



VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

**NEWSLETTER
Winter 2026**

Welcome to the Winter 2026 Visions for the Future Newsletter!

We hope your holidays were enjoyable and the new year is treating you well! This newsletter – our third installment – is to update you on what the Visions for the Future team has been up to since September and what some of our plans are for the months ahead.

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:

Engagement
with EU
Policymakers

Recent
Publications
and Outreach

Public
Lecture Series

Speaker
Series Events

Engagement with European Union Policymakers

As part of the Visions for the Future project, we are developing a program of engagement with European Union policymakers in Brussels. Building on the project's research on alternative socio-economic models and institutional reform, this work aims to create constructive spaces for dialogue between researchers, Members of the European Parliament, EU institutions, and civil-society actors on Europe's long-term economic and democratic challenges. Initial discussions with parliamentary networks and individual MEPs from across political groups have been encouraging, and we are currently exploring formats for workshops and a high-level event in the European Parliament in late 2026 or early 2027. This engagement is intended to complement the project's academic outputs by translating its analytical insights into policy-relevant debate, while remaining open, cross-party, and exploratory in character.

Recent Academic Publications



2026. Ingrid Robeyns (w/ Huub Brouwer). "[Debate: The Normative Case for a Global Minimum Tax on Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals](#)" *Intertax*

Full list of publications [here](#).

Recent Public Outreach

DeMorgen.

January 2026. Ingrid Robeyns. "[Filosoof Ingrid Robeyns over extreme ongelijkheid: 'We leven in West-Europa al decennia boven onze stand'](#)" *De Morgen*

Vereniging
**Begaafdheids
ProfielScholen**

November 2025. Catarina Neves gave an interactive talk about the Visions for the Future project at the BPS conference for gifted secondary school students.



November 2025. Ingrid Robeyns gave a [keynote lecture at UNESCO](#) to celebrate World Philosophy Day.



October 2025. Ingrid Robeyns. "[Onaantastbaarheid van individuele voorkeuren is passé](#)" *CDV*



October 2025. Caleb Althorpe and Catarina Neves presented on the Visions for the Future project and utopias at a [Philosophical Cafe](#) in Utrecht.

Public Lecture Series



Our public lecture series [Beyond Capitalism](#) has gotten off to a fantastic start. The first two lectures, by [Tim Jackson on postgrowth](#) and by [Isabelle Ferreras on economic democracy](#), were brilliant and were each met with full crowds in the beautiful Aula at Utrecht University.

This public lecture series is organized in collaboration with [Studium Generale](#) at Utrecht University, and brings prominent academics to discuss a range of alternative economic systems. The events are free to attend in Utrecht and are also livestreamed on YouTube. The next two public lectures are below.



[February 17, 2026: 'What is a fair economy?' w/ Stuart White](#)

A 10,000EUR grant for all young adults turning eighteen, a universal basic income, and higher inheritance taxes. There are plenty of proposals aimed at creating equal economic opportunities for as many people as possible. Critics dismiss them as unrealistic. Yet philosopher Stuart White (Oxford) states that this is no reason to abandon these ideas. How might they inspire a fairer economy? With a response from philosopher and economist Ingrid Robeyns.



[March 23, 2026: 'Are populists turning into fascists?' w/ Federico Finchelstein](#)

What do Trump, Bolsonaro, and Modi have in common? According to historian Federico Finchelstein (New School), they are 'wannabe fascists'. They embrace fascist elements such as propaganda and political violence, but have (so far) failed to fully undermine democracy. Are fascism and democracy compatible? What warning signs mark the path from populism to fascism? Also featuring philosopher Hannah McHugh, who will examine the future being promised by wannabe fascists, the moral values that underpin it, and where meaningful democratic resistance might still be found.

Speaker Series

Our monthly online Speaker Series, where we host academics to give presentations about their work, continues to be a success with many interesting talks. In the fall we hosted events on limitarian policy with [Elizabeth Anderson](#), on a democratic economy with [Christine Berry](#), and on socialism and solidarity with [Barry Maguire](#). As part of this series we also hosted a book workshop on [Lisa Herzog's](#) *The Democratic Marketplace*. In our next two events we are thrilled to be joined by Aaron Benanav and Alyssa Battistoni. A full list of upcoming events can be found [on our website](#).

The general format for these events is an academic presentation followed by Q&A. You can be added to the list to get access to all the Speaker Series by [emailing us](#). But you can also access the link by visiting the event's page on our website. Videos of presentations (and other events) are also made [available on our website](#), and you can also check out our [YouTube channel](#), where we have all of our recorded sessions.

[19 January, 15.30 CEST](#)
[Aaron Benanav](#)

Beyond Capitalism: Framework for a Multidimensional Economics



This talk presents an alternative socio-economic system—what I call a multidimensional economy—grounded in the premise that modern societies pursue multiple, irreducible goals that cannot be collapsed into a single universal equivalent without distortion. At its core is a set of democratically governed investment bodies that allocate resources across competing social priorities—such as decarbonization, improving care infrastructures, technological development, and raising work quality—under explicit budget constraints. The talk outlines the key components of this system and argues for its viability as a distinct alternative to both market-centered and technocratic planning models.

[02 February, 15.00 CEST](#)
[Alyssa Battistoni](#)

Free Gifts: Capitalism and the Politics of Nature



Capitalism is typically treated as a force for relentless commodification. Yet it consistently fails to place value on vital aspects of the nonhuman world, whether carbon emissions or entire ecosystems. *Free Gifts* explores capitalism's persistent failure to value nature, arguing that the key question is not the moral issue of why some kinds of nature shouldn't be commodified, but the economic puzzle of why they haven't been. To understand contemporary ecological problems from biodiversity collapse to climate change, we have to understand how some things come to have value under capitalism—and how others do not.
