

RecoveryCon Global Track

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Call in Details

Topic: RecoveryCon Global

Time: May 23, 2020 07:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88107657331?pwd=a2NyWDZDUlJtYU5VWUVRRFYyUURUQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 0765 7331

Password: 364679

One tap mobile

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Sessions

Supply Chain

Speaker: Nathan

Notes go here

- Supply chain is not incentivized to support workers
- [Global production dashboard](#)
- Face shields are great, but doc/nurses have piles of them b/c “they’re terrible”
- The reality is that we’re barely moving the needle
 - Some people feel okay about that, because they believe the supply chain will be back soon
 - And while that may be true, it’s not here to help
- We’re looking at a dire situation, but it does present an opportunity
 - Disaster relief workers are referring to this as “the good ol’ days” because there is distinct time between disasters
 - Within the context of supply chain, this means we have an opportunity to create something that’s future-looking, decentralized
- The idea of a public good, which are the things we need to survive, can be one of those things that move to a mesh-centric formula
- Problem of visibility between layers of the decentralized supply chain
 - We don’t have time for these experiments to fail, though
 - Nathan sees one opportunity to stitch these together, deals with a tool (worries about his own confirmation bias)
 - One output from disaster preparedness conference is [Open Hardware Standard](#)
 - Allows hardware-ready design
 - Can build schema to say, this thing Requires xyz equipment, skill, etc
 - And then say this group can make this, and begin automated routing
- Some of the current players in this ad hoc supply chain space
 - <https://www.ppelogistics.org/>
 - <https://www.helpfulengineering.org/>
 - <https://wikifactory.com/>
 - <https://www.xometry.com/>
 - <https://tulip.co/>
 - <https://www.zverse.com/>
 - <https://www.fieldready.org/>
 - <https://ppeforfree.org/>
 - [Distributed Manufacturing of Open-Source Medical Hardware for Pandemics](#)

- <https://ppenow.org/>
- [Excellent report on the structural injustice of the global supply chain](#)
- Idea is something to be ready for the next time
 - Something smaller, more decentralized that can deal specifically with public good goods
- Pedagogical disaster
 - Helps us build out the networks for the next stress test
- Participant: Working on comms, I see the breakdown in comms
 - Not an engineering problem, it's a communication problem
 - Need a community to say critically what is/isn't good idea
- Participant: the problem of buy-in
- Participant:
 - Need some kind of checklist
 - Back in the 90's, Feldman (?) had (ACID tests?)
- Mondragon collective in Spain
 - Federation of Worker-owned co-ops of industrial manufacturing
 - 2008 crisis barely touched them
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mondragon_Corporation

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

End of Capitalism

Speaker: Ahmet

- About Ahmet: "[Weird and deadly interesting](#)." Initially about climate crisis but wow has that term had opportunities to expand.
- Example: global supply chain (see previous talk)
- This is an important time to think about the future
- So where do the problems come from? Capitalism is deeply a part of this.
- Now many of us are staying in our homes and don't have to do the things capitalism demands of this - so maybe this is a good time to consider alternatives. Perhaps we *can* imagine the end of capitalism without that being eclipsed by an idea of the end of the world.
- Many visions of the future are actually not thinking about new things or creative things, but about going back to old times.
 - People want to protect themselves, build walls, build armies. If there isn't profit in the rest of the world, people starting thinking of others as enemies
- But if we want to build something better/new, it needs to be a global plan.
- So if one location builds a new way of being (example: socialist countries) the global impact of capitalism is still surrounding us (ex: environment)
- "The future is here, it's just unevenly distributed" - William Gibson
- When we consider "shocking" events like Brexit or Trump, those tactics are

actually very familiar when we consider other parts of the world (like Russia)

- Similarly when we think about state surveillance - these tools are in use elsewhere, just seem new when they're implemented in places like US or UK
- So it's especially important to have a global context as we consider both liberatory and destructive change
- So as we think about futures and the end of capitalism it's critical to have people from all over the world talking about this - we bring much more to the table together. In each location-silo we'll have blind spots. Plus, we're all in this together.

Discussion:

- Game theory: consider a leaderless dictatorship that everybody hates but nobody leads. Today's capitalism can be like this - nobody enjoys it but nobody can coordinate enough to leave
 - Incentive structure - people are obeying the incentives in the current system. You can look at the incentive structures and see where people will be led. How is change incentivized?
- Recommended reading:
 - <https://slatestarcodex.com/2014/07/30/meditations-on-moloch/>
 - <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/confronting-root-causes/>
- False dichotomy: globalism vs isolationism
- Consider: Mondragon worker collective in Spain

Take a break around 10:40 and meet back in [main room](#) by 10:50a

Data for all

Speaker: Beatriz

Notes go here

- Imagine a world with better distribution of data
- Data has precipitated development of great improvements in science, a lot tools and resources that work well for us, and that we like
 - But the business models are heavily reliant on monitoring and collecting our transactions, and collecting our attention
 - This leads to heavy discrimination
 - Also leads to poor economic distribution, hollowing out of the

- middle class
 - Danger that corporation will gain more power to dictate the future and use of data
 - We have little choice
 - But doesn't have to be that way
- Data is manufactured and created by us
 - Economists agree it should be traded/patented after it's creation
- Data can not be "owned" right now
 - But privacy law has allowed corporations to gain control of our data
 - NDAs also contribute to our loss of control
 - We don't know when/where/how our data was shared
- In just the same way it is monopolized, we can use the law to take power back regarding data
- Privacy law must change from consent-based to protecting from harms
 - Users struggle to understand and manage their consent to data gathering
 - Helping protect users from invasive privacy laws can change the way data is then used
 - We can begin to dictate who has access, by saying what is a harmful use?
 - Discriminatory law enforcement, job applications
- We can imagine that small businesses are given the same data access as Amazon, so they can compete in the market
 - Amica Puscinski (?) Yale professor looking at how data is remaking us
<https://www.yalelawjournal.org/review/the-law-of-informational-capitalism>
-
- Participant: Data as nuclear waste -
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2008/jan/15/data.security>
 - Treating data as something dangerous, and should be treated as such
 - WRT to privacy law, is this useful, or does it lock down data too much?
- Participant: Deleting data vs. keeping it
 - Actually cheaper to keep it, and as a startup you may need the bandwidth
- Is there a world of pseudonymity, where you have a persona but not connected to your real-world self
- Participant: What is "just enough" data?
 - Pitch from Silicon Valley is that more data is better, but epidemiologists argue at some point you have enough
 - <https://www.lightbluetouchpaper.org/2020/04/12/contact-tracing-in-the-real-world/>
 - Dealing with the general case, there is a sense of "enough" but when you need more specificity you'll need more
 - People are sharing more now, but after COVID there's a sense that you need to get rid of it.
 - If we push for transparency now, can we continue this after COVID?
 - See
<https://www.timdavies.org.uk/2014/08/03/a-data-sharing-disclosure->

standard/ for some earlier thinking on this

- Privacy is part of a social contract
 - PII vs. “everything else”
 - The “everything else” needs to be better defined
- Participant: I live in rural area, and people don’t get it and don’t really want to get it
 - People just want to play games on Facebook, get a coupon, whatever
 - Access vs. Agency
 - I need to control it, and control who has it
 - “It’s not a property right, it’s a human right.”
 - Access is great, but it’s not enough
 - Data democracy
 - Consent vs. critical harms
 - Buzzword is around “consent”
 - How do we build understanding that it’s not just about consent
 - Adrienne: I would argue that we don’t have true consent, due to the network effects of platforms
- Participant: Data ownership isn’t necessarily personal, it’s connected to others
 - Lack of language/legal structure around those implications
 - Don’t have the language to describe these relationships
 - Work on data supply chain, what goes into building ML models
 - Our data reveals a lot about the people around us
 - I may be relatively informed, but I still use Facebook because it’s convenient
 - Need people to advocate for each other

Related resources:

- Ranking Digital Rights: “It’s Not Just the Content, It’s the Business Model: Democracy’s Online Speech Challenge”
<https://www.newamerica.org/oti/reports/its-not-just-content-its-business-model/>
- Amy Kapczynski: “The Law of Informational Capitalism”
<https://www.yalelawjournal.org/review/the-law-of-informational-capitalism>
- People’s attitudes on data sharing - new lit review -
<https://livingwithdata.org/current-research/publications/>
- Idea of data as relational, not individual property - explored a little in this
https://www.godan.info/sites/default/files/documents/Godan_Ownership_of_Open

[_Data_Publication_lowres.pdf](#)

- Partnership on AI: the role of demographic data in fairness
<https://www.partnershiponai.org/demographic-data/>

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Regroup to [main room](#) at 11:30a PT

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Breakout:

Building a post-scarcity world within a present that's collapsing

Nathan:

Cory Doctorow's novel of *Walkaway*, in which makerspaces are creating these alternative modes in which people are freely able to make that which they need.

It seems like the future-imagination conversations are either very handwavy about the transition from our problematic present to a utopian future without acknowledging the persistence of capitalism and its destruction...

Convincing versions of a post-scarcity future are that they are built out of the wreckage of what we have now... progress doesn't seem possible to me.

Ian:

There seems like there are middle grounds. If we're talking post-scarcity in that people have the basics to live with dignity, the world has the resources to secure that kind of life. it's a lot of work... but it's definitely possible. And the current crisis is highlighting ways in which we could just do this.

Heather:

I have a hard time, as a humanitarian, imagining a post-scarcity world, considering the inequalities I see. I appreciate the point about power structures, and who gets to decide... but in this pandemic, the versions of the world I hear are so disparate and different. I believe in hope as a person, although as a humanitarian I don't. The way people make decisions – how they buy things or don't buy things, whether they care that a cyclone just went through Bangladesh, I don't think everyone has a handle on what the ramifications are? When we say collapse, what does that mean, it's already

collapsed for so many people.

Nathan:

Dark mountain collective. A group of storytellers in the UK got together to observe that we are thinking a lot about the end of our world (zombies etc) but not the actual ends that we're actually dealing with. What is our real story? How can we face this?

Greg:

Living in miami - even 'conscious' political people are talking about renewable energy, how do we keep everything we want, and stop global warming. When really we need to think about what we could save only by letting go of everything else.

Nathan:

How to engage in triage. Incident command and disaster response and emergency medicine. What are the things that we can control, and what are the things we cannot, and how do we let go of the latter to focus on the former.

Heather:

Being inside of the beast of the humanitarian machine is heartening and disheartening. All these people doing great and courageous things. Then i meet people who are all like 'what is in it for me'? I have a hard time talking to people who aren't humanitarian right now, they're talking about how everything's going to be ok this summer, this fall. I've given up on that question, not that i've given up hope, but my perspective has changed — i'm wondering what's okay today, what's going to be okay next week. When i say i gave up hope, its that my version of hope has altered, and that's okay. We have versions of hope

"The only dream worth having is to dream that you will live while you are alive, and die only when you are dead. To love, to be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and vulgar disparity of the life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget."— Arundhati Roy

"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."

"I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love, For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting. Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought: So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing. Whisper of running streams, and winter lightning. The wild thyme unseen and the wild strawberry, The laughter in the garden, echoed ecstasy Not lost, but requiring, pointing to the agony Of death and birth."T. S. Eliot, East Coker

A ukrainian poem. - Hope - lesya Ukrainka

"No hope have I...all hope is gone....all I have is hope"

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/63921609/Lesya-Ukrainka-HOPE>

Personal story - I got a "Hope" tattoo -After the haitian earthquake. - because - I wanted to remind myself that we can do more, what can we do. We own hope

Celine: contrast the reality of living in miami right now, with the way people have been living in syria for 10 years. As these realities come closer together, how will the power dynamics shift? There are versions of hope, and versions of scarcity, that are so radically different. It's challenging to the brain and to the soul to have these conversations. But necessary.

I'm watching these versions of local scarcity play out, and at a high level we're having conversations about styrofoam and reclaiming the streets, and that may be appropriate for this reality. And i'm also seeing people starting to strike up seed exchange, barter of food starting, etc. and i see less of a desperate feeling here than i see among my friends in urban areas.