

LiFT 3.0

Welcome to the
learning lab *on the
future of politics*

22.-26 August 2022
online

About *the* *learning lab*

The limitations of our current political system are becoming apparent every day. Growing populism and polarization, a diminishing hope for the future and our incapacity to deal with climate change, biodiversity loss, war and other complex challenges.

What would a political system and culture look like that would present an adequate answer to these challenges? What would be the tools, principles and processes? And what solutions are pioneers already practicing?

Welcome to a five day Learning lab on Aug 22-26 to deep dive into the underlying questions and solutions out there. This week we bring together some of Europe's leading experts and practitioners on the future of democracy. They will share the insights they gained having worked together across the continent on this for the last three years in the EU-project LiFT (Leadership for Transition) Politics. We also invite you to share your insights and to co-create the journey going forward. Hopefully we will be able to practice what the future of democracy could look like!

You are welcome to join for the full five days or only for a specific session.



Registration is open until 15. August 2022

Introduction, Framing and exploring *the dynamics of New Politics*

We will kick off the learning lab together. We will get to know each other and introduce the facilitators, project members and guests and we will briefly introduce you to the structure and to the agenda of the week.

Facilitators:
Klara Sucher
Michael Wernstedt

Our intention for the learning lab is to create a space for dialogue and learning. This means that, on the one hand, we offer to share some of our most important experiences and learnings in the context of our research on New Politics. However, this is not a mere presentation of “results” or “solutions”. We’d love to engage in conversation with all participants - and we are ready to be surprised and leave the space with new perspectives and questions.

We will share how we experienced the collaboration. We believe that this is important and profound, since we encountered many of the dynamics and polarities that exist in today’s political landscape within our own project group. What have we experienced, what have we learned, how can we make sense of it? And: what are the questions we are, as a group, holding now at the end of our collaboration?

The Positive Impact Mindset – *Exploring effective ways of working together in a polarized world*

This 2 hour workshop explores the finding of the research conducted by Katrin Muff in the context of the Lift3 project. It starts by Katrin sharing key challenges and insights and then shifts to central questions and dilemmas and invites participants to explore these in break-out sessions. Findings are then shared in the plenary and recommendations regarding do's and don't are collected together by the wisdom of all those present. This session will take place online to enable an international audience to join.

Facilitator:
Katrin Muff

Pioneers of Politics - *The Future Planet is Already Emerging*

Over the past three years, Indra and Harald have interviewed numerous people in Europe and around the world who are exploring their agency and reshaping politics from multiple perspectives, most notably from the bottom up. As a first attempt to present this variety of existing and integrating initiatives, Indra and Harald located them on a future planet that users can visit interactively. Here they can experience, first hand, how these early shoots might blossom - or not.

Facilitators:
Indra Adnan
Harald Schellander

In this session, Indra and Harald will take the visitors on a video journey and show how the pioneers of the future connect their own personal, social and global realms of action - I to We to World - to have systemic impact. And how their own commitment and perspectives have also changed during this period. In break-out rooms participants can reflect on what they have seen and contribute their own thoughts and experiences.

Can you see yourself in this new politics? What are you already doing that feels agentic? What can you imagine taking part in, in the future?

Foundations & inspirational resources *of new / integral politics*

The longing for more holistic ways of being dates back to the beginnings of humanity. While the term “integral” is not new, the term has been coined in the early 20th century for describing a newly emerging structure of consciousness and of understanding the world.

This workshop is dedicated to some of the key inspirations to new paradigm/integral politics, from Sri Aurobindo to the Metamodernists. Together, we will explore what each of these inspirators contributes to a timely understanding of new paradigm/integral politics and what we can learn from them for reinventing politics in our time. On this basis, we will experiment with a topical issue in order to experience how new paradigm/integral politics is different from politics as usual.

Facilitators:

Dr. Elke Fein

Dr. Bettina Geiken

Elements of Transformative Dialogue *- A Pattern Language*

Dialogue is an essential ingredient in any new form of politics. Whether we are speaking about a political system that needs to be changed, decisions governments and non-government organisations make or dealing with conflicts in a variety of arenas, dialogue is an essential ingredient of politics. Engaging in Transformative Dialogue changes the way people see a situation. It changes the way people view a conflict, a challenge, or simply a situation that needs attention. Seeing the world differently – if only in a minor way – is transformative.

Transformative Dialogue sometimes occurs by itself. It is a timeless art that has been practised for centuries. For many of us, however, it does not happen without some forethought, planning and skill. We can be skilled in dialogue to a greater or lesser degree.

With your participation in this session you can take part in this ongoing exploration and learn from others by sharing your stories of conversations that have transformed a challenging situation.

Facilitator:
Bernard le Roux

Exploring how we relate *to inner and outer tensions*

We believe that New Politics is about relating differently to tensions and suffering.

At the same time each of us is part of this world and whatever we focus on as individuals, will be rhin our relationships and the world's happenings.

In this workshop we will explore how we relate to tensions in the outer and inner world.

Facilitators:
Klara Sucher
Michael Wernstedt

Open Space / *Exploring Emergent Topics*

We are approaching the end of the week and a lot of ideas, insights and learnings have arisen as a result of our shared journey.

Facilitators:
Klara Sucher
Michael Wernstedt

This is a space where we will have room to explore topics that have arisen throughout the week.

This might be in the format of an Open Space, where all participants can contribute with their topics and choose the topic that interests them.

However the format may also be different to fit what has arisen. Depending on what has arisen.

Sensemaking: *“landscapes of small noticings”*

Making Sense- using the tool “SenseMaker” to integrate complexity, participation and the inner/outer dimensions of politics.

Facilitators:
Anne Caspari
Beth Smith

In this session, we will share our research on the topic of complexity science and its relationship to integral politics. During the LIFT project, we captured peoples’ stories in search of trends, outliers and challenges on topics like citizens’ political engagement, city development, education, sustainability, collective trauma healing and democratic capacities. All this happened in the face of the challenges of the last three years, featuring climate change, Covid, vaccination issues and the onset of societal fragmentation, and finally, war.

We will explore and share our collected “landscapes of small noticings”: lessons learned from this range of case studies and engage in a collective sense-making exercise to generate and share perspectives.

Wrap Up

What have we experienced during the week? Were there any learnings? What are the questions we will take with us from this learning lab?

Facilitators:
Klara Sucher
Michael Wernstedt

In this session we will close the loop we have taken together and see if there are any red threads or learnings that can inform our actions regarding New Politics.

More about *the facilitators*

Indra Adnan

Indra is Founder and Co-initiator of The Alternative Global, a socio-political platform serving systemic transformation. AltGlobal publishes a Daily Alternative news blog, develops cosmological agency networks (CANs) and connects planetary regeneration projects. Indra is concurrently a socio-psychotherapist, writer and consultant on soft power. Clients have included the Danish and Brazilian governments, World Economic Forum and NATO. Her book *The Politics of Waking Up: Power and Possibility in the Fractal Age* was a Times Literary Supplement Book of the Year in 2021.



Anne Caspari

Anne has an MSc in Environmental Planning and has worked in many different countries on nature rehabilitation and sustainability projects. In working with ecosystems, she can rely on a solid body of knowledge of how complex adaptive systems work and what tends to get in the way of self-organizing processes. 20 years ago, she started a parallel track, taking a deep dive into consciousness training, integral theory, adult development, and coaching, adding humans to the equation, which has since become her main profession. In her work with individuals and organizations, she specialises in transformational processes, change and leadership. Getting exposed to Cynefin and complexity thinking years ago was a natural fit for her and her practice. She is an experienced trainer and facilitator. She has her own company and works closely with The Cynefin Company and runs SenseMaker projects as a complexity-fit approach to making meaning and facilitating change in larger collectives, complementing developmental approaches



Dr. Elke Fein

Elke is a social and political scientist and lecturer at the University of Freiburg (Germany). She holds degrees in political science and East European studies and a PhD in political sociology, focusing on the systemic transition processes in post-Soviet Russia. She has worked as a researcher in various academic fields and contexts, including in Russian studies, history, leadership and organization studies. Her passion is to explore the relationship between adult development and socio-political analysis. Elke is also co-founder and managing director of the Institute for Integral Studies (IFIS), where she has initiated the EU-funded Strategic Partnership Leadership for Transition (LiFT). In its third iteration – as LiFT Politics – she is coordinating the project's exploration of integrally informed innovations in the realm of politics.



More about *the facilitators*

Dr. Bettina Geiken

My journey started with a PhD in natural sciences, then I moved into EU-project design in international development for many years focusing on strategies for sustainable urban development and intercultural/institutional capacity building. Extensive awareness training around inner change alongside the project work with culturally highly diverse stakeholders led almost naturally to the current focus in adult development, complex-adaptive systems and sensemaking.

My strengths lie in picking up subtle signals in a system, sensing possible trends as well as detecting and connecting resonating players from different fields. I thoroughly enjoy connecting co-creators and to use, as the Tao describes it, “the creating factor of absence” to the “creative gaps” wherever they might be needed. Understanding how to navigate complexity from the inside out bears so many unexplored opportunities.



Bernard le Roux

Bernard is a mediator and facilitator and supports organisations who wish to shift to a more dialogic way managing conflict and making decisions. As co-founder of Dialogues AB, a not-for-profit company, he conducts training courses in mediation and dialogue for people working with environmental, urban, and other relational conflicts.

Bernard now lives in Sweden but comes from South Africa where he studied commerce and law. He has worked as a mediator and facilitator for more than 25 years. He believes in dialogue as a way of managing tension, resistance, and conflict that arise out of complex social and societal issues. He sees conflict as an opportunity for transformation and learning.



Katrin Muff

Katrin is Director of the Institute for Business Sustainability and Professor of Practice at the LUISS Business School in Rome. She works as a consultant for executives and boards of directors in the area of sustainability and strategic transformation. Together with Dr. Thomas Dyllick she co-directs two leading-edge executive education programs in Sustainability Leadership. She was previously Dean of the Business School Lausanne for 10 years. Her books “Five Superpowers for Co-creators” and “The Positive Impact Mindset” are a testimony to her experience in stakeholder engagement, facilitation and coaching for positive impact. She has 20 years of international business experience in strategy and management in Australia, the USA, Russia, Eastern Europe and the Netherlands at Schindler, ALCOA and Procter & Gamble. Katrin was born in Switzerland and is committed to the positive contribution of companies to society and the environment.



More about *the facilitators*

Harald Schellander

Harald founded and ran a PR agency and the Institute for Future Competences and is now active in civil society initiatives such as “Days of Future”. As journalist and author his book publications include “Inspiration - Die Kraft zu werden was wir sind”, “Zukunftskraft Nachhaltigkeit - 21 Perspektiven für das 21. Jahrhundert”, (co-editor), “Projekte à la carte - Jetzt kocht das Team!”, “Zukunftskraft Innovation & Marketing” (co-author), “Zukunftskraft: Arbeit & Energie” (co-editor).

Links to current projects:

www.tagederzukunft.at

www.haraldjschellander.net



Beth Smith

Holding an MSc in the field of policing and public management, and a post-graduate qualification in mixed methods research from the University of Oxford, Beth’s research interests are in citizen engagement, community development, political risk, strategic management, and epistemology. As Programme Manager for Citizen Engagement and Democratic Innovation, Beth is responsible for the design and delivery of SenseMaker® projects related to shared decision-making and governmental collaborations. Having previously worked as a policy advisor to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Beth was responsible for providing research and policy guidance to government and public services in relation to public involvement and democratic and digital innovation. She is also a non-executive director at the Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development (FDSD).



Klara Sucher

Klara cares about the question of how we human beings can relate to each other and to this planet in meaningful ways. She works as a facilitator and supports organizations during times of intense cultural transformation. Klara focuses on relational qualities and dynamics. Within the LiFT 3.0 project she collaborated with Michael Wernstedt, making sense of the different contributions to the project and offering some of the essence on the platform and in a Curriculum.

Klara studied at Freie Universität Berlin and at Duke University (North Carolina) and graduated in Political Science. She co-founded a school in Berlin and her own company in order to dedicate her time to cultural transformation and to co-creation.



More about *the facilitators*

Michael Wernstedt

Michael is a social entrepreneur and former lawyer. Since leaving the legal profession in 2012, he has built up and served as secretary general of Raoul Wallenberg Academy, RWA. RWA empowers over 20,000 young people to make a difference each year. Michael was also co-founder and party leader of the political party the Initiative. A party with the ambition to create a new political culture.

Since January 2022 he serves as the COO of Inner Development Goals, IDG. IDG brings the power of inner development to accelerate the work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. He is also Chair of End Eco-cide Sweden.

