

**GOVERNING THE ANTHROPOCENE: CYBERSYSTEMIC POSSIBILITIES?
SCHLOSS HERRENHAUSEN, 30-31ST JULY 2015**

INQUIRY RECORDING TEMPLATE

Table Number:	16
Participant Names	Christian Schleyer, Allenna Leonard, James Greyson, Irma Wilson, Franz Gatzweiler, Klaus Eisenack; Annette Grathoff, Saideepa Kumar,
Recorder Names: (PhD Students + others)	Annette Grathoff, Saideepa Kumar,

DAY 1 Thursday 30th July

Please take a photo of your table group at some suitable point during day 1 or day 2 and insert at the end of the template.

INQUIRY 3 – At the end of this session have all *Issues* (I) and *Opportunities* (O) listed from sticky notes on conversation maps – take and insert photos (2) of sticky notes on conversation maps.

ISSUES– List

- 1 Locked-in with institutions and infrastructure
- 2 Too many problems are features not bugs
- 3 Power and money invested in “business as usual”
- ...

OPPORTUNITIES– List

- 1 Value what really matters – wellness beyond GDP
- 2 missed opportunity for systemic economic change in synergy with GDP
- 3 Potential of ICT for changing constitutional rules?
- ...



INQUIRY 4 – Update listing of Issues and Opportunities noting any changes to existing ones and adding new ones.

ISSUES – List

- 1 How to identify leverage points for changing “the machine” in light of vested interests?
- 2 Power and money invested in “business as usual”
- 3 How to design institutions fostering sustainable behaviour?
- 4 We need tools for judging which economical goals are life-supporting and which aren’t.
- 5 Too many problems are features not bugs
- 6 Do we need crisis to change system structure?
- 7 Is a healthy state useful as a model?
- 8 Locked-in with institutions and infrastructure (for example: taking children to a school, staying in a fenced-off house, flying to places)
- 9 Inability or fear to name economic system as major hurdle
- 10 ‘Crowding out’ intrinsic environmental through economic incentives
- 11 Dual lock-in of system and system-change (Eg: anti GDP)

...

OPPORTUNITIES – List

- 1 Value what really matters – wellness beyond GDP
- 2 missed opportunity for systemic economic change in synergy with GDP
- 3 Potential of ICT for changing constitutional rules?
- 4 Time for RADICAL shift – needs courage
- 5 Make visible viable alternative systemic economic change
- 6 Change the rules! www.therules.org
- 7 Never waste a good crisis
- 8 What are ‘good’ opportunities for changing institutions (radically)?
- 9 Motivation to have more wellbeing in the means of production.

...

Insert photo 1 of revised conversation map



Please Insert any additional Narrative elements here – e.g. agreements, disagreements, explanations novel insights etc

There was an agreement about the (we called it) neoliberalistic notion of capitalism being a major constraint to changes altogether between our table discussion and other tables when we compared our discussions.

There were a few economists at the table who urged for a deeper reflection on the design of the economic system, rather than simply blame it entirely.

There was a disagreement to a view of possible positive influences of the current economic system on the avoidance of open military conflicts; so this argument FOR the current system was immediately denied when it appeared in our discussion.

Other groups started with discussing the options for alternative ways of economic practices, like “sharing economy” or ecological economics, but the critique of the current interpretation of capitalism was similar to that at our discussion table.

DAY 2 Friday 31st July

Please take a photo of your table group at some suitable point during day 1 or day 2 and insert at end of template

KEY REFLECTIONS ON DAY 1 + NEWS OF DIFFERENCE

1. REFLECTIONS ON DAY 1 (list here)

The organizational form of placing specialised people from sciences, engineering, governmental policymaking... who do not know each other from beginning to reach heterogeneous discussion groups engages creativity.

But... It **really** needs to be planned with a lot more time left for discussions. From our experience, people need (at least) 3 minutes to come into a lively discussion after hearing an interesting talk which still demands a switching process in concentration. If the discussion is stopped after 5 minutes..... So according to our experience the tight time schedule literally killed discussions and creative processes, which was a bit disengaging sometimes.

2. NEWS OF DIFFERENCE (list here):

When we discussed the differences that have been recorded from table discussions and the observed similarities between table’s discussions it was not very surprising to our group (especially the similarity regarding the awareness for economic issues).

One difference between our group and others was that we went straight into identifying issues and opportunities, while some groups first examined the topic more closely.

Table 16 meets Table 2 - discussion: This table –different to us- started with viewing economics from different perspectives/ disciplines instead of focusing on the system as it can be observed immediately. They proposed to look at markets from a social and historical perspective. This way it will be difficult to quantify, but such an inquiry may provide the legitimacy for local markets. The discussion got lively through the comparative discussion!

Table 2 discussion: This table focused on the meaning of the basic terms. E They tried to define the “-cene” part f the term “Anthropocene”. They engaged in the discussion of human vs. nature. They

tried to define the term “governance”. They discussed the need for alternative conceptions of science, and knowledge production.

Hosts:

Tables 15, 1, 2 (do you remember the numbers?)

Pair 1:

Christian Schleyer, Klaus Eisenack and Saideepa Kumar (went to table 2)

Pair 2:

Allenna Leonard & Annette Grathoff (stayed at our table)

Pair 3:

James Greyson & Irma Wilson went to table 1

3. Update listing of Issues and Opportunities -noting any changes to existing ones and adding new ones.

Photo of our table’s visit to Table 2



Please Insert any additional Narrative elements here – e.g. agreements, disagreements, explanations novel insights etc

The visit to Table 2 was very good – the anthropologists in table 2 suggested that economics is so commonly used, that it should be studied from different disciplinary perspectives.

INQUIRY SESSION 5: Update Issues/Opportunities and Reorganise

1. Update listing of Issues and Opportunities - noting any changes to existing ones and adding new ones.

<p>ISSUES – list (1-1+n: new entries; *: entries that have been there before already)</p> <p>1How to stop companies being regarded as “successful” when they endanger critically important systems (like the Arctic or Rainforests) – This is an urgent need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Power and money invested in “business as usual” * How to design institutions fostering sustainable behaviour? * We need tools for judging which economical goals are life-supporting and which aren’t. * Too many problems are features not bugs * Do we need crisis to change system structure? * Is a healthy state useful as a model? * Locked-in with institutions and infrastructure (for example: taking children to a school, staying in a fenced-off house, flying to places) * Inability or fear to name economic system as major hurdle * ‘Crowding out’ intrinsic environmental through economic incentives * Dual lock-in of system and system-change (Eg: anti GDP) <p>...</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITIES- list (New entries and new clustering; 1-1+n: new entries; *: entries that have been there before already)</p> <p>DO RESEARCH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1Research Information Dynamics 2Identify Key Homeostats (Balance Points) 3Design rapid process for big science system change 4Define Anthropocene at a local level 5Review experience in using cybernetics for studying governance <p>FIND AND MOBILIZE WHEN THERE ARE WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1Systems education to recognize opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Never waste a good crisis * What are ‘good’ opportunities for changing institutions (radically)? * missed opportunity for systemic economic change in synergy with GDP <p>THINK AGAIN ABOUT OBJECTIVES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1Generative vs. Extractive Outcomes 2Acknowledge Heterarchies of Values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Value what really matters – wellness beyond GDP * Motivation to have more wellbeing in the means of production. <p>ENABLE NEW/ FITTING GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1Map blindspots in systemic change options 2Use markets as power tools to measure improvements of living quality 3use appropriate governance mechanisms to improve wellbeing including markets, cooperatives,... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Change the rules! www.therules.org * Potential of ICT for changing constitutional rules? *Make visible viable alternative systemic economic change <p>EXTRA POINTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1Map micro-policy (systems) vs. meta policy 2Stimulate (generate) Imagination
<p>photo 1 of revised conversation map</p>	<p>Photo2 (if not included in photo 1)</p>



2. Photo of reorganised Issues and Opportunities on new sheet

Photo of reorganised issues



Photo of reorganised opportunities



Please Insert any additional Narrative elements here – e.g. agreements, disagreements, explanations novel insights etc

The Clustering of the Opportunities and the organization of the issues was very effective, because it helped to find (interpret?) order and similarities hidden before so that we had a clearer picture of what our group worked out/ had brought to the surface.

The reorganizing process as a whole was an engaging and even fun group work that went on fast and effectively. Not everybody has accompanied the whole process the whole time of the session but everybody contributed and wanted to contribute at this stage.

PLENARY – Reflections and Priorities

1. Reflections on your inquiry (please list)

- We had a really great working atmosphere. Our group was engaged, interested, interesting and motivated;
- Additionally it was very diverse, but in a notion of thinking in a complementary way quite often. People were listening and disagreements were bringing up new views and insights.
- Two of our group were sometimes arriving a little later since they had to do phone calls, but they always said it and were aware of the “duty” to keep it short. Personally, I would have hoped that the two economically educated people in our group would bring more strong arguments for the necessity of the actual economical system being the way it is –so that I could understand it better – but they didn’t.
- Some of the group were quiet. Due to the short discussion times, it was challenging to allow everyone a chance to speak. A few members had many ideas and spoke often, while others did not have an opportunity to speak without completely interrupting the speaker. Perhaps if someone was nominated as a moderator at the table, the discussion could have been more balanced.
- But towards the end (when we were clustering opportunities), the group worked much better and everyone had a chance to speak.

2. A priority action relating to the subsystem receiving the most votes

First THINK AGAIN ABOUT OBJECTIVES

Then DO RESEARCH and then FIND AND MOBILIZE WHEN THERE ARE WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY
To ENABLE NEW/ FITTING GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

And during the entire process: Stimulate (generate) Imagination!

3. A few novel insights I learned from the process were:

- By studying economic concepts and processes with other lenses (sociological, historical, etc), perhaps our rationality will change
- We need to define the anthropocene at a local scale as well, not just the planetary scale- this could make it more ‘real’ and enable greater engagement.
- Understand that there are heterarchies of values.. not just hierarchies.

Please make sure you have taken a photo of your table group at some suitable point during day 1 or day 2

Insert table group photo here:

Group photo



****Please note: the PhD cohort will meet directly after
the end of day 2 for a short debriefing ****

THANK YOU!