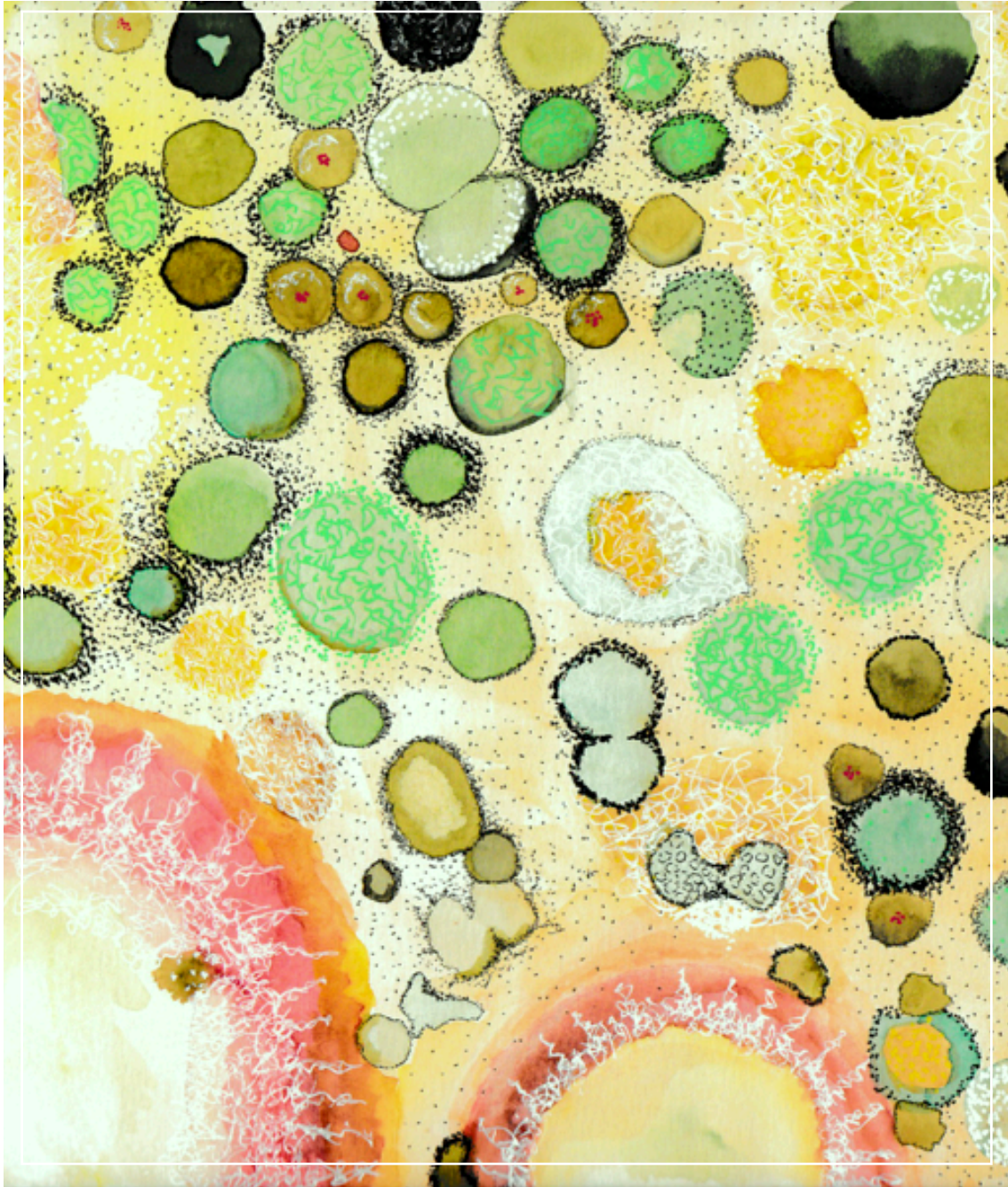


THRIVABLE SOCIETY JOURNAL



ISSUE
SPRING 23

FEATURES

Making Kin, Asking
Questions, Out in the
Field Beyond
Righteousness

FELLOWS

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Darlene Charneco

ARCHIVE

Create Appropriate Containers:
Kaliya Young

LETTER FROM BENEVOLENT TRICKSTER AND AGENT OF EPIPHANY



Left: Jean M. Russell (Benevolent Trickster), Right: Melissa Pierce (Agent of Epiphany)

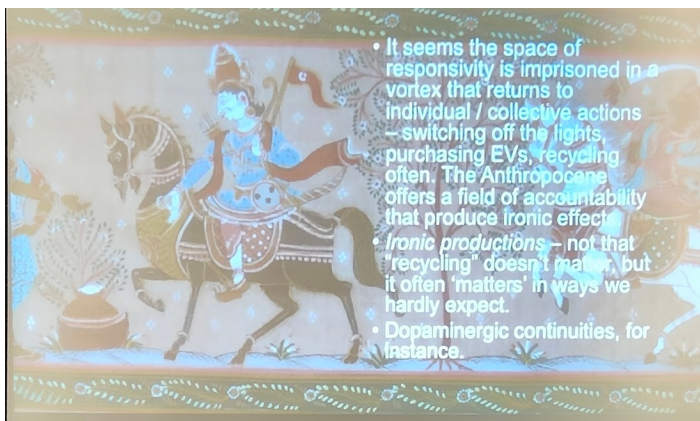
Is it too late?" Asks the newest collection of essays in which Rebecca Solnit collects writings from friends and colleagues. She posits hope - hope as the work. Rebecca Solnit opens the collection of essays from others with her own piece, titled, *Difficult is Not the Same as Impossible* and oh reader, did it resonate. At Thrivable Society we want to revel in such invitations and let them proliferate in our mouths. Let us be with 'what is' without resigning ourselves to some forecasted fate. Rebecca calls forth a quote from the playwright Vaclav Havel, and we bring it here to you: "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something is worth doing no matter how it turns out." Solnit writes, "To hope is to accept despair as an emotion but not as an analysis. To recognize that what is unlikely is possible, just as what is likely is not inevitable."

Let's together set aside forecasts of gloom doom that tells us that we are not up to the task. Instead, let's sit with being enough as we are, trusting that together we can do more than we can imagine alone. To do so, we have to let go of the hubris of thinking we know... well, anything. We want to befriend our monsters to sit with the trouble, the unknown, and the not-yet-imagined with some energy of playful possibility. This is thrivability, the playful possible. Drink up, this song of life, poured from the hands of your favorite tricksters.

On that line of thinking we recently caught a talk by Bayo Akomolafe arguing for a post-activist life. Bayo definitely gives off trickster vibes while invoking intellectuals like Donna Hawaway, who invites us to *Stay with the Trouble* or Catherine Keller who opens us to [apophatic discourse](#).

Bayo dances in the corners of the map where it says: Here be dragons. He says to be with the monsters in the liminal spaces and edges where the known world becomes unintelligible and unknown. Like many of this ilk, he asks us to remain bewildered, move even beyond hope into surrender to the unknown. And there, practice sitting uncomfortably with the trouble while continuously disrupting ourselves. Bewilder our senses to queer time itself.

Bewilderment is not about singular, linear, and causal futures projected from the known now. It is the speculation of a plethora of possibilities. Stay with those desires that break away from capitalism and whiteness. Bayo argues that wisdom breaks things and goes the other way, stands in the face of. Wisdom is not static... wisdom is transversal... it acts on/through rather than having static knowing.



Bayo Akomolafe slide, Schumacher Center for New Economics

As such, we have a few projects we are working on across the journal issues we are sharing with you in hopes of your collaboration and your transversal wisdom. This issue more directly focuses on the State of the Field and why we want to act as if it is not too late while engaging our bewilderment. What have we missed? What more can be included? We invite you to wrestle with these mysterious dragons of the unknown and unknowable.

We offer this journal to you, our thrivable family, to highlight your work to foster aliveness in the world.

“Any species capable of exploiting human spaces by replacing fear with attraction will not only survive but thrive.”

CALL FOR ART, FACTS, AND ARTIFACTS
An Invite to Contribute to Future Issues

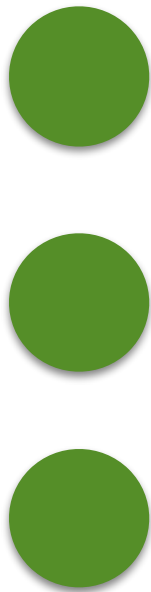
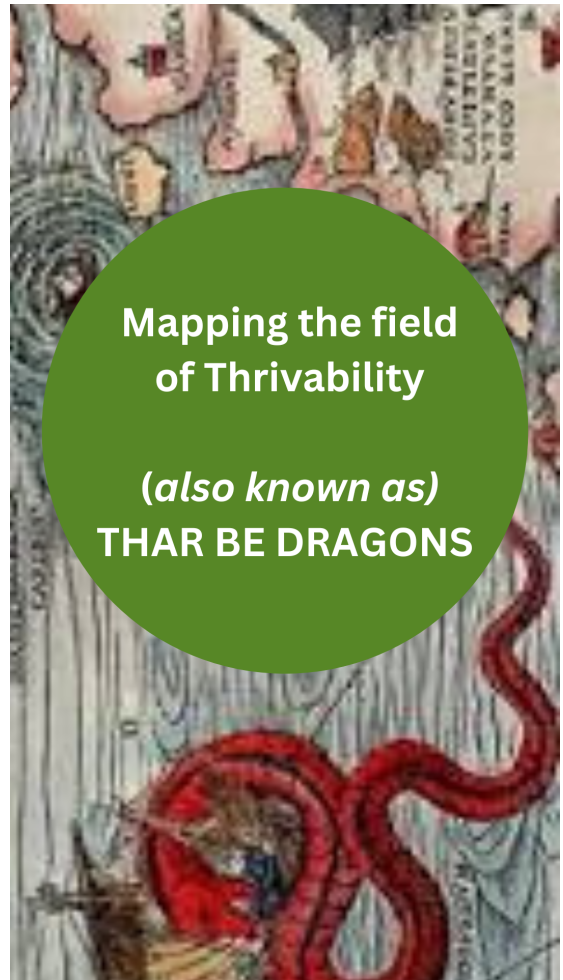
An Invite to Discuss and Contribute:

Greetings, fellow speculative futurists and thrivable dreamers!

We invite you to consider the Field of Thrivability as you see it. We each have our own lens of what goes on the map and how the map elements relate. Might we gather to see if there is an elephantine object we are all touching, even if we each sense it differently?

Let's zoom on **July 12 at 1pm EST** for a vigorous exercise in building a shared map of this potent territory. We will discuss your favorite elements of thrivability now and who is inspiring you and how.

RSVP so we can save your silly hat.
thrivable.net/events



THRIVABLE PLUG AND PLAY

Plural Noun: _____	Noun: _____	Noun: _____
Noun: _____	Adjective: _____	Noun: _____
Ing Verb: _____	Plural Noun: _____	Ing Verb: _____
Noun: _____	Adverb: _____	Ing Verb: _____
Adjective: _____	Noun: _____	S Verb: _____
Adjective: _____	Noun: _____	

Witness points to our opportunity to be with people as fellow _____ on their journey
[plural noun]
 rather than as distant observers of their _____. Sitting with someone is distinct from
[noun]
 fixing them, seeking to change or challenge their state, or merely _____
[verb ending in ing]
 them from a _____.
[noun]

Witness invites us into the _____ form of empathy which sits beside rather than takes
[adjective]
 on the _____ state of another as if it was our own. Doing the latter can make us so
[adjective]
 overwhelmed by our imagination of their _____ that we can no longer support and
[noun]
 hold for well-paced forward movement through _____.
[adjective] [plural noun]

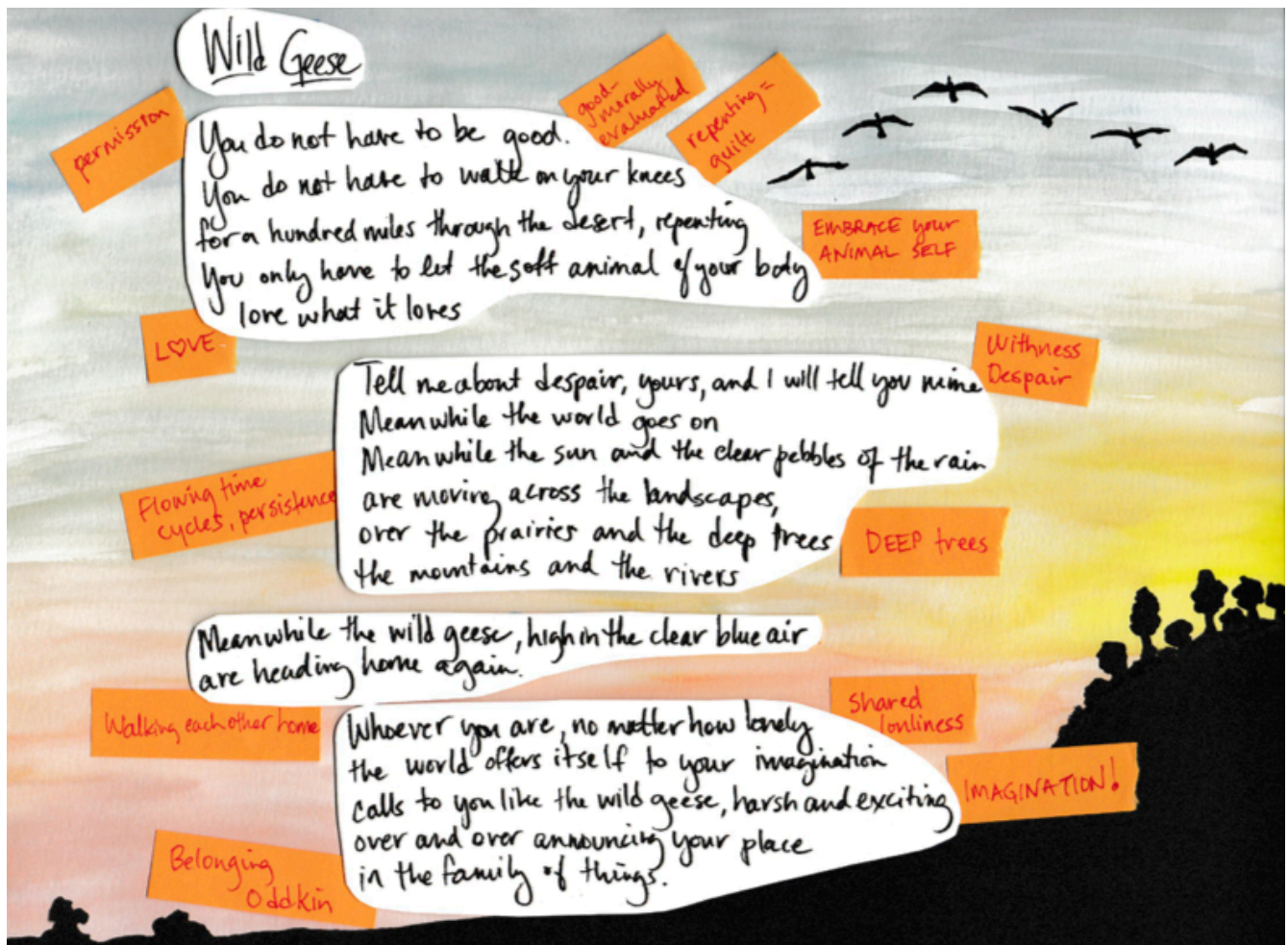
For me, this feels _____ elemental to my approach to thriving. In the early years of
[adverb]
 exploring thriving, I often felt overwhelmed by the _____ of the _____. I wanted it to be
[noun] [noun]
 more _____ than it was. I wanted to FIX it. It took a deep spiritual _____ to accept it
[noun] [noun]
 all exactly as it is and begin to be WITH what is _____ with the earth and
[verb ending in ing]
 humanity, as it is.

In witnessing, _____ are not forced and arise from _____ with each other a
[plural noun] [verb ending in ing]
 collective understanding emerges and _____.
[verb ending in s]

"To make living itself an art, that is the goal." Herman Miller

UNDERSIDE/UPSIDE Explorations in poetry and art

Please send us your poems, art, photographs, collages, reflections, dance moves.



Wild Geese, by Mary Oliver
Collage Art by Jean Russell

"The edge...there is no honest way to explain it, because the only people who really know where it is are the one who have gone over." Hunter S Thompson

Visiting the Archive

Sketches, Concepts, and Salons

From the [Thrivability Sketch, 2010](#):

Create Appropriate Containers

Kaliya Young

In the process of creating a thrivable world we live, work, and celebrate together. When we do these things we are creating containers in time and space within which to do these activities together.

Conscious thought in creating containers for the task at hand can enhance their effectiveness. The container of shared space is more than just the physical or online context. It begins when you start imagining bringing people together - these initial thoughts begin the container creation process. It is a wholistic practice involving many dimensions of human gathering. Here are different ways to think about creating appropriate containers:

On the space plane - Holding a dinner party for 12 people in a hall that seats 150 people isn't an appropriate container - it is too big to hold the small energy of 12 people. Choose proportionally.

Online - If you want to collaboratively edit documents online then an appropriate container is a wiki not a blog with comments or an IRC chat. What holds synthesis?

In the time plane - We need to consider time when creating a container for people to work together. Do we need a day or an hour to accomplish our goals. Is the length of time that people speak to a whole room balanced with enough time for those gathered to connect amongst themselves? How much time do you have to introduce people. If you have 60 people and you give them each a minute this takes 1 hour. Is it appropriate to take up that much time?

In the physical plane - Does the layout of the space and the seating available match the purpose of the gathering? Is it welcoming and comfortable?

On the human to human agreement plane - create shared agreements and norms for the space you are in together. Is the conversation confidential? Is it Chatham House Rules (quotable but not attributable)?

Creating an appropriate container for a gathering can be grounded in the practice of a facilitator who is an anchor for the group.

You can read more about containers at the Group Pattern Language Project <https://groupworksdeck.org/>



Making Kin, Asking Questions, Out in the Field Beyond Righteousness

A CONVERSATION

Author

Jean M. Russell
Melissa Pierce

Concepts

Antifragile
Collective Intelligence
Relationality
Witness

Melissa:

What is this “Field” of Thrivability that I hear you go on about? I’ve looked at your various charts and diagrams over the years that I’ve known you but there isn’t one clear “field”. Can we wrap our arms around it together?

Jean:

I have been thinking about this field of thrivability for fifteen years now. I think we met a dozen years ago. So you have probably seen most of it, Melissa. So, the field. What does it mean? Where does it live? Who plays there? You know the line, “[Out in the field beyond right and wrong](#),” from Rumi. I love that. I long for the field of people and ideas to live into that great beyond. Who are we to know what is right and wrong when the things that seem wrong can lead to surprisingly wonderful places, and those that seem so right can lead to much suffering. One of the invitations in thrivability is not to jump to conclusions about what is right or wrong in any absolute sense, and instead to stick with the bewilderment of not being able to know.

Melissa:

Well... that makes it really hard to map a field doesn't it? If there isn't any absolute, if it's all not knowing, how can one know the state of the field of Thrivability?

Jean:

We can all do whatever feels best to us and share it together to see if we can make sense of it without pretending that it is TRUE or the right answer, for all time. Let's sit with the trouble and roll it around in our hands a bit. We can offer this study of the field, the people, connections, ideas, and concepts as an interrelated tangle, a glimpse into something we perceive in this moment in time, always already incomplete and biased.

We can then invite others to step forward to offer what they notice from their place of onliness.

To start, I like to zoom out to the big broad questions of how we might know thriving from something else. I keep coming back to this feeling that thrivability is about life giving rise to more life. That is pretty transgressive in the worlds dominated by the thought that life is in competition with other life. People seem to look for evidence of “evil” rather than notice the abundance of care. I also like the [Pronoia](#) stuff that you introduced me to, Melissa. What if the universe is actively conspiring

in our favor! It is shocking how much the big picture views of sustainability and even resilience set us into the feeling of being at war with or having to be in opposition to or have control over the wild world.

Melissa:

Well, we are the wild world. I hadn't considered that those approaches were setting us apart from it. What other ways are Thrivability and approaches like sustainable and regenerative different?

Jean:

Back in about 2013, at a brunch in SF, some of us mapped a graphic that outlined the differences between surviving and thriving, stairstepping sustainability and resilience along the way. "[this chart...](#)" At the time it felt complete, but now we see that there is more/different information to include as the movements has matured and evolved.

Reader, at this point Jean digs up a chart from a brunch in 2013 which compares these approaches, and then we decide it needs updating. After a long walk, a competitive 4-leaf clover finding contest [Which Melissa won! 7!!!], and a magical bubble blowing session in the backyard, we settle on what needs to be adjusted in the chart and work on it together.

Jean:

Melissa, that is 3 pixels off. Drama.

Melissa:

Do you want to fight?

Melissa:

Well, if we could map the difference between approaches, why is Thrivability still the Higgs Boson of field mapping?

Jean:

I dunno, maybe it is really me, and I am in the way of us seeing it. I like looking at dimensions and turning things over and over again to see if anything new pops out. Or maybe Thrivability turns out to be a living question to explore rather than a territory to itemize. This time around, I want to slow down and feel into our roots, stretch into our branches, and gather our sense of the network of n-dimensional connections. Where do we find our feet planted? Who do we perceive as kin? There is so much I am immersing myself in that speaks not only to relationality but goes so far as to say kinship. Donna Haraway, for example:

FIELD COMPARISON				
	Sustainable	Resilient	Regenerative	Thrivable
Motto	Repair!	Rebound!	Re-create!	Aliveness!
Definition	Maintained at a given rate over time.	Recover from difficult conditions to a prior level.	Re-create healthy conditions for life.	Life giving rise to life. To flourish.
Vibe	Shame Game	Contribution Position	Mindful Jazz	Exuberant Bewilderment
Themes	Mitigate damage. Sacrifice. Austerity. Obligation.	Permaculture. Symbiosis. Redundancy.	No-Till agriculture. Microbiome. Soil health.	Antifragile (gets better when disturbed). Transform.
Diversity	A moral issue	Practical	Strength	Enriching
Level Up!	Able to endure in a stable world.	Stay alive longer in a changing world.	Wholeness. Foster life.	Living systems are learning systems.
Epistemology	It can be known and controlled for.	Complex, meta-stable.	Relational/contextual.	Living into the question.

Kin is a wild category that all sorts of people do their best to domesticate. Making kin as oddkin rather than, or at least in addition to, godkin and genealogical and biogenetic family troubles important matters, like to whom one is actually responsible. Who lives and who dies, and how, in this kinship rather than that one? What shape is this kinship, where and whom do its lines connect and disconnect, and so what? What must be cut and what must be tied if multi-species flourishing on earth, including human and other-than-human beings in kinship, are to have a chance? ~ Donna Haraway, [Staying with the Trouble](#)

Melissa:

So, when we started Thrivable Society in 2020 we brought forward the framework: personal, relational, organizational, and systemic - maybe we can think of these as different ways to perceive kinship. You can change these names or recognize that the boundaries are permeable, but basically, there can be different opportunities and challenges as we move between kinship group sizes. What about that, can we play with mapping at these scales of interaction?

Jean:

That seems like a wonderful approach! Yes, I want to do that with you. When we started, one of the things I was really present with was how people tend to focus on one aspect of the framework or the other without realizing how entangled we are. My personal is entangled in yours. And in our ability to be in relationships. Thus surely, that scales up into systems that we are made of.

Personal

Melissa:

Our entanglements make me nervous... word play, nervous **systems** made of our **nervous** system, shifting into the personal and somatic work.

Jean:

Great point. Well, like you, I notice an ever greater shift into somatic work as more people recognize that we can't just live with our heads in a jar. Our [Bodies Keep the Score](#) of all that pressure filled striving, non-consensual behaviors (variations on violence), and [Burnout](#). Doing this work of the body also seems tied to a shifting relationship to emotions: being with them rather than stuffing them down. Stoicism gives some last gasps and then gives way to feelings as a sensory system to guide us. The field, as I see it, has shifted too in that many things that seemed like they belonged in the personal zone turned out to be systemic. We had been asking, "[Am I too this or that?](#)" Now we ask, "Can you do personal development to solve issues that are culturally created to sideline you?" which, maybe, in turn helps to change things systematically.

Also, on the personal side, maybe we aren't so much a single individual as we thought we were. The idealized singular self collapses under contradictions when you enter into voice dialogue work, internal family systems, and other multiple selves models. Besides, biologically speaking, we are [Multitudes](#).

Relational

Jean:

The pandemic sure put some pressure onto the relational fabric, and more than ever we have folks leaning into mutual aid. Charity was an important element in a world with wealth disparity. Mutual Aid invites us to be reciprocal, sharing with each other rather than having one party who has given to another party who lacks.

Melissa:

I worked with a lot of mutual aid orgs during the pandemic and found them to be incredibly alive and fluid.

Jean:

Totally, and in a world in which we don't have healthcare and can't count on the government to help us, mutual aid is where it is at!

In a similar vein, withnessing is also about relating to others as a WITH, dropping any "better than" to sit in the place where another is right now. Let go of the toxic positives and feel the feelings with each other. Some say

that trauma is unwitnessed pain. So the path through it is to sit with each other.

At this moment Jean and Melissa break for dinner and have a discussion about how Melissa borrowed Jean's copy of [Liberating Structures](#) indefinitely and Jean has just bought herself a new copy. The title [Liberating Structures](#) reminds Melissa of an earlier conversation she and Jean had while blowing bubbles about the paternalism of creating structures and rule sets for other people and how definitions can be oversimplifications that become part of the problem, which is why mapping the field to specific players or domains feels a bit wonky. She writes about it here as it's a great segue for the next piece of the framework about organizational thriving.

Organizational

Jean:

When I think about the field organizationally, I continue to notice those working in participatory processes, decreasing hierarchy in organizations, and increasing consent cultures for improved collective intelligence (sense making and decision-making). We covered a bunch of these in the [Salons of 2021: Distributed Governance and Group Dynamics](#).

Back in 2013, the idea of flat organizations was still exciting and “teal” was appealing. See [Reinventing Organizations](#). However, the [Tyranny of Structurelessness](#) is real, and totally flat is not the ideal that we want. Less hierarchy, yes. No structural clarity, no. Herman Wagter and I published [Cultivating Flows](#) in 2016, and we continue the conversations that led to that book. I can say that one of the major lessons learned for me is that the structure, the sense of boundaries and rules, can act as a supportive framework, but the vibe matters so much more. What makes social organisms come alive? We have been looking at organizations from such a factory/robot point of view - bodiless heads, doing tasks. What does it feel like? What wisdom have we missed by discounting body awareness?

Melissa:

Speaking of structures, maybe we should take a break and make a house of cards using a full tarot deck. If a card falls, we have to tell its story in the next framework section about systemic thriving?



Jean:

So we got the page of cups, nine of cups, lovers, and the sun as the cards that fell down from our house of cards. I think that bodes well for us. Uprush of emotional energy, the wish fulfillment card, decisions and intimacy, creative overabundance. Yes!

Melissa:

What even is “overabundance,” exactly? Is that even a thing?

Systemic**Jean:**

Out in that field beyond right and wrong, how do we get in “right” relationship with all we depend on? Can we get strategic about shaping our identity and society to continuously adjust and improve our relational fabric with each other and the world? One thing I am hearing more and more about is that we may want to release false premises, such as “nature” is outside us and needs to be conquered in order to survive in it, switching to “we are nature, and nature offers no easy moral arguments for what could or should be.” (Recall our diagram differentiating Thrivability from other approaches.)

Our collective understanding of the wild world keeps expanding, of course, and we hear more and more about the cooperation of trees, forest webs, and mycelium. Turns out, (surprise!) that there are deep collaborations across species.

Recently I had a conversation with someone about the physics of a vortex, and I am really excited to imagine that a more thrivable world is possible when we move beyond linear and even exponential projections into the mysteries of fluid dynamic and spirals, when we allow our concept of a more thrivable world to be complex and in a constant state of becoming.

We will close this exploration with questions for you to help flesh out the shared awareness of our field of possibility as well as some resources we know of.

Maybe you, gentle reader, have more suggestions?

- What do you notice about individuals creating more aliveness, self care, and building self worth? What are you learning about Trauma, Healing, Repair?
- How are you telling stories about our transformation at the organizational level? How are you relating to the notion of reinvented organizations? Teal?
- What new metaphors are helping you sense into possibilities are generate hope or stay with the trouble of what is and remains entangled?
- What are you reading that inspires and enlivens you with possibility?



Reading Recommendations

Personal

- [The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma](#) by Bessel van der Kolk M.D.
- [My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies](#) by Resmaa Menakem
- [Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle](#) by Emily Nagoski and Amelia Nagoski
- [No Bad Parts: Healing Trauma and Restoring Wholeness with the Internal Family Systems Model](#), Richard Schwartz Ph.D.

Relational

- Witnessing https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325889983_Witnessing
- Mutual Aid <https://www.mutualaid.coop/what-is-mutual-aid/>
- [Anti-fragility](#) Taleb
- [Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst](#) - all the things that go into human behavior and decisions. What a way to build compassion!
- Donna Haraway <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/making-kin-an-interview-with-donna-haraway/>

Collaboration in the Wild World:

- Survival of the Friendliest: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/550437/survival-of-the-friendliest-by-brian-hare-and-vanessa-woods/>
- Sweet in Tooth and Claw <https://www.kristinohlson.com/books/sweet-in-tooth-and-claw>

Organizational

- [Reinventing Organizations](#).
- [Tyranny of Structurelessness](#)
- [Cultivating Flows](#)
- <https://nilofermerchant.com/big-ideas/socialera/> Nilofer Merchant

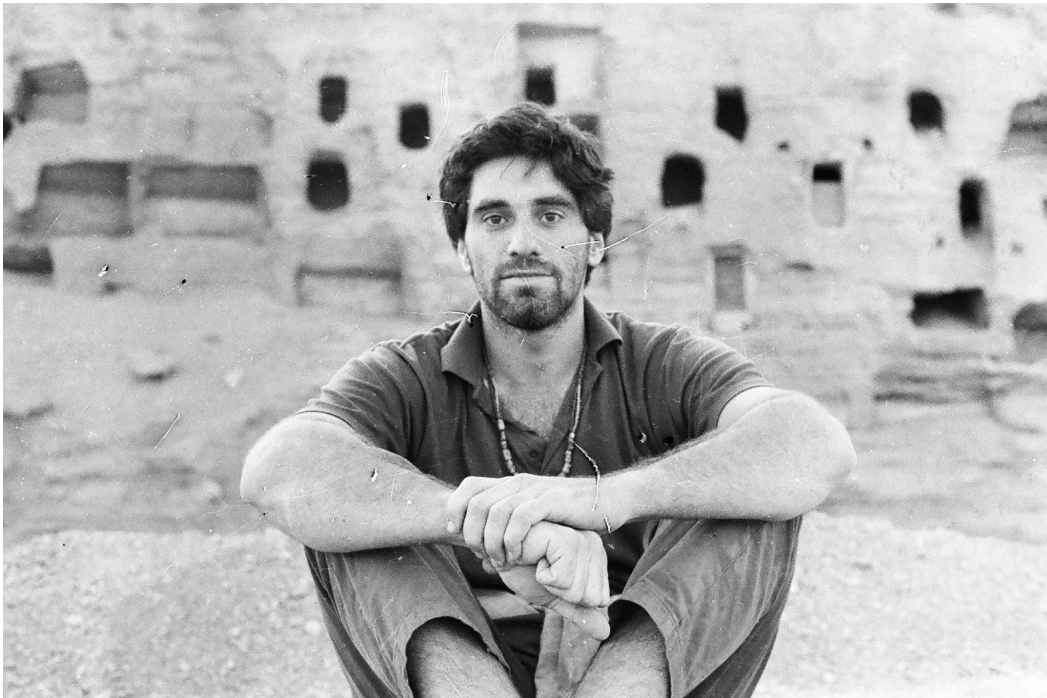
Systemic

- Humankind <https://www.rutgerbregman.com/books/>
- Dawn of Everything Graeber and Wengrow <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780374157357/thedawnofeverything>
- Flowering Wand <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Flowering-Wand/Sophie-Strand/9781644115961>
- Entangled Life <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/566795/entangled-life-by-merlin-sheldrake/>
- Rosa on democracy <https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RD-Note-Austria.pdf>



THRIVABLE SOCIETY FELLOW

Howard Silverman



Howard: Here's a favorite from way back when. At Dunhuang, in China.

Who are you or how would you describe your life's work/play?

From this perspective, $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ or whatever thru this life, I'm feeling like a wanderer. A lucky and privileged wanderer. I marvel at memories and notice better now the affordances I experienced but hardly appreciated, or perhaps still don't.

I love learning – but that doesn't feel descriptive enough, so I turn to circularities. Perhaps a life's work/play is in learning about a life's work/play?

I've devoted a lot of time to thinking about shape-and-be-shaped processes: interplays between how we shape the world and how the world shapes us in turn. The so-called Riddle of the Sphinx.

Recently, I've been struck by Charles Taylor's framing. He said that a cultural shift will have happened when people can no longer comprehend what's meant by the phrase "mind-body problem." That feels, in part, a way of describing what I've been working on as well. So I've been wondering about that as an aspiration.

There's something about the way a future-focus affirms the life of today. ~ Howard Silverman

Howard Silverman *cont...*

Thrivability. How are you relating to the world through a thrivable society lens? What story do you have about thrivability and why are you being named a thrivable society fellow?

For me, thrivability is about relationships. No one thrives alone, do they? Caring, orienting, coordinating, designing, nurturing, mourning, hospicing. These are the types of gestures I think about when I think about thrivability. I've been reading Carol Gilligan: "The ideal of care is thus an activity of relationship ... sustaining the web of connection so that no one is left alone."

I think thrivability requires a focus on the living, on social purpose. At the same time, I've experienced how life's challenges can narrow one's gaze. Especially in trying times, it's easy to focus on one's family, but I try to stay with the trouble, the broader purpose. "For it is important that awake people be awake." (William Stafford)

I tend to associate thrivability with Jean, and my recollections – seeds of a story – turn to the first time we met at the Portland Recent Changes Camp – so much younger and bursting with enthusiasm. That's the scene I recall, with Wade, Peter+Trudy, Jher, Kaliya, and many others.

Aliveness. What is fostering aliveness in you?

You know, the usual stuff. Sun on my face, wind in my hair, friends and laughter. Plus, I'm crazy for music – from Alice Coltrane to Terry Riley to Jaimie branch to Dilla time.

There's also the aliveness in anticipation. There's something about the way a future-focus affirms the life of today. Perhaps paradoxically, I also wonder about ways in which a future-focus might undermine the work/play of today.

What question could I ask that would be the most interesting to answer right now?

Is our relationship with *time* part of "the problem"? Not only the cultural values of efficiency, urgency, and impact but also underlying ideas of progress. The discourse of foresight and futures could use a big dose of critical thinking as well.

Imagine we are [very different forms of memory-making organisms], what would you be/do/have?

What was the question again?

"I've devoted a lot of time to thinking about shape-and-be-shaped processes: interplays between how we shape the world and how the world shapes us in turn." Howard Silverman



Darlene Charneco in front of her FutureNurture Weaves Touchmaps artwork

THRIVABLE SOCIETY FELLOW

Darlene Charneco

2023

Who are you or how would you describe your life's work/play?

I'm a mixed-media artist who is following and trying to express a dreamvision of collective sensing, learning and microphilanthropy. Right now I'm also enjoying self-identifying as a 'LatinX Planetarian' as I feel it helps describe a certain connecting shape in a larger 4D puzzle that I'm trying to catch glimpses of as it assembles.

Thrivability. How are you relating to the world through a thrivable society lens?

Thrivability feels to me like the juicy forward hope of learning together as a complex living adaptive organism. I love to use this lens as a sort of compass and reminder that within each of our 'individual' and group challenges lies a huge potential for co-evolving something useful and beneficial for our planetary society. When life has me feeling both both shaken and stirred I try to trust in being part of a learning network that is strengthened by vast unseen and naturally recalibrating adjustments.

What story do you have about thrivability and What do you have/want/dream of contributing to a thrivable society?

In 1999 I had a very vivid and inspiring dream about specific global collaborative gaming and microphilanthropy giving spaces that humanity can and I feel will evolve. It is through following some arrows in that dream that I first met Jean Russell who was so beautifully exploring and expressing some of the deepest key questions and concepts of Thrivability and how I subsequently met you and more of the inspiring crew!

I dream of collaborating and cocreating with others and contributing whatever it is I am able to help manifest these potent giving spaces and tools in a way that may most positively benefit all beings.

I love the concept of any and all of us Becoming 'Mother Trees' - able to regularly pulse empowering nutrients and energy to countless initiatives and organizations that are doing the needed work locally and globally for a more compassionate, healthful and thrivable society. The tools and spaces should make that easier... and the collective drive is still slowly building.

“Thrivability feels to me like the juicy forward hope of learning together as a complex living adaptive organism.” ~ Darlene Charneco

Darlene Charneco *cont...*



SymbiosisStudies

Aliveness. What is fostering aliveness in you?

I need and regularly take what I call WonderWalks which are quiet wanderings in nature or even just down to the post office or looking at a small patch of earth in the backyard or anywhere. The main medicine is in Noticing something previously underseen and being curious about any of the things and beings along my way. These are my 'Everyday Wonders'. These days I am drawn strongly to details of plants, trees, wildflowers. I'm Trying to get a feel of what minute and cyclical changes are happening and unfolding all around me...and I also love Falling into the absolute dazzle and mystery of light and all its informative interactions.

This is how I find I can recharge my battery and reconnect with Aliveness when I feel I'm

succumbing to tunnel-vision , self-doubt or anxieties of any kind. My art studio practice is also immensely helpful as the hammering of each nail in one of my 'prayerweave touchmaps' allows me to reconnect in a tactile, sonic and meditative way to an energetic field that I visualize as a benevolent global support network.

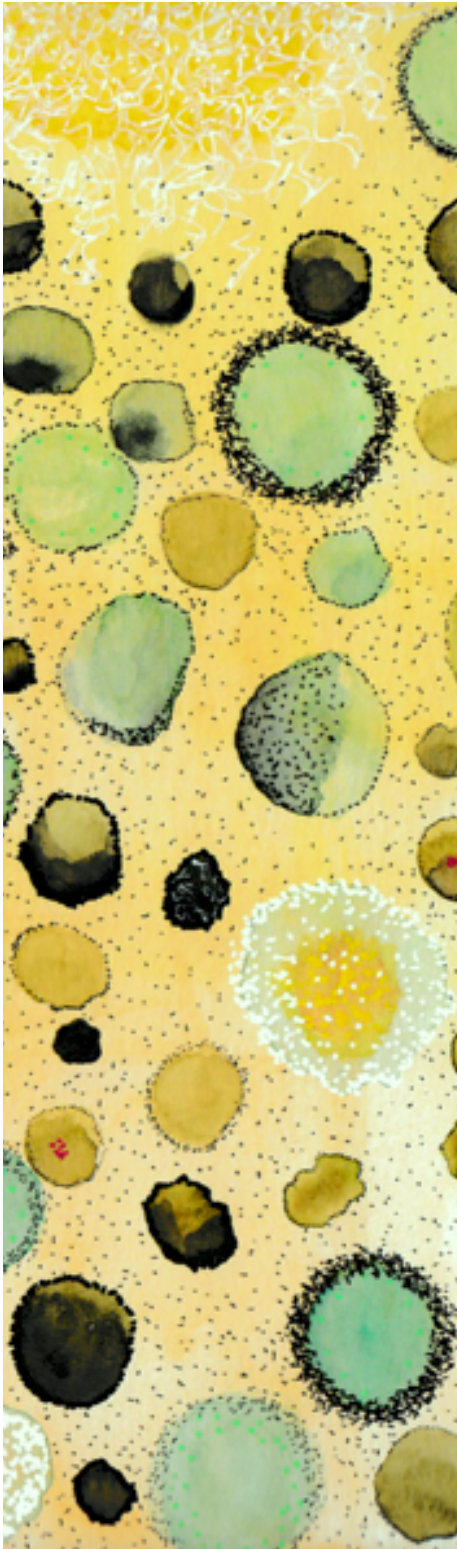
What question could I ask that would be the most interesting to answer right now?

Hmmm... perhaps since I am still trying to sense next steps forward it could be something like: How can I or we all collaborate on the manifestation of those GivingSpaces from the dreamvision? Although I don't have a set 'general answer' to this I would then invite you and anyone interested to reach out so that together we may co-create what is needed to make a very timely gift to ourselves as an evolving species.

Imagine we are living in a world in which the whales were in charge, what would your life be like? What would you be/do/have?

Oh my- I wish I knew! A deep hope I have for AI and machine learning is that it might eventually help us to translate and comprehend more of the nuances and meaning in the languages and lives of our planetary cohabitants. There is so much we might be able to discuss, learn and share with other species and kingdoms for our shared planet and future. Please check out the wonderful Invisibilia podcast episode 'Two Heartbeats Per Minute' for more on this!- a favorite! <https://www.npr.org/programs/invisibilia/812703083/two-heartbeats-a-minute>

There is so much we might be able to discuss, learn and share with other species and kingdoms for our shared planet and future. ~ Darlene Charneco



Upcoming Events

Happenings for Fellows around the globe

- **Howard Silverman** and **Jean M Russell** published Currencies as cybernetic objects: A conversation. *Enacting Cybernetics*, 1(1): 4, 1–10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.58695/ec.2>
- **Eric Harris-Braun** will be at Dweb in June 21-25 <https://dwebcamp.org/> launching a bunch of Holochain technology, particularly on the last day called “Tomorrow”
- **Emaline Friedman** recently co-authored the article, Social technologies in and out of psychology <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/09593543231162063> (sadly, not open access)
- Emaline will also be at DWeb on behalf of Neighbourhoods.
- **Brandon Dubé** was just featured on a podcast by The Outside, <https://www.findtheoutside.com/podcast>.
- **Kaliya Young**
 - IIW is meeting per-usual in its Fall place <http://www.internetidentityworkshop.com> We are expanding with regionally oriented events held with the same format of open space technology.
 - Digital Identity unConfernece Europe - <http://www.diceurope.org> June 7-9 in Zurich.
 - Next winter we will hold the 2nd APAC Digital Identity Unconference.
 - If you are in the Bay Area I'm going regularly to the "Weality Check! :: Sociotech Sensemaking Salon :: Weaving for Wellbeing at Melo Melo" the Kava Bar on Grand Avenue. 4:30-7:30pm its hosted by Day Waterbury.
 - Join Bay Area W3 (Warp and Weft for the Weal) at Melo Melo on Grand Ave at 4:30PM for an intersectional regen mixer and sensemaking space calling together diverse allies from our values-aligned networks, including All Tech Is Human, ARC Regenerative Communities, Bioneers, Collaborative Technology Alliance, Essential Food and Medicine, ESC Surveillance Capitalism, Evolutionary Futures Lab, Extinction Rebellion, Global Regeneration CoLab, Internet Identity Workshop, Oasis Community Farm, Terran Collective, Wellbeing Economy Alliance, and Work on Climate. If you're interested in how we can collaborate toward full-spectrum thriving for all, we would love to have you join us! for kava, cacao, kombucha... or maybe just a tall glass of fresh insights, straight talk, and high vibes! 🍹

"There is a fine line between acknowledging the extent and seriousness of the troubles and succumbing to abstract futurism and its affects of sublime despair and its politics of sublime indifference." Staying with the Trouble, Donna Haraway

Thrivable Society Presents: *Absurd Scenario Planning*



We need to challenge our imaginations, get creative.

Part of what makes thrivability so difficult for people to picture turns out to be how much live in our assumptions of what exists now continuing to be.

How can we push our imaginations to dream up a thrivable world.

Make up Absurd Scenarios to get your creative juices flowing.

Absurd Scenario Planning

Submissions:

- "We find out that visions of angels, demons, and UFOs are the result of an evolutionary control system that's influencing us to build A.I. so it can have a friend, so we just keep doing what we're doing." Michael Gusek
- "It gets out that blockchain is just a different kind of database and millions of geeks go into therapy because they realized they wasted years of their lives trying to geeksplain it with the more jargon than a corporate meeting." Michael Gusek
- "Analog computing makes a comeback and suddenly people get less OCD." Michael Gusek
- "Consulting firms are finally revealed as super expensive staff augmentation and everyone goes on vacation under the sheer lunacy of the realization." Michael Gusek

Send us your absurdly creative scenarios so we can share them in our next journal and practice imagining.

email us at: jean@thrivable.net

or tweet us at @thrivable

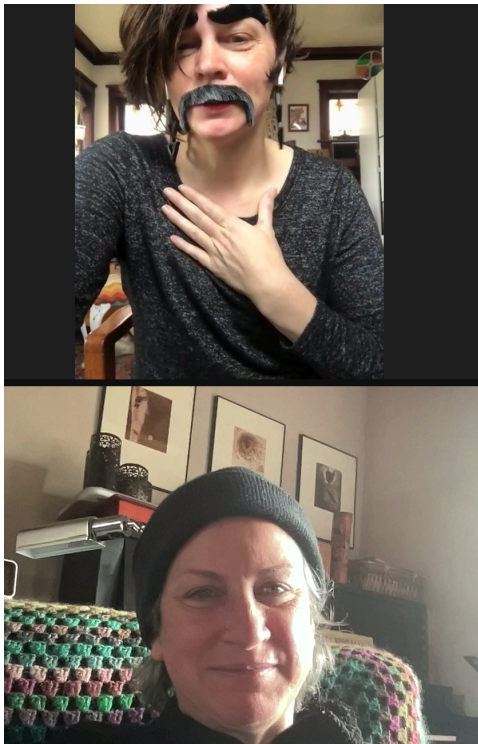
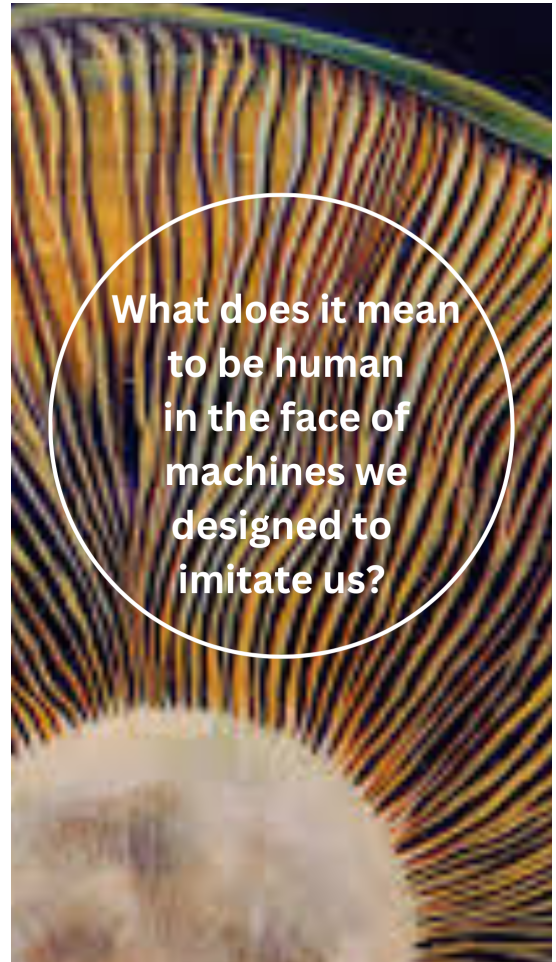
CALL FOR ART, FACTS, AND ARTIFACTS
An Invite to Contribute to Future Issues

Contribute to our next issue:

Let us not shy away from these difficult conversations, but instead approach them with openness, curiosity, and a commitment to creating a future that is not merely prosperous, but thrivable for all.

We extend our invitation to contribute articles, art, poems, about what it means to be human in the face of AI.

Send us your essays, artwork, videos, and smoke signals about what being human means to you:
melissa@thrivable.net



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Taking ourselves so seriously. Ciao!