

As an introductory point, here is a video to bring a bit of diversity to the mono capitalism we are in.

A main system where we learn our values, grow our knowledge and construct our beliefs.

<https://vimeo.com/1023276473>

We need more than ever new narratives, new ways of being and existing in the world.

Nobel prize winning chemist Ilya Prigogine said that *"when a complex system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence in a sea of chaos have the capacity to shift the entire system to a higher order."*

We firmly believe that linking these islands will be the catalyst for the development of new outcomes.

According to Bruno Latour's ANT theory, everything exists in a network of interactive relationships, including people, technology, and non-living or inanimate objects.

We will use inter alia the Actor-Network-Theory as a framework for our project in order to study the information system within the youth and within the transmission or generational heritage.

Sylvia, can you add here one story from your aunt ? That would start the work with acting - and then I will bring in the rest of the theory eventually.

It is now your turn to play !

Being originally from Kenya and having lived in Europe for two years, I often get the same question whenever I go back home. My aunts in the village will ask, "What new thing did you learn that might benefit us?" or "What new thing did you share with your friends that could be helpful?" This shows a continuous need for the exchange of information and the never-ending cycle of education.

One of my aunts, who is in her late 70s, is especially curious and never fails to ask. She finds my answers fascinating, as they often seem distant from her reality, yet she's always willing to learn. Before I return to Germany, she reminds me to keep my ears and eyes open, saying that's the only way to truly learn and grow not just for myself but also for the benefit of others through the ripple effect of knowledge-sharing.

My aunt's questions capture the value of curiosity and lifelong learning. Her questions foster a meaningful exchange of ideas between generations and cultures, illustrating the power of education and open-mindedness. Her advice to "keep my ears and eyes open" is a reminder to stay receptive, embracing experiences that help me grow and connect across worlds.

I am deeply moved by the care of your aunts as well as their curiosity. And I simply wonder as they do: What did you learn in Germany that might benefit them?

This is a big part of the concern many of us have at the moment. Who decides what is true and can we hold multiple truths at the same time? By that I am referring to our idea of progress and to the loss of wisdom in the Western culture. We are facing unprecedented challenges. Our extractive economy is not sustainable. We don't have solutions, and the ones we have are not stopping the increase in fossil fuel consumption, degeneration of the air quality we breathe, and more. So in this context, how can we reciprocally share knowledge? What is missing in the Western culture is the question I have, in fact, the same that your aunt has. What did your culture teach you that might benefit the culture you are in now? And by benefit, I mean teach.

The Western model of progress has been linear, often equating growth with improvement and technology with solutions. While this approach has led to advances, it has ignored life's cyclical and interconnected rhythms. Progress in non-Western cultures emphasizes balance, reciprocity, and humility.

Indigenous traditions teach that learning is inseparable from teaching, with knowledge shared through relationships and responsibilities. This approach encourages the move away from abstract knowledge systems and toward one's rooted in community and care. An example is the African philosophy of *Ubuntu* meaning "I am because we are." *Ubuntu* emphasizes interdependence, valuing community and shared humanity over individual gain. Similarly, oral traditions in African cultures pass down knowledge through stories, proverbs, and rituals, connecting generations and blending wisdom with responsibility. These practices nurture environmental stewardship and a commitment to future generations, offering a model for sustainable coexistence.

Would you agree that progress in Western culture is somehow immature? By this, I mean two things: one is that Western culture lacks wisdom inherent to relationships and responsibilities of care, and another is that Western culture's linear and mechanistic thinking is obsessed with performance and control, and there is a dearth of maturity necessary to be sustainable and regenerate with life.

This is interesting, as it brings in the importance of the cultural differences, and how this postmodern way of inhabiting earth might be so lonely that it is getting mad! We used to live in a multimodal world of beliefs - songs - dances and stories. Capitalism has become the only way to operate - globalizing the mind - and this is risky.

I strongly feel the urge for the Western youth to find purpose and meaning. Also, to share their realities and to be given the tools to act in a world that is not congruent with values that care for humans and non-humans - animate and inanimate.

How can we incorporate Ubuntu's stories? What do you picture when you imagine a young Westerner talking with a young Kenyan?

To address whether progress in Western culture is immature, it's important to critically examine its characteristics and consider how merging Western ideologies with philosophies like Ubuntu can create a more balanced and sustainable worldview. While Western culture's focus on linear thinking has driven technological advancements and economic growth, it often neglects relational wisdom and care responsibilities, which are essential elements for living harmoniously with others and the planet.

Ubuntu offers a valuable complement to Western approaches by emphasizing interconnectedness, reciprocity, and collective responsibility. It reminds us that true progress lies in nurturing relationships and respecting life cycles. By merging Ubuntu's relational wisdom with Western innovation and technological expertise, we can develop a more holistic model of progress that honors individuality and community.

Cross-cultural dialogues offer opportunities to bridge these ideologies. For instance, a Kenyan who blends Western education with Ubuntu philosophies can provide a unique perspective, demonstrating how modern knowledge and communal values can coexist. Ubuntu's focus on interdependence challenges Western individualism, showing that success is rooted in teamwork and shared well-being. Practices like communal care and resource-sharing illustrate how traditional wisdom can enhance sustainability alongside modern advancements. Additionally, storytelling, a central feature of African traditions, provides a meaningful way to share knowledge, fostering creativity and emotional resonance, contrasting with Western systems' analytical focus.

During such exchanges, Westerners can explore new ways to address their yearning for purpose and deeper connections while also learning to honor the wisdom of the past alongside the innovations of the future.

I strongly agree with the exploration of the interstices. How can we make it count?

I am thinking of the indigenous group Kogi from northern Colombia invited to France to assess the health of the Drome region and to create a dialogue between the scientific environmental consensus in France and the traditional and spiritual authorities of the wise people of the Kogi group. After the presentation of the scientists' "geographical" analysis, the cartography work carried out by the Kogis consisted of representing a system of territorial and spiritual organization that underlies the "visible" geography of space, between animal movements, geological faults, nature of the soil, orientation, and structuring of mountains, watercourses, and

underground passages. Our big brothers help us understand how to heal the soil and the ecosystem by understanding it differently.

This brings hope for new possibilities.

Can more of these stories be shared with the youth? Would that not be a starting point that all is not decided yet to conform to the one separation model? I believe the youth can dream and imagine, while we learn to unlearn.

The collaboration between traditional knowledge and scientific understanding, such as the Kogi people's insights shared in France, demonstrates the value of integrating diverse perspectives to reshape our relationship with the environment. Sharing stories like these with young people can inspire them to think beyond conventional limits. By incorporating such narratives into educational programs, workshops, or digital storytelling, we can ignite the imagination of the next generation, encouraging them to become active participants in creating more inclusive, sustainable futures.

Educational programs could include workshops that invite indigenous leaders and experts to share their wisdom while integrating these stories into curricula focused on sustainability, ethics, and environmental science. Interactive tools like virtual reality or multimedia platforms could bring these diverse worldviews to life, making them more accessible and engaging. Community-based projects or cross-cultural exchanges could also provide opportunities for youth to actively engage with these ideas, helping them internalize valuable lessons and inspire creative solutions for a harmonious coexistence with the planet.