

Webinar Q&A

Question: *Many argue that while some good did come from colonial occupation for some sectors of colonized societies like the Railways in India, the impact of colonization has been fairly detrimental to existing indigenous social, economic and political systems. How "free" ex-colonies can ever be from their colonizers since many of our discussions are reactions to dominant cultures and models than crating sustainbe alternaves.. or*

Answer: This is why it should not only be reactions, but also reassertion of indigenous/local worldviews and practices as being legitimate and relevant ... even where they may require modifications and innovations to respond to current crises", "I think its also important to remember that whilst great decolonial thinkers like Franz Fanon and others have helped us understand how our minds and knowledge has been colonized along with our bodies and resources, they have also helped us understand that to decolonize is to shift both the gaze and the thinking. We need to uplift and re-assert indigenous/local worldviews as Ashish mentioned and make a conscious decision that our discussions of sustainability are not always repeating the language and concepts from the dominant regimine. For example, it is not necessary for degrowth to be the vision everywhere but allow space for other ways of being."

Question: *Why do you think there must be a NEW World Social Forum? What is wrong with the existing one?*

Answer: Towards a new WSF" is one that has been set up by many who have been involved in the WSF from the beginning. It is in recognition of some criticisms WSF has had in the past and some changes they want to make to be more inclusive.", "ALso, since WSF is not an 'institution' it is difficult for it to be in partnership in the dialogue ... so the pathway chosen by them is to have the NWSF being part of the dialogue ... the WSF as a whole is going through a lot of churning on possible future directions, and we are also part of those discussions", "About the group, created by funder members of the WSF, called "Towards a New WSF" you can check the website: <https://www.foranewwsf.org>

Question: *Hello, does someone has a more detail information about the Zapatista journey to Europe? Thank you :-)*

Answer: <https://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2021/04/12/journey-to-europe/>

Question: *Arturo, could you please share that portion of your talk about the anthropocene that you had to omit due to time constraints?*

Answer: Shortly, the Anthropocene (as opposed to Terricide) still lends itself to technoscientific and managerial solutions (like Gates'), continues to be anthropocentric and generally assumes growth will and needs to go on. The terricide avoids these pitfalls..

Question: *How can funders/philanthropists/foundations support alternatives that legitimately pose a threat to the status quo? (A big reason why many believe 'the revolution won't be funded'. Also aware this is part of a bigger/broader conversation but some thoughts from the GTA perspective might be informative)*

Answer: Jophin, many of the alternative economy and political processes do this, and find it hard to get support because they can be 'controversial', also because a lot of them are not about 'visible structures' on the ground but more about human processes (e.g. mobilising people), honoraria for people doing the work rather than for 'capital' investments", Another important element in the funding of radical alternatives is time. Some of the processes require time to build trust and respect and bridge language and cultural differences. Funding cycles have to make allowance for this., It is possible to have output oriented goals but those can promote false and fast solutions. We need to talk together as processes and funders about how to have a rigorous process and be outcomes focused too.

Question: *What specific goals does the GTA have? If I as a funder wanted to support you - what exactly do you hope to achieve? How would you know you're successful in what you do? e.g. do you want to see joint campaigns (e.g. bringing global south and European activists closer together on fighting intl. trade agreements like Mercosur or the ECT)*

Answer: Thanks for your interest! You can see more detail about actions, goals and ongoing plans in the roadmap: <https://globaltapestryofalternatives.org/roadmap>", "Also, about the use of fund resources, you can check this document: https://globaltapestryofalternatives.org/_media/core:communication:gta-pager.pdf"

Question: *How strategic is clean energy transition in challenging this global crisis? What is the role GTA in renewable energy projects and how to make sure these projects can be more participatory, so it does not reproduce repressive patterns from traditional extractive projects?*

Answer: Hi Larissa, you raise an important point that sustainability solutions themselves must be analysed for their implications for justice. A great deal of the energy transition can be problematised. For example, wind energy in Sapmi, Sweden and dam development in Brasil. New projects should not exacerbate existing social and environmental injustices. Some of the ways are around energy sovereignty and local control of energy production such as SomEnergia in Spain but also greater participation of local people in decision making about such projects.

Question: *How does one link grassroots movements to the GTA?*

Answer: Thanks Anna. We usually initiate a conversation to know each other. The linkage emerges from there. A good way to connect is to write to us in contact@globaltapestryofalternatives.org, "Importnat also to realise that GTA mostly tries to connect networks and platforms of grassroots movements, not each individual initiative since that is impossible ... but if any such initiative movement writes to us we can try to figure this out."