

Pairwork Guide

2024 - October

Pairwork Guide 2024



STOP! News Alert!

Hey gang! I'd like to invite folks to tri

al this (exciting, wonderful) new way to submit and catalogue our pairwork notes!

Instead of typing your notes below, fill in [this form!](#)

To see all of the notes submitted so far, access [this table!](#)

NB: Slack integrations forthcoming ;)

Thanks, Ollie <3

All fellowship candidates must do a pair-session with every other fellowship candidate each month, lasting at least one hour. These pair sessions are when the majority of your coursework will get done.

These must be in person, in front of a computer, with exactly two people, no more or less. This time should be used to work on any module from the course, core or advanced: newspeak.house/2024

Notes must be kept on what was achieved at each session: [session notes](#).

Here are some resources on pairwork - they're written for pair programming, but the methodology extends to most tasks:

- [Government Digital Service: How to pair program effectively in 6 steps](#)
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pair_programming

Scheduling

Calendly / Gcal Links

1. [Paulina](#) (PW)

2. [Claddagh](#) (CN)
3. [Melissa T](#) (MT) Weekends only
4. [Richard Kemp](#) (RK)
5. [Casmir](#) (CW)
6. [Ilya \(Tu/Wed only\)](#) (IM)
7. [Tristan Spill](#) (TS)
8. [Alex](#) (AP)
9. [Simon Wisdom](#) (SW)
10. [David](#) (DN)
11. [Ollie BM \(OBM\)](#) (Weds only plz, Friday if not)
12. Yung-Hsuan (YH, please reach out)
13. [Jyo](#) (JI)
14. --- (HMA)
15. [Dorcas](#) (DNW)

Pair Matrix - November 2024

	OBM	HMA	JI	RK	PW	IM	CN	DN	DNW	AP	TS	MT	CW	SW	YH
OBM															x
HMA															
JI															x
RK															x
PW							x		x		x		x		x
IM															
CN															x
DN															
DNW															x
AP															x
TS															x
MT															x
CW															x
SW															x
YH															

Pair Matrix - October 2024

	OBM	HMA	JI	RK	PW	IM	CN	DN	DNW	AP	TS	MT	CW	SW	YH
OBM		!!	x	x	x	x	x	x	!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
HMA			!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	!!
JI				!!	x	x	x	x	!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
RK					x	x	x	x	!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
PW						x	x	x	!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
IM							x	x	!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
CN								x	!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
DN									!!	x	x	x	x	x	x
DNW										!!	!!	!!	!!	!!	x
AP											x	x	x	x	x
TS												x	x	x	x
MT													x	x	x
CW														x	x
SW															x
YH															

Tasks to do

For those sourcing for what to do during pairwork sessions, you could consider tackling tasks listed on this Kanban board: [📌 Newspeak House 2024 - Tasks](#) . This would help us achieve a lot of things efficiently!

Feel free to update the Kanban board as well, adding tasks to do and assigning people.

Sessions

Oct 1, 2024 2:00 PM Tristan <> Ilya

📌 Newspeak House Paring (Ilya Mouzykantskii)

Attendees: tspill@gmail.com Ilya Mouzykantskii

Module: None (social)

Goal for this session: Get to know each other

Notes

- Shared Bios & Skills
- Ilya
 - CS @ warwick (UK), Stanford (US)
 - FinTech
 - Voice Ai
 - Journalist (russian dissident news)
 - NYC / San Fran
 - Generalist
 - Talks fast
- Tristan
 - Design background
 - Creative background
 - NZ / NY / Miami / London
 - Freelance design
 - Interested in broadening network, meeting broad intersection of people and applying skills as appropriate
 - Mentioned Matt Kennard, journalist. <https://tcij.org/person/matt-kennard/>
- Discussion on superpowers
 - What are the superpowers that being fellows in this program gives us:
 - Access to space / host events
 - Network
 - Access to faculty
 - 15 nerd experts in the hive mind

Action items

☐ Undefined.

18:30 Sept 30 | Remote: Casimir <> Richard

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: Discuss things to be done around the house, as well and plans and possible options for the physical archive

Notes:

- Casimir's blog was discussed
- The nature of karma was discussed
- Various options for the archive were discussed

16:00 Oct 1 | Newspeak house classroom Casimir <> Ilya

Module: Various

Goal for this session: To go through modules and decide which ones are mutually interesting and worth signing for

Notes:

-
-
-

12:00 Oct 1 Newspeak Drawing Room: Ilya <> Paulina

Module: Political organizing

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- Talked about modules we were interested in
 - Both interested in Political Organizing
 - Signed up for sessions, 1/1
- IM states that a good outcome may be attempting to organize event on common interests
 - Both interested in medicine / wellness
 - IM mentions David Nutt as potential speaker
 - PW mentions importance of impact of event – is it a one-off or is there some sort of thesis that grows from it
 - IM mentions Natalia Tysh. of DOXA, interested in guest rooming
 - May be a possibility of hosting a DOXA event at Newspeak.house
- PW looks at first module readings: 2024 election review (<https://www.electionanalysis.uk/>)

Action items

- ☐ PW to intro IM to Sasha (old fellow)
- ☐ IM to discuss NT / DOXA event / Houseguest with Slack
- ☐ PW and IM to begin reading (<https://www.electionanalysis.uk/>) PDF

12:00 2 Oct NS Lounge: Tristan <> Paulina

Module: Product Design

Goal for this session: look into ideation + intros

Notes: We spoke about our backgrounds, living in other countries and what motivated us to get to being here. Decided to not talk in detail about Product and more about our personal histories.

Also mentioned:

- Paulina - ZOE tag for capturing body/food data
- Tristan - his 3 year health measurements project
- Also spoke about healthy eating and ADHD meds.
- Tristan mentioned The Brick Lane high school for potential local outreach to Autistic teens.
- Also Lady Dinah's cat cafe across the road
- Cookbook

13:00 2 Oct: Claddagh <> Ilya

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- Discussing modules to work on together
- Focussing on Six's module
 - Discussing readings – in particular Conflict Is Not Abuse
- Discussing project goals / aims
 - For CN, areas of interest:
 - > Trade Union Organizing
 - > Use of political technology in delivery of government services / functions (primarily around skills / access to work / R&D / innovation technology)
 - --> Project based primarily! (5 year timescale?)
 - > Capacity building for intl climate negotiations / negotiating
 - > Technology to build engagement around intl level engagement around climate tech
 - > Linguistics around existing technology for refugees

- >Accountability Archive
- UK Youth Climate Coalition UNFCCC Badging
 - Set up online school on how to deal with UNFCCC
- Discussion <https://forensic-architecture.org/>

Action items

- ☐ Accountability Archive handoff to better people? IA people?

13:00 2 Oct: David <> Ilya

Module: Bios

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gKW2vU1deBP AeDcUYEIrkLIGig5o5GeCY1Nms9EXJcl/edit>
- Introductions:
 - DN: Has done campaigning for 15 years or so
 - Mode of campaigning – online mobilization / digital first campaigning
 - Trade union work / in Brussels
 - Online mobilization
 - Online campaigns are not effective
 - Exceptions – when campaigns are paired with tactics that have a strong theory of change
 - Raising money to do interventions
 - Commission polls
 - Use polls to get attention of MPs and corporations
 - Mobilizing people to do grassroots lobbying
 - In the US, lots of focus on electoral mobilizing
 - Interest in <https://analystinstitute.org/> – to empirically assess / do large scale social experiments for electioneering
 - Implement cost effective programs at scale
 - Facilitating protest
 - Academic vs Doing Things // unclear
 - Connection point between a particular project / an ability to scale it
- Introductions (Ilya)
 - Generalist
 - Many interests
 - Media
 - Writing for NYT, GUardian
 - Grew up in Warwick but also has lived in Moscow (but no longer welcome there) and Bay Area

- Computer scientist by training
- Created AI calling tool
 - Project rather than start up
 - Interested in running an AI candidate in 2025 county council elections (as a stunt to promote discussion and a public policy conversation)
 - Not too interested in electioneering, was an interest but disenchanted by American political system
 - Modules of interest:
 - Political organising, Public sector innovation, LLMs
 - Interested in substack as a physical newsletter mechanism idea
 - Prior experience with Stanford's Fountain Hopper

15:00 3 Oct NS Lounge: YH <> Paulina

Module: Everything everywhere all at once

Goal for this session: Mutual exchange of interests and goals for this fellowship

Notes:

- YH's interest in AI safety and why it matters to preserve human agency
- We talked about our views of technology safety and alignment with human values
- Paulina is interested in learning about the metaphysical knowledge of running the college
 - She's interested in understanding the role of fellows and faculty, and would like to explore how fellows and faculty members can interchangeable (as a concept)
 - She loves all the design modules and later found that the organizational modules are critical about running things
- YH is also interested in the design modules (that was the most attractive part of the course). Analysing things was not enough - knowing how to build things was a skill that was lacking. I want to be able to critique systems and processes but now also be able to design solutions and come up with new ideas.
 - *There is a difference between who actively create things and people who don't. It takes a lot to build something smart, but critiquing is not as difficult.*
Sean

16:00 3 Oct NS Lounge: YH <> Richard

Module: Governance module

Goal for this session: Prioritizing items for the governance module, discussing a strategy to approach advanced modules

Notes:

- 17 or 21st get everyone in the big room
- Prioritisation? Lots of things to do, let's decide which to do now vs later (vs never?)
- policy proposals have been vague, maybe we should make them more concrete
- we should aim to trust each other from the start, and that trust can be broken, but lets not wait to earn it, on most topics
- Some responsibilities naturally belong to residents (not many actually!), but most are shared among us all.
- How to count votes? Haven't really explored the depths of this problem.
 - e.g. what about where there are multiple reasonable options, explore platforms for e.g. STV, run-off voting, etc
 - RE: door security, how to vote when we have multiple proposals?
- Don't forget, proposals should have hashtag and deadlines so they don't get lost and forgotten.
- We have lots of channels!! It's a bit annoying. Maybe some of them are too specific? Probably, but
- modules - we don't really know much about them. How to choose? What to even say in the 1to1

14:00 4 Oct: David <> Tristan

Module: Bios

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- Tristan
 - Gave a long ramble about New York City in the 80s.
 -
- We will have another 121 to booked for Oct 8.
-

14:30 Fri 4 Oct: Ollie <> Casimir

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: Intros, discussing Airtable

Notes:

- Casimir has moved from Eggham to Nwspk and works as backend engineer freelance with clients in London
- Ollie gave Casimir an intro to Airtable, as possible application for the book archive, we agreed to give it a shot as an experiment to learn from
- We set up a cohort@newspeak.house accounts for:
 - Airtable
 - Zapier

- Claude (Casimir's recommendation for an AI tool on the basis of its free offerings)
- But we need paid AI account to get API keys to integrate (OpenAi or Claude) - this needs discussion and consensus with the group
- The Zapier integration is now paused until we resolve the paid AI tool question - Ollie put this to the cohort in a Slack post

15:30 Fri 4 Oct: Tristan <> Casimir

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: Connect, agree on common language, interests

Notes:

- Tristan discussed his idea about cards for the cohort members
- Tristan and Casimir discussed the different modules and Tristan gave Casimir some advice for an email for Mechanism Design
- EA and E/ACCI defined

17:30 Fri 4 Oct: Paulina <> Mel

Module: Prototype, Mechanism Design

Goal for this session: Introduce ourselves, gain understanding of each other's goals for the Fellowship programme

Notes:

- Shared information on and discussed backgrounds and experiences
- Discussed experiences of technology, building tech tools, STEM exposure growing up
- Discussion of current and past goals
- Discussed ideas for prototype module
- Discussed Mechanism Design module, its requirements, and existing maths knowledge

19:00 04 Oct 2024: Jyo <> Claddagh

Module: Institutional Analysis

Goal for this session: Reading + thoughts (finished the reading)

Notes:

- Reading the Tyranny of Structurelessness:

- Are these critiques inherent only to structurelessness? Or are they also entrenched in structure, just in different ways?
- Organizational anarchism - problems are codified in structure
- Semantic difference between informal structured and informal unstructured
- Formal and informal structure as being more suited to the point she is making
- policies/codes as structure
- Hierarchy being present regardless, structure as being an equitable distribution of power
- Is structure as a solution to power? Does it hold?
- Contemporary society is quite structured - but its organisations (right now) do not work
- Not universal
- "We cannot decide whether to have a structured or structureless group, only whether or not to have a formally structured one." - all groups have a structure
- Feels like a personal manifesto (her design of what structurelessness entails in a very American context)
- A rap group is quite literal...
- Danger of the idea that the culture of an oppressed group is in itself inherently radical, rather than often just a reflection of oppressive societal and structural norms - danger of just codifying this inequity
- Political lesbianism - pretending to be butch for women's liberation
- Second wave feminism in America
- Term of elite - An individual, as an individual can never be an elitist, because the only proper application of the term "elite" is to groups
- Maybe using a marxist definition of the term elite
- Structurelessness as being achievable only through a formal structure which is intentional to not have a list of attributes needed to qualify a person
- Aren't stars in a group inevitable? Haven't we already established that hierarchy is here to stay
- Stars are inevitable, they are a spokesperson, a star is an interface to external stakeholders
- Non-elected stars being less problematic than a elected one
- Being the loudest in the room is not exactly having power
- A group needing to be homogenous by the author
- Fragmentation in groups occurring because of frivolous attributes - author may be devaluing women by making this assumption
- Friendship as being antithetical to organizing, how? - author does not justify it
- Implicitly assuming democratic structure

HH:MM DDD D MMM: Alex <> Ilya

Module: -

Goal for this session: Introductions

Notes:

- Mutual intros
- AP's interest in the academic side of things, but also events
- AP - interested in hackathons for trans related things, perhaps civic tech
- Something specific to sit down and think about
- AP - background in user research, researching impact of govtech on DEFRA clients, front row seat to the impact of Brexit
- Review of modules

17:30 03 Oct 2024: Alex <> Dorcas

Module: -

Goal for this session: Introductions

Notes:

- Introductions
- Who we are
- What brings us here
- What we were doing before
- Intro to Slack , channels, and policy work
- Talked about the handbook and what's in there
- Core modules
- Advanced modules
- Talked about the orientation weekend and what happened there

Action items:

- No action items

11:00 05 Oct 2024: Alex <> Mel

Module: Impact Engineering

Goal for this session: Introductions

Notes:

- Intros and background
- Project ideas / what we think of doing
- Discussed a bit about our jobs
- Interest in modules - which ones we might both do e.g Impact Engineering
- Discussed both our experiences in tech, any experience working on projects in the public sector

11:00 05 Oct 2024 Claddagh <> Richard

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: hmmm. Prioritisation?

Notes:

- To what extent do we want to publicise what cohort is doing - varying appetite for public facing work
- Shared folder for cohort google docs? Current system not massively efficient
- Treasury - how should we manage finances
- Put forward proposal for CIC + bank account on slack
- —
- Fav conspiracy theories? 9/11, birds aren't real, nor is Finland, raves are programming their attendees.
- RE: external communications: some of us may have a varying appetite for publicity, and for publicising, e.g. some are bloggers.
- Security - discussed, we hope for no more worrying issues.
- On jobs - only the Wisdoms are not working!
- Claddagh interested in mech design, done pol organising before. Has run two CICs before. We discussed this and made a proposal on slack to open one this week.

13:30 05 Oct 2024 YH <> Jyo

Module: Political Organising

Goal for this session: Conflicts and Politics reading by Hannah (finished the reading!)

Notes:

- One theorist (citation?)
- - Labour party rule book and constitution
- - YH: Proposing motions during cohort's monthly meeting or via a google form
- - Motions can be useful for long term decisions
- - Agenda setters - for these monthly meeting
- - Agenda setters are not necessarily for ideological reasons but rather for the structure/design of the caucus
- - Terminology of agenda setters - Chairperson's
- - do values serve the purpose of decision making
- - values as a common ground
- - when do values come into play?
- - Notion of concrete over abstract is good
- - Reasoning of a proposal/decision stemming from a value
- - values are emerging, not necessarily nascent within the cohort
- - the design of the decision might be different but folks might be coming from the same place or reasoning
- - things need to get done - how to not get stuck on small decisions?
- - How do we not get stuck on edge cases?
- - small decisions in a big cohort take time

- - getting stuck on values of equity and equality
- - as a group you are individually responsible for showing up to participate and make decisions
- - voting mechanisms can be asynchronous
- - how to make people participate actively? (can be dealt with later on, not a priority for now)
- - consensus: How do we achieve it in a big cohort?
- - an amendment process to challenge an already passed motion
- - when would our group fragment into smaller sections? How many months into NH do conflicts occur?
- - energies might cause conflicts in our cohort not values
- - personal responsibility for individual decisions/choices
- - counter of our ration club spreadsheet is an important way to avoid conflict (preventing a person from being overburdened)
- - What is the shared purpose of the group? (trying to find a shared purpose through Tristan's getting to know the fellow doc which outlines our goals, research themes etc)
- - we are not forming fragmented coalitions
- - if you feel strongly about something, contribute to completing the task (in the fellowship context)
- - never take anything personally (in terms of an individual's feelings)
- - Tarot decks being made by Tristan (utilises storytelling for bonding, etc comms)
- - reasoning/values might reduce symbolic ambiguity

11:00 05 Oct 2024 Simon <> Richard

Module: n/a

Goal for this session:

Notes:

This week Simon was at Arena bootcamp: ai safety

What do we care about?

Residents have been making checklists (RK: I should make checklists!!)

Microsoft copilot screenshot issue: on by default, scared people, presumed too little expectation of privacy.

Edward came to join us and kvetch.

To do RK: research opencollective (alternative to CIC?) for treasury, and possibly other options.

General point: don't try to intuit answers or just use something you're familiar with - do research! Every problem has many existing solutions.

Document storage and knowing what we have - maybe we should have a google drive directory, with a master document containing links to the others.

Who is working on what and when? Need to improve visibility of this.

To do SW by the end of Sunday Oct 6th: research task management solutions and make a proposal.

Maybe assign roles like project manager, treasurer, etc.. improves clarity of what you personally should be working on. Ask who wants to do the roles, then do trial runs to see how well it works.

Sascha joined and told us about his plans to go to Barcelona. Has a grant from openphil to upskill for ai safety.

Roles:

- Project manager (set up task management system)
- Treasurer (set up shared bank account and process)
- Actually we might not need too many roles, but instead have tasks in a project management system

17:00 07 Oct 2024: Alex <> Ollie

Module: ?

Goal for this session: Get to know each other more

Notes:

- Initially we spoke mostly about queerness, especially our experiences of family tensions and conflict; acts of violence; the politics of queer people tolerating hatred as an act of love, the (non-)correlations between age, religion, culture, and geography on the one hand, and progressivism, conservatism, liberation, etc. on the other; the role of the media and the arts in increasing visibility and shifting worldviews in the UK and Cyprus (and Alex's role as co-founder and comms director for Queer Wave cinema festival); the politics of martyrdom and obligations of service to the queer community VS the right to live a 'normal life' free of pressure to contribute to any liberation agenda; and the often disappointing conditions of the trans lib movement and community fabric in London
- We then started to explore the possible intersections between Queer Lib and Political Technology, noting a few fellow queer folks in the wider Newspeak community that we have spoken to, and discussing the possible role of civic tech in aiding both queer-oriented activism/advocacy and queer-oriented service provision and basic support offerings. Alex shared he has imagined some form of a Trans* Hackathon at Newspeak, where trans folks and allies collaborate to explore and build technologies - eg: a tool to find your nearest gender-neutral bathroom, an interactive directory of trans-inclusive healthcare services, etc.
- We agreed there would probably be substantial interest in this, and reflected that while there is no doubt a lot of queer people working in tech, they may not ever have put those two parts of their life together, to ask what Tech for Queerness, or Queer Tech, might actually look like or mean to them. We pointed out that queer folks make up a surprising proportion of the Newspeak fellowship community, and that this is an asset. And that therefore a compelling pitch that articulates the value of bringing these worlds together could well unleash a wave of new innovation as people begin to connect previously compartmentalised dimensions of themselves, their politics, their interests, and their skills.

- We agreed to stay in touch on this topic and discuss it where appropriate with other people who might be interested, and to consider collaborating on creating an event on this topic at Newspeak at some point in future.

18:15 07 Oct 2024: Alex <> David

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- Alex
 - Looking to explore a new job
 - Queer film festival
 - Passionate about queer issues
 - Part of a PhD exploring online communities
 - Interested in looking back into that with a queer lens (rather than just a science-based lens)
 - Human-computer interaction, digital anthropology, sociology
- David
 - Interested in queerness, gender
 - Undergrad gender studies /political sociology
 - Interested in Political Activism
 - Discussed about a campaign during undergrad - organising campus
- Talked about trans rights in the UK - false sense of security (perceived as progressive country, very backwards in trans rights)
- Talked about figuring out ways to radicalise queerness
 - How to build a queer movement that is not just around mainstream LGB and sometimes T
- Queerness in approach in how Newspeak operates - “unboundedness”
 - People that come and go and interact with it
 - “Methodological Queerness”
- Discussed a bit about which modules we want to do and what skills we want to work on (learning to code etc.)

18:30 Mon 7 Oct: Ollie <> Richard

Module: NA

Goal for this session: General intro

Notes:

- We took it in turns to share about our personal and professional backgrounds, including what the Newspeak fellowship represents to us in terms of career steps

14:00 Tue 8 Oct: David <> Tristan part 2

Module: Bio

Goal for this session: understand background motivation

Notes:

David mentioned this book again:

Book

Nickel and Dimed

by Barbara Ehrenreich

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

This book radicalised David when he realised how poor people stayed poor and how little they earned and how impossible it was to escape.

His first organising started on campus with his National Genderblind campaign. Reach out from distant students & national media. Frame story. (Cons Freedom v. Lib LGBT+), it took off. He studied linguistics and power of language to define arguments.

We agreed that there was more to figure out and that our sessions should be longer.

16:30 Tue 8 Oct: Casimir <> Paulina

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: figure out first steps to organise overnight guests

Notes:

Goal: to have a clear communication and decision making for overnight guests

Items:

- **Cleaning of the room**
- **Application to stay**
- **Decision making process timelines / factors**
- **Calendar automation**

To do:

Create a doc with the cleaning checklist. Cleaning should be done by the host or guest (as they decide).

Here is the doc. [📄 Guest Room Post-Stay Cleaning Checklist](#)

Application to stay form: <https://forms.gle/HphJCDHtuXZSW7eC6>

Now there is a way to receive notifications on Slack when we receive an application to stay in the room.

Guest room rules

Eligible guests:

- Those visiting a residential candidate
- Attendees/hosts of Newspeak or "Newspeak-adjacent" events (tech, social change, democracy)
- Non-residential fellows needing last-minute accommodation after an event

Maximum stay: 3 days

Guest expectations:

- Familiarise with and abide by house rules
- Encouraged to use facilities and participate in events
- May be asked to help with chores (host can take responsibility if inappropriate)

Host responsibilities:

- Manage guest arrival, supervision, and departure
- Ensure guest signs 'rights and responsibilities form'
- Make sure everyone is aware that the guest is staying by posting on arrival date on guests-overnight channel including a bio / purpose of stay
- Complete the Guest Post Stay [checklist](#) (or make sure the guest does it)

Booking process:

- Not publicly advertised, offered directly
- Cohort members can propose guests if criteria are met and room is available

Conflict resolution:

- If multiple claims on room, hosts discuss and try to reach agreement
- Default to first-come-first-served principle if no agreement reached

{To add house rules}

17:00 Tue 8 Oct: YH <> Ilya

Module:

Goal for this session: Get to know each other, exchange about our views on the modules and what we wish to achieve

Notes:

- We have explained about our general interests, the paths that led us here, and what we'd like to get out of this year.
- We also discussed potential ideas for building several network visualizations

- Networks of people that we know
- Networks of interests that might bind us (or show how diverse we are)

18:00 Tue 8 October 2024: Alex <> Casimir

Module: -

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- Some background chat about ourselves
- What is the function of User Research / What does a UR do
- What brought us to Newspeak
- Modules that we are interested in taking
- Scheduled next session for more focused work

19:30 Tue 8 October 2024: Alex <> Claddagh

Module: All

Goal for this session: explore modules + approach to them

Notes:

- AI candidates
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jun/10/brighton-general-election-candidate-uk-first-ai-mp-artificial-intelligence>
- Amazon fresh stores - what was the point
- Vaping culture in teens (they should grow up and smoke)
- Social Hierarchies in the UK
- Social mobility
- Oxbridge

18:30 Wed 9 October 2024: Jyo <> Ollie

Module: Metagovernance / Governance

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- How to get governance decisions faster?
 - Power dynamics while assigning tasks to another person
 - Taking tasks into one hands
1. No lost and found process
 2. Foreign currency behind the painting (inherited from the previous cohort?)
 3. Wrestled the cohort members into assigning themselves onto tasks!
 - a. We updated the google sheets with our to-do list, ensured all the tasks were assigned to a person or group with responsibility for action by a certain date

12:00 Thu 10 Oct 2024: Alex <> Richard

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

14:00 Thu 10 Oct 2024: Tristan <> Richard

Module: Bio / Governance

Goal for this session: Review

Notes: Rich spoke about his interest in Engineering and getting into banking. He fixed up a van and learned from listening to audio.

17:00 Thu 10 Oct 2024: Alex <> Tristan

Module: Bio

Goal for this session: Meet

Notes:

- Previous 121 was cancelled as Tristan went to see Steve McQueen at the BFI Q&A. At that talk a short clip of the TV show Small Axe [Lovers Rock](#) (2020) was shown and was T was moved by it. Seeing deep acceptance against racist London of the 70s.
- Tristan spoke of his conservative US family and of feeling separate.
- Alex spoke of not being close to his folks. Is open to talk about Trans issues. Spoke about hating Defra work as it's Brexit bureaucracy.

- We spoke about our motivations and where we want to go and how we're not sure of where we will go.
- Mac tools we use:
 - Alex: Notes, notion
 - Tristan: SimpleNotes, CopyClip 2

17:15 Wed 9 Oct: Ollie <> David

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- We realised we hadn't had much of an opportunity to get to know each other and so we basically swapped biographies and noted areas of common interest
- Following both of us speaking to Alex, we also connected on the topic of Queer Tech and the prospect of co-organising some kind of gathering on this topic, likely supporting Alex with his vision for a hackathon focused on the trans community in London

18:30 Fri 11 Oct: Jyo <> Dorcas

Module: Institutional Analysis

Goal for this session: Prepare for this presentation

Notes: [Doc](#)

18:00 Sun 13 Oct: Jyo <> Simon

Module:

Goal for this session:

Pre-determined

- Decide additional information apart from the bios that should go on the website
- Chalk/magnet board right outside the kitchen door
- Help out with incomplete metagovernance proposals

Notes:

Action Items/Discussion of Website

- Ask Edward if we can have a link to 2024.newspeak.house on newspeak.house (asked)

- Ask Edward to post about it on twitter? (asked)
- Ask people to provide a way for people to contact them (email, linkedin, anything?)
- Introduction of the cohort + group photo
- Fun statistics about our cohort (multicultural, languages we can speak)
- Personality quiz – that gives the viewer a tarot of a fellow :)
- Randomizer of library book recommendations
- Come visit us page - ration club, co-work, library - cohort email (ask for date, time if visiting)

House interfaces

- Wifi Buttons, NFC chips + QR Codes, make the space more interactive (use snacks money)

16:15 DDD D MMM: Mel <> Tristan

Module: Institutional Analysis & 💔⚡ Conflicts & Politics ⚡💔

Goal for this session: Touch base

Notes:

- This 121 was delayed and very short (Mel is currently preparing for technical interviews and therefore is in quite a few prep meetings each day, times fluctuate depending on the availability of mentors). Tristan gave the example of Jethro's Whatsard
- Discussion of different modules, which ones to prioritise and why, debrief on past module sessions
- Discussion of how to apply learnings from a module, e.g institutional analysis, to real world scenarios - Tristan gave a very helpful explanation of how to do this
- Discussion of how to apply learnings from Politics and Conflict to real world situations and how to spot patterns in current world politics
- Brief discussion of our contributions to Campaign Lab

13:40 Sat 12 Oct: Mel <> Casimir

Module: Mechanism Design, Political Organising

Goal for this session: Catch up, get to know each other, discussion of modules and individual aims for the course

Notes:

- Discussed experience so far on the course, residents vs non-residents experience
- Discussion of technical experience and backgrounds
- Discussion of course aims, which modules are most relevant to what we each want to get from the course, what we want to create
- Discussion of AI singularity thought experiment (paperclips)

16:00 Mon 14 Oct: YH <> Simon

Module: Gov module + promotion/network building

Goal for this session: Making Newspeak into a hub for interesting people to come + Gov module

Notes:

- Gov module
- Making Newspeak into a hub for interesting people to come

11:30 Sat 12 Oct: YH <> Alex

Module: Governance module

Goal for this session: Clear up some of the policy areas

Notes:

- Finalize and concretize gov module policy areas: [Meta Governance Final Proposal](#)
[\[Open to Comments\]](#)

15:00 Mon 14 Oct: Ollie <> Paulina

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes: Getting to know each other, swapping bios, eventually we got into the subject of health and new paradigms of relating to it, both as a very personal process and a wider cultural/systemic process

16:00 Tue 15 Oct: Ollie <> Tristan

Module: Intro

Goal for this session: Connect & Find shared interests

Notes: Getting to know each other, swapping bios,

Ollie:

from Sevenoaks, Kent.

Now N16.

Mum nurse, dad well-travelled

O loves:

Chats

Language

Maths

Systems

Exploration

Playing with learned patterns.

Polymath.

Linguist humanities background.

Runs consultancy to share experience.

Started grassroot organisations

Over 10 years.

Teaches and facilitates.

Jazz singing.

Also waiter

@ Clarence Tavern on Sundays (temp work).

PHD in Belgium (and Italy next year?)

Will start soon

M.Curie sponsored

4 days/month.

Envisioning Queer Future in Holland.

Seeks understanding and complexity

He wants to change change.

Courageous.

10:15 Wed 16 Oct: Dorcas <> Paulina

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: work on decision making and meta governance proposals

Notes:

We got to know each other's stories, and worked on meta governance proposals. Our session went for 4 hrs 😊

13:00 Wed 16 Oct: YH <> Ollie

Module: Governance, pairwork stuff

Goal for this session: Work on Safety and Security policy area under the meta-governance proposal

Notes:

- Put the Kanban Board on pairwork
- Concretize the proposal for safety and security
- Found overlaps between safety and security and both day guests and overnight guests
- Ollie will follow up on Slack to accompany proposal process

11:00 Thu 17 Oct: Richard <> Paulina

Module: Governance

Goal for this session: Review decision making policy and work on sustainability

Notes:

We reviewed the decision making policy and made it more clear. We finished the proposal for sustainability.

We discovered we both really like plants 🌱

10:30 Fri 18 Oct: YH <> Dorcas

Module:

Goal for this session: Introductions

Notes:

- We got to know each other and what we are working on.

Action items:

- No action items

17:00 Fri 18 Oct: YH <> Casimir

Module: Governance, engineering group decisions

Goal for this session: Finalize and send out final governance proposals, figure out what to do with Joshua's course

Notes:

- We worked on transferring the last five policy areas to the metagovernance final proposals page; decided on a strategy to inform the cohort.
- We also started the process of booking a session with Joshua so we could get an introductory course with him!

16:00 Monday, Oct 21: Yung-Hsuan Wu

<> Tristan

Module: Bio

Goal for this session: review

Notes:

We reviewed each others backgrounds.

20:00 Mon 21 Oct: Mel <> Tristan

Module: Campaign Lab

Goal for this session: review

Notes:

Mel:

Server Group - With Leo

Agree with their approach

<https://mpscorecard.uk/>

Mel wants to present about system design

Standard approach to online Payment systems

Apprentice : Finance

Ealing London

Hackathons

Hack the press (Jethro's bro)

Tory Tech 2021

Thomas Borwick's house

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

T shows the visual summary diagram of current campaign lab projects.

He shows his poster designs when he started as a Graphic Designer.

13:00 Wed 23 Oct: Dorcas <> Simon

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes: We added to the Guest speaker wishlist  Guest and speaker wishlist

15:00 Wed 23 Oct: Dorcas <> Casimir

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

- We worked on the book archive
- Casimir gave me airtable tips
- I showed Dorcas how regular expressions and formulas work

Action items:

- More work needs to be done on the archive - the system for tracking multiple books needs to be changed, and forms must be modified to use the new table with added metadata and book covers. Cosmetic changed to subject and genre fields
- Dorcas will help with testing.

16:00 Wed 23 Oct Simon <> Claddagh

Notes:

- Discussed Claddagh's current work and experience in Entrepreneur First

14:00 Thurs, October 24: Simon

Wisdom <> Tristan

Module: bio

Goal for this session: Review

Notes:

We spoke about our backgrounds.

Tristan mentioned getting at Sinclair ZX81 when he was 9. It was mentioned in the local newspaper in Wellington.

Simon mentioned his travels. His family lived in Rye, NY during high school years. He also moved to US as well as Netherlands and China for studies between trying to live in Australia. Met Paulina during lockdown and survived in jungle retreat in Oz.

16:00 Thu 24: Claddagh <> Tristan

Module: bio

Goal for this session: Review

Notes:

Sat outside and spoke about our backgrounds.

C spoke about N. Ireland and about leaving her home when she was young to work as local support worker. She has 7 brothers and won a laptop in a debate competition. It was her interest. She went to Oxford twice and Imperial for Computer Science. When in Oxford she was involved in campaigning for 2 MPs at the same time.

Tristan spoke about background, moving around, interest in games, ADHD late diagnosis. Spoke on Miami in the 80s and NYC in the 90s.

17:00 Thu 24: Casimir <> Claddagh

Module: Knowledge Production

Goal for this session: Review & adopt tags

Notes:

- Casimir chose “masks”

- Claddagh chose “white collar crime”

16:00 Friday 25. Dorcas <> Tristan

Over PopTarts we spoke about our backgrounds and our interests.



STOP! News Alert!

Hey gang! I'd like to invite folks to trial this (exciting, wonderful) new way to submit and catalogue our pairwork notes!

Instead of typing your notes below, fill in [this form!](#)

To see all of the notes submitted so far, access [this table!](#)

NB: Slack integrations forthcoming ;)

Thanks, Ollie <3

Pairwork Guide

2024 - Novemberr

7:00 2nd NOV : Jyo <> Tristan

Module: Institutional Analysis

Goal for this session: Get through a few pages of the Lindblom reading

Notes:

- Charles E. Lindblom's *The Science of Muddling Through* (1959) introduces a critical examination of decision-making processes in public administration, contrasting two primary methods: the "**root**" method (comprehensive rationality) and the "**branch**" method (incrementalism) ... "muddling through"
- There is a processing pipeline of maximising the outcome and efficiency of a pipeline to fulfil/complete a policy
- "he would try to make the choice that would in fact maximize his values"
- An alternative line of attack would be to set as his principal objective, either explicitly or without conscious thought, the relatively simple goal of keeping prices level
- Policy making having a bias, a policy maker disregarding social values other than present interest
- The idea of future crafting being important, not disregarding consequences of a policy
- Prioritisation of choices for policy making
- Most people do not possess the knowledge of policy making
- "Restricted their attention to relatively few values and relatively few alternative policies among the countless alternatives that might be imagined"
- Our governance policies are following the **branch** approach instead of **root**
- Managing choices in a large group is difficult
- Tristan feels that the paper is biased towards **branch** theory
 - Perhaps drawn from Chicago School of Economics (Milton Friedman and gang)
- First principles approach to policy making
- Defend your main idea, don't have assumptions
- "Root method often breaks down in its handling of values" "The idea that values should be clarified, and in advance of the examination of alternative policies"

15:15 3 NOV: RICHARD <> TRISTAN

Module: Governance / Institutional Analysis

Goal for this session: Figure out Matt L response

Notes:

I like the expression “people invested in safer spaces.”

“ Justice can be about what happens after harm has occurred: the reaction, the redress, the repair. It can also be about building strong, just communities in which harm is less likely.”

Excerpts From

Making Spaces Safer - Shawna Potter

Collect real life scenarios from previous cohorts to help write the new Safety Security policy plan so they don't start with a vacuum. Institutional memory is important to create momentum.

HH:MM DDD D MMM: Name <> Name

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

HH:MM DDD D MMM: Name <> Name

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

HH:MM DDD D MMM: Name <> Name

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes:

HH:MM DDD D MMM: Name <> Name

Module:

Goal for this session:

Notes: