

A Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub (MATH) Webinar

The Maturation of a Social Movement: A Regional Response to a Critique of the Transition Movement

The Transition Movement: Questions of Diversity Power and Affluence, Esther Alloun and Samuel Alexander, Simplicity Institute Report 14g, 2014

January 8, 2015 - December 5, 2015

Monthly: First *OR* Second Thursdays, @ 2:00PM ET/EST

Pamela Boyce Simms, Webinar Facilitator

Convener, Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub (MATH)

Guest Speakers from throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region (See Syllabus Below)

Webinar Dates	Topics & Questions for Consideration	Speakers
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January 8	<p>Introduction: Transition Ethos Operative in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Network, Taking the Temperature of the Movement – Where are We in the Process?</p> <p>Localism and Systemic Change. Political Power Mapping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does Transition have a radical enough vision? 2. Is relocalization capable of solving political as well as environmental problems? 3. Can we dispassionately analyze political power without becoming embroiled in politics? 4. Is small step grassroots localism the best way to achieve systemic changes? Can small acts of resistance and micro-transformation destabilize macro-systems? 5. Is there a causal relationship between: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environmental improvements in place and systemic environmental improvements? b. Small scale resilience and large scale resilience? 	<p><u>Guests & Resource Persons:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Minor, NYC Transition HUB • Kenyatta Jones, Germantown, Philadelphia ,PA • Marco Vangelisti, Ek4T, Founder, Slow Money <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms (MATH)</p>
February 5	<p>Transition Homeostasis: Maintaining the Delicate Non-hierarchical Balance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there too much top down steering of the movement by the founders in England through the Transition Network, and Transition US that runs counter to the grassroots driven modus operandi? <i>(This is juxtaposed to the need to preserve cohesion, coherence and some semblance of mainstream recognition.)</i> 	<p><u>Guests & Resource Persons:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rita Varley, Philadelphia Transition • Dr. Jon Cawley, Environmental Transitions, Roanoke, VA <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Are local Transition initiatives modeling non-hierarchical decision-making, operational principles and relationships? 3. How is the Transition movement handling group governance? 4. Is there an optimal system of Transition governance that is congruent with the Transition ethos? 5. What does a flat, non-hierarchical, egalitarian human systems dynamic look like and what elements need to be present for such a system to be maintained? 	
March 5	<p>Diversity I: Transition to What, Where, and for Whom?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should Transition be more explicitly concerned with social justice? 2. How can we ensure that Transition isn't primarily a pleasurable movement for predominantly white, educated, post-materialist, middle class small community people? 3. Is inclusion in Transition tantamount to assimilating others to adopt our way of thinking about the world? 4. How do we encourage diversity without "othering" and perpetuating social stratification? 5. How shall we pay more attention to community power dynamics conditioned by ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic stratification that shape relationships? How do we fold this into our work? 	<p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor David CockField, Transition Far Rockaway, Queens, NY • Pamela Haines, Transition West Philadelphia, PA • Joanie Freeman, Charlottesville Transition, VA <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
April 2	<p>Transition, the Next Generation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are young adults alienated from the natural world and concern for it? If so how does this occur? 2. How do the prevailing economic conditions, the drive for academic and professional success, social conditioning, and scarcity of information factor into young people's non participation in Transition? 3. Do young people feel heard, stereotyped, dismissed by older adults in the environmental movement? 4. How do young adults feel they can best participate in the environmental movement? 5. What types of inter-generational collaboration can take place within the environmental movement? 	<p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erik Groszyk,, Green Maps, NYC • Hannah Renglich, Cultivating Food Coops, Ontario, CA <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
May 7	<p>Diversity II: Transition to What, Where, and for Whom?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have we really honed in on the WHAT to which we will Transition? 2. How can we straightforwardly, openly and honestly look at and skillfully work with various levels of vulnerability between communities and competing interests within communities? 3. How are we addressing, or <i>might</i> we address the fact that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. resource depletion and climate change will effect various groups in different ways? b. relocalization may not be equally as applicable to everyone? c. some people are more adaptable than others given that there are aspects of change that have more to do with historical power than place 	<p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor David CockField, Transition Far Rockaway, Queens, NY • Dan Minor, Transition NYC • Joanie Freeman, Charlottesville Transition, VA • David Barnard, Albany Transition, NY <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>

<p>June 4</p>	<p>Cooption I: The Adaptive Capacity of the Current System</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the hallmarks of the long arch of corporatocracy's adaptive capacity? 2. Will Transition's non-confrontational approach take so long that the existing system adopts, waters down, twists and manipulates the rhetoric without shifting any underlying structures or hierarchies? 	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Philon, Wilmington In Transition, DE • Brett Barndt, Woodstock Institute for Future Investment • Marco Vangelisti, ek4T Founder, Slow Money <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
<p>July 9</p>	<p>Localism & Transition : Urban and NOT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Transition shatter stereotyping as a retro-thinking, back to the land and villages movement? 2. How does Transition practically avoid "Unhealthy Localism:" romanticized insularity, isolationist, balkanization, cut off, autarky, protectionist exclusion? 3. How might Transition embrace "Healthy Localism" that is inclusive, intentional, progressive, open, relational, and linked to other places, groups and movements? 4. What might urban Transitioning, factoring in "scale" and incorporating various versions of "Transition Streets" look like? 	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Minor, Transition NYC • Kenyatta Jones, Germantown, Philadelphia , PA • Katherine Aiken, Transition NDG, Montreal, Canada • Jon Cawley, Environmental Transitions, Roanoke, VA <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
<p>August 6</p>	<p>The "S" Word: The NON-Divide Between Secular Transition and Eco-spirituality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the current Transition "Heart and Soul" approach aid and abet the "crunchy granola hippy" stereotype? 2. What does the spectrum of meanings most frequently referred to as "spirituality" mean to people and why are such a large percentage of Transitioners allergic to it the word? 3. Why is "Inner Transition" important to the movement? 4. How can Transitioners better communicate how "Inner Transition" is connected to the lasting success of the movement? 	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karuna Foudriat, Sustainable Saugerties Transition, NY • Adam Lobel, Shambhla Buddhist Acharya (TBA) • Shubraji, Vedanta Teacher (TBA) • Rita Varley, Philadelphia Transition <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
<p>September 3</p>	<p>Cooption II: The Transition Version of a Rockin' Libertarian Tea Party</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we mean by "libertarian" and "neo-liberal" and where do Transitioners encounter people who hold these worldviews? 2. How might libertarian, conservative Americans, and neo-liberals use the resilience argument to back away from government (and populous) responsibility to help those in need? 3. Where do the interests of libertarians, Conservative Americans and Transitioners constructively overlap? 4. How might Transitioners best collaborate with Libertarians? 	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erik Curren, Transition Augusta, VA • Robert "Doc" Hall, Hondo TX • Jon Cawley, Environmental Transitions Roanoke, VA • Peter Wohl, Treetop Zen Center, Oakland, ME <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>

<p>October 1</p>	<p>New Economy I: Ignoring Capitalism To Death</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What antecedents anchor the current version of capitalism prevalent in the United States? 2. What is meant by new economy, gift economy, shared economy, degrowth economy, steady state economy? 3. Can a grassroots community-led movement change the macro-economic structures of global capitalism from below through relocalization? 	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Philon, Wilmington In Transition, DE • Brett Barndt , Woodstock Institute for Future Investment • Marie Goodwin, Mid-Atlantic Time Bank Network • David McCarthy Hudson Valley Current, Alternative Currency <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
<p>November 5</p>	<p>Taboo Talk: Meat Consumption and Consumerism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where do inclusion and tiptoeing around taboo subjects so as not to alienate, water down effectiveness to the point of preventing meaningful change? 2. What causes us to stop short of loudly and consistently stating the obvious: that CONSUMER CAPITALISM created our current predicament? 3. What ideological hurdles do Americans need to get over to unplug from consumer capitalism? 4. How prepared are we for the reality of downsized material consumption lifestyles? 5. Why do we, and how do we stop skirting the issue of ecological damage wrought by continued meat consumption? 	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brett Barndt, Woodstock Institute for Future Investment • Marco Vangelisti, ek4T Founder, Slow Money <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>
<p>December 5</p>	<p>Deep Listening For Emerging Patterns Under the Transition Big Top</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How might we create a healthy synergy between two Transition approaches: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Changing mentalities? b. Putting into practice new ways of being, living, working, producing and consuming? 2. How might we measure the impact of our Transition activities? 3. What patterns do we see emerging in the Transition movement and in the movement's relationship with broad scale social change? 4. What information have we garnered over the course of the series about avoiding pitfalls and riding waves of opportunity for the movement? <p style="text-align: center;">CONCLUDING REMARKS</p>	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Minor, Transition NYC • Erik Curren, Transition Augusta, VA • Brett Barndt, Woodstock Institute for Future Investment • Jon Cawley, Environmental Transitions Roanoke, VA <p>Facilitator: Pamela Boyce Simms</p>