

TRANSFORMING CAPITALISM LAB



“It’s easier to imagine the end of the world than it is to imagine the end of capitalism.”

The statement above, often attributed to Frederic Jameson, captures a feeling that many people share: that despite our best efforts to change it, the design and structure of capitalism is beyond our sphere of influence. Yet, throughout history, profound social change often seems impossible, right up until the moment it actually happens.

What if....

the change toward a more inclusive and sustainable society is actually much closer than we realize? What could we do **now** to help bring it into reality?

That’s where YOU come in.

Get Inspired – Connect – Engage
presencing.org/#transforming-capitalism-lab

TRANSFORMING CAPITALISM LAB

Invitation

In April 2018, the Presencing Institute will launch the Transforming Capitalism Lab (TCL), in partnership with HuffPost, to empower and connect citizens from around the world to become active participants in creating change.

Building upon two decades of action research at MIT and around the world, this Lab will offer the following elements – all free of charge – providing opportunities for you and your network to:

Get Inspired

Monthly Live Global Sessions, featuring:

- ▶ Conversations with pioneering thought leaders and change makers.
- ▶ Guided mindfulness-based practices.
- ▶ After each live session, you will have the opportunity to join interactive small-group breakouts to learn directly from each other, ask questions and share insights about your own local change initiatives.

Editorial Content Gallery

Stories, interviews, and Op-Eds from practitioners and thought leaders working across *eight issue-areas of the economy*:

- ▶ **Beyond GDP:** Creating economies that generate wellbeing for all;
- ▶ **Nature:** Addressing the disconnect between infinite growth and finite resources;
- ▶ **Labor:** Bridging the disconnect between work and purpose;
- ▶ **Capital:** Relinking the financial and the real economy;
- ▶ **Technology:** Addressing the disconnect between technology and our creative humanity;
- ▶ **Business:** Addressing the disconnect between profit and purpose;
- ▶ **Government and Democracy:** Bridging the disconnect between people and governance;
- ▶ **Education and Learning:** Bridging the disconnect between learning and deep human creativity.

Connect with others across the world

- ▶ Participate in virtual **“Community Cafés”**: every month, we will host calls, during which we may share our experiences and help each other to advance our initiatives.
- ▶ Join or initiate a **self-organized place-based hub**. We invite people to gather in person to watch the live sessions and to practice methods and tools. Presencing Institute facilitators will offer hub-host support and guidance.
- ▶ Access the member directory and profiles, including a direct messaging system.

Engage in Action

We'll offer you tried and tested methods and tools, help you to apply them in your own context and showcase your journey or initiatives in a user-generated content gallery.

- ▶ **An online workbook** based on the Theory U methodology, will guide you on your self-paced journey from idea to action.
- ▶ **A user-generated content gallery** featuring emerging new economy stories, prototypes and examples from around the world. Workbook users will not only learn and apply new awareness-based change methods; the workbook also offers the opportunity to share the outcomes of one's learning journeys, dialogue interviews, prototyping efforts, projects and more in a searchable user-generated content gallery.

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Schedule 2018

of live sessions and community cafés

All live sessions and community cafés are happening at 10 am ET (Eastern Time). The zoom-link for the Community Cafés will be communicated on the site: presencing.org

<div>12</div> <div>APR</div> <div>Beyond GDP: The disconnect between GDP and Wellbeing Guests: Kate Raworth</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>26</div> <div>APR</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>	<div>10</div> <div>MAY</div> <div>Nature: The disconnect between infinite growth and finite resources</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>31</div> <div>MAY</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>
<div>14</div> <div>JUN</div> <div>Labor: The disconnect between work and purpose</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>28</div> <div>JUN</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>	<div>12</div> <div>JUL</div> <div>Capital: The disconnect between the financial and the real economy</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>26</div> <div>JUL</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>
<div>30</div> <div>AUG</div> <div>Technology: The disconnect between technology and our creative humanity</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>13</div> <div>SEP</div> <div>Business: The disconnect between profit and purpose</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>27</div> <div>SEP</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>	<div>11</div> <div>OCT</div> <div>Government and Democracy: The disconnect between people and governance</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>
<div>25</div> <div>OCT</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>	<div>8</div> <div>NOV</div> <div>Education and Learning: The disconnect between learning and deep human creativity</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>	<div>22</div> <div>NOV</div> <div>Community Café on Zoom</div>	<div>13</div> <div>DEC</div> <div>Integration and Synthesis</div> <div>LIVE SESSION</div>

Transforming Capitalism: Eight issue areas (Acupuncture Points) of the economy

We will host nine interactive live-broadcast sessions in **2018** and another nine in 2019. Each of the first eight sessions will focus on one specific **acupuncture point of transforming capitalism**. In each case we will feature the main systemic disconnect that defines the current crisis of capitalism and present stories and examples of practical alternatives that could address the issues at the root of these challenges. The ninth session of 2018 will focus on integration and synthesis.

In **2019**, the second series of nine sessions will focus on bringing these (and related) practical alternatives to scale.

1. Beyond GDP

Creating economies that generate wellbeing for all

The way we create and measure progress in our economies around GDP is leading us down environmentally, socially and personally destructive paths. Most visible in developed economies, more GDP does not translate into more wellbeing.

How can we measure progress toward generating sustainable and inclusive economies that create wellbeing for all (people and planet)?

2. Nature

Addressing the disconnect between infinite growth and finite resources

We're exceeding the carrying capacity of planet earth. What is the root issue? It's what Karl Polanyi called "commodity fiction": we treat nature as if it was a commodity. Our mindset with regards to nature is "take, make and waste".

How can we redesign the economic process – from the personal to systemic levels – from a linear take, make, waste to a cyclical model of a regenerative economy?

3. Labor

Bridging the disconnect between work and purpose

The whole economic discourse today is about employment numbers. However, with automation, increases in productivity, etc., there's no way we'll ever come close to full employment again on a global scale. It is likely that the future of human work will largely focus on the creative domain and on empathy based human interactions and services.

How can we reinvent work in ways that tie it less to income and more to human purpose and actual social needs in our communities?

4. Capital

Relinking the financial and the real economy

The ever increasing decoupling of financial and real economy is pervasive and destabilizes economies and societies across the globe. Simply put, we have too much money in one place (money spent for speculation) and not enough in another (the real economy, particularly funds for regenerating our ecological, social, and cultural commons).

How can we redesign the flow of money in ways that deflates the bubble in the speculation side, and that regenerates the sources of all our commons?

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5. Technology

Addressing the disconnect between technology and our creative humanity

Over the past few months and years we have seen a version of technology that tends to steer or manipulate us in ways that disconnect us from our real sources of happiness: our deep connection to others, to nature, and to ourselves. The Old Greek word for technology – techne – means art or creation. This is something we can still experience as true today: at the source of new technology creation is often the inspiration of making the world a better place.

Which technologies (and uses of technology) tend to disconnect us from the essence of our humanity, and which can help us strengthen and cultivate that link?

6. Business

Addressing the disconnect between profit and purpose

Business is the most powerful institution in society. It's the only place where you can shape the entire production function as a whole. If the business of business is just profit, then we engage in practices that make us blind towards social and environmental impact. If the business of business is about generating wellbeing for all, then we engage in business practices that make us aware of the social and environmental impact (as specified in the 17 SDGs) turning business into a force for good.

What actually should be the purpose of business? What are the principles and practices that enable businesses to operate from a deeper purpose? What challenges do they face and how are those challenges overcome?

7. Government and Democracy

Bridging the disconnect between people and governance

There is a disconnect between governance (rule making) and the lived reality of people who are experiencing the impacts (rule taking). The feedback loop between the parts (especially the most marginalized in our communities) and the whole is broken and needs to be re-established.

What are the practical ways that can evolve our governance to be more direct, distributed, democratic, and dialogic?

8. Education and Learning

Bridging the disconnect between learning and deep human creativity

There is no shortage of great schools in the world today, but there is a shortage of great school systems. On the whole, education and learning today is overly focused on rote memorization and teaching for testing. It is not preparing students to meaningfully engage with today's reality – to respond to the challenges of disruption by co-sensing and co-shaping emerging future possibilities through cultivating our deeper capacities for curiosity, compassion, and courage.

What are practical ideas for creating school systems that bring out the deeper potentials of their students, and serve the real needs of society?

The Transforming Capitalism Lab will launch on April 1st.

Check ➡ presencing.org/#transforming-capitalism-lab for more detail.

Questions or ideas? Send us an email: ➡ transformingcapitalism@presencing.com