical issues being examined by WAAS in its Global Leadership Project, and by CoR in its work on economic and financial transformation, planetary emergency, and the Emerging New Civilization Initiative.

The foremost requirement for successfully implementing change is to have a clear understanding of the process of change. Understanding makes it possible to consciously initiate what has been taking place without clear leadership and direction so far. It can also accelerate the pace of social progress to keep up with the speed and magnitude of the multitude of complex changes impacting humanity in future.

A study of past social advances can enable us to better understand the process of social evolution, the forces that drive it, the obstacles it needs to overcome, the stages it passes through, the catalytic strategies that made it possible, and its contribution to human wellbeing.

Great Transformations of the Past

Great transformations have taken place throughout history and with increasing frequency in the last century. Striking international instances include

- *Abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, the end of colonialism that liberated a third of humanity*
- *Founding of the United Nations*
- *Affirmation of human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- *Spread of universal education*
- *Environmental Movement*
- *Eradication of polio, smallpox and other diseases*

- *End of the Cold War*
- *Nuclear arms control*
- *Democratic revolution in Eastern Europe*
- *Founding of the European Union and Eurozone.*

Striking national level examples include

- *Achievements of Korea and Finland in education*
- *Abolition of famine in India by the Green Revolution*
- *American Civil Rights Movement*
- *End of apartheid in South Africa*
- *Reunification of Germany.*

When the Declaration of Independence was drawn up in America in 1776 promising life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it offered these to all "men", but did not apply to women, minorities, African Americans, or slaves. The human endeavour to establish social equality has been a very long, slow and extremely difficult one. Women in 19th Century England did not have the right to their own property after marriage. US President Franklin Roosevelt's

New Deal to create jobs and provide economic security during the Great Depression of the 1930s was challenged as unconstitutional on the grounds that the government did not have the right or responsibility to interfere in the economic welfare of the people. The dramatic changes we have witnessed since then demonstrate that changes of the magnitude required today have happened in the past and are possible, but humanity can no longer afford to

wait centuries or even decades for them to happen. We need to learn how to consciously transform the long, slow process of social evolution into rapid, conscious social transformation. Reflecting on great accomplishments of the past can generate insights into how to accelerate the process and make it far more effective.

Today humanity confronts complex challenges encompassing global security and governance, finance and economy, science and technology, the wellbeing of people and the planet. Climate change, the coronavirus, the retreat from democracy and renewed arms race are illustrative. All these challenges are global in nature. They cannot be effectively addressed by piecemeal sectoral policies and institutions at the national or local level. Comprehensive, integrated strategies and unprecedented levels of global multilateral cooperation and coordination are essential which reflect the complexity of the world system and its interdependencies.

All these need to be founded on different types of thinking. They cannot be managed by the linear,

analytic, mechanistic way of thinking that divides reality into so many independent airtight compartments. A shift to systematic, synthetic and integral thinking is essential. This implies a radical change in the functioning of our educational and scientific institutions, on how and what we teach and conduct research.



Developing a deeper understanding of the process of social transformation is one of the primary goals of this meeting. That knowledge can help us to formulate effective catalytic strategies to generate the necessary political will and public acceptance, release social energy, and foster transformative social movements.

– Garry Jacobs

President & CEO, WAAS;

Vice-President, The Mother's Service Society, India

Converging Pathways and an Action Plan for the Future



Social transformation is not a single event that is accomplished. It refers to a deep change in the underlying structure of informed societal behaviour. Greater awareness of the process of transformation strengthens our capacity to achieve it.

We have a tendency to work with implicit theories of change. We are used to certain ways of bringing about change, such as by convincing politicians and decision makers, supporting innovation, or driving regulations and laws. Let us become more conscious of what our theories of change are, and what theories we need to employ and translate into action strategies. A study of past and present transformations can make us more conscious in this regard, and more effective in organizing, leading and implementing change.

The deliberations in this roundtable have made it clear that we are in agreement about what needs to change on issues such as climate change, pollution control, planetary boundaries, and resource efficiency.

We need greater knowledge and consensus about how to effect this change, and how people can work at various levels in a joint orientation towards a different kind of future.

We tend to employ a technical approach to transformation, because we have information in certain areas. But we need a greater understanding of human agency. It is human agency that brought us collectively to where we are today, and it is human agency that can

get us out of it. We must catalyze our strategies for change to become collectively effective than we have been ever before.

Discussion and deliberations go through two stages, divergence and convergence. Initial dialogues usually tend to be divergent. When after a point, we draw conclusions from the discussions, we reach convergence.

The joint discussions between CoR and WAAS have moved through the divergence stage, an important stepping stone, as we brought in different views and identified several ways in which we can move ahead. The next step is to identify the insights that have emerged from this exercise, so we can focus on future action.

Our discussions have shown us we are close to a paradigm shift, and that there are multiple pathways we will need to take to bring about catalytic transformation. Our multidisciplinary background gives us the capability to handle the complexity of these different pathways and bring them together in an integrated way.

CoR and WAAS can make an important contribution to the world's transformation. We need to get out of fragmentation and into collaboration. In future meetings, we need to work with the wealth of the complementarity we have, and define the next concrete steps to take in order to bring about positive, catalytic social transformation.

– Petra Kuenkel

Executive Committee Member, The Club of Rome

Zooming into the Agenda for Societal Change: One Dialogue, One Day, and More to Come



Fellows of WAAS and members of CoR have parallel work streams, digging into the common good of an emerging civilization and its renewed sense of leadership. Confined within an immaterial world, we searched and found

promising convergences during the one-day reflection around actionable thoughts.

Applying our minds and souls around a common theme made us more humble and open to learn from one another. Simply to listen and exchange views... Could that be an act of collective leadership? This reengineered meeting, which was supposed to take place face-to-face over three days in Dubrovnik, gave us the opportunity to zoom into different perspectives with an open mind and a clear intent to get together, no matter what, and imagine a better future.

In the midst of the coronavirus planetary crisis, we stepped out of our isolated corners and tried to imagine how a conscious transformative change could happen through the primacy of the human factor over the technological one; adopting behavioural changes that would preserve and revitalize our environment, quality of life and our multicultural societies.

The overriding COVID-19 pandemic is quickly destroying lives, assets, habits and certitudes. However, this calamity presents us with the opportunity to change society for the better. Our dialogue has demonstrated that we can usefully indicate an alternative path through the hidden rocks and shallow waters of narrow crossings and passages.

The unintended consequences of the coronavirus spread has already had positive effects over the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in large cities. But a conscious change is necessary. We should think and enact a different model of coexistence, as simple growth and prosperity no longer represent a viable future. We agreed on how things could be done differently, according to inspiring principles, in line with our own cultural heritage, with mutual respect, creativity and a stronger commitment to preserve our ecosystem.

WAAS is the perfect instrument for the intergenerational dialogue that is much needed at this time of transformation. Strengthening resilience, youth empowerment, and an ethical higher education are among the objectives to be fostered with an unprecedented solidarity among people. An agenda to confront the existential threats of our time is in the making, with our collective contribution.

- Donato Kiniger-Passigli
WAAS Vice-President

Learning from History and Leveraging Cultural Heritage



The coronavirus pandemic seems set to radically transform how we operate as a global community to continue to discharge our obligations during the lockdowns and shutdowns imposed upon us. As a "born before technology" participant in this online

roundtable, I am in awe of what ICT is making possible to keep people connected and actively engaged in iterative processes. Being virtually transported into the rich possibilities of the 21st century convinced me that we should do more of these online engagements to reduce our travel footprint as part of emergence from the climate emergency journey.

Garry Jacobs and **Petra Kuenkel**'s leadership as convenors of this process supported by an excellent technical team guided us to navigate the combination of plenaries that enabled us to tackle the broad themes of ecological, social and economic transformations in their historical and contemporary perspectives, whilst breakout groups opened windows into deep dives to explore key subthemes. The richness of the conversations reflected the diversity of views of around 20 participants.

My biggest take away from the Roundtable is the confirmation of the critical importance of learning from history and leveraging natural and cultural heritage to ask more complex questions of ourselves as we seek to understand how best to be effective catalysts of the urgent transformative processes demanded of us.

Leveraging both the wisdom of ancients and innovations of modernity is essential to seizing the opportunities that are presented by the tipping points triggered by old and new challenges. Inter-generational conversations are an essential ingredient to sustainable transformations.

- Mamphela Ramphele
Co-President, The Club of Rome

WAAS NEWSLETTER



WAAS publishes periodic Newsletters reporting on WAAS activities. To get free access to the WAAS newsletter and several articles and papers, please visit the [WAAS](#)

[Publications](#) page.

Shift to a Wellbeing Economy



The current panic gives us an opportunity to reflect on how to handle panic. We may face more pandemics because of the various biodiversity and climate tipping points. There are several other challenges as well, such as migration and climate change. As the global

bodies and world leaders are trying to cope with these issues, it is our duty to explore how we can turn our conversations into important moments for reflection that we can then translate into impactful action.

We should start a decade of action that could set in play the deep transformation we need within the economic system and the finance system. We should bring economists together to formulate clear guidelines of action to shift to a wellbeing economy, and share the knowledge with governments and other groups.

There are several youth movements in the areas of ecosystem, biodiversity, women's rights, and climate that can be taken as models to scale up. Within these movements and voices expressing discontent, there is greater inter-generational dialogue. Youth, families, scientists and several other parts of society are coming together as one voice. This is a powerful bottom-up shift. We also see a persistent call for a wellbeing economy, and proper indicators for growth. There is a clear shift in governance towards inclusivity and diversity.

– Sandrine Dixson-Declève
Co-President, The Club of Rome

Movements that Reorder the World



The fall of the Berlin Wall led to a reordering of the world. Changes were effected in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia and other countries. The year 1989 shattered the bipolarized security order that characterized the East-

West politics for the previous 40 years. Several other major influential movements and events, such as the Woodstock festival, the Civil Rights Movement, Live Aid, Fridays for the Future, and Global Citizen Festival, show the power of representation. Aesthetic and political representation is profoundly interconnected. Cultural movements have the capacity to move political fronts, and once the political fronts are moved, they set a new cultural setting and a new climate.

We need an evolutionary shift:

- from subconscious impulse to conscious choice
- from violent revolution to conscious evolution
- from drive to values
- from default to intention
- from disaster to dialogue
- from fragmentation and dysfunction to coherence and synergy

Through their collaboration, WAAS and CoR are engaged in co-creating the New World and designing a new process of social learning, global leadership and a new social architecture.

– Mila Popovich
Founder, EVOLving Leadership; Chair of the Nominations and Evaluations Committee, WAAS

The German Energy Transition



Speed per se is not necessarily a good thing, unless combined with the right direction. Change has often been initiated by certain disasters, such as the Chernobyl or Fukushima disasters, or the findings of the climatologists, but historically, positive transformations

have been slow in developing. Germany saw such a transformation in 1998, when it experienced an energy transition or turnaround. When it was first suggested in parliament that the country has to phase out nuclear and fossil fuel and choose renewable energy, economists and the business community opposed it at first. It was feared

that the German industry would collapse. But the nation persisted in its endeavour. Those who put in renewable energy into the grid were compensated based on their costs. It was a courageous decision, and it worked because economies of scale led to a rapidly diminishing price.

Another positive step needed is an ecological tax reform making energy more expensive so that efficiency becomes more profitable. Over the next ten or twenty years, the idea spread worldwide. The energy transition that has made the German industry more competitive than before has been a slow but definite success story.

– Ernst von Weizsäcker
Honorary President & Member of the Executive Committee, The Club of Rome

Editorial Staff

Vasugi Balaji, Latha Chandrasekaran, Shashini Kumar, Janani Ramanathan, Ranjani Ravi, Vani Senthil, Avanthikaa Subramanian and Ranganayaki Somaskandan

SDGs in the Context of Social Transformation



The UNSDGs can be combined with and seen in the context of social transformation. This is the approach of the United Nations in its collaboration with Lomonosov Moscow State University at the Globalistics 2020 Congress scheduled to take place

in May 2020. The Congress is a main platform for interdisciplinary dialogue in the field of science and education, developing and strengthening ties between scientists from all over the world.

– Yury Sayamov, UNESCO Chair, Faculty of Global Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University; Fellow, WAAS

Using the Multidisciplinary Strength of WAAS and CoR



This meeting has clearly indicated a convergence of crises. The strength of WAAS and CoR is their multidisciplinary approach to issues. COVID-19 poses problems across all aspects of life. The pandemic triggers economic stress, economic

stress triggers financial and social stress, and so on. Therefore a solution should be found at the earliest. The special strength of WAAS and CoR that lies in their multidisciplinary can be leveraged in this regard.

– Tibor Tóth, Trustee, WAAS; Executive Secretary Emeritus, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Vienna, Austria

Traditional Wisdom and Integrated Thinking



Talking about higher consciousness and the youth/child within us, and aligning with the African interconnection of the secular and the sacred is a mindset and integrated thinking approach that may be key to defining the

problematique and approaching the challenges with a positive outlook. In many economies in Africa, business is exploring the adoption of circular economy models and combining the traditional wisdom of the old with the voice of the youth within.

**– Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien
Member, The Club of Rome**

Iceland's Successful Transformations



In Iceland, the island in the north Atlantic with a population of 350,000, three successful transformations have taken place.

1) One is in the area of women's rights. A study of how it started and progressed can show how and why Iceland is rated the highest in gender equality in the world today.

2) The civil protection agency is well developed primarily because the country is an active volcanic island prone to earthquakes and other natural disasters. The agency is currently crucial in organizing the national response to the spread of COVID-19.

3) The well-being economy has been taken into the national discourse through the introduction of government policies. These three successful transformations offer valuable lessons for us in our search for answers.

**– Kristin Vala Ragnarsdóttir
Professor and former Dean, University of Iceland;
Member, The Club of Rome**

Society's Slow, Continuous Response



Societies change slowly, continually by responding to shifting internal and external conditions. In 2011, the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement started as a large protest against economic inequality. Its supporters who called themselves the 99% believed that the rising

inequality was the result of rising plutocracy.

The movement is not active today, and looks like it has failed. But seen from another perspective, it has succeeded. It began something that is being continued by others. Many fundamental critiques of the neoliberal dogma that are becoming popular are a continuation of OWS ideas that have been picked up and amplified. The discussion in the public space continues, with responses seen even from the World Economic Forum. Such tectonic changes in the way society understands itself take time and there is no single actor, but the change is gradual and certain.

**– Thomas Reuter
Professor, University of Melbourne; Trustee, WAAS**

Understanding our Social Construction of Reality



Human beings do not live in reality, they live in their construction of their experience of reality. That is why there are so many cultures and beliefs. So we need to promote a literacy of seeing how reality is socially construed and how different

systemic communities operate. If we stay blind to this reality, we also remain impotent in dealing with humanity's problems.

The current panic of COVID-19 shows how our lives are interconnected, and also how we construe news. There are innumerable stories of social solidarity and empathy that are not covered by the media. Such positive and inspiring stories, and unbiased, clear information must be made available to all. We need to facilitate the exchange between people so they can bring their knowledge together and collaborate for greater human welfare. Networking can lead to leadership, and humility to growth within.

– Alberto Zuconi

President, Person-Centered Approach Institute (IACP); Chairman of the Board, WAAS

Need for Greater Diversity & Inclusivity



We know what we aspire for—general human well-being. But it is not clear what direction we need to follow. The capacity to question ourselves and the framework of the interpretation we use to address our blindspots is important. We need to

question the traditional western dominance of the world and its knowledge. We can no longer have institutions imparting specialized and siloed knowledge, and forcing the world to adapt to what it offers. Now we need to ask what human communities need, find models for sustainable living, and align our research with human well-being. We need responsible innovation that is not dominated by any one part of the world and its culture and thought process, but which is diverse and inclusive.

We can profit from contingencies, whatever their origins, to expose our blindspots. We can profit from the realization of blindspots to create processes of habitual learning which lead us to desirable futures.

– Carlos Alvarez-Pereira

Member of the Executive Committee, The Club of Rome; Fellow, WAAS

Effecting a Cultural Change



Since the 1970s, there has been a noticeable change in the morality of the world. Many things that we would have considered unacceptable have now come to be accepted as natural. The morality of our politicians, corporations, and even the general public is now characterized by a lack of empathy. Our culture used to be more empathetic. We now seem to have taken the cue from neoliberalism, and become more competitive and self-centric. It is worth trying to find out the roots of this transformation, address it, and bring back empathy at the individual and collective levels.

– Robert Hoffman, Member, The Club of Rome; Fellow, WAAS

Empowering Youth



Our youth who graduate are the next generation of our thought leadership. We need to look at what we teach them. We can only transform society by transforming the thinking and learning process of teachers, students and the institution itself. Youth and inter-generational dialogue are where transformation happens. With values-driven education, we can shape their attitudes, and bring a new mindset and lead ourselves to where we collectively need to go.

Our youth must be empowered in order to achieve, and we need to bring them deeper into our discussions for this.

– Obiora Ike, Member, The Club of Rome; Fellow, WAAS

Building Bridges



Networks are powerful. We need to find a way to build bridges between all sides and initiate dialogues. WAAS, CoR, and the UN are collaborating. We still need to bring in more organizations and more resources. The coronavirus may do what the Chernobyl disaster did in the sense it may bring about perestroika, and open up discussion. We do need to study successful models of change. But what is equally important is to look at the problems around us. There is a critical need to build communication between academia, NGOs, corporations, governments and nations, and work together.

– Zbigniew Bochniarz, Professor, Kozminski University, Poland; Trustee, WAAS

Leadership during Political Transformations

If we use the COVID-19 Virus and Chinese Politics as an example, we can demonstrate the political transformation required:

- Alarming defect—between Dec. 29-Jan. 04. was the best timing to issue measures against COVID-19 Virus. It did not happen till Jan. 23 while the central government made the final decision;
People’s empowerment: Centralization vs. Decentralization; Calamity;
- Jan. 25 . The lock down of Wuhan was announced, the residents in Wuhan flooded out the following week and contributed to the biggest spread of COVID-19;
Peoples’ engagement, enlightenment; Calamity;
- Feb. 04. The Chinese government approved of Chinese medicine as the standard treatment for the infected patients; Traditional Chinese medicine made a comeback after 1999 when it was classified as only supplementary to western medicine; Chinese medicine has been brought back to the primary school education as traditional culture;

Calamity, collective consensus;

- Resilience is now the major issue, not only at the national level, but also at the international level;
Global community with shared destiny;
- Since last June, Hong Kong’s democratic strike to today’s pandemic, Chinese have been asking “do they really need Democracy?” By giving up Freedom, Democracy, Legality, what makes people more enlightened is “Equality” and “Trust”;
Peoples’ Enlightenment, Communism vs. Capitalism.



With this we can actually see that Political Transformation is everywhere, and what leadership requires is the capability to act right at the right moment.

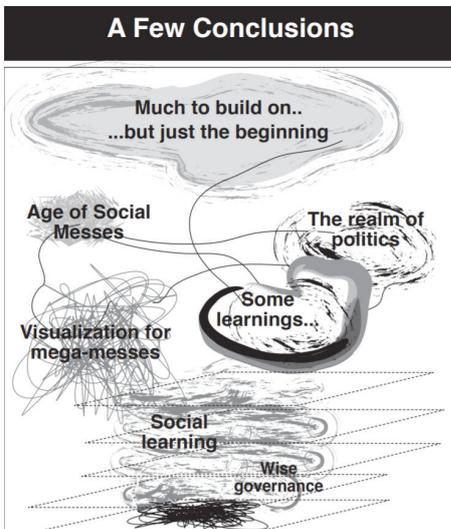
– **Yi-Heng Cheng**
Member, The Club of Rome

Need for a Wider Perspective



In the attempt to transform and realign businesses for sustainable development, middle managers in the field are having to learn in real time what they are called upon to implement immediately. They need all the help and support, and it is important

that leaders in this field have both the global view and the hands-on local view.



Source: **Robert E. Horn**, 2020. *The Little Book of Wicked Problems and Social Messes*

– **Robert Horn**, Senior Researcher, Stanford University; Fellow, WAAS

Divinity and Rationality



The greeting sign 'Namaste' signifies that my divinity honours your divinity. In our construction of reality, there needs to be room for divinity. In our education, we teach people to be rational. We also need to show them that they are a part of the universe, and

that sooner or later, the importance of every part will become apparent.

– **Rodolfo Fiorini**
Academic Scientist, Politecnico di Milano, Italy;
Trustee, WAAS

The Change Within



The main transformational change we can operate is the one within ourselves, in how we see the world and how we can radiate the inner light we have inside us. We need to connect to our inner selves, listen to our intuition, to our heart and follow the

synchronicities which come our way to weave an organic pattern of organisation for us. By transforming ourselves, we can become an inspiration to others.

– **Philippe Szokoloczy**
Founder, My Global Advisor

Breakout Sessions

1. Economic, Ecological & Social Transformations

Breakout Session 1: Ecology



Moderator: Kristin Vala Ragnarsdóttir

Participants: Petra Kuenkel, Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien, Mila Popovich, Janani Ramanathan, Mamphela Ramphela & Ernst von Weizsäcker

The group discussed ecological transformations from three standpoints,

- i) the level at which transformations take place,
- ii) who initiates transformations, and
- iii) how transformations can be implemented.

Transformations take place at the level of:

- **EU Directives:** A good example of a huge, positive ecological transformation is the EU Drinking Water Directive which was implemented across Europe and is being replicated elsewhere in the world.
- **Constitutions:** Montenegro has constitutionally decided to create an ecological state.
- **Multi-stakeholder Forums:** A group of NGOs have formed the Forest Future Council.
- **Business:** Several industries have taken up integrated reporting which not only affects the way they operate but also the supply chain coming into the business.
- **Youth:** The youngsters are increasingly coming out, and mixing with the elders, and voicing their demands. This results in new education that combines the latest information with the indigenous knowledge and cultural wisdom.
- **Collaboration:** Combining new methods with indigenous methods, as we see in the case of the rising acceptance of traditional, local medicines, is happening.

The groups that are leading the change are:

- **State:** Parliaments have been active in ecological tax reform and the promotion of solar energy
- **Scientists and Business Leaders:** Leaders have begun to speak up for change increasingly
- **Multivocal Stakeholders:** Social media and various new modes of expressing opinions are coming together.
- **Ethical Guiding Systems:** Businesses are taking up new, ethical guiding systems.

The methods by which these transformations are brought about are:

- **Constitutions:** Rules for protecting the environment and ecology are being incorporated in constitutions.
- **Multi-stakeholder Collaborations:** Connecting, convening and collaborating between groups are happening.
- **Democratization of Excellence:** Both the old and experienced, as well as the young possess knowledge.
- **Education:** We need to change what is taught and how it is being taught because transforming the way we educate will bring about transformations. This way we empower our youth for change.

WAAS and CoR collaborating to see what are the ways in which we can work together is one way in which such transformation can be initiated.

Breakout Session 1: Economy

At which part of the economy does one start to look at a potential transition? The group's discussion centred around the fact that there is no one bottom up or top down approach. We need to look at new actors within the economy in order to bring them on board. We also need to look at challenges, but from the opportunity perspective. Many agree that we need to look at trigger mechanisms in the short term in order to enable transformational change in the long term. We need to

be ready to offer more than just one model or one way of looking at the economy, because as we face different crises, we need a clear understanding to figure out how to adapt differently to each one. We also need a certain level of flexibility in whatever models or scenarios we develop. We cannot have just one static model or scenario. We need to think about a variety of proposals around transformative change that can evolve and adapt fast.



Moderator: Sandrine Dixson-Declève

Participants: Carlos Alvarez-Pereira, Zbigniew Bochniarz, Yi-Heng Cheng, Robert Hoffman, Robert Horn, Garry Jacobs & Tibor Tóth

There is increasingly greater awareness of shared values, and this must be fostered more among governments, media, the arts, and a variety of actors. This would mean we will have a variety of new voices that will collaborate in order to have a real impact. In such a context, systems change will guide us through these new pathways.

We can use social media and new tools to bring more people on board, to make people understand what a new civilization or a new economic thinking might be.

We must take into consideration this constant duality within and between some countries. For example, China's way of handling COVID-19 took away people's liberty and resulted in various issues, but at the same time, it has been able to react quite fast. This reiterates the idea that as we move through such crisis points, we need to employ adaptive modelling and scenarios that can demonstrate what emergence looks like. We may also need a variety of different tailored solutions to transform

as we continue to evolve in a very different space that we are not used to at all.

We have to have the emergence as a vision of where we actually want to go. We can use the emergency in order to put in place some of the key trigger mechanisms that will have an impact on the economy. But we have to build that long term vision at the same time. And what does that look like?

Some of the other questions brought up in the discussion are:

- Like the virus, which we were not expecting, we will experience more unexpected things. How can we ensure that we can plan, even when the structure that we are used to is no longer structured?
- How can we ensure planning in the face of panic?
- How can we create resilient models that are applicable at any time in any situation?

Breakout Session 1: Social Transformations



Moderator: Donato Kiniger-Passigli

Participants: Rodolfo Fiorini, Obiora Ike, Thomas Reuter, Yury Sayamov, Philippe Szokoloczy & Alberto Zucconi

The discussions were focussed on the intended and unintended consequences of social transformations, and rational decisions and initiatives that should be taken in order to achieve positive transformations.

Societies are fundamentally slow and conservative, only external pressure makes them change. They have used the reductionistic approach in the past. Such a method is not integrated. It does not consider the inner and outer universe, or space and content. This has resulted in a systemic failure by virtue of the pathways of social transformation followed in the past.

Any action that attempts to control society results in unintended environmental, political, economic and social consequences. It is apparent with technology. Technology has progressed so rapidly, it has changed

society more than humans perhaps intended. We can anticipate such consequences to the extent possible.

Societal transformation and good leadership are possible when people and actions are founded on knowledge, virtue and character. The more we bring in ethics into our spaces, the less unintended consequences we will experience. We have reasons to be optimistic today. We see several positive movements, movements based on spirituality and mindfulness, and youth movements that question our current paradigms of growth. Organizations like CoR are trying to bring in new benchmarks to assess social growth such as wellbeing. So the model for social transformation, the measure for human achievement must not be just on materialistic measurables, but on deeper factors. Societal consciousness must focus on virtue and inclusiveness.

2. Insights from Social Transformations of the Past

Breakout Session 2: Ecological Transformations



Moderator: Carlos Alvarez-Pereira

Participants: Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Robert Hoffman, Kristin Vala Ragnarsdóttir & Ernst von Weizsäcker

The breakout session studied the energy transformation in Germany, and tried to understand what leads successful large scale social transformations.

There are many factors that are relevant to social transformations, these processes are always a result of a combination of factors, long term trends and evolution facilitated by contingencies. For example, the successful energy transition in Germany was a result of the increasing awareness of the dangers of pollution, global warming, and the impact of nuclear disasters in Chernobyl and Fukushima. In the 1970s and 80s, the knowledge that the Black Forest was in danger from pollution catalyzed change. Geopolitical factors, such as the anti-nuclear movement in several parts of the world, have their local impact too.

Change is often not as fast as it should be. This is due to resistance of vested interests. This is clear in the case of energy transition. In spite of scientific evidence about global warming, power structures and established fossil fuel industries resist change. Cultural and political mindset can also pose obstacles.

New spaces need to be opened, new experiments tried. We need to involve new stakeholders and new voices, this can infuse fresh ideas. This way we can nudge a culture of change.

Change is always a result of a combination of factors. Younger generations in some cases lead progressive change. Social media too can contribute in this endeavour.

Breakout Session 2: Political Transformations



Moderator: Yi-Heng Cheng

Participants: Zbigniew Bochniarz, Robert Horn, Garry Jacobs, Donato Kiniger-Passigli, Obiora Ike, Yury Sayamov & Tibor Tóth

The group focussed on various aspects of political transformations, and formulated the views into a framework in the context of COVID-19 and China's handling of it. Wherever there is a risk, there is also an opportunity. COVID-19 presents a risk that is also an opportunity for political transformation.

China had the first opportunity for taking action in late December, but those at the ground level were waiting for decisions to be taken at the centralized, highest level of power. That took three weeks, and an opportunity was lost. This resulted in much chaos.

Finally, when the entire state machinery started working and the lockdown was imposed in Wuhan, measures were taken that seemed to impact individual rights and

laws. However, through all this, the Chinese did not give up their sense of equality and trust in the government. This was a political transformation.

Political transformation is about enlightenment and people's engagement. Both these are now happening in China. Resilience is another important component of change. People who are sick, as well as those who have recovered, have not had employment for about two months. Without any income, they have to cope with the increasing cost of living. With the virus spreading worldwide, we need a collective understanding and strategy to cope with this problem. The problem of COVID-19 is forcing us to find a collective solution, and also bring about political transformation.

Breakout Session 2: Social Transformations



Moderator: Alberto Zucconi

Participants: Rodolfo Fiorini, Petra Kuenkel, Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien, Mila Popovich, Janani Ramanathan, Mamphele Ramphele, Thomas Reuter, Philippe Szokoloczy

Real transformative change is possible only when we see an issue in its entirety and address all the underlying causes. For example, apartheid or colonialism may have ended, but some issues that existed while these were around can still be seen. There are problems in eastern Germany that the fall of the Berlin Wall did not solve. So change happens only when our approach is integrated, we cannot address problems in a piece-meal way.

It is possible to raise many issues today, because we are able to get support from people world wide. It is true that such a worldwide relationship has always existed. The world thinks Mandela freed South Africa. But it is the world that freed Mandela, through its demands, policies and pressure that impacted the domestic affairs of South Africa. But we have more movements today, such as Fridays for the Future and Occupy Wall Street. However not all activism results in action that is disruptive enough to make a difference. We need more people involved in these, and greater intensity. There is tremendous energy and power in our youth. We need to channelize that.

There are two parts to this channelization:

- We need to raise the consciousness that guides the thinking of people. We all have great power within ourselves. We need to tap into the inner potential within each one of us. The power of the human capital is limitless.

- The other is to create structures that support this consciousness or the movements that arise from this consciousness. Movements need structures to sustain them. These structures cannot be rigid. They must learn and evolve, they must be learning organizations. For example, we see our economic structure is adversely impacted because of the spread of coronavirus. We need structures that are flexible and can adapt to new situations.

There is clearly a convergence of thought and intention among us. We are close to a paradigm shift. It is also clear that there is not going to be any one way to bring about catalytic change. It is how we can connect multiple, different pathways that will determine how successful we are in bringing about social transformation.

Every movement, big and small, has a role. Fridays for the Future, with its power to mobilize youngsters, has its place. The United Nations that has the power to take up ideas and translate them into action worldwide has its role. So what we need to do is integrate and organize the various movements and stakeholders.

We need to zoom out, to get a higher perspective, or get one level up to see what wants to happen together to bring transformative change. For this, we need a narrative that is respectful of oneself, of others, of all life on earth, and of the earth itself.

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