

RecoveryCon Political Track

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Call in Details

Topic: RecoveryCon Political

Time: May 23, 2020 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88084711013>

Meeting ID: 880 8471 1013

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kBAQvve33>

Sessions

Reclaiming Streets

Speaker: Lou

Can change what is used in a street. Reimagine what a street is for and what it does.
Streetmix.net

Enabler of activists.

First part of quarantine put in things like people, street barriers, cafe seating elements

Streets have not always been built for cars. Mixed use. Vendors, horses, bikes. The car economy becoming a much bigger thing came with them trying to sell the idea of cars as owners of the streets. Criminalized walking in the streets. “Jay walking” is a racial slur.

Loss of human scale. But right now turning back to human use and scale.

(Urban) Streets are oversized. Demand is elastic, but the size of the street is not.

Public transit and bicycle as main ways in some places to get around. Parks are closed so people are getting out on the street for exercise and sunshine.

People driving faster with fewer cars on the streets.

Berkeley closing streets for outdoor dining areas. #streateries

Seattle permanently closing streets to most vehicle traffic.

Police sometimes still not getting the memo

Post pandemic predictions

- Takes lots of political will. Politicians seem to want this change. Mayor of Paris ran on a campaign of closing streets. New Castle in England said “we are not anti car, we are pro city”
 - See also Helsinki - <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/helsinki-aims-to-be-car-free-2025/297026/>
- Public transit will suffer a lot, enclosed spaces. People might start buying cars. Hope to provide them bikes.

Resources: #covid19streets #openstreets

[List of streets and responses](#)

[NACTO Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery](#)

[War on cars podcast](#)

Getting involved: local advocacy groups; riding your bike more

- Call your representatives
- Things that are framed as temporary but seem like good ideas, can we make it hard to take back?

Direct conflict as cars are coming back. County Council in UK (SW of England) pushing for it. Study on cyclists spend more with local businesses rather than cars. Campaigners had lost their vision and hope, don't have schemes ready. The street mix tool is a great way to imagine those features.

Streets as places. Who gets to determine the use cases?
Infrastructure as a system.

Regroup to [main room](#) at 10:00a PT

Resilience and Rehabilitation

Speaker: Julie

Julie is not an expert but does support for folk in prisons. Works with a prison abolitionist group. Prisoner led initiatives like strikes.

Don't think we should get back to how we were. That brought on the ill health. Narratives that exist to obscure problems. Economic shocks, disparities, etc. Prison especially shouldn't return back to "normal."

Poll: the majority of people in the state system are convicted of violent crimes, true or false?

We've internalized a lot about the size and racial disparity of our prison system. The conditions in prison are also terrible. Human rights violations are the norm. Recovery narratives can conceal important truths. So can prison rehabilitation narratives. Some people do transform in prison, they might have transformed somewhere else. Allow us to maintain systems that harm people as the norm.

Individual as source of disorder, when prisons are for a set of demographics. State can warehouse people out of power. Living [social death](#). Chattel slavery and prison system. Hyper exploitation, mined for labor and dignity. Also pathologizes stepping out of line.

Recovering better supports people transforming themselves. Don't hurt people to help them. Even those who transform in prison aren't considered sufficiently rehabilitated. No meaningful access to parole in most states. [Prison policy initiative graded each state's processes](#), F and Ds, but Wyoming got higher. Low population. NC got an F- because there isn't parole.

For those who make it out, probably for serving entire sentence, pile up barriers to re-entry around jobs, housing, etc. If it's a sex offense etc even harder. Discriminatory enforcement also a part of this system.

Recidivism numbers. "People don't change in prison," readmissions are usually parole violations not new crimes. Not being employed can be a case to be put back in prison.

Death penalty is not gone, just hear about it less. Radical denial of idea that people can transform.

Life without opportunity of parole, similar to death sentence.

Clip from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgUIxVYo78A>

People having their sentences ended because of marijuana charges were let out without any support.

Restorative justice.

Prison abolitionists - society that labels certain people in need of rehabilitation is itself sick. And also there are some people who have done real harm and want to transform but the system they're in can't recognize it.

Make radical commitment to that transformation of the individual is possible and transformation of society is necessary.

The poll is true. Majority **are** convicted of violent offenses. Need to center on people who have done and sustained harm rather than only talking about minor offenses. Center on healing process of survivors while also not using prisons to respond.

Aisha Simmons (love with accountability) about cycles of abuse

Many orgs doing this sort of work are lead by feminist WoC and LGBTQI+

Become familiar with the work, uplift it, support materially. Show the way.

<http://www.project-nia.org/>

Where restorative methods are available, people like to use them, and they often work

Prison rehabilitation narratives are myths that perpetuate harm.

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Campuses

Speaker: Sevine

200 colleges going to close in next 2 years, estimated. Colleges are such a part of the American system, but perpetuates elitist experience. What if we took this space and used it for other things? Anarchist led colleges? Alternative education spaces? Experimental living spaces? Low income housing? Retreats for artists? Take structure of US campus, influenced by Cambridge education (entrenched in "deserving" to get in), take that infrastructure and do something else with it. Makes you feel like you're

succeeding every day.

Education entrenches disparities; campuses built to discourage large gatherings and protests after Vietnam war protests. Snipers' nests overseeing gathering spaces.

What do I think will happen versus what does my creative capacity want? Thinking about businesses, schools, etc. In Seattle, corporate driven experience. Takeover of different spaces by corporate interests. UKL quote about not imagining the power of kings. Art as helping us imagine the end of capitalism.

"We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings. Resistance and change often begin in art, and very often in our art, the art of words."

— Ursula K. Le Guin

What if we're already living in the end of capitalism? It's already breaking down constantly, as is climate, as are all sorts of things. Colleges also in constant breakdown.

Parallels to makerspace times in 2009 and 2010. Campuses as makerspaces.
<https://mutualaid Disasterrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Resilience-Hubs-Shifting-Power-to-Communities-and-Increasing-Community-Capacity.pdf>

Shifting concepts around education. Free Schools. People who are homeschooling, hard on everyone but one kid who is thriving. Educational mutual aid. Idealism in that, how much capacity do we have do to the thing? What are the things that we don't want to go back to normal? Education as a bigger concept, too.

Free Skool as communities saying "what can we teach each other" Community calendar, home making skills, organizing skills, etc. We all have knowledge we can share.

Who feels they belong in colleges?

New program friend is applying to. Graduate program about anti poverty within structure of program. No education requirement, sliding scale. How do we align around our values?

How are squatters' rights going? Weird relationships between college and town, with a bubble versus "real life" of town nearby. Internships in those towns. How will those huge properties go? Does the town have a say in what happens to the college properties? Living in teh town while waiting for the college to reopen or not, which inflates housing costs.

Talking with people in Amsterdam in their squats about how they made it happen. Big empty properties and unhoused neighbors. How do we get to a place where there are structures in place? Moms in Oakland. When is action leading the way, when is the slow

grind of structural change, where to they meet?

Freedom in this country; freedom from as kind worth pursuing in this country, not freedom to housing etc.

“How to Do Nothing: Resisting The Attention Economy” Book recommendation. How do we make ourselves into shapes that are inconvenient for capitalism?

“Pleasure Activism” by adrienne marie brown
Generative Somatics

“The myth of progress is to us what the myth of god-given warrior prowess was to the Romans, or the myth of eternal salvation was to the conquistadors: without it, our efforts cannot be sustained. Onto the root stock of Western Christianity, the Enlightenment at its most optimistic grafted a vision of an Earthly paradise, towards which human effort guided by calculative reason could take us. Following this guidance, each generation will live a better life than the life of those that went before it. History becomes an escalator, and the only way is up. On the top floor is human perfection. It is important that this should remain just out of reach in order to sustain the sensation of motion.”

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Fun, creative, and inspiring opportunities for the future of [digital] communications/socializing

We could discuss limitations, but what positive future do we want to build? Come across, thinking about that could make these experiences richer? Use tools from cinema? Camera 2. Or procedurally generated music to follow the conversation. Local arts with blended attendance. Vulnerable pops staying at home, but arts opening up. How to create blended engagement. Relies on technical kit and knowledge. Even just centering yourself in the screen.

- How do we bridge between online and in person? Facilitator bridging, acting on behalf of the online folk. Multiple cameras to pick from. Graduations with remote presence bots. Future Everything Conference did a multi-sited conference. Point of connection in coffee break room at each place. Chatter in the breaks. Coffee break, countdown clock that folk can talk about in the chat or verbally.
- Why can't people chose their breakout rooms in Zoom?
- Discord set up as audio rooms to move between rooms.
- Tool you can move from space to space and an avatar moves around and audio fades in and out. <https://theonline.town/>
- Google doc with fantastic social hosting: <https://onezero.medium.com/party-in-a-shared-google-doc-d576c565706e>
- FaceTime choices in whose voice gets highlighted.
-

Tutorial on how to play video games. How to find your way around a controller that others have an innate sense of. Kinesthetic language. No primers on how to just start.

How to learn?

- Video Games Learning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4fN0L5s38Y>
-

A thread on generative music - MediaLab - had tent with projectors that created a live storybook around you. If you talked about animals, they would show up in scene around you. Transitions planned in. What can you have a zoom call... getting everyone to use a shared background. How can the things people are talking about emerge visually in their context and background.

Spacially-relevant socializing in a digital space:

<https://theonline.town/>

How to have ad hoc 1:1s.

Something.social, wander around bumping into people. Not rooms based on topics. Flupke will try to find it. Second Life already have this.
Red Dead Redemption

Virtual travel agents. Someone who will give you the tutorial, help you log in, get into that space.

Which tools do and don't work for hardware they have access to. Disability and accessibility communities and how to converse them. Have a Slack chat meeting at a specific time on a specific topic.

Using brackets for conversations. <topic 1> [topic 2] {topic 3}
(Super interesting)

For example:

P1: Hey, how are you?

P1: (btw, did you see what Dan posted?)

P2: Okay, but my dog's been really gassy lately

P1: LOL

P2: But yeah, otherwise things have been good, busy

P2: (no, where)

P1: <omg, what did they eat?>

P1: yeah, same. SO BUSY

P1: (lemme link you)

P2: <I don't wanna know>

P2: What are you working on?

Other places to connect. There are friends I would hang out and talk to when they play videogames. Now - I'm the only person watching them on twitch as we have a phone or discord conversation going on. Zoom can be exhausting... but when you have shared activity when you can't see video - you can have conversations like when working together, or washing dishes together

So into video connection, and a phone conversation might be easier. Everything is scheduled. Can we relearn those literacies? Make a voice-only or text-only space. Virtual arranging of the chairs. What are the equivalents?

Can feel lonely to just stare at static squares

Lower fidelity representations, like mimoji. Want to have an emotive representation, but doesn't need to be my own face.

Video etiquette. If we had all been at dinner we wouldn't have been looking at each other, but on video you feel like you HAVE to look at each other. Develop new norms. Directive of how people should take up the space. You have to stand up or sit down. Wouldn't feel awkward in person.

Have done some workouts through video conferencing, which some instructors have actually said was helpful for seeing everyone at once and being able to make personalized adjustments

Accessibility of everyone being in the same place, but also want to move our bodies. Explicit talking-stick style.

Something I'd seen... People who are struggling with how to participate in video calls are for the first time feeling what other people feel the rest of the time ("when can I talk?" "How do I jump in?") which gives a different lens to facilitation. Facilitators may feel like they're being heavy-handed, but it could actually be helping make a more inclusive, dynamic conversation

We were talking earlier about procedurally generated music or having shared, immersive backgrounds that reflect the conversation or emotional themes

What if we could collaborate more and "accompany" one-another in presentation or conversation. Rather than a single person presenting, making conversation a more collaborative experience

With nieces: telling stories with Zoom backgrounds <3 Being inside of the picture book

Zoom meetings can be challenging to communicate active listening

Taking notes as active listening. Collective doodling? Whiteboarding together!

Leaving an annotation board up so people can doodle while someone is talking.

One person gets to stop sharing, not a collective decisions

Using a shared background and then dressing up as each other