

Climate Catalysts Mentorship Programme 3.0

MOVEMENT BUILDING BOOTCAMP DIGEST



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

Workshop 1

Reimagining New Futures



Overview

Imagination is one of the most powerful tools that we have to build the world we want to see.

Those with stakes in the current economic and governance systems do not benefit from the possibilities of transformation. Corporate media primes us for stories of apocalypse, suffering, and civil unrest, until that feels like the inevitable reality. But we have the power to use our imaginations for something better. When we collectively imagine a clear vision for a just and safe future on our planet, we can begin the work of building it into our reality.

- **We invite you to:** free your mind. Let yourself imagine a transformative future.
- **We dare you to:** dream big for yourself, your community, and your planet.
- **We ask you:** what are the creative solutions or ambitious plans that could turn your imagination into a reality?

Key Learnings

Xiye Bastida

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Re-Earth Initiative

Imagination as medicine: Xiye frames the practice of imagination as a form of medicine. When we imagine a positive future, we begin to behave in a way that shapes a different reality.

Episodic futurist thinking: Research shows that future-oriented thinking activates more of the brain than thinking of the past. Thinking vividly about the future leads to behavior change in the present, thus allowing the future we imagine to begin to exist.



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Original Instructions: Sky woman, a story from the Great Lakes region of North America, is about a woman who falls from the sky and works alongside the animals to create fertile ground. Robin Wall Kimmerer refers to the story as “a constant star in the constellation of teaching what we call the original instructions.” Kimmerer writes that the original instructions for living in harmony with nature act more as a compass than a strict rulebook: “the original instructions will be different for each of us, and different for every era.”

Gabriela Franco Prieto

Co-Founder, Otros Futuros

The climate crisis as a crisis of imagination: worldwide, people have started to define a collective feeling that our idea of future is somewhere we don't want to go to, where there is an inevitable catastrophe coming. The future we were promised, of possibility and prosperity, is being colonized by the inevitable feeling of collapse.

De-futurization phenomenon: a process that leads individuals to feeling like the future has been stolen from them. In de-futurization, imagining a hopeful future becomes more difficult, while imagining the future as a catastrophe or crisis becomes easier.

Future as place: Imagine the future as land, it is land that has been taken advantage of, that has been occupied with negativity and apathy. We can take back the future by re-exercising our atrophied imaginative muscles.

Seven generations thinking: Lakota concept that decision-making is not only for the immediate future, but rather in seven generations. How will the decisions that we make today affect those who are going to be living here in seven generations?

Concepts for individual research:

Degrowth • Solidarity economy • Afrofuturism • Ubuntu philosophy • Doughnut economics • Liquid democracy • Gift economy • Care economy • Peer-to-peer production • Abolition • Urban commons • Zapatismo • Feminist economics • Sumak Kawsay Solarpunk

Quotes

“Activists are architects of the future.”
--- Xiye Bastida

“It is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism,”
--- Mark Fisher



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“It might have taken some of the big industries that we all know 10 years to go from the first user to billions of people accessing. And we can each do the same. From the first activists that mobilized in your community, to your whole community changing your habits or their standards because somebody spoke up.”

--- Xiye Bastida

“If somebody were to ask us: ‘design the future you want, and you’ll have it,’ and it’s difficult for us to imagine it, because we have not spent time imagining it, we have not spent time designing it, because we’re only spending time putting out fires or responding to urgency, then this takes away our ability to strategize.”

--- Gabriela Franco Prieto

“Only a crisis, actual or perceived, produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around.”

--- Milton Friedman

“We’re seeing an issue in the world, and our question is: how can we make it better? How can we change it? How can we make sure that our society, our future, does not follow the current trend?”

--- Xiye Bastida



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“We are not the only ones that are intentionally trying to design futures, right? There are boardrooms full of people trying to design futures that can be profited off of. And these boardrooms rely on the fact that as youth, we are too busy consuming content rather than creating worlds.”

--- Gabriela Franco Prieto

Resources

- [Institute for the Future](#)
- [Braiding Sweetgrass – Sky Woman story](#)
- [Otros Futuros](#)
- [Post-Fossil Futures](#)
- [Defuturization — Arturo Escobar](#)
- [Naomi Klein, Shock Doctrine](#)
- [Futures Design Framework — Tatsuyoshi Sagio](#)



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Workshop 2

Building Community around Care



Overview

Too often, campaigns are working in siloes without actively and meaningfully engaging the communities around them. Creating a culture of care and empathy is central to building a sustainable movement.

- **We invite you to:** look deeper within your collectives to see the threads of care that already exist
- **We dare you to:** identify the gaps where acts of care can be integrated
- **We ask you:** how can we hold grief and joy simultaneously in our movements?

Key Learnings

Babitha PS

Co-Founder of Menstruation Matters and FC Member of the Women & Gender Constituency, UNFCCC

Invisible Labour: Babitha shared the work of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in Kerala who were protesting for better pay for the care work that they do and for recognition of their labour.

Political Infrastructure: Too often, care is viewed as intimate and private – an act of love and not of labour as well. Babitha shared how within feminist organisations, care is a political infrastructure under which one organises.

Alexia Leclercq

Founder of Land Justice Community School

Solidarity Community: Alexia shared the principle of solidarity community as a reflection of care within climate justice spaces. Tools like community co-ops, community land trusts and energy democracy are actionable ways that care can be found within the core of communities and grassroots organising.



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Building liberation for ourselves: Building power in your community does not have to look one specific way – we can all build liberation for our communities using the tools that exist within ourselves.

Xiye Bastida

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Re-Earth Initiative

Grief is sacred: Xiye shared about how we can hold grief and joy simultaneously in our movements. Grief is sacred and can power our internal fire to do the work we do.

Joy and fun are part of care and community: Xiye shared the role of joy and fun within care and building community. One of the most important parts of community building is to be there fully, to really listen to one another, and to offer openness. You have to make space for joy and fun within your organising – play games, listen to music, share food, care for each other.

Activity

Care Menu: All participants created a Care Menu in breakout groups to come up with acts of care to incorporate into their organising, collectives and communities.

The Care Menu had the following sections:

Starters (Small, Everyday Acts of Care)

These are the little things that take less than 5 minutes but remind people that they are seen, valued and not alone.

Mains (Deeper Practices of Community Care)

These are the practices that take a little bit more time, more intention and more collective commitment but hold communities together through difficulty.

Desserts (Celebrations, Fun and Joy)

These are the bits of joy, celebration and delight that remind us why we're doing this in the first place



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Quotes

“Care is not sentimental [...], it is radical, it is a structural demand, it is survival, it is redistribution, it is revolutionary, and an act of resistance”

--- Babitha P.S

“Patriarchy is a system that can be adopted by people of any gender”

--- Babitha P.S

“Community is our greatest technology”

--- Alexia Leclercq

“Transformative justice and conflict resolution is key – there’s going to be misunderstanding and conflict, how do we give people the tools to navigate it?”

--- Alexia Leclercq

“I want to challenge you to see your anger and your sense of urgency as sacred. They are a spark”

--- Xiye Bastida

“We all crave community because it is what makes us human”

--- Alexia Leclercq

“Do the hard things that are available to you. Our responsibility is to do that for each other”

--- Xiye Bastida

“Grief has an incredible power to keep us grounded to deep love and to why we started in this movement. You cannot feel grief unless you care deeply”

--- Xiye Bastida

Resources

- [ASHA Workers Instagram account](#)
- [What the ASHA Workers' Strike in Kerala Tells Us About Primary Healthcare in India](#)
- [Community care & relationship building combats burnout in political movements](#)
- [Land Justice Community School Website](#)
- [Grief Belongs in Social Movements. Can We Embrace It?](#)



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Workshop 3

Strategies to Shift Power



Overview

Within movement building, different strategies exist to shift power. Young people building a successful campaign are empowered when we know which strategies to use, and when. Any campaign that shifts power is built on a theory of change and strategy, and successful organizers must analyse their specific context to strategize thoughtfully. Young movement-builders must have a clear understanding of who holds power, who is affected by the issue, and what combination of pressure and strategy can move things in the right direction.

Key Learnings

Xiye Bastida

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Re-Earth Initiative

5 Key Definitions for Understanding Power Shifting in Movements:

1. **Vertical Deviance:** happens when people inside institutions challenge authority structures from within. This includes government workers, teachers, scientists, lawyers, journalists, or politicians refusing to comply with unjust systems or using their position to expose harm.
2. **Horizontal Deviance:** refers to shifts among peers, communities, or social groups where people stop enforcing accepted social norms and begin supporting new collective behavior.
3. **Legitimacy:** the public perception that a system, institution, corporation, or authority deserves obedience and trust. Most power depends more on perceived legitimacy than force.
4. **Narrative Power:** the ability to shape how people understand reality, identity, possibility, and the future. Before movements win in law, they win in narrative. Whoever controls the story often controls public support.
5. **Decentralized/Distributed Leadership:** distributed leadership means leadership is decentralized across many people rather than concentrated in one figure or organization.



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5 Tools Movements Have Used to Shift Power

1. **Non-Cooperation:** Refusing to participate in systems that sustain harmful power. This includes strikes, boycotts, refusal to comply, civil disobedience, and divestment
2. **Strategic Narrative Framing:** Movements succeed when they clearly answer: What is the problem? Who is responsible? What future is possible? Why should people care?
3. **Coalition Building:** Power grows when movements unite labor, youth, Indigenous groups, scientists, artists, faith leaders, local communities, and international allies.
4. **Economic Pressure:** Movements often target the economic foundations of power. Tactics include divestment campaigns, consumer boycotts, tourism pressure, shareholder activism, and supply chain disruption.
5. **Building Alternative Systems:** Movements become transformative when they build alternatives rather than only resisting harm. This can include: community governance, mutual aid, indigenous stewardship systems, cooperative economies, regenerative agriculture, and independent media.

Moliehi Mafantiri

Institute of Economic Justice

3 Sites of Power, 3 Strategies

1. **Rules of finance:** Who sets central bank mandates, green taxonomies, and the terms of public lending
 - **Strategy: Institutional capture:** Use legislation and regulation to change what public and private institutions are legally required to do. The state is not permanently owned by any one group. It is a terrain that can be contested and redirected through parliamentary testimony, DFI mandate reviews, and pension regulation reform.
2. **Terms of the deal:** Who controls how multilateral agreements are interpreted and implemented
 - **Strategy: Discursive contestation:** Multilateral language is never fixed. It is reproduced every time someone submits a document, gives a speech, or writes a briefing note. Naming an alternative (domestic monetary reform as mobilisation, not only private de-risking) changes what is thinkable in the negotiating room.
3. **Legitimacy of the process:** Whose knowledge counts and who gets a seat at the table
 - **Strategy: Recognition:** Demand that workers, unions, and communities are formal parties to transition planning, not recipients of decisions made elsewhere. Justice requires all affected parties to participate as peers in the institutions that govern their lives.



Strategy Building: Participants had to brainstorm a campaign strategy for a fictional community. This was their worksheet:

What is the core issue? What is the specific grievance and who is the institutional target?	Who holds the power to change this? Name the specific individuals/companies/institutions – not just “the system”
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→ **Analyse the Current Situation? (~5 mins)**

What power does the movement have? What can the movement withhold, disrupt, organise, gather to demand change?	What are the movement’s vulnerabilities? What could weaken or divide the movement? What could happen that would change their priorities?
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→ **Choose your Strategies (~8 mins)**

What strategies and tactics should this campaign use? Think about steps – what strategy do you use in the beginning to launch your campaign and then how do you keep that pressure?

Name your strategy / tactic	Why would this work here?	What could the establishment do in response?
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→ **Find your Narrative (~7 mins)**

Language can be an incredible tool in mobilising people and shifting change. Narrative is a lens through which you can capture the world’s attention, beliefs and thinking.

In one or two sentences, what is your core message? What do you want people to feel and what should they feel called to do?
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Quotes

“Movements become powerful when they see cracks in institutions or systems, and this causes that institution or system to lose legitimacy and stability.”

--- Xiye Bastida

“Somebody once told me, music is the soul of a movement. If we don't have the chants, if we don't have the music, if we don't have the artists, the movement doesn't have the soul that it needs for people to connect to it in a way that is very, very personal.”

--- Xiye Bastida

“When we talk about climate finance, we're not really speaking about money, but we're speaking about power, especially where the fossil fuel industry is concerned.”

--- Moliehi Mafantiri

“The most powerful movements are the ones that are able to go either across sectors or across society and unite youth, labor, indigenous groups, scientists, artists, faith leaders, etc.”

--- Xiye Bastida

“Counter-hegemonic work means producing alternatives that become common sense through evidence, repetition, and coalition”

--- Moliehi Mafantiri

“The state is not permanently owned by one group. It is not permanently owned by the petrochemical lobbyists. It is terrain that can be contested and redirected”

--- Moliehi Mafantiri

“Naming an alternative changes what is thinkable”

--- Moliehi Mafantiri

Resources

- [Mexico rejects Royal Caribbean's 'Perfect Day' water park on Caribbean coast](#)
- [Institute of Economic Justice \(IEJ\)](#)
- [IEJ Just Energy Transition Conceptual Framework](#)
- [The Shopsteward: magazine of the Congress of South African Trade Unions \(COSATU\)](#)
- [The State As Contested Terrain \(Miliband/Poulantzas\)](#)
- [Hegemony \(Gramsci\)](#)
- [Participatory Parity \(Nancy Fraser\)](#)



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Workshop 4

How to Sustain A Movement



Overview

When we refer to a sustainable movement, we don't just refer to longevity or eco-friendliness of the movement. We are talking about the visions of new futures that movements dream of, we are talking about the integration of care and empathy within the foundations of the work, we're talking about grassroots communities and young people knowing how to shift power through diverse strategies that work best in their context. In this final session, participants got to hear from a panel of movement practitioners sharing about their learnings from working within and building movements.

Key Learnings

Hania Imran, Founder

Youth Climate Activists Pakistan

Reimagining Power: Hania emphasised the importance of reimagining power as something that belongs to marginalized communities rather than viewing it as separate from them.

Regional and cultural contexts: It is important when looking at building movements and strategies to shift power that we look at the specific cultural and regional contexts in which we live and work in.

"I don't know": In movement building, consistency and showing up is key – even when it is difficult. Sustaining movements requires years of consistent engagement and starting with "I don't know" to enable collective intelligence and innovation.

Victoria Whalen

Co-Program Coordinator, People's Climate Diplomacy Program

Collective liberation: Victoria emphasised the importance of rights-based constituency groups in driving equitable and justice-centered policies. She advised young people and civil society to enter diplomatic spaces with purpose, understanding, and humility.



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Slow down: Victoria reminded participants about the importance of slowing down and taking care of oneself, quoting Audre Lorde about self-preservation as political warfare.

Future Generations: Victoria highlighted the importance of including future generations in climate policy decisions and thinking about thriving rather than just surviving futures.

Daniela Bobadilla

Data and Impact Director, Re-Earth Initiative

Collective Intelligence: Daniela shared the principle of collective intelligence that REI practices – diverse perspectives contribute to better outcomes. This can be seen in natural examples like ant colonies and bacterial colonies as well as human movements.

Intelligence beyond logic: Daniela emphasized that collective intelligence extends beyond logical reasoning to include the intelligence of feelings and listening to others' emotional experiences.

Don't be afraid: Daniela advised not being afraid of conflict, practicing restorative justice, and focusing on open hearts and feedback mechanisms within movements

Resources

- [Saans Lene Do Campaign](#)
- [Audre Lorde's Radical Self-Care](#)
- [A World For The Next Seven Generations](#)
- [Sociocracy – basic concepts and principles](#)