

# DEMOCRATISING TRANSFORMATION



## **SPURRING LEARNING AT PLANETARY SCALE – Andrew Fanning & Leonora Grcheva / Donut Economics Action Lab**

Based on the ideas of Donut Economics, we are trying to build the metrics that are only beginning to be invented for measuring 21st century prosperity. The aim is to inform a public conversation about what we mean by a good life and what it could look like in a world that simultaneously respects our planetary boundaries.

We could think of change occurring on multiple levels – from a landscape type approach to the nitty gritty of how do we transform a regime to how do we foster the innovators. How do we make them visible so that they can scale out?

Downscaling the Donut approach to the country level gives us a compass of where nations should be heading towards. But it doesn't really set pathways for action at a local level. So the "Donut Unrolled" is a concept that recognizes that when we downscale the donut, from that global scale to upscale of a place, we recognize both the local aspirations and the global connections of places. So we're talking both about the ecological and social side of things and at both a local level and a global level.

The way we have been developing the public discourse about data and smart cities in the past decades has created a very narrow understanding amongst the public sector, but also the general public, of what data is. We need to recognize that data is as much about the number of particles of pollution in the air as it is how many people in that city said they're happy.

For that we'll look at what we call the five design traits of institutions and ask them to reflect on five different levels of the very deep structural design that they were founded on. That means their purpose, their networks, their governance, their ownership, and their finance.

But it's really this power of peer to peer inspiration that we're observing across many different places. There's always a danger of flattening the complexity that each place can hold. It's just a balance that needs to be struck because you don't want things to be standardised. Otherwise, you start losing a lot of the richness of what it means to live in a particular city - like Berlin.

There will be no change until the rules and routines are actually changed. The financial and the political side of things are historically tied into short term cycles of thinking. And that's the kind of thinking that right now is a very huge obstacle towards thinking about the big transformation, the big changes that we need for the future.

If you have all your citizens, organisations, communities, businesses joined behind a vision, it will last longer than the four or five year political cycle. It will have its advocates, it will have its lobbyists, and to be building those wide alliances. So I think we need to continue being creative with how we build those wide alliances, and foster collectively that long term thinking beyond the short term actions and goals.

What if we could be a mega convener and that is able to say: here's what it means for people to achieve their goals; here's what it means for others; here's what it means for human beings and non-human systems to achieve theirs - and just actually be working towards meeting those goals and needs, both socially and ecologically.