



VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

NEWSLETTER
Fall 2025

Welcome to the Fall 2025 Visions for the Future Newsletter!

We hope this finds you well, that the start of the academic year has gone off without a hitch, and that you had some time to relax over the summer. If this is reaching you in the Southern Hemisphere, hopefully spring feels around the corner!

Since our first newsletter in February, the Visions for the Future team has been busy researching, thinking, writing, and talking about alternative socio-economic systems. Below you can find some updates about what we have been up to, and what is still to come!

To stay updated on the latest updates and events, please sign up to our [mailing list on our website](#).

Regards,

Caleb Althorpe, Hannah McHugh, Catarina Neves,
and Ingrid Robeyns

This newsletter
has updates on:

Project Kick-Off
Workshop

Visions at
MANCEPT

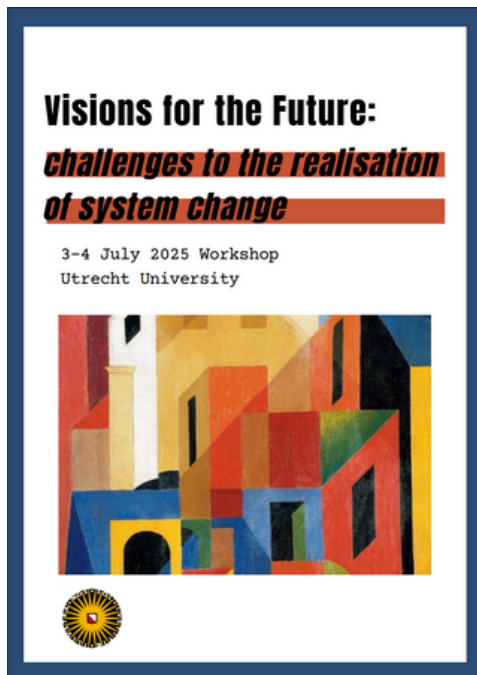
New Public
Lecture Series

Speaker Series
Events

Public policy
Event with Tim
Jackson

Recent
Publications

PROJECT KICK-OFF WORKSHOP



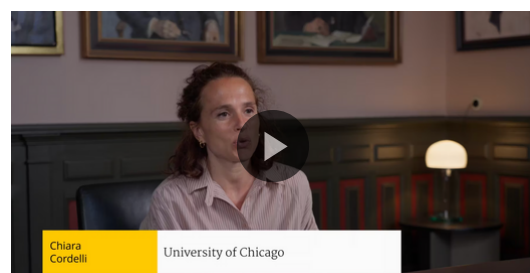
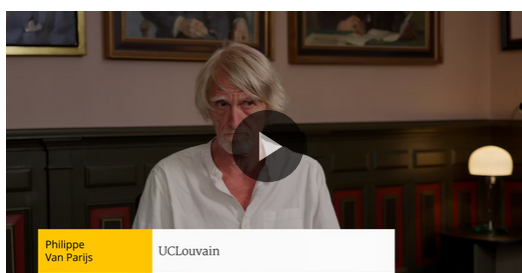
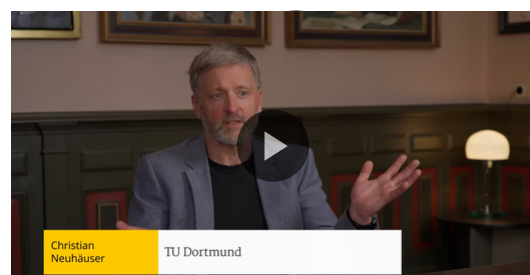
In July the Visions for the Future team hosted a 2-day workshop titled: [‘Visions for the Future: Challenges to the Realization of System Change.’](#)

The workshop brought together a group of leading experts – Sandrine Blanc, Chiara Cordelli, Lisa Herzog, Christian Neuhäuser, Martin O’Neill, and Philippe Van Parijs – to present on and collaboratively discuss several alternative socioeconomic systems. Including a degrowth economy, economic democracy, community wealth building, democratic socialism, property-owning democracy, and stakeholder capitalism.

An emphasis was put on methods to comparatively assess different alternative visions, questions of political feasibility and transition, and how ‘visioning’ in general can best be used as a strategy to effect change.

Thanks to the invited presenters and all who joined for contributing to such a stimulating and rich event.

As part of the event, we recorded brief videos where we asked invited speakers to describe the benefits and potential shortcomings of alternative systems.



Visions at MANCEPT

Earlier this month, Caleb Althorpe and Catarina Neves hosted the [Philosophy of Degrowth](#) panel at MANCEPT 2025.

Over 3 days we discussed topics such as: the psychosocial preconditions of a degrowth transition, the political prospects and legitimacy of degrowth, the relationship between the degrowth proposal and economic democracy and green industrial policy, growth and moral problem-solving, and much more. Many thanks to all those who joined.



Upcoming Public Policy Event w/ Tim Jackson

23 September 2025, 10.00-12.00 CEST

Tim Jackson (Surrey) will be visiting Utrecht for a meeting with policy advisors, professionals in the public domain, and academics.

Tim Jackson will open this event with a keynote talk in which he will share the main insights from his recent book *The Care Economy*. This will be followed by a discussion, which will be opened by Jodine Smits, senior researcher at the Raad voor Volksgezondheid en Samenleving. Ingrid Robeyns, Professor in Ethics of Institutions at Utrecht University, will chair the discussion.

More information [here](#). If you would like to register to attend the meeting, please do so by September 21st, by filling out the [registration form](#)

Recent Publications from the Team



Forthcoming. Caleb Althorpe. "[Community through Market Competition.](#)" *Economics & Philosophy*.



2025. Ingrid Robeyns. "[Why Economic Inequality Should be Central to Strategies for the Future.](#)" *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*.



2025. Ingrid Robeyns. "[Limitarianism: Reflections on Chan, Drèze, and Elgarte.](#)" *Journal of Global Ethics*.



2025. Hannah McHugh. "[Financial markets: the dynamics of domination.](#)" *CRISPP*.

Plus several public facing pieces, full list [here](#).

Speaker Series

After hitting the ground running in January, the monthly Speaker Series events continue to prosper. Since our last newsletter, we have hosted online events with [Richard Bärnthaler](#), [Joseph Heath](#), [Timothée Parrique](#), [Mark Reiff](#), and [Julia Steinberger](#). In the fall, we are very excited to have as guests Elizabeth Anderson and Lisa Herzog, with more names being confirmed soon.

The general format for these events is an academic presentation followed by Q&A. You can register to attend upcoming Speaker Series events using [this form](#). Videos of presentations are also made [available on our website](#).

[19 September, 16.00 CEST](#)
[Elizabeth Anderson](#)

'From Limitarianism to a Better World'



After offering additional reasons for setting limits on individual wealth to those advanced by Ingrid Robeyns, I turn to two key questions about limitarian policy. First, how should we limit wealth? Second, what should we do with the resources that are no longer captured by the extremely wealthy? I shall focus on predistributive strategies for limiting wealth, including radical reduction of financial activity that does not serve the real economy, and elimination of other zero- and negative-value-added business strategies. Finance should be redirected to community needs, particularly for care work and climate resilience. The jobs thereby created can be designed with the aim of developing the capabilities of service recipients and workers alike, in the context of building cooperative rather than antagonistic social relationships—a key to rebuilding our fraying democracies.

[20 November, 14.00 CEST](#)
[Lisa Herzog](#)

Book workshop on *The Democratic Marketplace*



Democracy has been hollowed out by capitalism. A narrow view of markets and their aims—prioritizing efficiency, profit, and growth—now dominates thinking about democracy itself. Citizens are ignorant of the deep principles of self-governance, having long since adopted a facile equation between democracy and voting as a consumer choice. Lisa Herzog argues that democracy is still possible, but only if democratic values get embedded in everyday experience—including economic experience. That requires new ways of thinking about markets and their goals.

New Public Lecture Series



Over the upcoming academic year the Visions team, in collaboration with [Studium Generale](#) at Utrecht University, is organizing a series of public lectures with prominent academics to discuss a range of alternative economic systems. The events are free to attend in Utrecht, and will also be livestreamed on YouTube. The first two public lectures are below, with two more to follow in 2026.



[September 23, 2025: 'Can there be prosperity without growth?' w/ Tim Jackson](#)

Under capitalism, we have learned that more is always better: more innovation, more consumption, more wealth. But we can't keep growing forever, according to economist Tim Jackson (University of Surrey). He advocates for a post-growth society, where economic growth is no longer the leading principle. But how can we build an economy that prioritises well-being instead of wealth? And if we can no longer increase our planet's limited resources, what else should we strive for? Jackson is joined by philosopher Catarina Moiteiro das Neves (UU), who researches alternative economic systems.



[December 3, 2025: 'From shareholder capitalism to economic democracy' w/ Isabelle Ferreras](#)

Since neoliberalism took hold of the world in the 1970s, shareholder power has increased significantly. For many companies, profit trumps employee interests. According to sociologist Isabelle Ferreras (University of Louvain-la-Neuve), things must and can become more democratic. What if we let employees participate in deciding a company's course? How do we do that? And what are the benefits? Also featuring philosopher Caleb Althorpe, who researches equality and justice in work and the economy.
