



12/12/11 “Vital Conversations” Cafe Call

with special guest Conversation Starter

Charles Eisenstein

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT IS A RECORD OF OUR CALL. PLEASE POST NEW THOUGHTS AND INSIGHTS TO OUR FORUM DISCUSSION FOR THIS CONVERSATION AT OCCUPYCAFE.ORG HERE.

Collaborative Notes from Charles’ initial talk and the “Main Room” conversation that followed:

There is more debt than money. The system is set up this way. Thus some win and some lose and those that win do so on the back of those that lose. Thus we don't even want to participate in such a system. We want a system and world based on love.

Any change in the world has to start with ourselves. Fundamentally the movement is not about the right to create encampments. It is about debt, inequality, life getting worse every year, fear, loss of community, etc.

- Charles is asking us What does an “Economy of Love” actually look like.?
 - An economy that isn't zero-sum. Where I get wealthy by making everyone wealthy, rather than at the expense of others, or the planet, or the future.

- Versus the economy we have where, when you understand it well, you don't want to be a part of
- He asks: "What are the motivations and inspiration that will encourage individuals to personally engage in an authentic process of transformation?"
- Occupy...what?
 - The library
 - the night (work WITH police)
 - social services more than political action
 - coming from love and a desire to serve
- Tools/processes
 - alternative currencies
 - food distribution as a key process
 - other things the encampments "incubated"
- Physical occupying in the world is key--not just TALK and providing info.
- Tune into the "more beautiful world our hearts tell us is possible," esp as "normal falls apart." **"FEEL THIS THING THAT WANTS TO BE BORN!!!"**
-

NOTE: To review the original posting, and participate in the ongoing, online discussion on OccupyCafe.org, click [here](#).

Questions for large group conversation (note now that the call has ended, responses should be posted to [the OC.org Forum here](#)):

- How might the Occupy movement powerfully contribute to the emergence of the New Economy?
- Many organizations and initiatives are already engaged in bringing the New Economy into being. How can we work together with them in taking the next steps? What unique contribution can the Occupy movement make?
- How might the act of "Occupying" be re-imagined such that it is modeling and bringing forth the New Economy in ways that have impact, are accessible to anyone who wants to participate and are widely embraced by all segments of our society?

Notes from Main Room conversation.

Q: probably encounter regular opportunities to begin to interact and exchange outside of the existing economy. What are those interactions and how do you see them? What can we

practically do to build the new economy on a practical basis.

I see very new opportunities. The new economy is the gift economy. Generosity is contagious. If you receive generosity you realize that you can also be generous. In my neighborhood there is very little generosity. To recreate that it takes some breaking out of the box. I can set up a gift circle, but my neighbors aren't going to be that interested in that. Traditional charity work (soup kitchen, social services) is actually really important, especially if it is done without patronizing sanctimoniousness. This is how human beings are supposed to behave. (example of floods and reactions) Liberated them to be who they wanted to be all along.

As more and more natural disasters happen, we will have more opportunities to live this kind of generosity.

Rob Wheeler: in terms of what Occupy can do to serve the new economy - can engage societal leaders in the conversation about what the new economy can look like and what we can do to live into that. Occupy already has processes and discussions going and we can put those forward as opportunities to discuss how to create this new economy and to develop various strategies for doing so. Then raise the question - what would a new economy look like? issue own money instead of turning to Fed Reserve and corporations. The benefits from creating money will belong to the people as a whole and serve the well-being of the planet rather than those controlling the Fed. We can create alternatives and can use those monies to fund initiatives that are sustainable and just for all

Charles: wonderful that all of these actions are afoot within the movement. alternative currency is very potent endeavor with many pitfalls. According to law - any transaction done in an alternative currency is subject to taxes. Legal mechanisms backed by force that only allow you to go so far with this kind of action. At some point, political action is needed to go forward.

A lot of the things we want to do are going to bump up against legal things...the police etc. At some point we have to engage people that are gifted at engaging and changing these systems. Building bridges, not reinventing the wheel

Dan Kinsey: what if we picked groups of people and then chose to boycott these big institutions ... we have to have a "yes" behind the desire to fight the current that offers an alternative to what we currently have.

Taking baby steps every single day to keep the momentum. Changing habits. The idea now is serving something larger than our ego. Developing the art of seeing each others gifts. And seeing our own gifts from a different perspective (not from ego).

Charles: What brought me into this realm especially gift economics. Not necessarily something noble.... the old way just wasn't working for me very well. Had to be someone who I'm not. It

just didn't work. Example, college kids who have majored in topics that are not their life passion, now not able to find jobs.

While the system is working, it is really hard to pull people out of it. But it's not working. We don't have to shame people out of it. Even if you're making it, it's still not working for you. We want to introduce you to something better. See the good in everybody is a much deeper kind of revolution than to topple the "bad" guys. We've seen that... if a revolution is successful in our current system, a new group of people just replace that 1%. Even if it means something like standing in the way of an injustice we do it through the eyes of love.

Jitendra: Building the capacity within ourselves to see ourselves through the eyes of love - seeing our own intrinsic value beyond our possessions or accomplishments, deep internal shifting of how we hold ourselves. As we transform the value of our internal transactions (how we think and feel about ourselves at core levels), that same value will begin to demonstrate itself in our transactions and exchanges outside. Then we'll begin to see what we really desire in an economy that works for all.

Peter: Idea of several new economies with local flavor and approaches. I've been working to engage occupy members in the school of design where I teach (Toronto).

Here, other educators are making a difference, but I haven't heard much about what educators are doing in the US. What is role of educators in the academy to help these ideas and give the movement a place and voice and platform?

I have a concern about how we frame the ideas around economies, as each person hears "economy" differently. If we're not careful we can frame out many of the 99%. I remember the same phrase New Economy from the 1999 Tech Bubble which was The New Economy and the Rules Had Changed.

The framing of Riane Eisler's term Caring Economy was a good balance between Sharing & Love and yet business and institutional Partnership. It suggests that economic engines can Care, even if corporations cannot "love!"

Riane worked with Carole Mosley-Brown to write and establish national policy around this movement, but with the multiple political wars happening its not on the front burner. Yet we might consider a national level of solidarity for Occupy 2.0 and not "global." This started as Occupy Wall Street, and Wall Street needs to be taken to account.

Charles: we do have a dominant money system. When people talk about New Economy they're talking about a different money system or a different set of values that are very, very different than what we have now. Change has to include the central institutions of our country.

As an educator, in the interest of authenticity, “Why is it considered normal to hate Monday?” Why are you here. Do you really want good grades, get a good job? Is it something you actually care about? Training people to do trivial meaningless things to do something that doesn’t really matter, just so they can have money. Speak to the “elephant in the ballroom. Have you [students] been coerced into being here or is this something that really matters to you.

Who? Q: How does Occupy Love interface with these ideas of the New Economy

Anything less than something based on Love isn’t going to be inspiring enough to generate action. How do gifts circulate in society. How to share surplus. Before money existed it was done by sharing gifts. Someone else’s good fortune is your good fortune too. Currently, someone else’s good fortune can be bad for you.

Reembodying these principles into a money system. On practical level, anything that you do that is an expression of love will habituate people to a new way of thinking and being. Any kind of generosity is crazy in which you contrive to get more - this is not true generosity.

Any act of true generosity helps spread the mindset upon which the new economy will spread. A lot of people don’t have interest in political action ... just live lives with families ... and this kind of action is VERY important ... perhaps as or more important as social activism.

There could be two strands to the way forward:

- 1) Local/personal pragmatic actions that we can all make and take responsibility for – day by day and in our relationships with others
- 2) Global economic systems change – may be different from the personal actions but may also reflect the essence of the Local/personal actions

Both of these threads I feel should inculcate the tenants of the major faith traditions and belief perspective; what do they have to say on all of this. A lot of what we have said is about behaviours that exhibit LOVE of others on this planet as we would want to be treated ourselves. For a successful way forward we need a new approach that builds on the shoulders of heroes who have gone before - using the existing structures of the Faith Traditions and others societal structures, as a means to achieve our aims.

Matthew 22:36-40 *New International Version (NIV)*

36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Shalom

Group Question: What might that declaration of possibility be of what this movement might be/do in creating the New Economy

- To Occupy my Heart.....
- We declare our dedication to the whole, the whole planet and all life on it.... (didn't catch the rest)
- Lets be the people the people we actually know we can be....be the person you know you can be. We're not slaves any more
- Define the possibility beyond the occupation, that involves all generations
- Walk out and Walk on. Occupy Main Street....Re-localization Occupy the Bio-region where actually our voices can be heard.
- B. Fuller We never change things by fighting the old model. etc.... we create new ones that makes the old model obsolete.
- Occupy callings and occupy purpose. "Emergineering", getting comfortable with the unknown getting comfortable with your own essence?.... Be part of your tribe and go where you are invited
- An economy in which each person is supported in offering their gift in benefit of the world, society and the planet
- some say there is no way for us to work and live together as a specie respectfully and responsibly when we do not live in fear of each other, i say that we cannot as long as that fear exists, so begin with releasing our fears and opening up to the kinship that can exist between all men
- Everyday we can practice LIVING the values inherent in a gift economy, simply by giving the best of ourselves, without expectation of anything in return. We trust that when we give in this way we ARE building and learning our way into the new economy (or new culture, new society, new way of relating).
- Create our own Economy through participating in the development of a global (along with local) alternative currency. Gradidos and VitaMoney are the best I know of for making such a transition. See: <http://gradido.net/en/Academy>
- With VitaMoney we could loan 1/3 of money into being to provide a Basic Income for All; 1/3 into sustainable initiatives; 1/3 to run government instead of taxes
- we may look again at existing structures and see how they can be used to bring about change

maybe the folks who called in can come back and post what they contributed

Jitendra: New economy based on the currency of human dignity

The occupy movement embodies a different energy. Hierarchy and patriarchy have reached their extreme and this is the reaction to that.. Whats emerging is using each one of us to channel it. We recognize we're all coming from the same place

TOPICS FOR OPEN SPACE:

1) Anna: The possibility of the global strike of May 2012

2) Steve Imhoff: rm 11 Occupy the Planet more than the economy--world peace and social justice--the new economy, something that changes everything

3) Room 12 Paul Bernstein: sharing resources of concrete demonstrations of the alternative economy - including developing a global alternative currency: VitaMoney and Gradidos offered by Rob Wheeler - See: <http://gradido.net/en/Academy>

4) Room 11 Jackie Baretta ; Changing the Legal Charter of Publicly traded companies from “for profit only” to embracing a “triple bottom line”.

5) Richard rm 14: Create a structure that can accommodate how we mechanically get from where we are now to the next level. Collate all the data from all the Occupys, perform a trending analysis developing the top 5 or 10 topics that are most important to the Occupy Movement. Publish that to a Occupy National Media Channel. This is comprised of an email system: one for the Media and one for the Occupys to exchange information about the Occupy Movement. Moving forward there would be the media channel, stories of occupiers, outputting services, currently provided by the various Occupys, i.e. feeding the homeless, providing health care. helping the language challenged, etc. Assign these various ideas as tasks to the committees to handle, thereby getting the Occupy message out to the public and leading by example with all the services.

Anna lives in a Transitional Town in England. She said the definition is: preparing for the twin crisis of Peak Oil and Climate Change. It is important that we understand growth of the economy is damaging the planet. We don't have the resources to keep growing.

Intentional Communities are about living together sustainably and harmoniously.

Richard Kreidler: richard@mtranslation.com

Anna: Anna@shsh.co.uk

I need to leave, nice talking.

6) Jim Rough rm 15: How do we create a “we the people” voice of we's that can make the common sensical changes. (how to harvest, collate & communicate the will of the people in a way which represents the whole spectrum)

7) Haiz Oppenheimer rm 13: The three initial questions offered, esp. “Many organizations and initiatives are already engaged in bringing the New Economy into being. How can we work together with them in taking the next steps? What unique contribution can the Occupy movement make?”

Collaborative Tablecloth

PLEASE WAIT TO BE SEATED

Process Tips

- Record names of those at your table
- Choose a scribe and a time keeper (two different people)
 - Make sure you highlight key points, but don’t worry about a “transcript”
 - It works best Everyone helps out. Play! Have fun!
- Make brief introductions. (1 minute each)
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- Everyone’s voice matters!
 - Be brief.
 - Do more listening and thinking than talking.
 - Make space for others to speak.
- Listen together for patterns, themes and deeper questions.

Questions for Round 1:

- How might the Occupy movement powerfully contribute to the emergence of the New Economy?
- Many organizations and initiatives are already engaged in bringing the New Economy into being. How can we work together with them in taking the next steps? What unique contribution can the Occupy movement make?
- How might the act of “Occupying” be re-imagined such that it is modeling and bringing forth the New Economy in ways that have impact, are accessible to anyone who wants to participate and are widely embraced by all segments of our society?

Table 1:

Names: Jack, Jackie, Steve

Scribe(s): Steve

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

Jackie suggests we change the rules, the stated goals of corporations, purpose should be to provide for the public interest rather than to provide maximum shareholder value. Need to change legislation to do this.

Steve, - stop playing in walls streets playground, take money out of their program, invest directly in businesses cutting them out of the loop. Invest locally

Steve suggested we establish a website that evaluates corporations and rate them according to their level of concern for employees, sustainability, local community support, employee input, equal treatment of women and minorities, etc, As these data bases become more popular and evolved shoppers stop buying from low rated organizations, the poor performers will need to change their ways or disappear.

Jackie- there are standard metrics established by sustainability movements which could contribute.

Jack- offered metaphor that our house is eaten by termites and all we do is shore it up. It's time build a new house, to create a new economy. If folks have a reasonable choice they will be glad to do that.

Jack suggest we focus on permaculture as demonstrated in Intentional Communities.

Organizations that we might look at: Intentional communities IC.org , Permaculture, Balle, and work of David Korten and YES magazine- focussed on a new economy..

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/>

<http://www.livingeconomies.org/>

<http://www.ic.org/>

Table 2:

Names: #1 - James Quilligan (Philadelphia), #2 (Richard ? didn't respond, wanted to be in the main room) #3 - Bud Wilson (Boulder, Co)

Scribe: Bud Wilson

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

James is an economist for the Commons - www.GlobalCommonsTrust.org

Bud works with Sacred Passage and The Way of Nature - Global Director of

EcoRegional Leadership -

<http://www.sacredpassage.com> and <http://worldnaturequest.org> The intention is to transform the perception of separation and provide a direct experience of the unification of inner and outer nature. The principles that are taught provide an authentic connection with Nature and Source which informs our decisions at a level well beyond our “narrow, clever minds”. The intelligence of our inner landscape and the wisdom of our hearts is empowered and awakened. Underlying assumption: There will be no corporate transformation, nor will there be any societal transformation until or unless there is personal transformation.

Bud also writes for the Elephant Journal - a recent relevant article can be found here: An interview and review of the book New Money for a New World <http://www.elephantjournal.com/2011/09/business-and-environmental-leaders-declare-peace/> and here: <http://www.elephantjournal.com/2011/10/ready-to-occupy-the-streets-take-this-visual-test/>

James, as an economist, set's up trusts to protect the “commons” and properties for people to be the Trustees of resources... transition from narrow private ownership or even collective ownership of resources to a “trusteeship Ownership” model.

Trustee model encourages conservation and preservation for future generations... The stewards of the commons rent whatever resources are being commercialized... intellectual property and real property. The “enclosures of the middle ages” created problems we are facing today in addition to the problems of a debt based monetary system.

ROUND 2

Table 3:

Names: Jim Rough, Rosemary Forester, Jitendra Darling

Scribe: Jitendra

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

Jim Rough: The Wisdom Council Process is a way the Occupy Movement can achieve many of the changes it envisages, including shifting the economic system to the Gift Economy. The process involves randomly selecting 12 citizens as a symbol of the whole. Dynamic Facilitation is used to help these 12 arrive at a unified viewpoint, which is then shared with the community. The process stimulates a new kind of whole-system conversation, a "We the People" conversation, which has actual power. The process can be used nationally, globally, or for local communities. For more information see www.wisedemocracy.org

Rosemary: Need alternative to following "process"

credentialed volunteers to be advisors; citizens invited to open mike, parade of speakers who speak views at the "audience"
 disconnected, disparate, frustrated results
 no space for conversation/connection

Jitendra: need way to scale process of wisdom council to involve more voices.

- The "will of the people" involves individual activation of voice and choice
- System does not work now because it is overly representative
- Small representative groups for large populations get a lot of push-back in US
- Question of how to scale process for wide, diverse populations
- mass Appreciative Inquiry convenings which interconnect, network communities

Table 4:

Names: Paul, Dave Furze, Stephanie Piddock, Jack, Berndt, Rob , Kerry, Ivanka

Scribe:

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

1. Currency: Gradidos and VitaMoney (substitute for banks; monthly accounts; phases) See: <http://gradido.net/en/Academy>; public education/understanding still a challenge.

2. Freecycle.Org (worldwide, offering free to others, via yahoogroups. The Freecycle Network™ is made up of 5,008 groups with 8,873,888 members around the world. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers (them's good people).

3. Permaculture in intentional communities www.ic.org
<http://www.permaculture.org/nm/index.php/site/index/>

4. Dave Furze:
Time Banks (www.timebank.org.uk & <http://www.timebanking.org/what-is.html>), using time

equivalents for services given

Credit unions: www.creditunion.co.uk and www.ukcu.co.uk

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/poll/2011/nov/04/thinking-moving-money-credit-union-poll>

5. Kerry: www.slowmoney.org Inspired by the vision of *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money: Investing As If Food, Farms and Fertility Mattered*, published in 2009, the Slow Money Alliance is bringing people together around a new conversation about money that is too fast, about finance that is disconnected from people and place, about how we can begin fixing our economy from the ground up... starting with food. kerry@highlandlake.com We have a local group working on this.

6. Adopt an Occupier-- OccupyPhilly; 3 requests (as example) responded to by the community. Very newly-born. ikultschycky@gmail.com Acknowledging and valuing those in the occupy movement who have given so much at this time of the year.

7. The Sharing Solution <http://www.sharingsolutionblog.com/> Great book regarding creating legal agreements to facilitate a sharing economy. Janelle Orsi

8. Eco-villages; global network.

9. Crowdfunding bill in the Senate . Will allow new local economies to fund small business via public offerings in their communities (like www.Kickstarter.com and indiegogo.com do for artists and projects) <http://www.strictlybusinesslawblog.com/2011/11/10/bill-creating-crowdfunding-exemption-from-securities-registration-passes-u-s-house-of-representatives/> They need support. Big money is starting to fight it in the Senate even though it passed unanimously in the House. Would be a huge boon to starting local businesses.

10. Cooperatives: more than 1 billion members: consumer, agricultural, worker.

Research and mapping: Can there be some research done to map all these alternative economies globally so we can have an indication of their spread. Not just how many are actively involved but also where they are. This will add to the research work Prof Paul Bernstein is doing of looking at their effectiveness and why in some cases more credibility is given to one system over another.

Table 5:

Names: Jackie, Terry, Steve

Scribe:

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

corporations will also make more money if they put the interests of the people first, because this will re-ignite the spirit of the workers; per Dan Goleman, the emotional energy of a business is the number one contributor to its bottom line; this makes it a feasible transformation that is appealing to everyone;

Jackie has been an executive in Fortune 500 business and has seen that many leaders want to do the right thing for employees and the environment, but have to focus on shareholder value

Holocracy is a good model for running corporations; don't allow stockholders; so far mostly non-profits

Integral Institute; Ken Wilbur; new philosophy of how to view the world, from all the sciences; when you look at all the sciences, it all can work; promoted as a new way of seeing the world

Summary: change legal responsibility of publicly traded corps to be to serve the public interest foremost rather than provide max shareholder value; this would re-ignite the spirit in corporations and lead to higher profits, per Dan Goleman work; would need to alter charters; use corporate Holocracy (*Note: Occupy Cafe has connections to some folks who are experts in holocracy/sociocracy, if anyone wants to make that*

connection: ben@occupycafe.org) ; look for the early adopters that have evidence-based proof that this works; refer to meta-analyses that show the correlation between social performance and profitability

Table 6:

Names: Richard Kreidler, Anna Harris, Jack Strasburg, Iwanka Kultschycky, Stephanie Piddock

Scribe:

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

Table 10: How might the act of "Occupying" be re-imagined such that it is modeling and bringing forth the New Economy in ways that have impact, are accessible to anyone who wants to participate and are widely embraced by all segments of our society?

Names: Haiz Oppenheimer (haizop@gmail.com), Heather Tischbein (htischbein@wa-net.com) , LORNE HEINTZE (heintze89@gmail.com),

Barbara Webb (allysonwbb@yahoo.com)

Scribe: LORNE HEINTZE

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

Haiz is working with Asheville (NC) Free. Hosting a spring gathering.

barbara: colorado, finding like minded people in area and interrogating

lorne: boulder, colorado

heather: vancouver, washington, closing port action today, becoming

creating a new: how are we going to feed ourselves if we are not using the current system? what would a urban foods movement look like?

model for new food economy

- gift based community kitchen, gardens and centers for food

transformative power of gift giving

organizations already associated in localizing the food system

- food not lawns- <http://www.foodnotlawns.net/>

love offering/gifting: educating the people of gifting and fair exchange

examples of approaching organizations about gifting

- creating gift giving cycles

Table 11:

Names:

Scribe:

Time-keeper:

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Notes:

FULL GROUP HARVEST FOR ROUND 2

- The importance of gifting as the core of the new economy
- tools for the new economy
 - alt currencies
 - www.freecycle.org
 - something we can do TODAY to effect change--"It's amazing"
 - global network of ecovillages
 - time banking (Britain and elsewhere)
 - credit unions
 - slow money
 - occupy philly--adopt an occupier
 - the sharing solution
 - cooperatives (consumer; agricultural; worker)
 - "crowdfunding" -- pooling local savings to support alternative enterprises
- Wisdom councils (Jim Rough)
 - question about how to scale these up.
 - wisedemocracy.org

- **Changing the legal resp of public corps. it would re-ignite the spirit within corps.**
 - **need to alter corp charters**
 - **corporate holocracy model**
 - **find research on profitability from triple bottom line**
- **The importance of getting the message out on a wide scale**

Final Thoughts

Pioneers

Never tell people how to do things . . . they will surprise you with their ingenuity.

—General George S. Patton, Jr., *War As I Knew It*

<http://peggyholman.com/papers/engaging-emergence/engaging-emergence-table-of-contents/part-iii-principles-for-engaging-emergence/chapter-9-pioneer/>