

Care

no more
Coal no
more oil

TEMPORALITY

RADICAL
IMAGINATION

JUSTICE

MJS



This collective zine ***Care, Temporality, Justice*** is based on four speculative climate futures zine workshops that took place at the NewBridge Project and online. The workshops were co-facilitated by Miranda lossifidis (she/her, sociologist), Bethan (they/them, youth worker with an envisioning practice), and Mack Sproates (they/he, artist, facilitator and zine-maker), together with the workshop participants.

This zine is made by the Speculative Climate Futures zine workshop folks, including Ansh Meeta, Francesca DiGiorgio, Jim Kaufman, Shevek Fodor & Sophie Buxton. The beautiful cover, paintings and zine layout are by Mack.

The speculative climate futures zine workshops emerged from a desire to explore the possibility of creating methodological approaches that allow for the co-production of alternative climate justice presents and futures rooted in collective action, in a context of growing climate anxiety and mainstreaming of reactionary environmental ideas. Our perspectives are coming from abolitionist approaches and intertwined justice movements.

The workshops draw on creative methods and speculative fiction, and included participant-led discussion, envisioning, and collage-making to make zines, emphasising the collective production of practical and speculative knowledge. Each session included sharing, envisioning, making, and conversation. We wanted to build a friendly and un-competitive atmosphere of discussing and sharing of experiences, knowledges, histories, and practices. We discussed historical and current movements, speculative fiction, our own everyday practices, hopes, desires, and fears.

The specific themes explored in each workshop were decided collectively by the group itself, in the workshops and in-between sessions using an online collaborative tool. These included care, temporality, justice, how we get there, and "what if". The sharing was led by Miranda, the envisioning exercises were devised and led by Bethan, making sessions by Mack, and collective discussions were led by participants, using our zine creations as the basis for conversations.

We think that zine-making allow us to engage with the more-than-spoken, to include materials, memories and emotions and we have included the envisioning and zine-making exercises alongside the work we made in the workshops, so you can do it yourself. A QR code on the back page takes you to more information and resources. Enjoy!

Workshop One

Imagination is an essential part of any social movement for radical change. The use of radical imagination is most present throughout history through black liberation struggles such as the civil rights movement and the black panthers. It was also present within the Young Lords movement, the zapatistas, through the works of Frantz Fanon and Angela Davis, as well as through speculative fiction writers such as Ursula Le Guin and Octavia Butler – amongst many others. Radical imagination is probably most prominently used today in the prison and detention abolition movement. Using our imaginations to create worlds where there is justice and liberation is an act of resistance, of not allowing systems which oppress us to oppress our minds and our creativity. Radical imagination is a doing word.

An envisioning exercise can be daunting so it may be easiest to move from the micro to the macro and to focus on the senses (touch, sound, smell etc). Feel free to write, draw, or just close your eyes and feel - whatever you feel most comfortable doing.

What does a climate future look like for you? - what does it look like locally? Nationally? Internationally? It might help to concentrate on one area of that future, maybe something that come up in your discussions or something that's been on your mind

Think about what it looks like to exist in this community - what are the people doing with their time?

What have we left behind?

What have we gained?

Think about what you would like to change from now

How will we meet the needs of people who suffer harm?

How do we address harm?

Think about what you want to stay from now into this future

What brings hope and joy?

What do you want to see more of?

Now imagine that our solidarity work and campaigning has been effective and we've made it to that climate future you're imagining - what does it feel like/look like - focus on different senses/ how would it feel to be in that world

One word that describes what you're picturing and/or what you're feeling

What questions came up for you doing this exercise?

Highlight or circle things that are jumping out at you as a starting point for the zine: emerging from their engagement with the stuff, using material generated in the previous exercise, e.g. if there's any imagery jumping out to you from your work, colours, words or phrases. You can write, draw, collage, creatively respond however you'd like.

Group Agreement
Speculative
Climate futures
Zine Workshops

Be Kind * No hate
speech
Respect * accepting
Come as you are * of how
people
* different levels * Feel / do to
be comfortable
Work in progress,
enjoying it

Group Agreement
Speculative
Climate futures
Zine Workshops

Be Kind * No hate
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Respect * accepting
Come as you are * of how
people
* different levels * Feel / do to
be comfortable
Work in progress,
enjoying it

What we left behind, I think, one of my main ones that actually I'm interested in exploring is competition



I was kind of just carrying on a little bit with the idea of being with and community because it's not just being with people. It's being with your surroundings. And then kind of leading on from the time conversation as well, and the idea that we will at some point have all the time in the world. [opens zine] And then the inside's just a very rushed "look beyond just yourself" moment, because I feel like that's what it all really comes down to.


There's something in that about choosing a different method of exploring an idea. In that space, thinking about futures. And like, allowing yourself to, like, drift off and like, not have to, like, frantically write. Like, there's something in that—I'm not saying it's rest, maybe it doesn't feel that way for you. But like, it comes back to the conversation we were just having there, I think, a little bit as well, of like... not being perfect with the answers, right?

there feels like a disconnect
between the harsh realities of now
& hope punk utopian possibilities

(Resistful)
 (More time)
 (comfy)
 (peace)
 (Hybrid)
 (collision)

Big bodies
 Carnate Sassy
 or take
 subject?
 10/10/10

embrace the snail
against competition



print
out





There feels like a disconnect
between the harsh realities of now
& hope punk utopian possibilities



leave
behind
competition

Speculative
fiction

a world we need to start building/
creating now

urgency ~ accessibility

Utopia is
a 'no place'

a conceptual
existence



LOOK

BEHOLD

YO U RSELF

Community

Slow down

Reconnect

WE WILL HAVE

ALL THE TIME
IN THE WORLD

We can sustain each other

Care about all of us

Rehabilitation not incarceration

Build down what doesn't work

And build on what does

Collectives, support, be there for each other

Walkable communities



WE CREATE
THESE SPACES
NOW

R ADICAL
IMAGINATION N

TO CREATE
THESE SPACES
FOREVER

The

temporality
of climate justice



rest, care,

queer temporality



time to
think



of utopian
ism

Octavia E
Butler's

in this
for
the
long
haul



Histo
Futurism



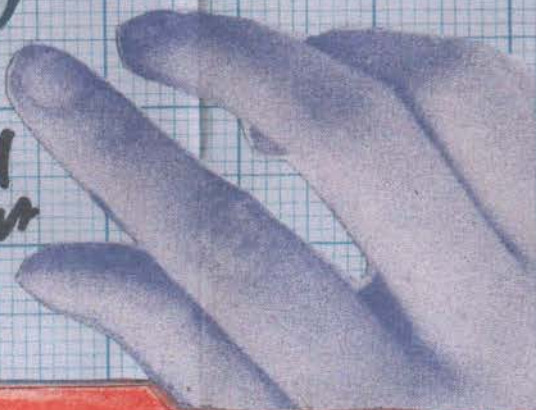
Against
white
supremacist
apocalyptic
urgency



embrace the snail
against competition



resist
neoliberal
capitalist
time



the time



for
love

the
temporality
of freedom

in Palestine



Workshop Two

We spoke at the first session about wanting to explore the question: how do we get there?

Grounding exercise: picture your ideal climate future

What does it look like?

How does it feel?

What emotions are you feeling?

Are there any sounds?

What can you see?

With this in mind, think of a question to explore “how do we get there?”

In the workshop the questions that were explored included:

What knowledge do we need?

What tools do we need?

What people do we need?

What vehicle will we be in?

What will we do when we get there?

Here are some prompts to further explore your question, we used mind maps in the session (which you can see on the next few pages) but it's up to you how you want to do this:

Thinking about your question write a few words on what immediately springs to mind

Who has what you need? Do you have what you need?

Why is that important?

Any questions on your question that come to mind?

We each made mind maps focusing on one of these questions. Each participant then took that question and designed a front cover in response to it, and we then did some collaborative zine making activities. On the next few pages, the mind map can be seen next to the collaborative zines made in response. We had five minutes to respond to the question in whichever way we wanted on our own page, you would then pass it on to the next person who would respond to the same question. This meant that by the end you would have a zine full of collaborative thoughts and responses to the same question, each page informed by the other participant's work as well as their own ideas.

We found this exercise to be a really positive step towards helping us to explore our ideas about climate futures creatively (apart from needing some more time!). The short time frame meant that you didn't have long to make your response, so you couldn't overthink it or feel too precious about it and just worked with your initial ideas.

Working in this collaborative way was a really interesting and practical form of community learning, as we were able to explore topics that might've initially felt too overwhelming or too big to tackle, and broke them down and explored them together. It felt like a useful way of communicating big ideas through imagery or more simple words or text, and we could then all share and look at each other's zines to extend the community learning (Mack).

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

WHAT PEOPLE

WHAT KNOWLEDGE

WHAT TOOLS

A MINIBUS?
BUT WHO IS DRIVING IT?
A MEGA BUS?

WHAT VEHICLE WILL
WE BE IN?

WHAT WILL WE DO
WHEN WE ARE THERE?

BEATING A PATH
TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S
DOOR

A MAP?
FUEL?

~~KNOWLEDGE~~
WHO KNOWS HOW TO DRIVE A BUS?

THE WAY WE GET THERE

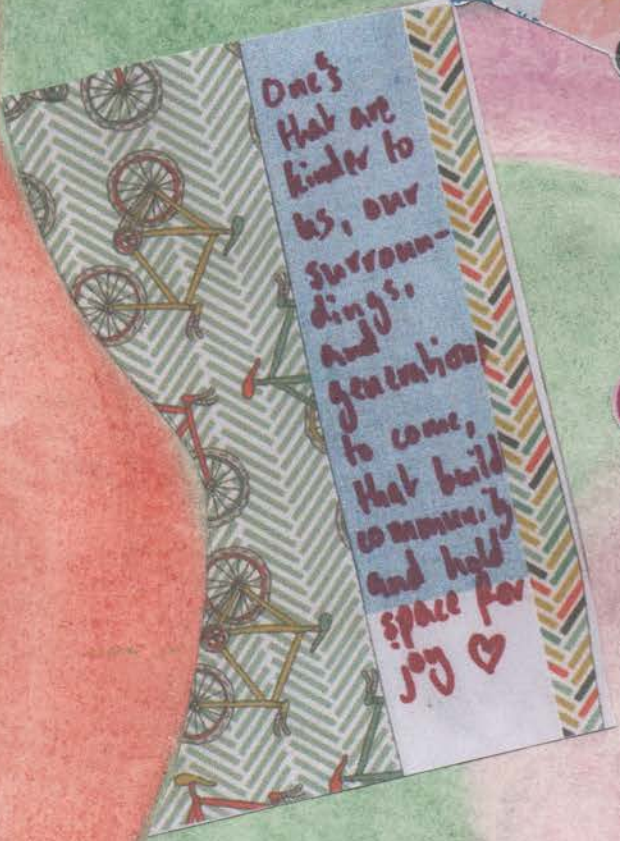
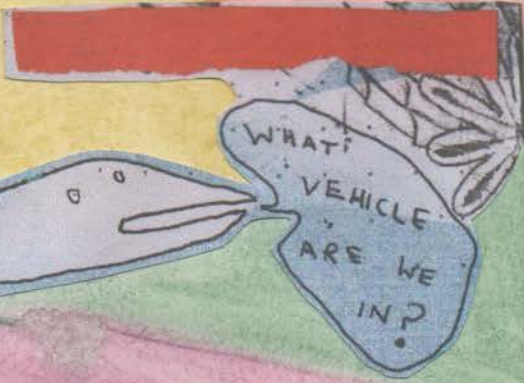
IN A MOTORBIKE
SYLO

OR WITH LOTS
OF PEOPLE ON
CHEAP TRANSPORT

NOT A
LUXURY YACHT
OR EVEN A
TRAIN

WHAT'S BETWEEN
CAPITALISM AND
ANTI CAPITALISM?

WHAT DOES
IT LOOK LIKE IN
THIS CAPITALIST WORLD?



WHAT KNOWLEDGE DO WE NEED TO GET THERE?

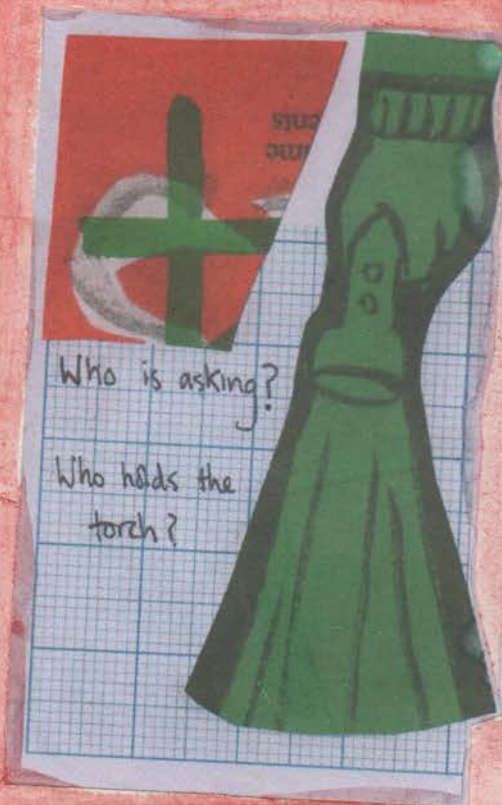
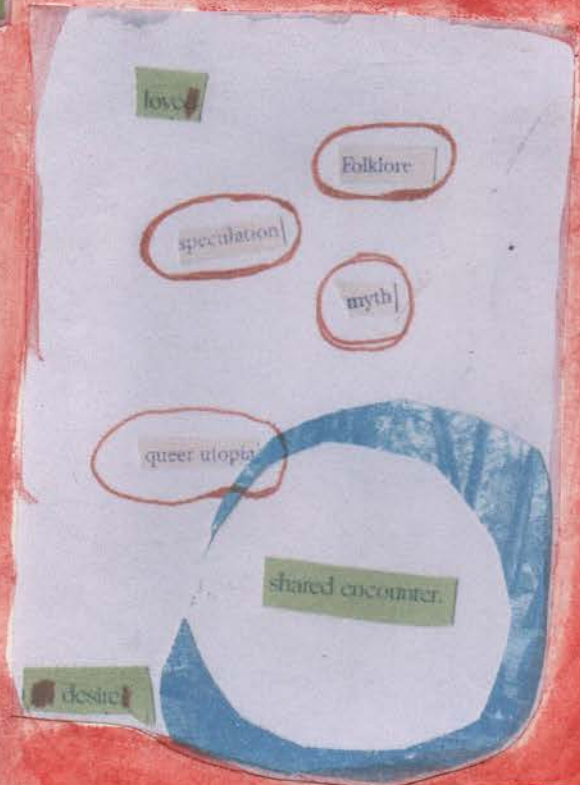
- mending
- growing
- connecting
- praxis - how to be & how to sustain
- making
- learning from indigenous/cultural/local/historic practice
- can't get there if we don't know how
 - ↳ break it into smaller steps ~~etc~~ - make it doable
- how do we unlearn what is so deeply embedded into society?
how do we encourage this ~~un~~ unlearning and relearning on a bigger scale?

What
KNOWLEDGE
do we need



We need everyone!
Obviously, and obviously
kind of impossible
but yes

Important to work with + represent
people who are impacted directly by
the climate crisis



also those people (many) in Global
North who don't appreciate the extent
of the problem, but some will (or
their families will) - we need to
somehow bring them along

The big money corporations +
governments who have the power to
change the problem - they
did it in pandemic. &
So need convincing quickly!!

which can feel
reactionary - what of this world
do we want to keep?

dreamers, repairers
weavers, carers
makers,

who has what you need?

do you have what
you need?

that ~~we~~ we need everyone.

It's interesting bc I can
get really turned off by
activism which focuses on climate
action w/o being explicitly anti-
capitalist, anti fascist, anti-racist.

→ so much of it is about
protection rather than creation
of new worlds

ENVISIONING

Workshop two

~~How do we get~~ How do we get

what
knowledge
do we
need?

what
people
do we
need?

what
vehicle
will we
be in?

this is a con-
text of climate
justice, ~~the~~ of
being in solidarity
with people impacted
by climate change
and organising with
people but also...

I re-
a vid
to con-
Palest-
and
how
prop-
they
div-
an
ha
th



Plant people always seem happy

• What is a climate future if...
 • grounding your "what if"
 - imagining different parts or futures
 • what is a climate future if Le Pen wins the election in France?

How do we get there?

What vehicle are we in?

What will we do when we're there?

What knowledge will we need?

Who?

Tools?

We need to maintain what we feel, know
& apply it to the land.

Build, destroy, abolition. Creation

New forms of association.

Tools of association.

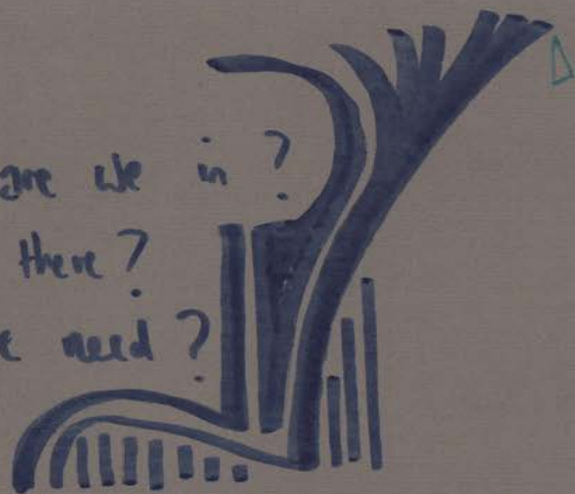
Do movements have these tools?

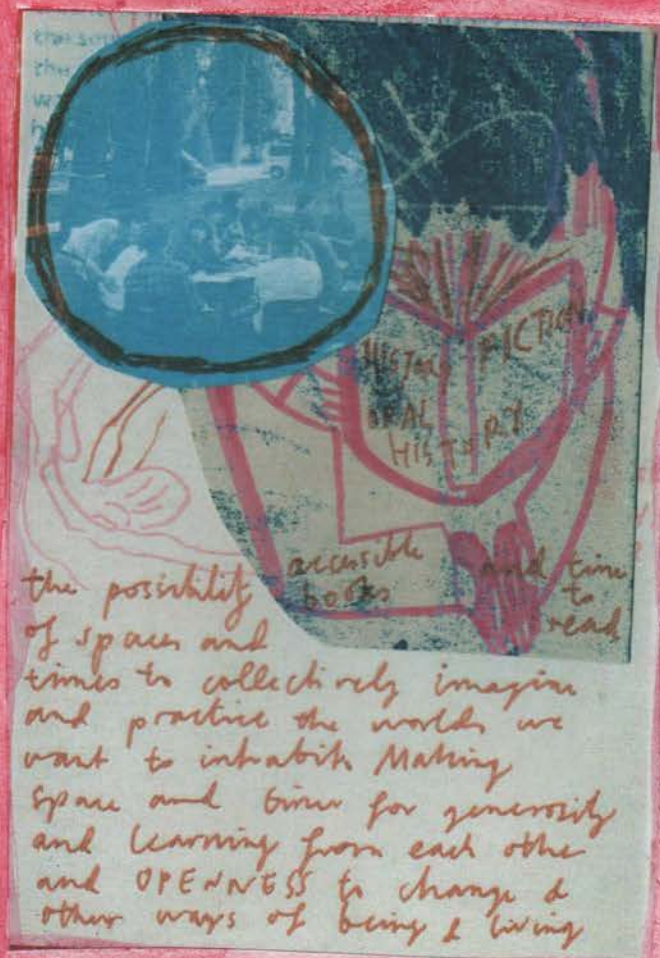
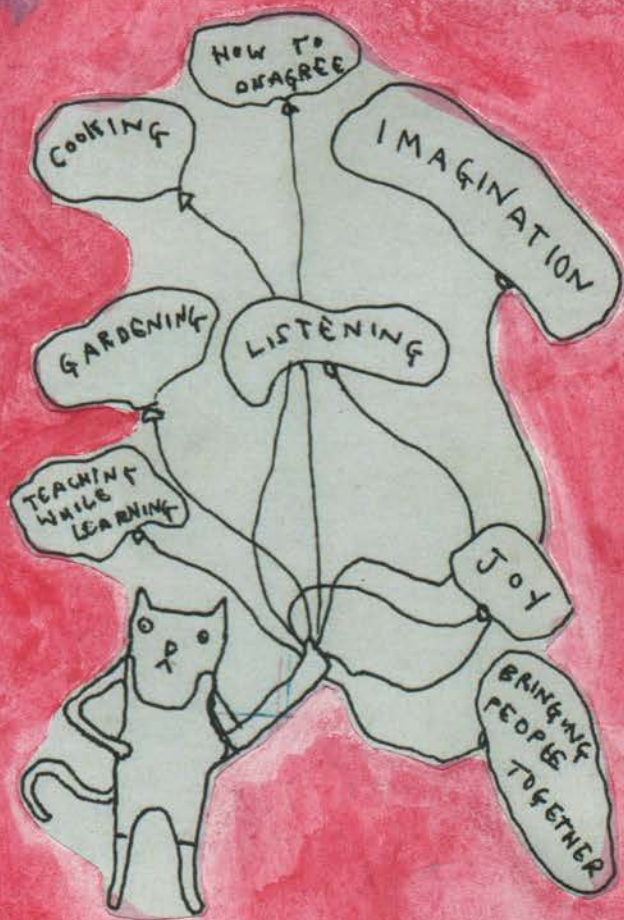
Choices
mechanisms

Decisions

Democratic
tools.

Media





It often feels hard to imagine a "realistic" climate future because it feels so disconnected from the soon-to-be dystopian present that we currently inhabit.

Shevek thought of his own work, and had nothing to say. Yet he could not join in Bedap's criticism. Bedap had forced him to realise that he was, in fact, a revolutionary; but he felt profoundly that he was such by virtue of his upbringing and education as an Odonian and an Anarresti. He could not rebel against his society, because his society, properly conceived, was a revolution—a permanent one, an ongoing process. To reassert its validity and strength, he thought, one need only act, without fear of punishment and without hope of reward: act from the centre of one's soul.

The Dispossessed, Ursula Le Guin

There needs to be such a **RADICAL** shift in thinking... action... intention... the way our communities operate and interact.

...? A person likes to do what he is good at doing. . . . But really, it is the question of ends and means. After all, work is done for the work's sake. It is the lasting pleasure of life. The private conscience knows that. And also the social conscience, the opinion of one's neighbours. There is no other reward, on Anarres; no other law. One's own pleasure, and the respect of one's fellows. That is all. When that is so, then you see the opinion of the neighbours becomes a very mighty force."

"No one ever defies it?"
"Perhaps not often enough," Shevek said.

How do we enact this shift

"Girl, we been knowing that everyone got their own role. Whatchu think the Elders teach us? The revolution needs artists, just like it needs healers and storytellers, just like it needs the organizers and protesters. It's all one big organism working together."

Bitler, Akwaake Emezi

in the world?

I spend a lot of time engaging with hope-punk, Speculative fiction media - Sometimes it feels too easy to lose myself in places I'd rather be, instead of working in "the real world" to support their coming about

A Prayer for the Crown-Shy, Becky Chambers
a very sensible introductory question. What is it that you need?"

"You thought it might be something basic," Dex said.
"Like . . . we need food. Or living space. Better technology. Something like that."
"Possibly, yes. But I've been nowhere with you where those needs aren't provided for. And when people interpret my question beyond the things you require to stay alive and healthy, it gets . . ."
"Complicated?"

The task seems insurmountable but we have to dream?

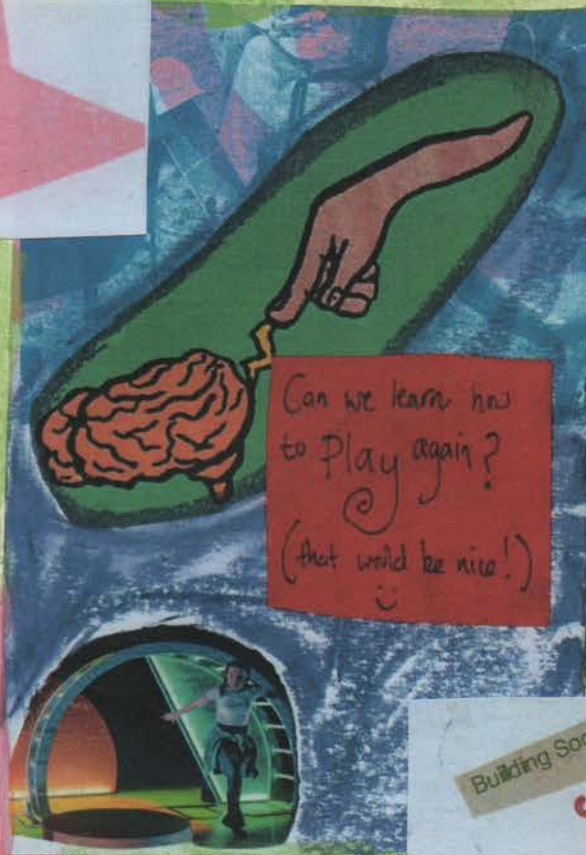
Even in my own writing I get bogged down in logistics, shutting down my own imagination for being impossible. But human nature is messy and we need to start somewhere?

THE REVOLUTION WILL ALWAYS BE A WORK-IN-PROGRESS

UTOPIA!

What will
we do
when
we get
there?

will you come with me?



Building Society

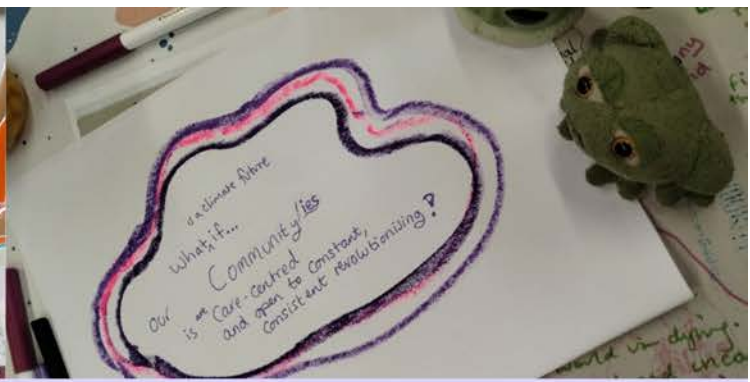
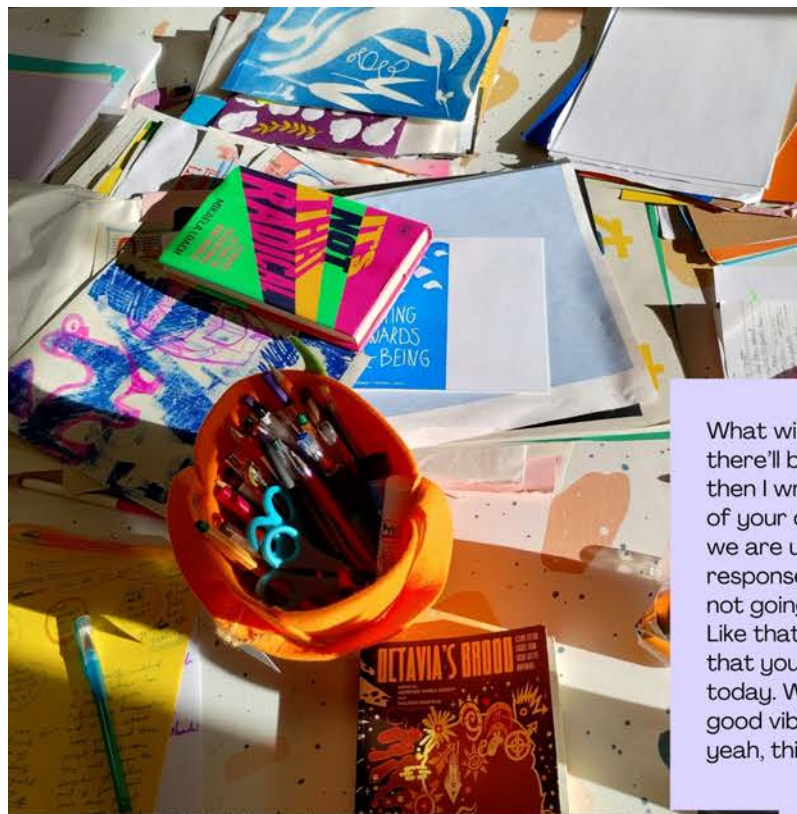
→ Rebuilding
communities

→ Rest

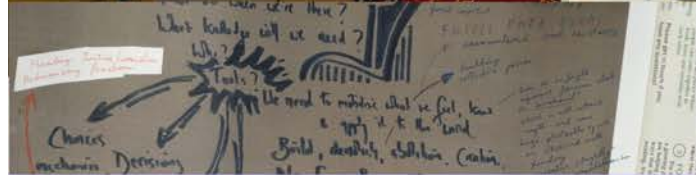
Prioritise

KINDNESS

↳ care



What will we do when we get there? We'll hang out and eat picnics. And there'll be community gatherings. We will eat the food we grow, chill. And then I wrote, "I don't have what I need yet." Because I think that was one of your questions and I was like, "I don't have that." We can't accept that we are unkind and uncaring. We are capable of caring. I think that was in response to like, I was thinking when people just say like, "Oh yeah, I'm just not going to save the planet. The future generation can deal with that. Like that's their problem." But I was trying to say like, "You can't accept that you are capable of not caring. I didn't think I'd think about that today. Which is interesting.[chuckles] Yeah, it was just, it was generally good vibes. And that's what I wanted to like reflect in the scene of like yeah, thinking big.



There's organised people and there's organised power. And organised power, the governments, the government's friends who have got vested interest in finance ... And they're all really well organised because that's how they maintain control. And the only way that social change has been won in the past is people organising it to make it untenable for those in powers. It's not convincing them of their humanity that they should allow us - the other classes should allow us because they start agreeing with us - because in climate disaster they're going to be in their lovely air conditioned like bunkers where they're not bothered by it. Because they have money, they have so many assets and so much money. It's making them feel like if they—within their interest, if they continue doing something. Like if they don't divest from Israeli arms, then it will continue to smear their PR or it will continue to reduce shares and things like that. So, it's how can we move governments to do what we want so that we can get a little bit closer to our like revolution, radical, not having to rely on the state. And what bits of state can we start doing radical stuff in. What bits of the state actually do we need or what bits of the state can we like start building within community to do that rehearsing freedoms thing, which is nice.



I've been reading a lot of disability justice work and how that interrelates with climate justice. And when you mentioned about community being an ongoing process, I think ... what I think of speculative futures, while we're thinking about what would all the multitudes that we contain be if we're not constrained by capitalism. And we're not constrained by climate collapse. But also what like you said, harms ... what harms do we need to be conscious of when we're living our like best envisioned lives? So that's often something I think about often people who think they're living in like radical spaces. You're still a product of the environment that you are like taught oppressions in. So, like they might show up in really kind of covert ways and how can we in our like perfect climate justice world be still like challenging that, and also creating the space for harm to be addressed ... my definite tendency, visceral tendency is to be like, "No, you're not allowed into our justice-based world." But actually, then is that going to create injustice?



Workshop Three

This session led on from the “how do we get there?” question from workshop 2, feel free to explore your question further, or use one of the mind maps printed in this zine.

Explore the mind map you made - edit, highlight, add any thoughts, feelings, or new ideas that it sparks for you. We then shared these with each other and invited others to share any thoughts that came up for them and added these to the mind map.

We wanted to use these to explore the question of “what if?”

Pick out something that draws you in on your mindmaps - could be an idea, a thought, a question, a theory - can be the whole map or just one thing.

Turn this into a “what if?” question: “what is a climate future if...”

It might help to think of a community, movement, event or moment that happened historically or currently to ground your what if a bit but only if that's useful - imagining different pasts can help us to imagine different futures - only do this if it makes sense to your thoughts though if you want to ground it

Some prompts to aid your exploration of the question:

What does that climate future look like - focus on different senses / how would it feel to be in that world?

What have we left behind? Is that a positive change? Negative? Neutral?

What have we gained? Is that a positive change? Negative? Neutral?

Will things be forgotten? Replaced?

How does it feel to leave those things behind? How does it feel to gain those things?

How will we meet the needs of people who suffer harm?

What brings hope and joy?

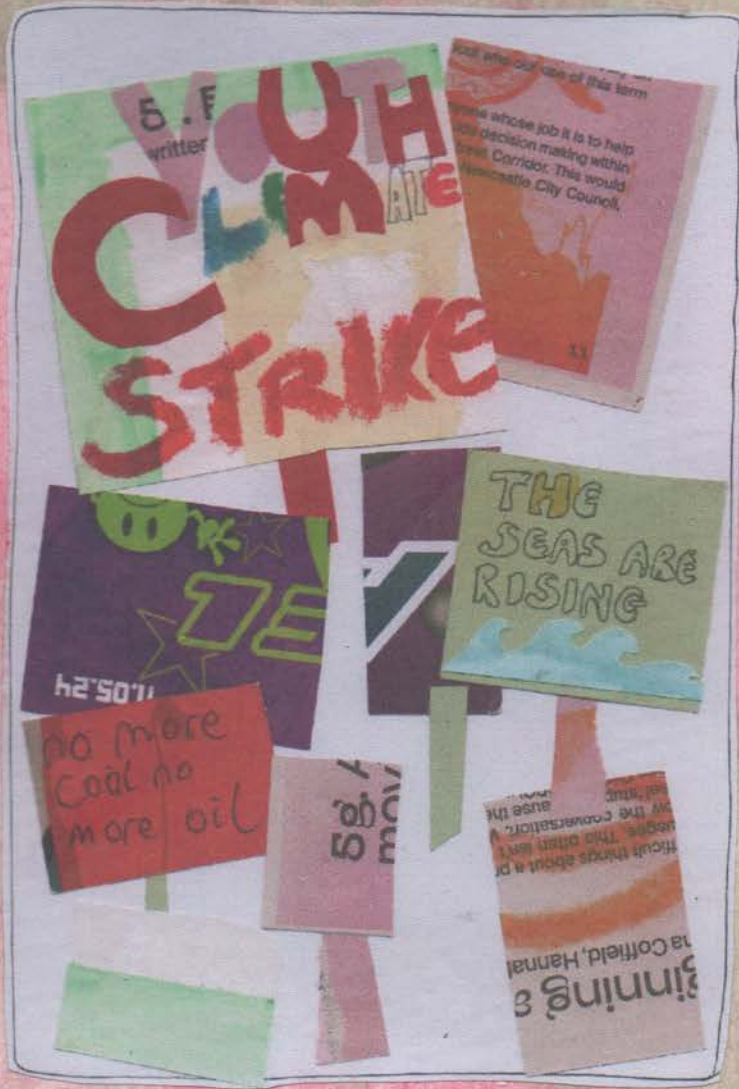
Some of the “what if?” questions that were explored in the workshop are (you can see over the next pages): What is a climate future if our community or communities are care centred and open to constant consistent revolutionising? What is a climate future if Le Pen wins the election in France? What if the climate strikes had got bigger and included more society rather than getting shut down in COVID. Where might we be? What is a climate future if our community or communities are care centred and open to constant consistent revolutionising?

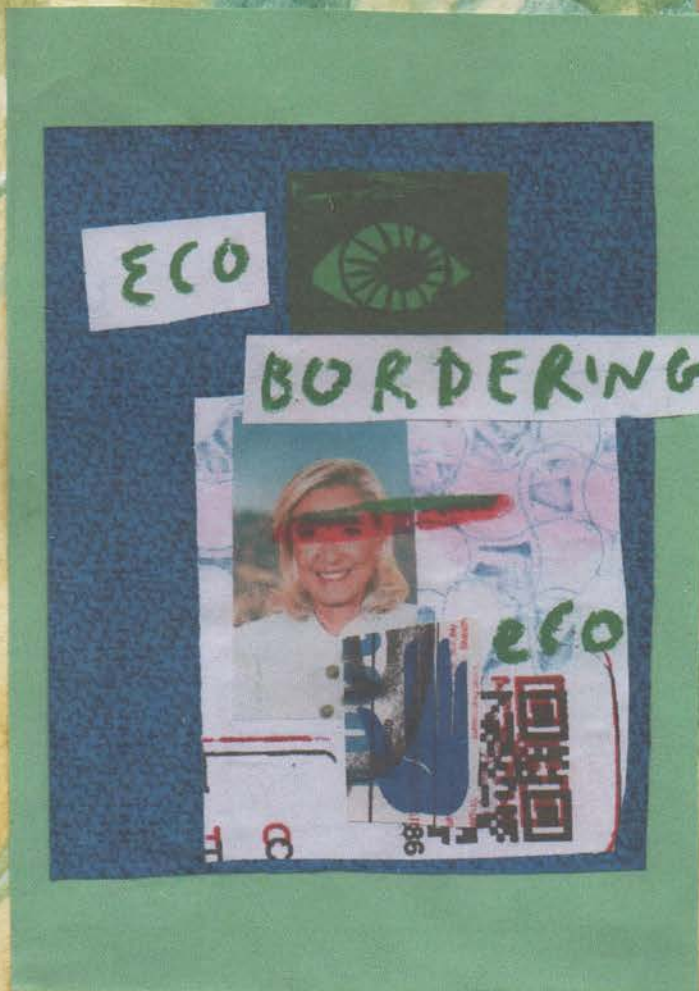
These artworks were created through revisiting and annotating the mindmaps from workshop two, so the pieces and conversations that came out of workshop three were built on previous conversations and ideas. This was intentional to continue to build on that community knowledge.

BREAK DOWN

REBUILD

START OVER...





FREEDOM ♥ ♥ REHERSAL

12pm - 5pm (Every Day)

COMMUNITY

SOLIDARITY

ROOM



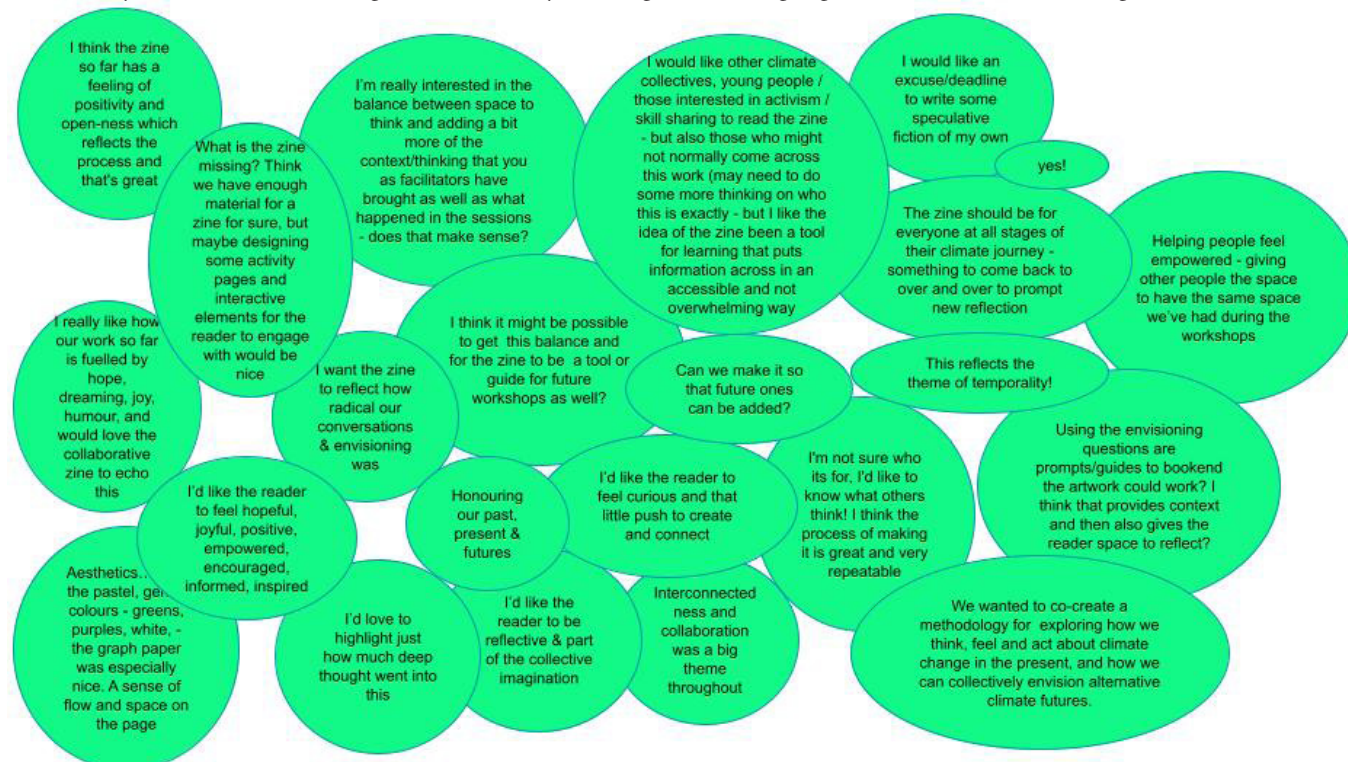
Please get in touch if you
have any questions!

ABOUT THE ★ REHERSALS ♥

- ★ Practice and explore how we care for each other every day
- ♥ Learn and unlearn approaches to conflict
- ★ Share your interests and skills
- ♥ Ask for support and solidarity - emotional, practical and material
- ★ Play, relax, retreat and just be.
- ♥ Plot, strategise and share tactics
- ★ Free food, shared childcare, mind-body care needs met, fix it space, radical living



In the final workshop we met online, went through everything we had done and made, and shared ideas about what this collective zine you hold in your hands could be. Below are responses to the questions: What is the purpose of our zine? What are some of the aesthetics/ images/ colours that you liked the best? Who would you like to read this zine? How would you like the reader to feel? Are there any standout themes, images or ideas that you thought were a highlight? What is the zine missing?



Some reflections on the workshops shared at the “Failed Again: The Fault-lines in Utopia” workshop, Newcastle University 12/09/24

As a non-academic person working with zine making in universities and with community groups I've found this to be a really fulfilling, purposeful role. I've been able to learn a lot about people's experiences first hand and be a part of groups and conversations that I may not usually - and help to hold a space for them to talk about things they are passionate about. Zines have been a great form of activism as they can platform people's voices who are not usually heard.

Zine making is such a helpful tool when it comes to radical imagining and climate utopias as you get a very personable, raw and honest response - one which hasn't gone through a publishing company or censoring. It can come from just one individual or a collective's imagination and it can feel more down to earth, accessible and can communicate ideas quickly, visually and emotionally. This means as a reader you can also think creatively about how you might respond to the themes and it is a great way of gathering, sharing, and learning from each other as a community. They are a way of opening conversations, breaking down barriers and advocating for positive change -- Mack.

With the envisioning practice, I tried to create threads throughout the workshops that allowed participants to build on their visions of a utopian climate future. We also made sure to have discussions after every envisioning exercise to bring our ideas into focus, and to highlight the collective imagination. Those discussions were some of my favourite parts of the workshops as we all made connections between the things that we were thinking and what emotions we were feeling about our ideal climate futures. One of the key themes that were shared by multiple people across the different workshops were about temporality - slowing down and resting and I think this is in direct conflict with how we currently exist and navigate the societal hegemony of consumption thinking. This was particularly interesting as sometimes there wasn't a cross over of participants who came to the sessions, and the place in which we had our workshops felt conducive to creating the kind of futures we were imagining.

Using imagination as a tool can be difficult to keep grounded as it's an unutilised skill in neoliberal capitalist society so it can feel overwhelming and difficult to tangibly grasp. I learned this from a collective imagination workshop I participated in a few years ago and continue to use it because it's useful - asking people to focus on their senses such as taste, smell and touch can make imagining easier and it creates a connection between yourself and the thing that you

are imagining. I like to start with the micro - the individual, your neighbourhood, your family, then move to the macro - nationally, internationally.

Radical imagination is a doing word - a powerful tool of resistance. When asking people to be in a vulnerable state to imagine such hopeful futures it can be very personal and often rooted in trauma and your own relationship with our current ways of being. For example, a lot of what I want to see in a utopian future is based on past personal experiences as somebody who is neurodiverse and my relationship with class and gender, while also holding space for an eradication of the violence and harm that I am not subject to myself through abolition and anti-colonialism practices. I was aware that whatever questions I asked held a lot of power, as the answers to those would take form in the making through ideas on the page. I had to contend with this, so I tried to also give space to people asking questions of themselves and of each other through groups discussions.

I think that failure is built into imagination, there can be a deep yearning that comes with envisioning exercises, and you have to be careful to hold that with care otherwise that can lead to feelings of hopelessness rather than hope. Sometimes it can feel like a failure that we aren't there yet, bringing forth feelings of grief. On reflection, failure isn't a bad thing, not something that we should be scared of. By trade, I'm a youth worker and this comes with a lot of dynamic changing of plans and I think that means I naturally lean into believing that it's not a failure to have to change course and leave behind ideas that you were once deeply connected to. One person's utopia is another person's oppression so having to change how we view our ideal climate futures based on the collective is not a failure of our own singular imagination, it's a strength to radically build a utopia that is liberated and just -- Bethan

Embracing the snail was important in the workshops, and the generosity of the discussions we had, coming from different perspectives, was grounded in the desire for community learning. Honouring everyone's experience and knowledge from being involved in different campaigns and movements such as migrant justice, youth climate strike, disability justice, Palestine solidarity, youth work, community arts. Maybe these speculative climate future zine-making sessions can be considered collective experiments in the radical imagination, understood as 'constitutive, collective feature of daily life and is decidedly unspectacular in the way it manifests' (Khasnabish, 2019). Maybe there'll be more! -- Miranda



This QR code takes you to a list of resources we shared and discussed during and in-between the workshops.

Thanks for reading this zine! If you want to find out more, contact us, tell us about things you're doing, there's a link on the page above or contact m.iossifidis@gmail.com

Thanks to

The speculative climate futures zine workshop participants for creating such a generative space, discussions and artworks.

The Catherine Cookson Trust for funding the project

The NewBridge Project for hosting the workshops

Overlay Press who have printed this cover and contributed their beautiful leftover scraps to our zine-making workshops, which really shaped the making.

This Zine was made in November 2024

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

