

Reimagining the transformations we need for more sustainable and just futures

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Laura Pereira: laura.pereira@su.se

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



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Image: Simon Stålenhag/Radical Ocean Futures

Climate change extreme weather costs Germany billions annually

Reuters



Madagascar on the brink of climate change-induced famine

By Andrew Harding
Africa correspondent, BBC News

2 days ago

Climate change



Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and Australia. What can we learn from the world's devastating floods?

By Annika Burgess with wires
Posted Tue 8 Nov 2022 at 7:45pm, updated Tue 8 Nov 2022



Fires and floods, heatwaves and hurricanes

the new york times

The Fires in Greece Are a Terrifying Warning

Aug 27, 2021, 1:00 am ET



Climate change: US-Canada heatwave 'virtually impossible' without warming

By Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent

8 July | Comments



Chthulucene

UNEARTHING THE CAPITALOCENE:
TOWARDS A REPARATIONS & ECOLOGY



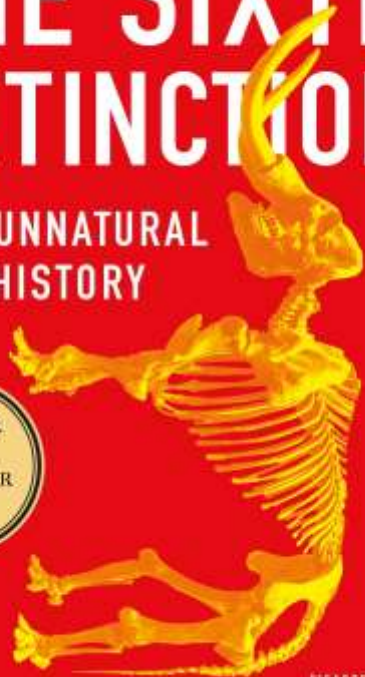
WE WERE WARNED

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION

AN UNNATURAL HISTORY

WINNER of the PULITZER PRIZE



PICADOR

ELIZABETH KOLBERT

Author of *FIRELICK NOTES FROM A CATASTROPHE*

The Uninhabitable Earth

Life After Warming

David Wallace-Wells



MAD MAX FURY ROAD
From mastermind GEORGE MILLER
THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE MAD

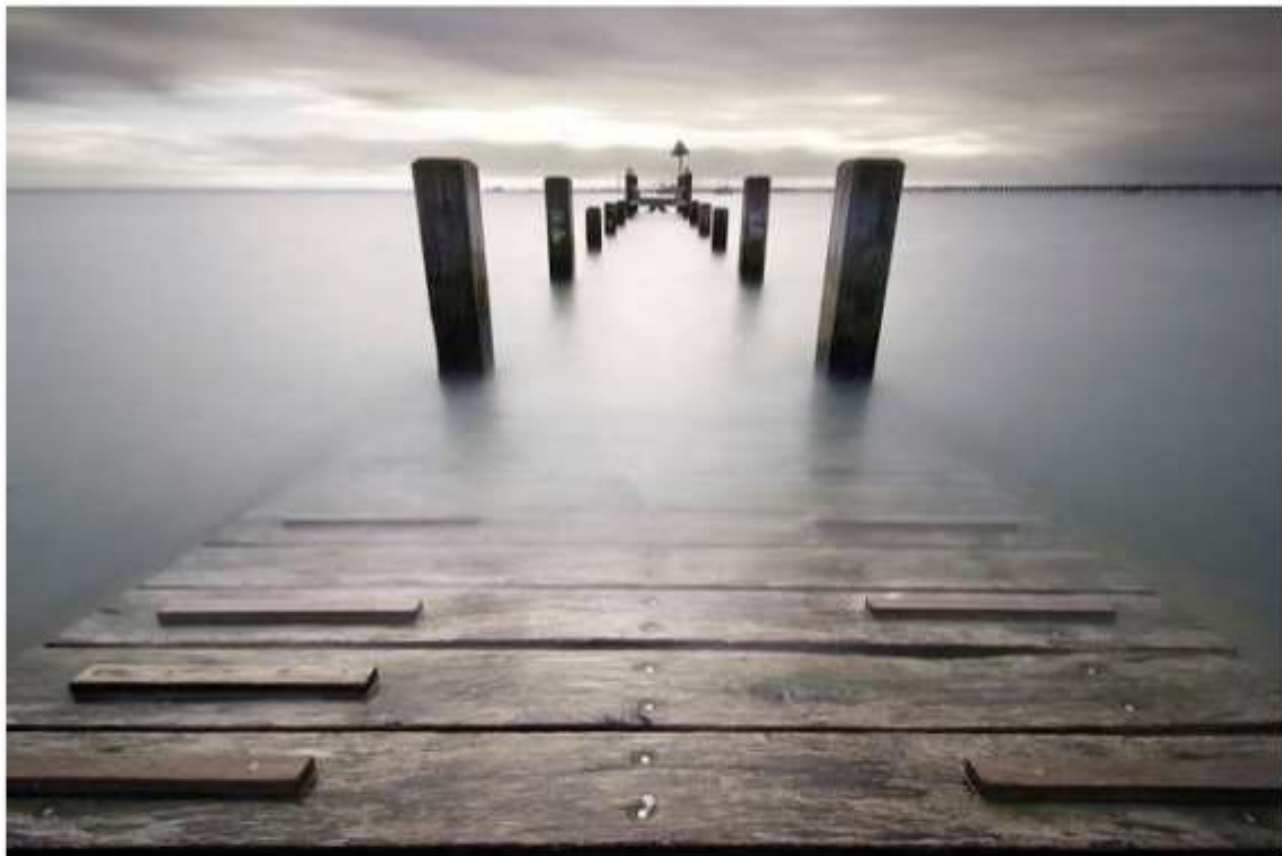
D 3D EXPERIENCE



RTMANN

'The future is already here it is just unevenly distributed' William Gibson





"If you do not change direction,
you may end up where you are heading."-Lao Tzu
(maybe)

But, *where* is it that we want to go?
What might these good Anthropocenes look like?





Before we can think of pathways or interventions, we need to build capacities to envision where it is we want to go. An offering from an African perspective

1. Revive (colonized) Imaginations



“Knowledge is empty without imagination, without spirit, without the heart... no civilisation ever became great on knowledge alone” (Okri 2014:20)

“Imagination helps to transcend conventional thinking to envision new possibilities... where particular and stable facts and data mix in with shifting emotions, memories and intentions” (Egan 1992, Hanson and Sutton-Smith 1988; in Norman 2000).

“When people are unable or unwilling to incorporate novelty into the way they think about the future, or to find a place for the emergence of the rich potential of the unknowable, then the lived experience of change becomes disorienting, promoting defensive and nostalgic reactions” (Beck 1992).

“Sci-Fi is the only genre that enables African writers to envision a future from our African perspective... (Nnedi Okorafor) The value of this envisioning... cannot be overstated nor negated.

If you can't see and relay an understandable vision of the future, your future will be co-opted by someone else's vision, one that will not necessarily have your best interests at heart”
(Hartmann, 2012: 111).”



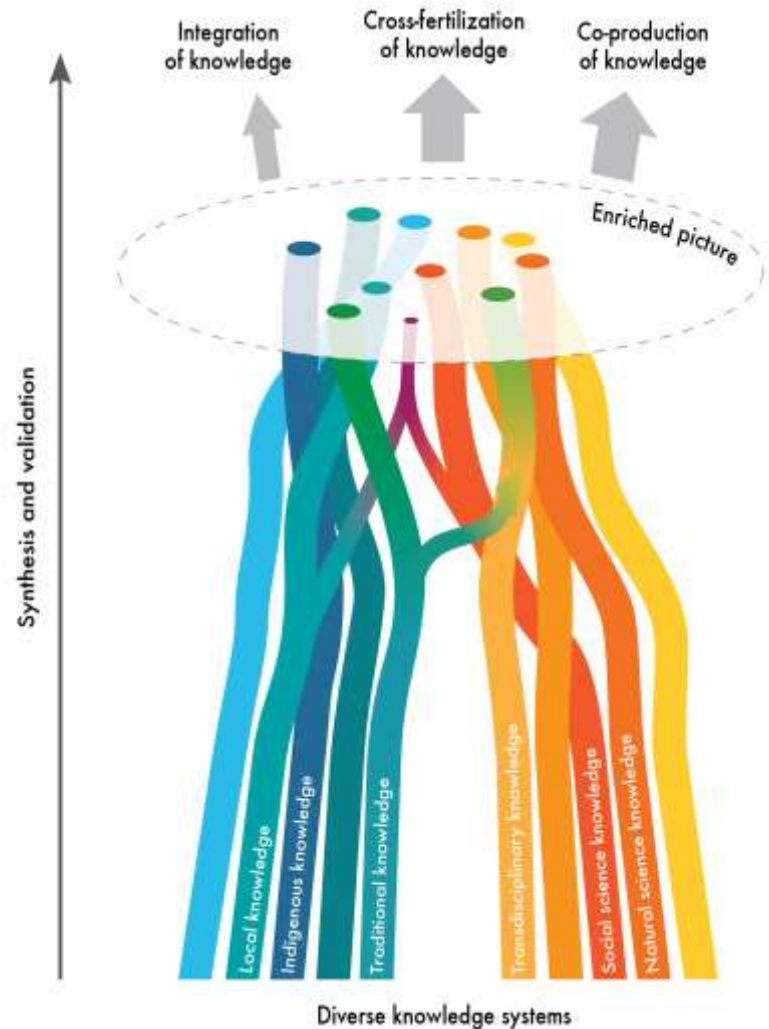
2. Embrace our Diverse Knowledge Systems

Knowledge co-production:

We cannot 'sacrifice equity on the altar of integration'
(Ritodhi Chakrabaty)

Historical power dynamics bias
some knowledge systems over
another

Time as Kinship (Kyle Whyte)

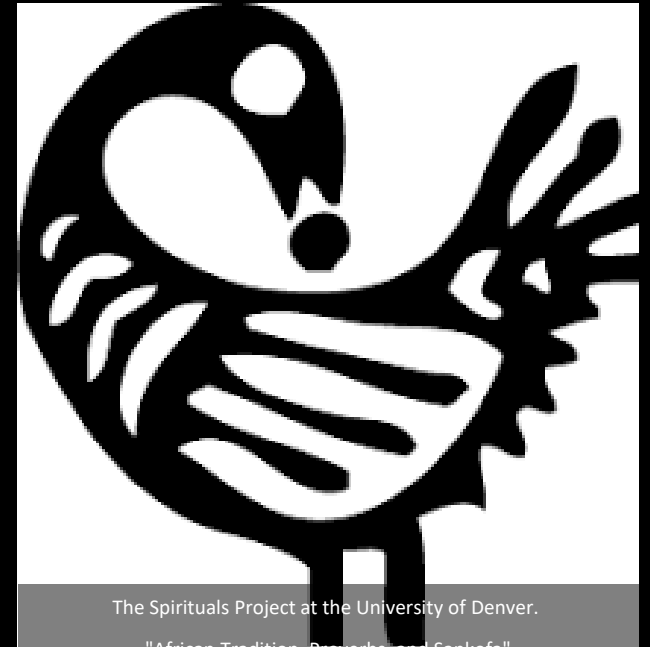


Sankofa

Sankofa is an Akan term that literally means, "to go back and get it." One of the Adinkra symbols for Sankofa depicts a mythical bird flying forward with its head turned backward. **The egg in its mouth represents the "gems" or knowledge of the past upon which wisdom is based;** it also signifies the generation to come that would benefit from that wisdom.

This symbol often is associated with the proverb, "*Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi,*" which translates to, "**It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten.**"

The Akan believe that **the past illuminates the present and that the search for knowledge is a life-long process.**



The Spirituals Project at the University of Denver.

"African Tradition, Proverbs, and Sankofa"

3. Invest in Inclusive Participatory processes



‘Remember to imagine and craft the worlds you cannot live without, just as you dismantle the ones you cannot live within’- Ruha Benjamin



Image: James Tambula



My offerings in the realm of the radical transformations

What if we had never been colonized?

- **Animism** and entanglement; not dualisms and divisions
- **Ubuntu** not competition
- **Mobility**: end of the nation state, no more visas
- **Ownership**: end of private property, sharing economy
- **Governance**: Problem-based; at watershed, at village, at continent, at planet
- **Equity**: Race, Gender, Religion, Geography...
- **Economics**: Regenerative, post-growth economies, not extractive and growth oriented



Dogon masked dancers in the village of Irelli, Mali, 2004. Credit Alantobey



Post Growth. Exhibition view at iMAL. Photo: DISNOVATION

*Humans have changed the way the world works.
Now we have to change the way we think about it too.*

- The Economist, 2011