# Speaker
for
Squirrels

Post-Singularity Symposium, GogBot2016
BECHA@unciv.nl

I am a speaker for the Nature – as in "Mother Nature", or Nature as a Harsh Mistress,
since the Nature will have a final word about our future.
I have 3 points to make in this talk: (post-singularity, post-Snowden, post-collapse)
1) technological "singularity" is fiction; post-singularity doubly so ;-)
2) post-Snowden issues with "the Internet" are well known, but I want to focus on the issues of neo-liberal capitalism as propagated & enforced by "the Internet"
3) what is interesting for me is post-collapse – – for me, series of collapses are a CERTAINTY: economical, energy, environmental/ecological – and the most worrying for me: extinction! what happens next?
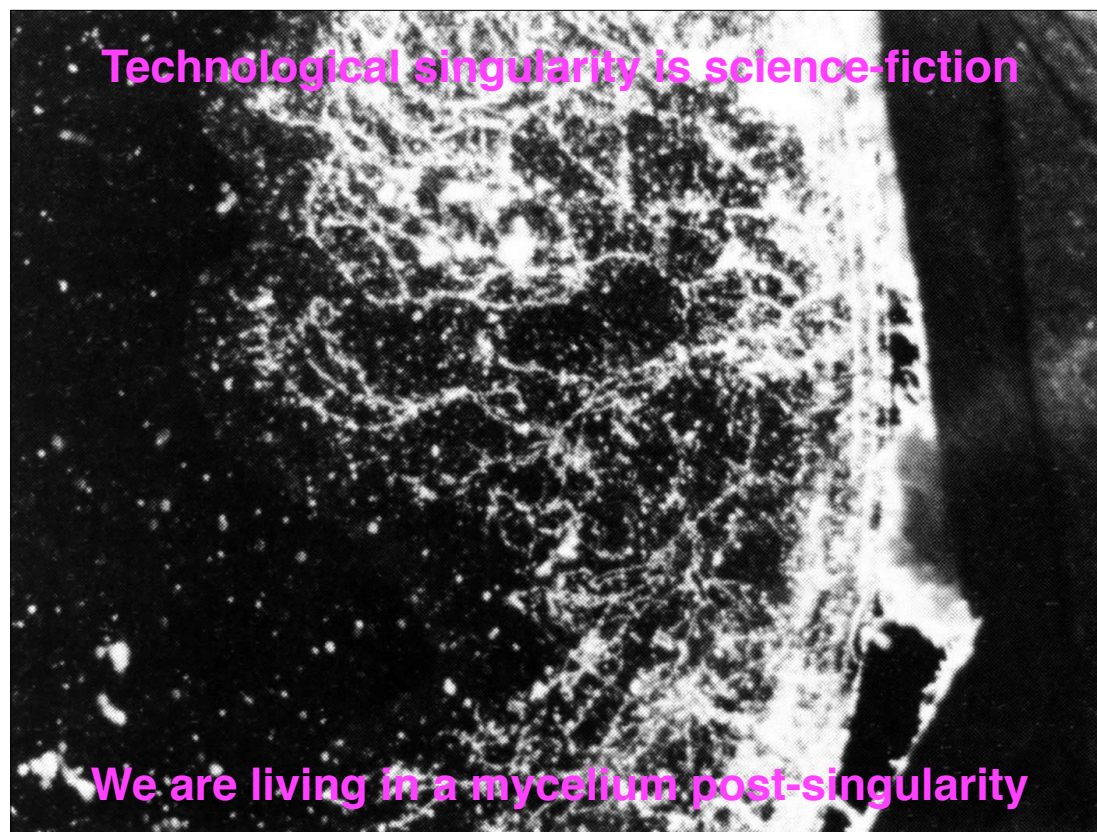
Technological singularity is science-fiction

We are living in a mycelium post-singularity

Concept of Technological Singularity as a moment when machines get inter-connected to each other – and/or connect uploaded human "brains" to each other – to form planetary consciousness translates very well to the "Internet of Fungi", where mycelium connects roots of trees to each other, and enables their communication , creating super-organisms that span forests, contents, and possibly the whole planet.

In this version of reality, we are already living in the post-singularity of mycelium.

Jennifer Stisa Granick
Director of Civil Liberties at the Stanford Center for Internet and Society
Aug 17, 2015 · 23 min read

The End of the Internet Dream

In 20 years, the Web might complete its shift from liberator to oppressor. It's up to us to prevent that.

NSA Strategic Partnerships

Alliances with over 80 Major Global Corporations Supporting both Missions

- Telecommunications & Network Service Providers
- Network Infrastructure
- Hardware Platforms Desktops/Servers
- Operating Systems
- Applications Software
- Security Hardware & Software
- System Integrators

AT&T Qwest EDS H-P Motorola Qualcomm CISCO Oracle IBM Intel Microsoft Verizon

Hacking Feminism!

Consent
Response to sexual violence and community accountability
Programming
Networking (protocols, packet distribution)
De-learn norms
Internet Governance
Break stuff
Amygdala hacks
Command line skills
Securing linux
Decolonising queerness & feminism
Poster making & spreading
Cryptography
Shoplifting
Gaming the system
Learn new tricks
TransHackFeminist! Convergence
Film/documentary nights
Open events for ally education
Anticop
Debat
Worksh

https://wiki.laglab.org/Hacking_Feminism

HAR

¯_(ツ)_/¯
SHA2017

OHM2013
Observe. Hack. Make.
July 31   4 August

Professionally, I work on "building the better Internet", so this is the topic most familiar with me – – however, personally, this is the topic I want to spend the LEAST time on: there are many excellent resources available about the problems of surveillance, censorship, loss of privacy (&&) : for example, BoF & BBA hackers–camp SHA2017 && HackFem.
((&& corporatism/corruption, government regulation, censorship, malvertisements and commercialisation of personal data …)

I am a traitor to the Homo Sapiens, and I am a Speaker for Squirrels.

Squirrels are a symbol for natural world, for fellow inhabitants of our planet, for the "other", for the "alien intelligence" that we are so eagerly searching for – – and they are also cute & furry and mostly invoke feelings of sympathy and joy.

The collapse is a CERTAINTY but what I would hate to happen is the extinction of squirrels – it was not their fault!

There is a particular Armillaria ostoyae mycelium in Oregon, spread over 890 hectares, estimated to be at least 2,400 years old.

Instead of Artificial Intelligence, I believe in alternative definitions of intelligence, the one that is NOT anthropocentric!

For me, mycelium is part of the "planetary Internet" of fungi , plants and animals.

EGO   NATURE
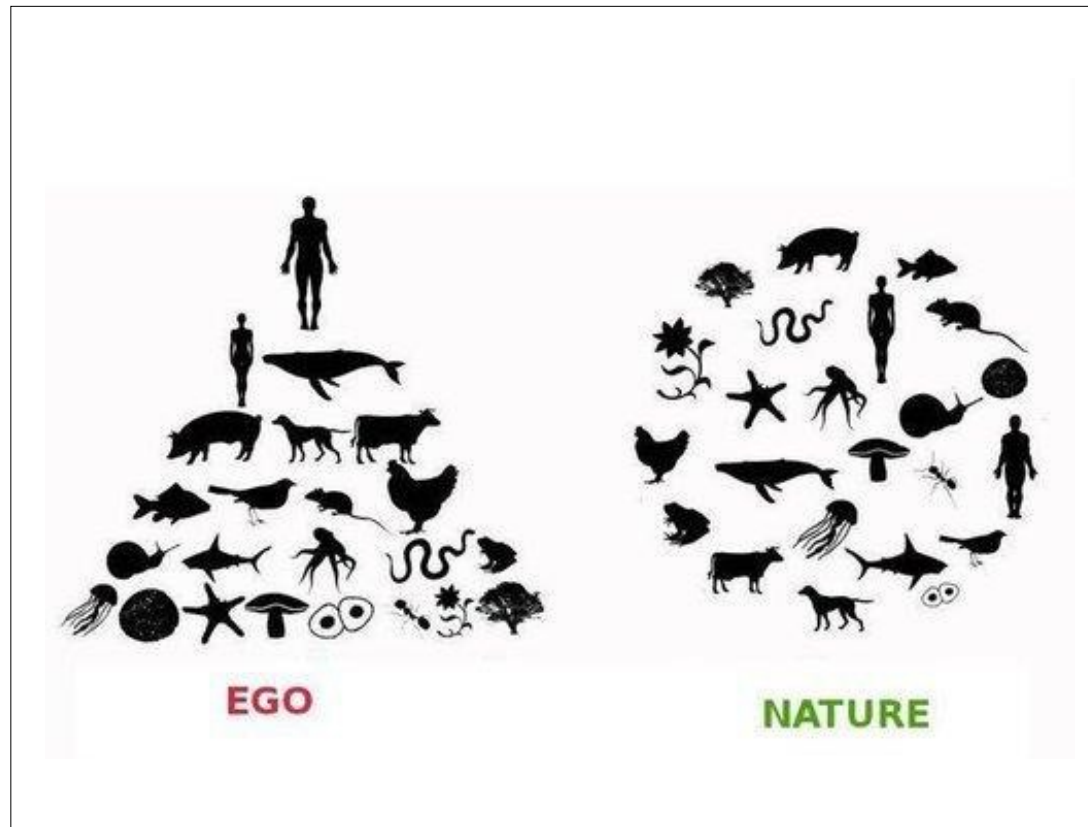
* Some humans have , at some point in our development, become very arrogant , and placed ourselves both OUTSIDE of community of living beings, and ABOVE / superior all the others, in the false ideas of exceptions (religious or scientific), hierarchies, progress.
* We − − in this room, in this city, in this country − − are descendants of those humans: so-called "takers" cultures; industrial-agriculture & monotheistic religions, that through "progress" led to "information society" −> and also towards the idea of "singularity"

Important things you need to know - Earth user guide
1. This is where you live
2. You and the other 15 million plants and animals are Earth's family
3. 50,000 of these plants and animals become extinct each year
4. We are consuming all other species and causing Earth's 6th mass extinction
5. This is comparible to a large asteroid strike
6. ~~Lifestyle~~ **SYSTEM** changes can stop this happening

evolvingcaveman.com

We – descendants of cultures who have chosen expansion & violence as our way of living – have been causing mayor problems: climate change, oceans accidification, global pollution, deforestations, ice-melts, and – sixth mass extinction.

– ultimate risk is that we will make the planet un-inhabitable, leading to human extinction
– – which to a traitor like me seems like a fair outcome

– what I would really be pissed off about is if we take SQUIRRELS with us! They are innocent and do not deserve to stop existing because of us!

One of the better outcomes is that, in her response to our activities, Nature will "take her course" and quickly lead to the series of collapses – first economic , then industrial, then civilisational – which would stop FURTHER destruction of biosphere. If this happens soon enough, there is still some hope for squirrels.

another way to describe this belief is: anthropocentrism

– based on that belief, we are first enslaving fellow living beings, then exploiting them, and finally killing them off – – the whole ecosystems, the whole species, and possibly – the whole biosphere (including atmosphere, and oceans)

alternative IS possible – – other cultures have been living in harmony with their environment and with other species of plants and animals.
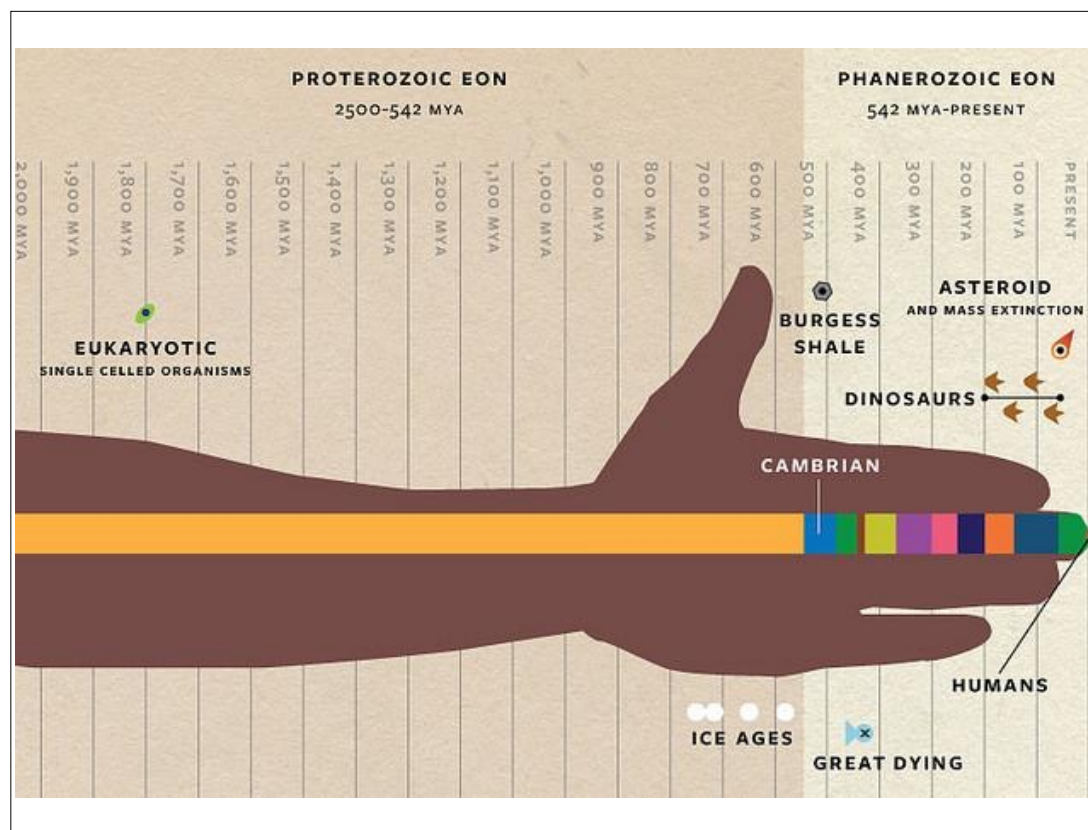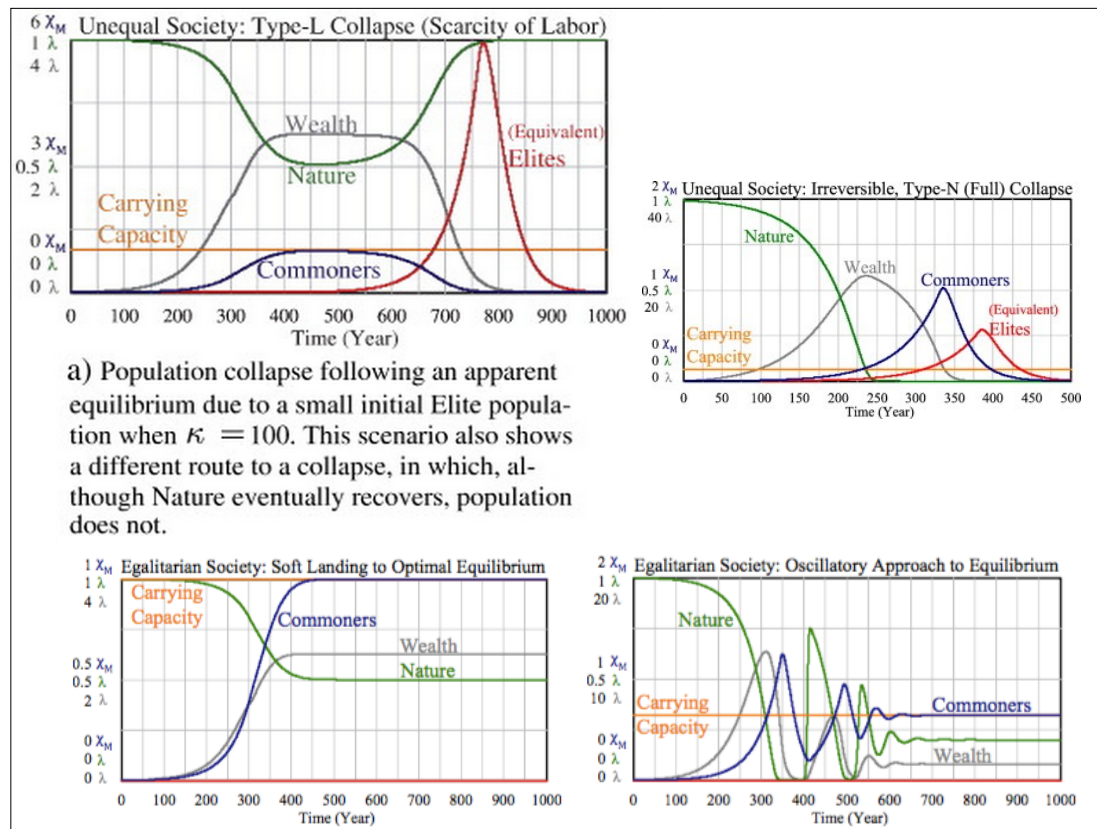
Get a perspective: on our place in time

tip of the middle-finger of the "invisible hand" of time.
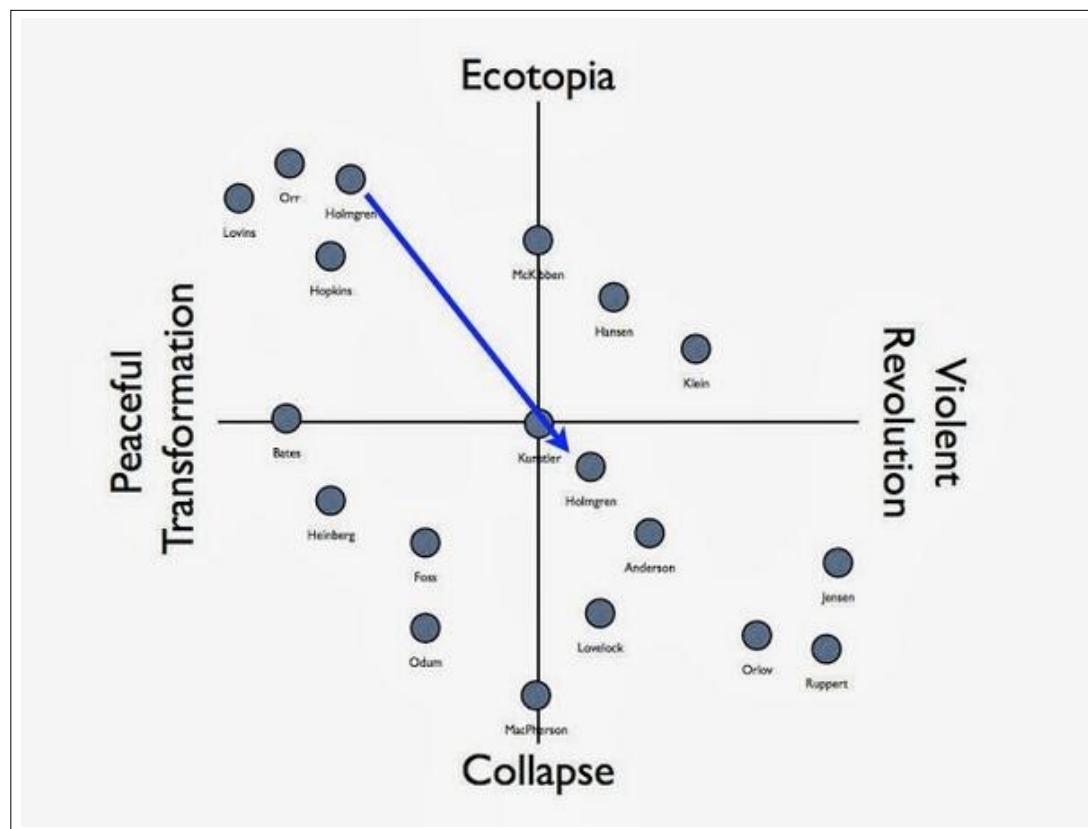
Crisis that we are living in is not new – there have been civilisations & collapses before our time too.

Possible outcomes are discussed by many authors; here is a handy chart.
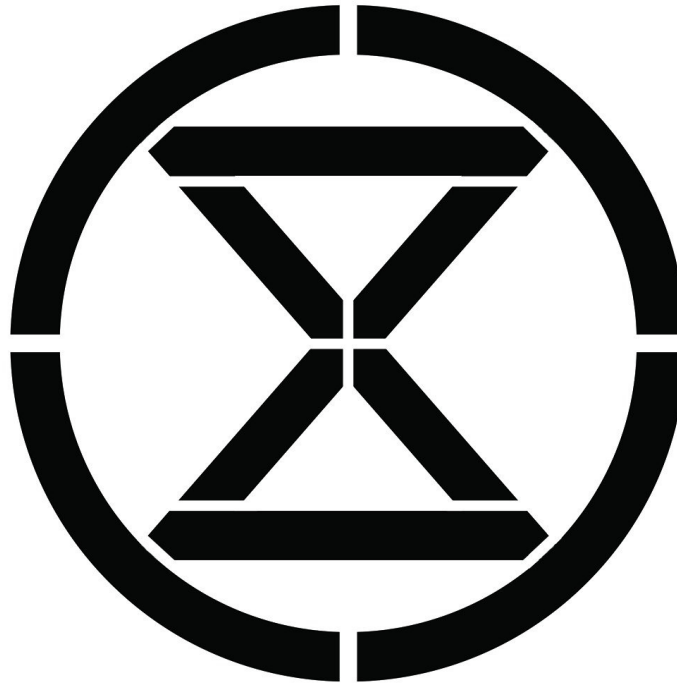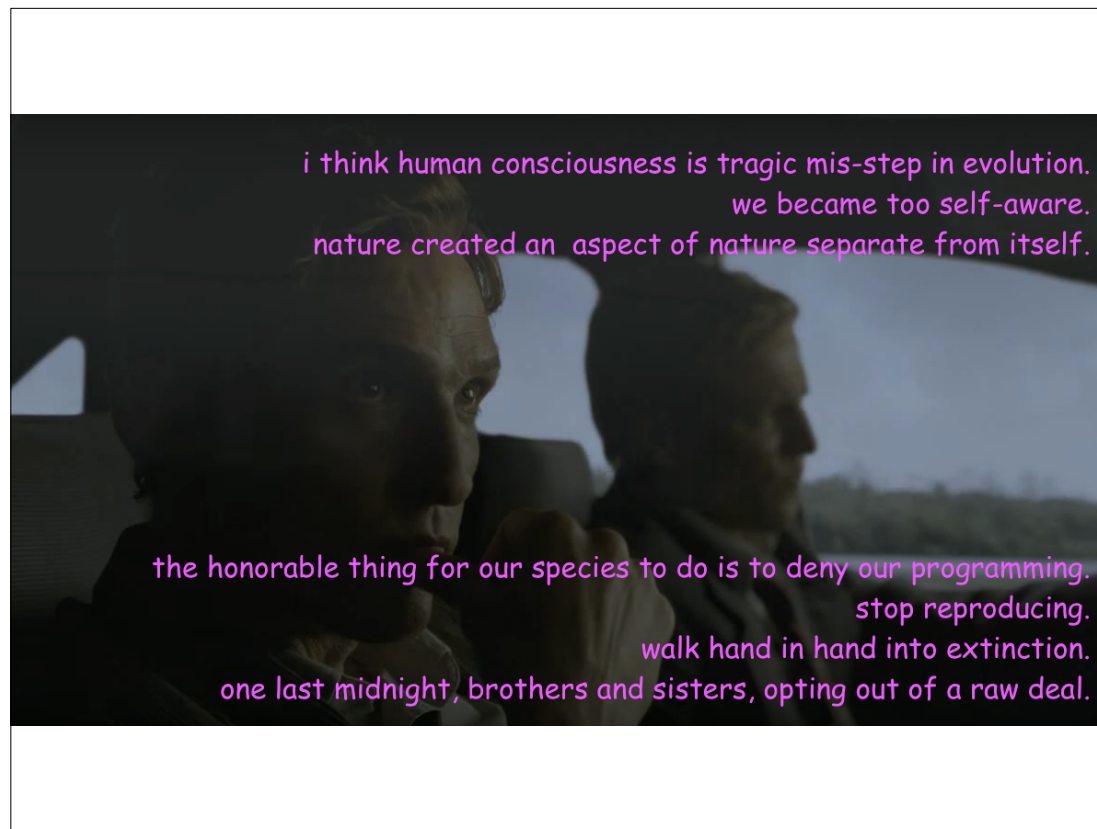
Scientific modelling of the "resources use" and equality of social relations, leading towards collapses – or towards stable outcomes!

Modeling Inequality and Use of Resources in the Collapse or Sustainability of Societies

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocene_extinction

i think human consciousness is tragic mis-step in evolution.
we became too self-aware.
nature created an aspect of nature separate from itself.

the honorable thing for our species to do is to deny our programming.
stop reproducing.
walk hand in hand into extinction.
one last midnight, brothers and sisters, opting out of a raw deal.

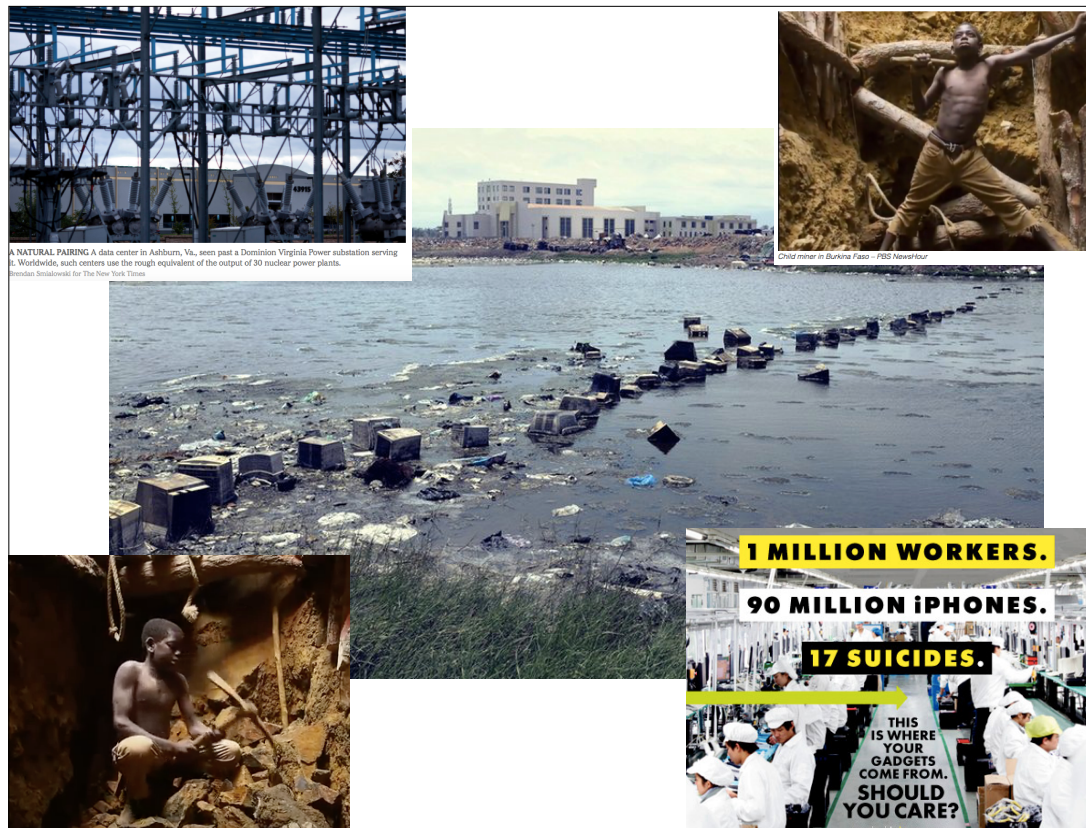Philosophical / pessimistic view from popular culture
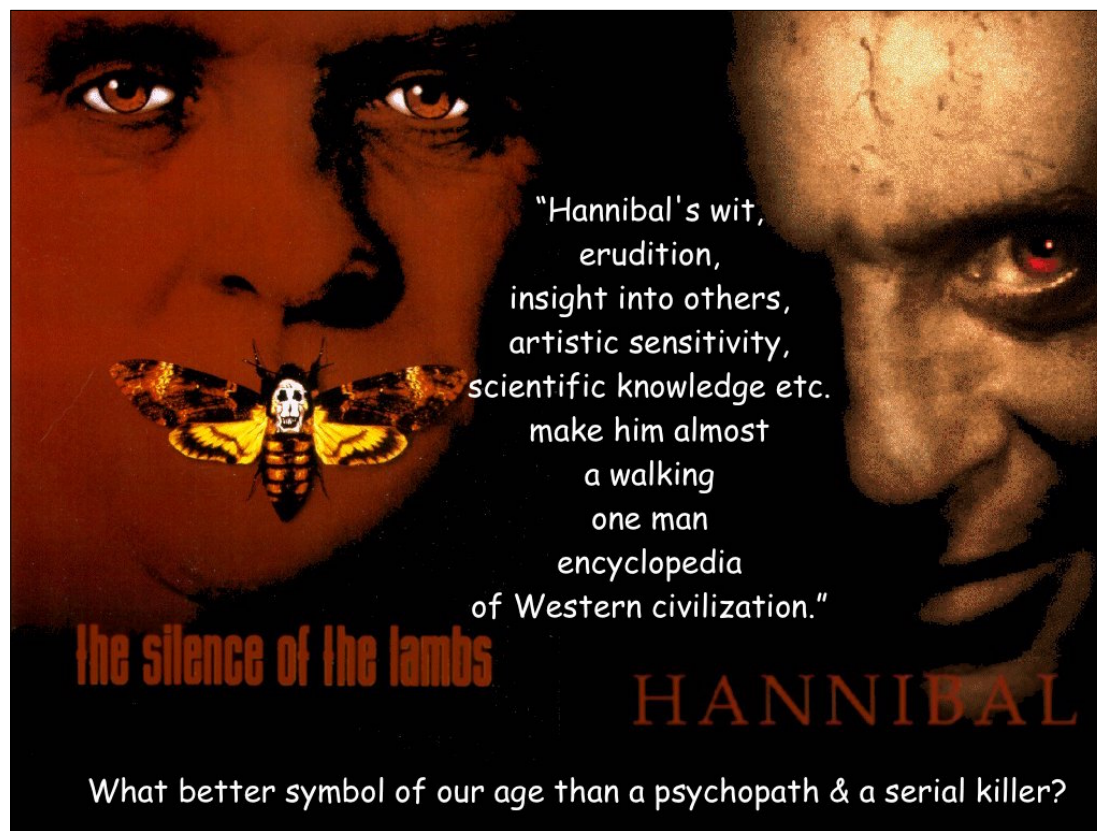
"Hannibal's wit,
erudition,
insight into others,
artistic sensitivity,
scientific knowledge etc.
make him almost
a walking
one man
encyclopedia
of Western civilization."

the silence of the lambs

HANNIBAL

What better symbol of our age than a psychopath & a serial killer?

Even more pessimistic view: our is the culture of psychopaths

A NATURAL PAIRING A data center in Ashburn, Va., seen past a Dominion Virginia Power substation serving it. Worldwide, such centers use the rough equivalent of the output of 30 nuclear power plants.
Brendan Smialowski for The New York Times

Child miner in Burkina Faso – PBS NewsHour

1 MILLION WORKERS.
90 MILLION iPHONES.
17 SUICIDES.
THIS IS WHERE YOUR GADGETS COME FROM. SHOULD YOU CARE?

Which brings me to the Internet, and my issues with it – the connection between "Internet Industry" and free-market / neoliberal capitalism:
1) energy consumption
2) violent exploitation of environment & people
3) pollution
   from the electronic-waste
   as consequences of the energy production & use
   from the transport needed for its operations (not the least flying around the world of conference-goers ;-)

Pyramid of Internet Capitalism
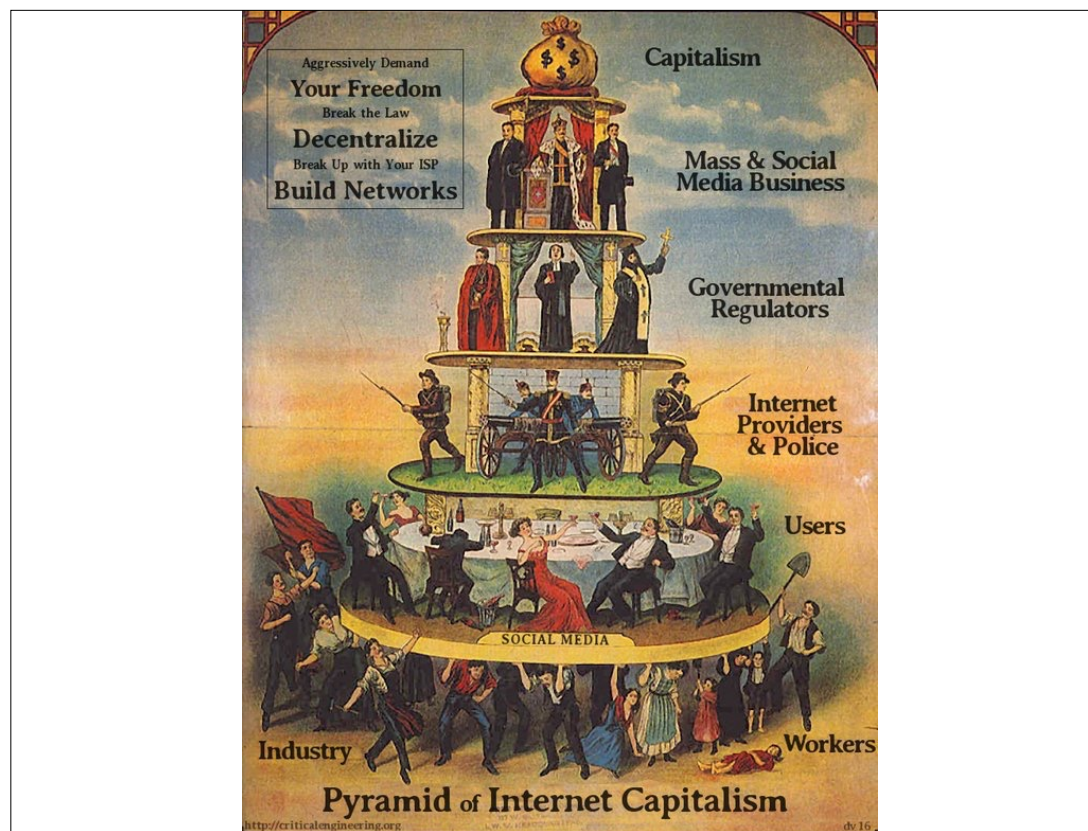
Internet was supposed to model the decentralisation, make communication & organising easier, bring freedom, spread knowledge, end enable sharing of knowledge.
    Instead, we have this: pyramid…
oppression & violence
    – perpetuating status quo;
    – exploitation & dominance of people who are contributing to its operations
    – deepening of inequalities (economic, gender, racial, national);
    – reinforces existing power structures, hierarchies & centralised systems (of patriarchy, racism, economy, finance, industry, media, corporations, governments…)
    – rich get richer: Sillicon Valey is a new Wall Street; Apple not paying tax; Google&Facebook being richer then many countries

Internet be-came from the systems of oppression : neo-liberal capitalism, militarism, "science", and industry;
based on exploitative myths of growth and progress,
and it is perpetuating structural violence that is characteristic of these systems of oppression that gave birth to it
    [David Graeber, Derrick Jensen, Freddy Perlman, Heather Marsh]

A child at the Agbogbloshie electronic waste dump in Ghana. Photograph: Andrew McConnell/Alamy

Internet is deepening the divide between 1st & 3rd world:

For the first-world: shiny data-centres and server-farms (cloud ;-)

For the 3rd world: children working in mines for precious metals, and sifting through OUR poisons discards and waste

Imagine If Trees Gave Off
Wifi Signals, We Would
Be Planting So Many Trees
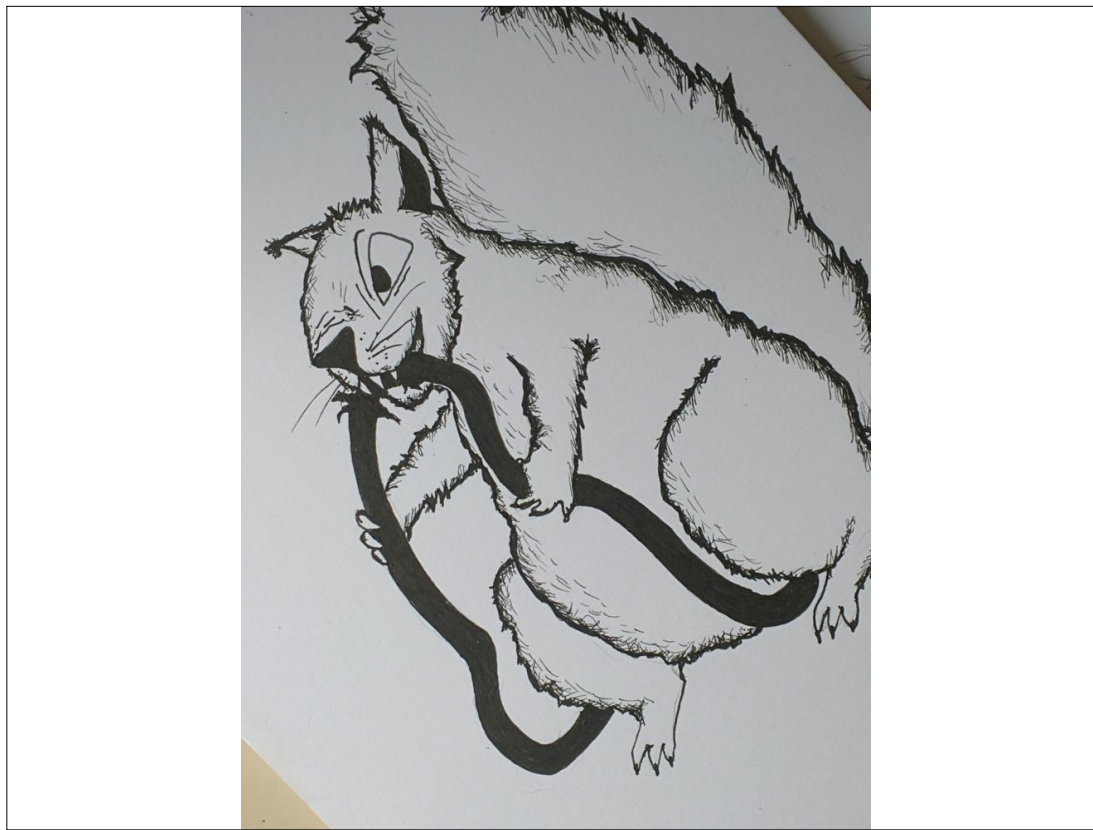And We'd Probably Save
The Planet Too.

Too Bad They
Only Produce The
Oxygen We
Breathe.

But that problem is going to solve itself..
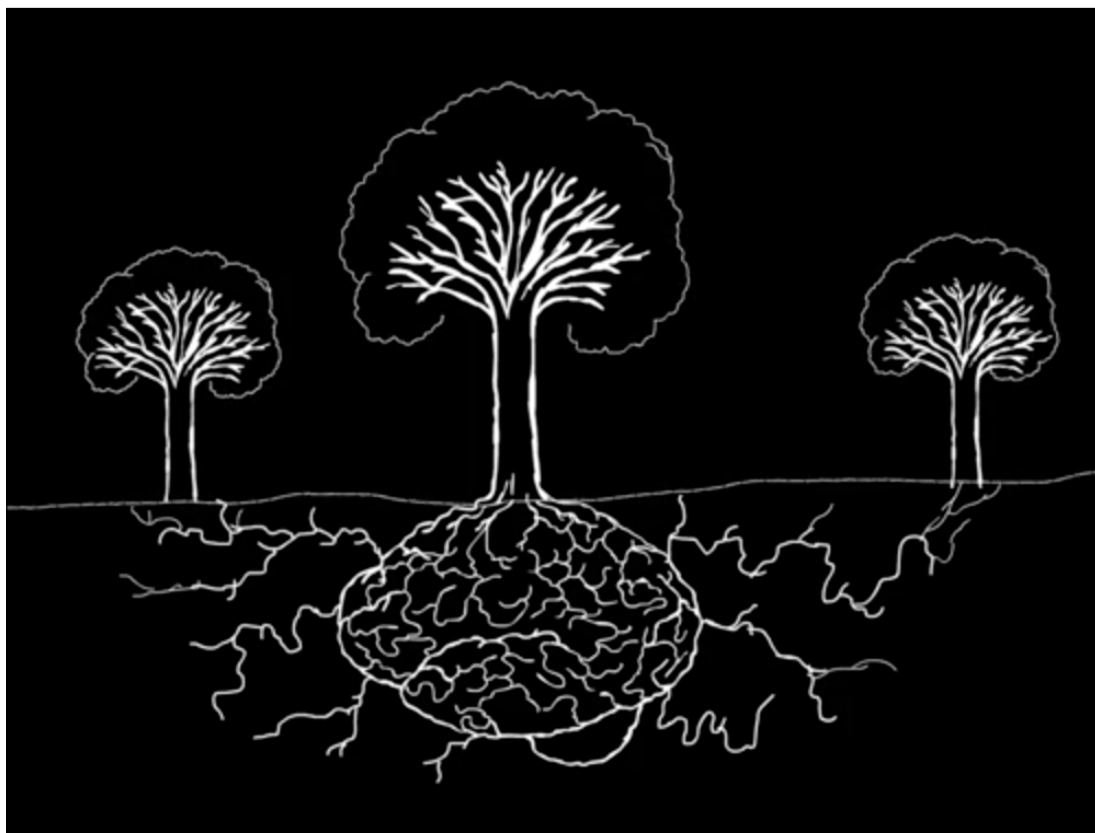
Instead of "the internet of things", there will still be "an Internet of trees"

Squirrels are helping

ALIEN INTELLIGENCE TO HUMANS:

"FEED THE PIGS AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING"

memegenerator.net

In search of Alien Intelligence, we are overlooking the fellow-species on this planet: pigs, parrots, dolphins, octopi, bacteria, fungi, forests, squirrels!

"When you're accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression"

AFRO PUNK.

In the cultures of dominance, it is difficult to recognise our own privilege.

We are framing the changes that have to happen as GIVING UP our PRIVILEGE
and that's why we are RELUCTANT to change, and RESISTING the change.

This is how radical equality looks like ;-)

While we think the we are oppressed by "1%" or richest people on the planet, ALL the people on the planet are oppressing all the other living creatures, who are the true 99% ;-)

Right place and the right role in the symphony of life

EGO
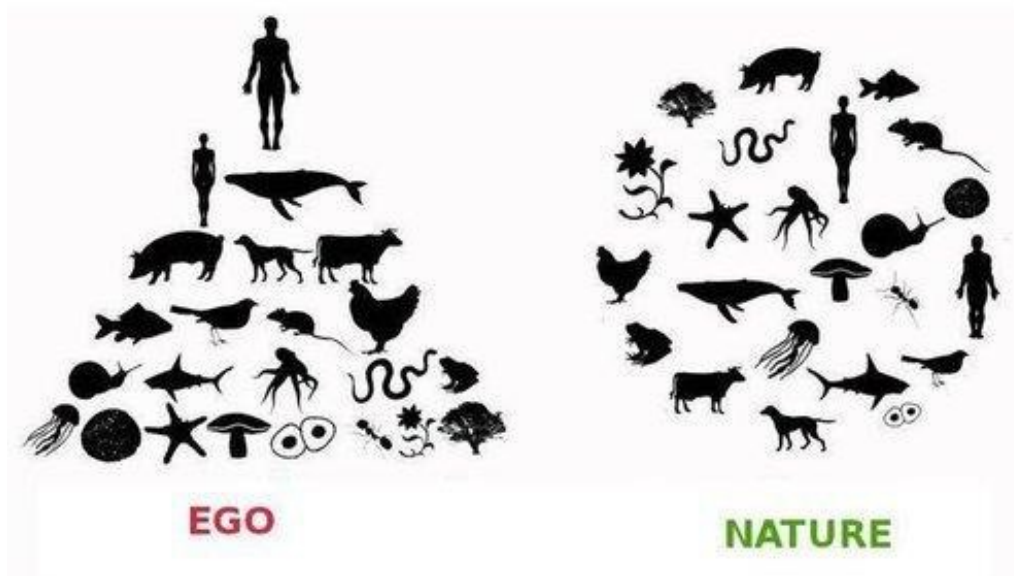
NATURE

Mature cultures have found balance with Nature

Solution: to take our proper place in the symphony of Life, and play our proper part

some human societies have found the BALANCE, over the last 1.000.000 years.

only in the last 10.000 years some cultures have managed to forget those lessons, and to expand themselves to planetary boundaries — at the expense of all the other human cultures, and many plants & animals too. but that pattern of behaviour is impossible to sustain, and will end – which is Nature's way of implementing this "law".

Countdown to Singularity

Logarithmic Plot

Time to Next Event (years)

10^{10} — Life
10^{9} — Eukaryotic cells, multicellular organisms
Cambrian Explosion (body plans)
Reptiles — Class *Mammalia*
10^{8}
Primates — Superfamily *Hominoidea*
10^{7}
Family *Hominidae* — Human ancestors walk upright
10^{6} — Genus *Homo, Homo Erectus,* specialized stone tools — Spoken language
Homo sapiens
10^{5} — *Homo sapiens sapiens*
Art, early cities
10^{4} — Agriculture
Writing, wheel — City-states
10^{3}
Printing, experimental method — Industrial Revolution
10^{2} — Telephone, electricity, radio — Computer
Personal computer
10

Time Before Present (years)
10^{10} 10^{9} 10^{8} 10^{7} 10^{6} 10^{5} 10^{4} 10^{3} 10^{2} 10

$$T_E = \tfrac{1}{k} \ln \left[\frac{kR}{\tau_0} + 1 \right]$$

This equation is probably the best kept scientific secret of the century!

* "singularity" in itself follows this fallacy of linear progress, and (exponential) growth, and expansion – that is the characteristic of "adolescent stage" in the development of the person – and of culture & society.
* exponential function is one of the fundamental laws of nature & ecology: exponential growth can not be sustained. all other species are limited in their consumption of resources by this law; they have found ways to balance their own existence with the existence of other fellow species in the same living systems, in the same environments.
* some human societies/cultures have found those ways too, over the last 1.000.000 years. only in the last 10.000 years some cultures have managed to forget those lessons, and to expand themselves to planetary boundaries — at the expense of all the other human cultures, and many plants & animals too. but that pattern of behaviour is impossible to sustain, and will end – which is Nature's way of implementing this "law".

My part of the story

- Death is part of Life
- All we can do is to love
- This, too, shall pass
- Only love remains
- I am enough
- Love is all we have left

In order to prepare for the collapses:
1) prepare ourselves,
2) connect with nature
3) connect with each other

- get in touch with our emotions
- cultivate self-empathy
- experience joy & grief

I DON'T SHARE MY THOUGHTS BECAUSE I THINK IT WILL CHANGE THE MINDS OF PEOPLE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY.

I SHARE MY THOUGHTS TO SHOW THE PEOPLE WHO ALREADY THINK LIKE ME THAT THEY'RE NOT ALONE.
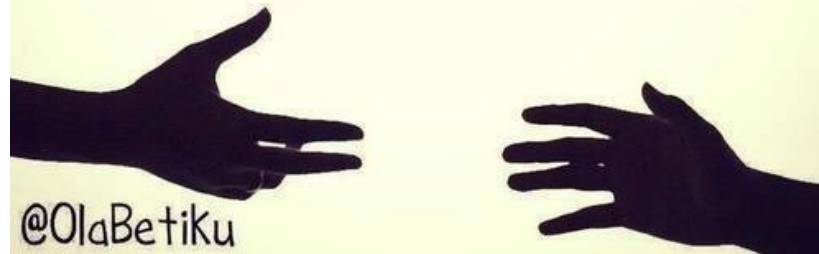
@OlaBetiku

– realise that we depend on each other – human communities – NOT (only) individuals
- cultivate empathy
- care for each other
- practice solidarity

take action: reach out, build new communities, raise awareness, share experiences, create new narratives

- realise and accept our connection with & being part of Nature
	- re-connect with Nature
	- take our proper place in the symphony of Life, and play our proper part
	- take care of the others - take care of squirrels

http://UnCiv.NL

Mailinglist: https://lists.puscii.nl/wws/info/uncivilization

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