

/* LISTENING POLITICAL SOUND GLOBAL */



0:00



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**=> NON-
HIERARCHICAL
ETHICS**

**interview transcript
{pad}**

**read more from
Jaya**

**THE WORLD OF
DECENTRALIZED ******

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SHARED ___ MANUAL

**HOW TO BUILD A NON-HIERARCHICAL
INTER-CONTINENTAL NETWORK
WITH JAYA KLARA BREKKE**

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HOW TO ORGANIZE IN GLOBAL NETWORKS

[potential practices for <https://rec-on.org/>]

- for global (non-west-centered) network building
 - artist-activist communication
 - providing privacy [as a principle]
 - protection for vulnerable
 - sound /audio related production
 - support/help line
 - negotiating funds and commissions
 - help each other

THE OBER-RULE:

CENTER THE MOST VULNERABLE
{potential} MEMBERS

-> see #dalitfeministtheory
by Sunaina Arya twitter @Su_philos

RULES

- non profit
- culture of care
- pay/trade for work
- commission difficult work (grant based)
- full transparency / opacity
- always center the most vulnerable
- in all decision-making

GUIDELINES AND LINKS FOR ETHICAL DESIGNS

The seven co-operative principles

Open and Voluntary Membership.

Democratic Member Control.

Members' Economic Participation.

Autonomy and Independence.

Education, Training, and Information.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Concern for Community.

How to stay safely, ethically (environ, structural luxemburgist) remotely connected? What is the best way to communicate online without using big (SVbased, stateCLOUT, hack-vulnerable) technology ?

I suggest signal for messaging, there is also mattermost for collaboration, Protonmail for email, Mapeo for mapping and the good people at Digital Democracy - so many good tools built by people who care about privacy and the ethics of their systems. (1)

For those not very technically involved, I would say keep asking questions and trust your comrades, follow the work of technology activists. And don't worry, there are no final answers, only good enough answers. What I mean is that it can be daunting for non tech people to deal with these questions. All digital technology is a huge clunky work in progress, and so the ethical and security questions keep shifting.

First and foremost though, I do not think that online security, privacy and ethics can be fully down to the choice of the individual or a small group. These are decisions and issues that have to be resolved at the level of collectives and societies because at the end of the day, these are network technologies. Which means they have network effects, tend to be more valuable and functional the larger they are and are therefore collective by nature.

Can digital technology be built ethically? Which technologies do you think are closest?

There is a lot to be said for de-computerisation, or digital minimalism, which I think is an actual movement now. Basically, once we start to open our minds about the different qualities and characteristics of non-digital technologies it turns out that while digital technologies might offer some benefits, these also come with their own inconveniences. For example, digitising and networking core infrastructure makes it vulnerable to new types of attacks, power outages and so on. As more and more of people's daily lives are taking place online, this also makes them more vulnerable to cyberattacks, spying, profiling, targeting, rating, credit rating etc. which if they had simply bought something in a shop using cash they would have not had to face. So I guess when thinking about ethical technology more broadly, I like to think of 'appropriate technology' - moving away from a linear idea of progress and advancement and think a little more intelligently about the qualities and characteristics of the technologies we chose to deploy in our societies and lives.

The problem is though that the linear story of progress is extremely powerful for generating excitement, energy, imagination and funding. Fantastical stories about the possibilities of the future makes for a much more exciting mission and headline. And it simultaneously generates envy and fear - of being left behind and so on, which is also a powerful motor for people to gather around a central, linear narrative. But that is more for a theoretical reflection on the histories and cultures of technologies. I am sure post-colonial and first nation scholars of technology will have plenty more interesting things to say on this.

When building, deciding to build a small unique network, what should be considered first ?

Who is this for? It is always better to start with an intrinsic motivation of people to want to connect, than an abstract idea of the perfect network. There is no universal, perfectly built, ethical protocol. Blockchainers have been chasing this dillusion for a while and are only getting deeper into their own quite peculiar subcultures.

The second question is probably to ask who needs to run and maintain the network. Too often there is an assumption that in decentralised network, everyone runs the system. That is simply never the case. So be realistic, conscious and kind, so that those who have the capacity can run things, but with the governance of how things are run shared among all those who are affected by the network.

(It depends what you mean by ethics and how far you want to go with that - for example in terms of the raw materials required for motherboards and hard-drives, the energy consumption of data centres. There was this case earlier this year of a woman working for Google AI Ethics team who was fired after her and some colleagues wrote a paper that raised the issue of energy consumption for AI language models crunching large amounts of data.)

How to protect the network from infiltration by destructive/dubious/dishonest actors (trolls, secret service, ransom shit, anything)

The best way to protect a network is to build a strong culture of care and accountability among those who run it.

I was talking about this with the main developer of a decentralised privacy system I am currently working for called Nym.

Even in supposedly trustless systems like the decentralised blockchain systems of our times - the culture of the network plays a huge security role.

In Bitcoin for example, a few mining pools could, quite easily, at this point chose to manipulate the Bitcoin blockchain. But they wont, because the entire project is built on the value and idea of decentralisation. If the illusion of decentralisation were to be punctured, the project would immediately lose legitimacy and economic value, hurting the profits of the mining pools.

In Nym, the idea is that nodes will build social profiles and reputation, keeping each other in check as well as supporting each other. In short, to protect a network from bad actors, there are definitely technical things to consider - so things like encryption, decentralisation across different jurisdictions and geographical areas and so on is all important, depending on the type of project you are running. But an often overlooked element is the social and community culture. If people know each other and have strong ties and practices, this can serve as good security too.

Is it wise to implement money or tokenomics? what micropayment/reward system do you suggest to implement under these realities? (drop coins, tip systems, donations etc)

This is a strategic decision. So far, tokenomics and crypto functions best as a hype machine and it can allow people to attract investment, attention and energy - because people have been seeing the markets explode. Does that make it a good idea ? Depends what you are trying to do. It works well for attracting the energy of a lot of people who are literally chasing any little possibility of getting ahead in the game of making money.

Firstly, adding a token to a system adds complexity. Complexity brings with it security issues, governance issues and so on. And more importantly, it many times in the crypto markets, we see that the speculative uses often entirely undermine the usefulness of the token for any other purpose. Bitcoin speculation makes bitcoin payments quite unpredictable.

So in answer to your question - if your project is explicitly about economic experimentation (its not) then it might be a good idea.

Do you recommend to establish a manifesto, code of conduct, rule system, white paper ??? how to keep it fluid, alive, negotiable ? do you have a best practice example ?

A manifesto or a whitepaper can be a powerful way to focus peoples attention and energies. In many ways, clear manifestos can also allow for things to remain more alive and negotiable exactly because everyones intents are in the open. I have seen time and again when projects try to be fluid and open, they are in fact never fully defined and people'e intentions and motivations are hidden, operating silently rather than in the open.

Best practice would be to keep it short, to the point, and based on real intent and practice instead of ideology and virtue signalling. What I mean is don't try and be ethically perfect, try and be honest about the motivations aims and ambition of the project and keep to clear vision, that can motivate and inspire people.