

# TOWARDS A CONTEMPLATIVE COMMONS



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Organizers: Zack Walsh and Ed Ng

Facilitator: Thomas Bruhn

**AUGUST 14-15, 2017**

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies  
Potsdam, Germany

Post-capitalism has become the subject of much recent debate, spurred by publications from Jeremy Rifkin (2015), Paul Mason (2016), J. K. Gibson-Graham (2006), Left Accelerationists like Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams (2015), and members of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) and Degrowth communities. Though there is no uniform agreement among its proponents, post-capitalism seems generally characterized by a reemergence of the commons. Realizing a successful transition to a post-capitalist, commons-based political economy will not only depend on the capacity for new technologies and social relations to alter the balance of political and economic power; it will also depend on developing social practices that underlie a broader cultural shift. Though there exists some scholarship on the social and cultural dimensions of a commons-based transition, there is comparatively little work that approaches its ethical and contemplative dimensions. Likewise, though there exists some scholarship on the contemplative dimensions of social transformation and sustainability, very little is situated in the context of the political economy. In an effort to bridge these gaps, this workshop seeks to convene scholars and stakeholders who have an interest or expertise in developing ethical and contemplative approaches to post-capitalism and commoning.

If you are interested in participating, please submit to Zack Walsh at [zachary.walsh@cst.edu](mailto:zachary.walsh@cst.edu) a CV and a one-page letter of intent explaining your interest in the topic and how it relates to your work.

# WORKSHOP AGENDA

## MONDAY, 14 AUGUST 2017

- 11:30 Arrival
- 12:00 Lunch and Warm-up
- 13:00 Welcome and round of introductions
- 13:45 Framing: Idea for the workshop "Contemplative Commons" (Z. Walsh)
- 14:00 Open Brainstorming "Shared problem understanding"
  - Perspectives of participants on the status quo and current challenges
- 14:45 Impulse presentations and Discussion
  - TBD (15min)
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  - Discussion in plenary
- 15:45 Framing II: Topical Landscape for the envisioned platform (Z. Walsh)
- 16:15 Coffee break
- 16:45 Group Discussion on proposed topical landscape of the platform
  - Table1: DESIGNING SOCIO-TECHNICS
  - Table2: CONCEPTUALIZING RELATIONS
  - Table3: PERFORMING POLITICS
  - Table4: CULTIVATING INTRA-SUBJECTIVITY
- 18:30 Wrap up of the day
- 19:00 Joint dinner

## TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2017

- 08:30 Coffee and warm-up
- 09:00 Feed forward from day 1
- 09:15 Open Space "Emerging ideas from the group of participants"
- 10:45 Coffee Break
- 11:15 Working Groups I "Translating the topical landscape into practice"
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:30 Working Groups II "Translating the topical landscape into practice"
- 14:30 Gallery Walk: Sharing the results of the working groups
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:30 Conclusions / Next steps and Outlook
- 17:00 Feedback round and closing remarks
- 17:30 End of workshop
- 18:00 Harvest and aftermath of the workshop with the organizers (optional)