



PAMPHLET

UNLEARNING

LET GO OF WHAT YOU
DON'T NEED ANYMORE

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UNCHAIN YOUR MIND

By actively unlearning deep beliefs and knowledge, we all can find a better place in the world and improve the world.

We can build more creative and inclusive societies where individuals share the interests, values, and talents of the community.

Our bodies and minds will awaken as we transform and feel being transformed.

Mobilising collective intelligence, including artificial intelligence, is the new mantra to be an active part of local and global transformation.

We – the authors – are eager to test our ideas with institutions, students, and teachers, and to build 'unlearning' curricula together.



Collective dreaming

=

Curiosity

(Self-reflexivity + Questioning + Boldness)

×

Exploration

(Underlying assumptions + Unknown + Context)

QUESTION

What if we wondered about some hidden beliefs, assumptions, and insights spooking around in our mind and dreams? Yes, they are there – leftovers from the past that once were useful.

They are not always true like the idea that Western democracy was born in Athens. For centuries, it was believed that the Earth was flat, and not round. Some would say that nobody was ever on the Moon, and soon we are flying there again.

We are infused with things such archetypes, universal symbols across cultures. The patriarchy, for example, enforces gender roles that stifle the potential of women, and even men.

They are part of our knowledge, shape our lives and how we see each other. It becomes over time a self-reinforcing shell, without us realising it.

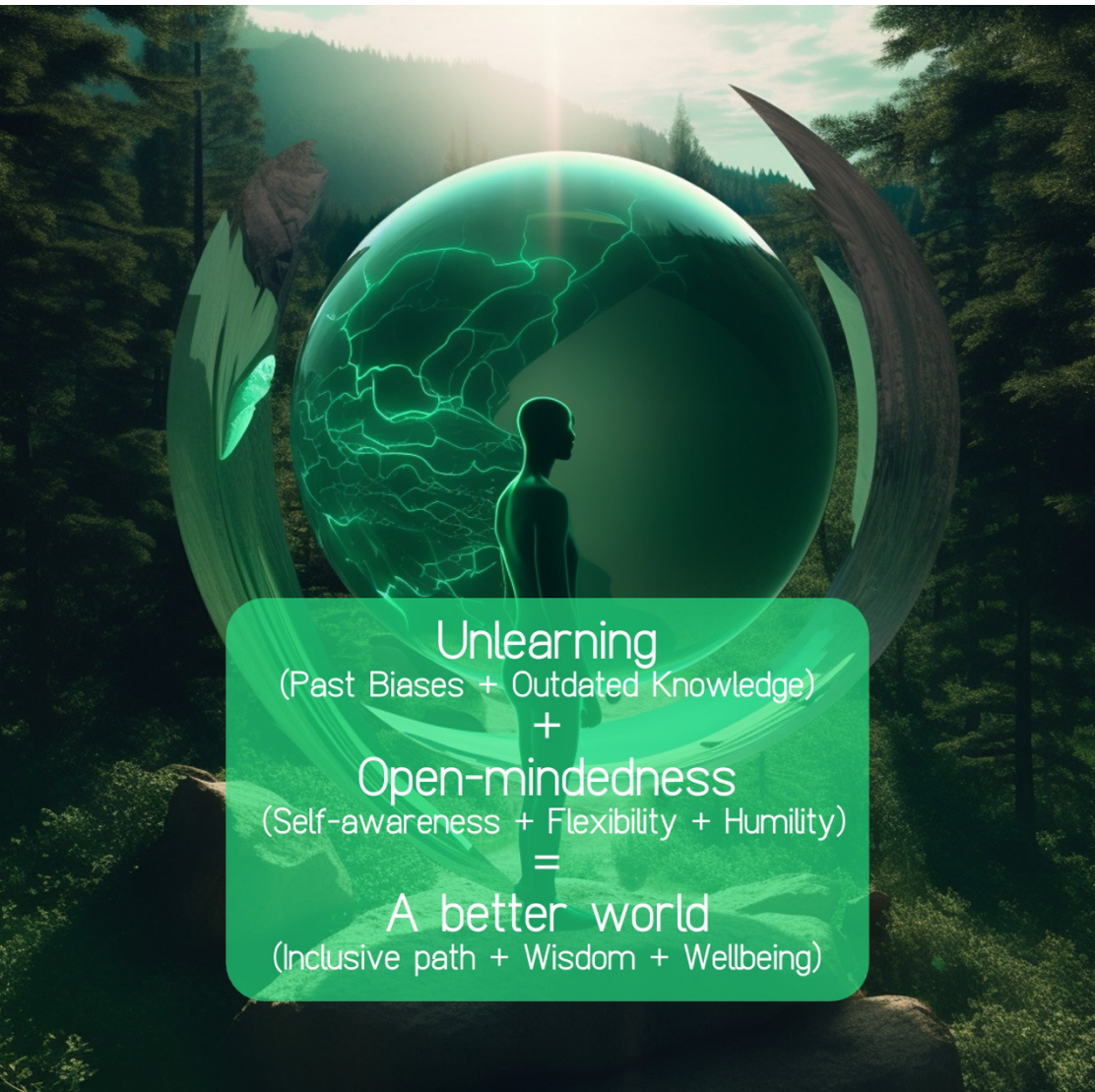
UNLEARN!

If we want to be free, go with the energy of a changing world, and be consciously part of global transformation, the way forward is to 'unlearn': *who we are* and *what we know*. Unhindered from the past, we then enter the unknown and explore new territories towards what we call the **Neococene**, the shift to a more nature-aware and balanced era.

Unlearning is part of an experiential and multisensorial process with three anchorage points: our body, our mind, and our purpose. It requires both personal and collective shifts, as the person we have learned to be reflects the larger system we are part of. Unlearning is a conscious challenge of habits (patterns) and their combinations – that we have learned to think of as 'me'.

Relationships are pivotal in the process of unlearning and hold greater significance than mere structures. They grow in self-similar patterns as we impact and shape one another, linking us to a universe beyond mere human existence.

We have broken the conversation with nature, and differentiated 'resources' from humans, but our planet is not a dead thing. From other cultures we can draw inspiration that prioritises harmony with all lifeforms, opening up the way to a new spiritualisation of the public sphere.



Unlearning

(Past Biases + Outdated Knowledge)

+

Open-mindedness

(Self-awareness + Flexibility + Humility)

=

A better world

(Inclusive path + Wisdom + Wellbeing)

NAVIGATE AND MAKE SENSE!

It is about finding our way into several spaces using sensory cues for our path, so we can find the meaning of what is happening, and respond accordingly.

Embrace vulnerability and offer new perspectives. Champion ideas that resonate with hopes, and revisit our bond with Nature through wonder and wisdom from indigenous insights.

Let's be driven by curiosity and awe, questioning societal norms, and prioritise empathy and compassion over the fierce and unrestrained competition.

Let's ask powerful questions for new insights, allowing mistakes. Today's questions define the future we will have. What if we express what others might not, in ways they would not?

PRIVATE SECTOR, INSPIRE US!

Many businesses still rank profit and shareholder interests over values, and yet put Corporate Social Responsibility forward. At the same time, vanguard leaders embrace humility, compassion, and empathy. Forward-thinking companies use an organic approach and some are adopting quantum management principles like interconnectedness. Authentic leadership inspires a new age of business in sensing what is emerging and trustful.

Globally, the ultimate purpose of business is evolving: citizens now want to see everywhere business delivering a better society. Adaptability and experiential intelligence become fundamental. The recent Great Resignation is a global phenomenon, where people consciously quit their work environment. Let's be clear: Corporations are political and social actors, and business leaders need to learn about (un)-successful social and political movements.



Serendipity
(Creating space +
Connecting dots +
Doing)
+

Awareness
(Emotions +
Spirituality +
Complexity)
=

Brighter
future

PUBLIC OFFICIALS, MOVE IN!

Unlearning in the public sector is as crucial in our fast-evolving world as updating the software on a smart device – just as outdated apps might not work properly or even pose security risks, outdated practices and beliefs in the public sector lead to policy failures and inefficiencies. They also create space for corruption.

Would you ever want to update your phone without saving important data? It is likewise crucial for the public sector to safeguard foundational aspects beyond commercial aspects that keep our society functioning smoothly.

As public sector agency evolves, the balance between new strategies and preserving core values is a delicate dance for maintaining the continuity of services for citizens in daily life and their full participation in public life.

BEYOND THIS GENERATION...

Modern life has both magnified and diversified the bridges between generations. Dynamics between generations have a huge influence on our societies and their progress. The current pace of change challenges the flow of wisdom and knowledge in various ways – in particular how security and happiness are achieved.

Young disfavoured people, economic inequalities, environmental challenges, and social equity ignite passion in your hearts and minds. Diverse movements drive change on both local and international levels. The forms of today's youth ferment widely from climate marches to digital advocacy, and from start-up innovation to a return to The Commons. We can learn more from the younger ones than ever before.

Harmony between generations is essential, just as it promotes a balanced sharing of viewpoints among different age groups.



Wellbeing of Generations

=

Compassion
(Empathy + Caring)

+

Sharing
(Confidence + (1- Loneliness) + Relationships)

+

Community engagement
(Communities of practice + (Local + Global perspectives))

As we grow, we are taught many things – from how to think, act, or even dream. But as the world changes, some of those lessons do not fit anymore. Imagine while playing a video game, there is a sudden update, and old moves do not work anymore.

It is not about forgetting valuable lessons from childhood and adolescence; just about being held back by what no longer serves us. In this way, we can easily navigate our ever-moving world, with a mindset ready for the future.

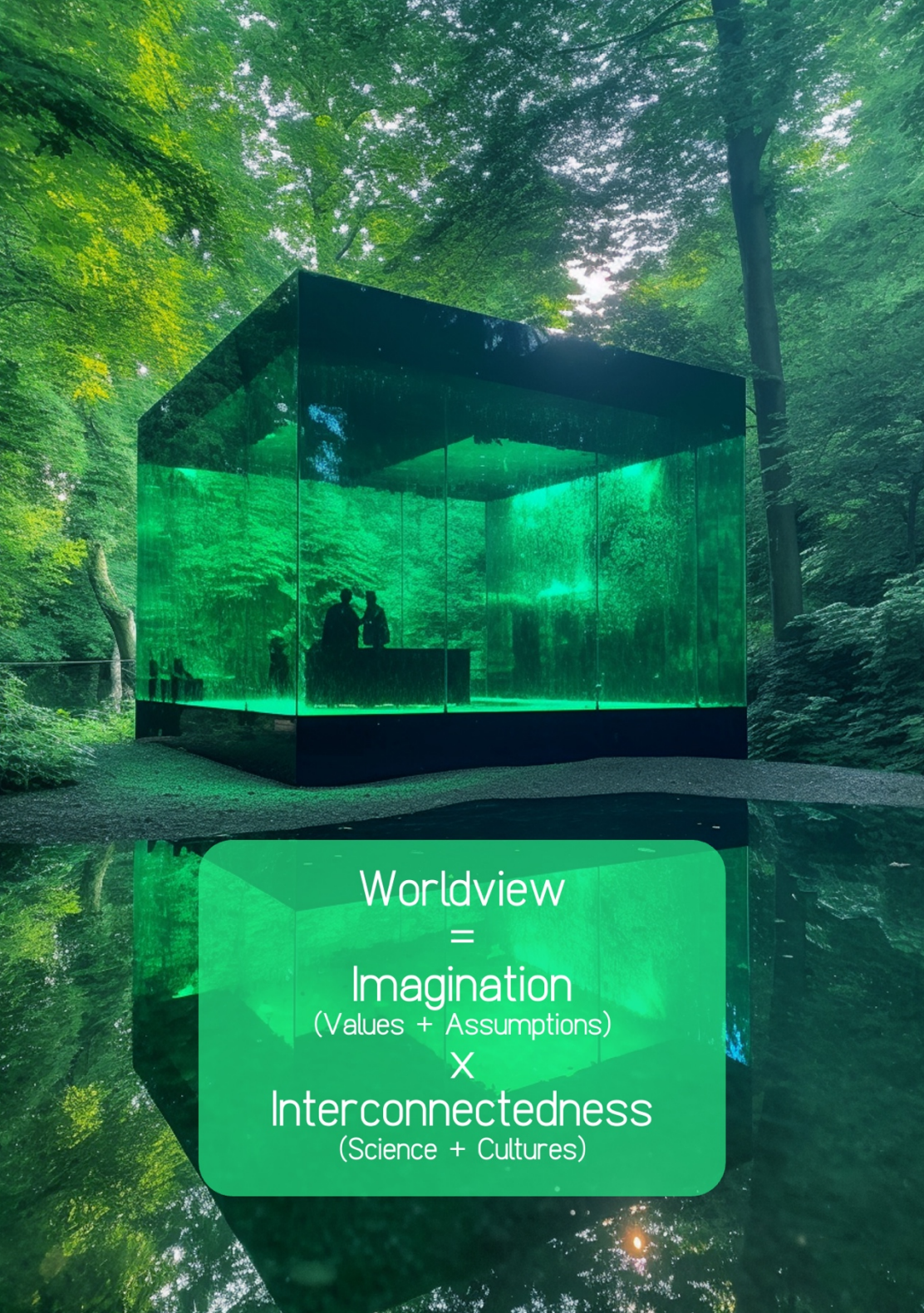
Embracing change is a continuous process, a ballet between the wisdom of experience and the freshness of the new. As we shed the outdated, we create space for innovation and growth. Just as the gamer learns new moves, we too must adapt and evolve to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

MIXED REALITIES / INTELLIGENCES

We are now in an age where the metaverse and digital worlds are thought-provoking our traditional ideas of identity, experience, and education. For the upcoming 'Mixed Realities' unlearning means softening fixed perspectives to remain flexible and curious to the realities of our time.

A new unique strength lies in the capacity to re-imagine analogue, digital and mixed realities. And visualise our intelligence as a flexible bond made up of humans, humanoids, and non-human lifeforms. As the team gets more diverse and technology evolves, some 'old' methods and connections might not be the best anymore.

Thinking of mixed forms of intelligence means recognising that there are diverse and often better ways to think and solve problems, than just human thinking and doing only.



Worldview

=

Imagination

(Values + Assumptions)

X

Interconnectedness

(Science + Cultures)

A CONVERSATION

Amara: "I find myself constantly questioning my accumulated experiences. It's like peeling back layers of an onion, forcing me to re-evaluate who I am. Yet, I'm irresistibly drawn to exploring the unknown, challenging my entire worldview and assumptions."

Jaden: "I completely empathize with that sentiment. It's through this process that we can best respond to the universal calling we all sense and contribute our share to this profound transformation that's unfolding."

Amara: "Ever since we embraced mixed realities, I've felt the need for a significant amount of unlearning, especially as we move into the Neoecocene era."

Jaden: "Absolutely. We used to compartmentalize our world – one part digital, another physical. Now, these realms are intertwined, demanding that our perceptions evolve."

Amara: "Exactly. Unlearning goes beyond just shedding old habits; it involves reshaping our understanding and aligning ourselves with this blended reality."

Jaden: "The Neoecocene era compels us to do so. We're called to harmonize with nature once more, with technology as a tool rather than a barrier."

Amara: "I used to think technology was distancing us from nature, but mixed realities have shown me it can actually bring us closer."

Jaden: "Indeed. The challenge lies in remembering that as we reshape our world, we're also reshaping ourselves."

UNFASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT!

Today's unstable world reflects our behaviour to prioritise self-interest over addressing root causes, and makes us yearn for reintegration with the greater whole we belong to. Being prepared for today involves unlearning outdated models and frameworks that no longer serve us.

Multisensory experiences also challenge our assumptions, pushing us to think differently about how we perceive and interact with our environment. And cultivating resilience and flexibility is vital, particularly when navigating unforeseen changes and uncertainties.

Re-evaluating traditional methods in education is imperative: competent educators offer new insights, while the best radically transform our thought processes. And despite its shortcomings, Artificial Intelligence is about bringing novel changes. Instead of opposing this technological shift, why not explore intentional strategies for incorporating it into teaching methods?

A globe constructed from numerous small, irregular pieces of green mosaic tiles. The tiles vary in shades of green, from light lime to dark forest green. The globe is set against a background of dark green foliage, possibly leaves and stems, which are also slightly out of focus. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is centered over the globe, containing white text.

TRANSFORMATION
=
Unlearning
×
Metamorphosis
(Making Sense + Acting + Peace)

NICE TO KNOW

Relationships? Relationships evolve constantly and link us to each other. Rather than individual entities, they primarily shape our reality and well-being.

Pattern? A pattern is a consistent and recurring sequence or design. To embrace new patterns, one might need to unlearn old ones.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)? AI is a multidisciplinary field that enables machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding language, recognising patterns, and making decisions.

Experiential intelligence? Soren Kaplan suggests that we should view experience not as an accumulation of facts or events but as a continuous process of us increasing awareness of our changing worldview.

Inter-gen views? Inter-gen views bridge the divide between old beliefs and emerging societal standards. Dialogue between generations brings a shared commitment to a fairer, enduring society.



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<https://pzen.link/unlearning>