

SLaM future and the Anthropocene project

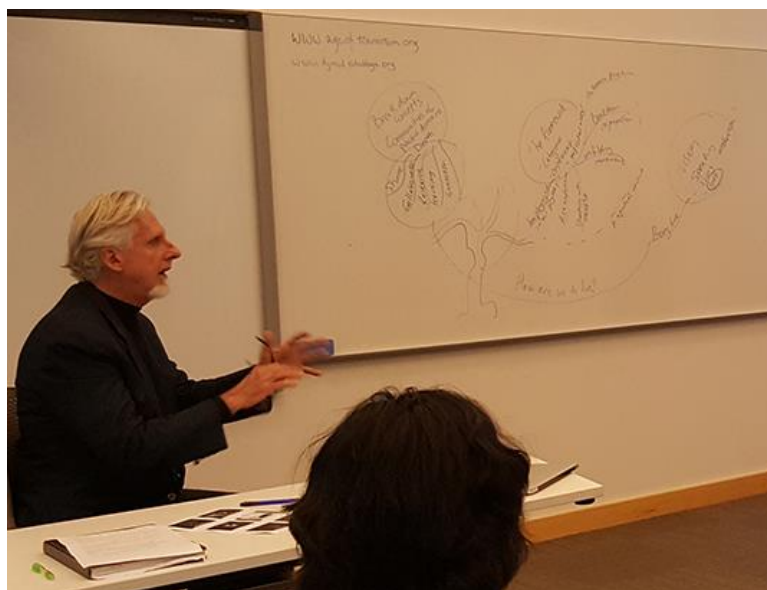


Developments at SLaM

13 October 2016

Greetings, SLaM friends. On 28th July this year, we held a workshop with SLaM members and Ken McLeod to explore the possibilities of working in partnership with Ken's Anthropocene Transition Project at University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

The result of that session is that participants saw important and energising connections between SLaM's interests and Ken's action research project. We have since held a SLaM management committee meeting and agreed that we will make this partnership the core mode of activity for SLaM.



Living in the Anthropocene

The arrival of the Anthropocene — human dominance of the biological, chemical and geological processes of Earth — is already an undeniable reality. We humans have become the dominant force for change on planet Earth.

*To avoid the potentially catastrophic consequences of this huge shift, we must transform the collective ways we perceive ourselves and our role within the Earth's **community of life**. **We must transform our shared human culture.***

The Anthropocene Transition Project 2016 is a collaborative inquiry under the auspices of the UTS Business School in Sydney, Australia. Its aim is to stimulate, support and connect generative conversations by linking research networks with specific areas of professional and social practice in order to explore the nature of the changes required by the Anthropocene.



A new kind of SLaM

The implications of this change in direction for the SLaM network are:

- We will no longer hold workshops and conferences exploring spirituality and leadership outside of the framing that we are living in the Anthropocene Age – that is, all our events will be focused around this issue
- In recognising this global context, as an association we are embarking on a very new exploration, tackling what spirituality in leadership needs to be in relation to the global-scale impacts of the Anthropocene Age
- We will be focusing SLaM to those people who share commitment to this exploration
- If our journal continues, it will also take on this direction.

Our next event

Our first activity in this action research mode is to create an event early in 2017, to explore the values framework that Ken has developed, and relating it to spirituality and leadership.

Our activity will include participating in other **projects under the umbrella of Ken's Anthropocene Transition Project**. These include inquiries into creativity, business and new economics, and living in community. We trust that participating in the many other projects that this initiative is fostering will be inspirational to our members.

To find out what is happening in the Anthropocene Transition Project, please go to <http://www.ageoftransition.org/home> and register for the events. We encourage you to report back to SLaM – keep us up to date by adding your thoughts to our page on [Facebook](#).

At the July workshop, we enjoyed the company of some 15 people. Ken outlined his construction of

[Living in the Anthropocene](#), and Glenn presented his [discussion paper](#).

Small group discussion on the night included participation by people in remote locations, and together we produced some uniquely SLaM starting points for this venture.

First – **let's make the concepts and language of the Anthropocene accessible and meaningful to the everyday person.**

Let's do this by carrying out our research, connecting with new people and groups, learning together and sharing our thinking and efforts.

Then, let's acknowledge that this is a spiritual venture – let's take on how our individual and shared psychologies participate in experiencing the breakdown of systems and different forms of regeneration: how does spirituality come into being in the depths of an unpredictable, unfamiliar and volatile unfolding of global being?

And let us not step back from the realisation that we participate in creating this reality one way and another. **For SLaM, our creativity and vision in responding to the question: “how are we to live?” is how we create life in the Anthropocene.**

We asked people to volunteer to form a working group for the 2017 event. We have received offers of practical involvement from around 15 people.

We will be maintaining a blog on our SLaM website at <http://www.slam.org.au/news-and-forum> to keep everyone informed, but our email newsletters will be intermittent. We encourage you to take out financial membership for 2016-2017 to help support the website and our continued activity. The fee is only \$10.

In order to adjust to a different business model we have cancelled the merchant banking facility on our website, so we cannot take payments for membership directly by credit card. However, we are maintaining our Paypal facility, so if your Paypal account is set up with a credit card you can use that.

You can also make payments by EFT to our cheque account.

To join/renew membership, go to <http://www.slam.org.au/become-a-financial-member/>
(If you are unsure if your membership is current, please send email to admin@slam.org.au)

Our future events will take place through the Anthropocene Transition Project, with arrangements already in place with the University of Technology, Sydney.

We are very excited to be committing to this new direction and thank everyone who is showing up at

SLaM activities and Anthropocene Transition Project events (in person and remotely by Zoom), and maintaining contact with us. Our next task is to create a discussion group for our research project, to agree on the event and tasks to be done.



Actions to take

1. Familiarise yourself with the Anthropocene concept at the website for the Anthropocene Transition Project: <http://www.ageoftransition.org/home>
2. Explore the articles and papers on the Anthropocene at the SLaM website: <http://www.slam.org.au/publications/articles/articles-and-working-papers/>
3. Express yourself by commenting on the Anthropocene, spirituality and leadership at our Facebook page: [Facebook](#)
4. Make a payment for your membership of SLaM for 2016-2017: <http://www.slam.org.au/become-a-financial-member/>

Thank you, everyone.

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