

**Towards Co-operative Common Wealth: Transition in a Perilous Century**

Dear Colleague,

You know we are living in perilous times. The need for systemic change has never been more obvious or more urgent – for people and planet. We at Synergia are reaching out to you because we believe you are committed to the common struggle for transformative change. As an international network of senior, lifelong practitioners and community educators we are shaping our contribution around two core areas of work:

a) Designing accessible, high quality educational resources that can be leveraged by change agents everywhere to create system changing solutions fitted to local contexts. Our online learning platform offers discussion and exchange of practical knowledge and strategies for action leading to systemic change and the provision of basic needs.

b) Providing training and education programming to change makers – whether individuals or organizations – through intensive, face-to-face courses that fit solutions and strategic thinking to solving key issues in strategic sectors.

In 2017 we piloted a MOOC (Massive, Open, Online Course) to test our ideas, methods and tools. Over 600 people registered from 24 countries. We learned a lot. **The start date of the newly revised course is March 25**, where change makers from many fields can experience and utilize contemporary, cutting edge content to advance their work. The coursewill be offered in two four week segments. **Registration commences Feb.25.**

**We would like you to join us and take full advantage of this unique learning opportunity. We have two requests.**

**We are seeking your help to make staff and members of your networks aware of the opportunity to connect with others** in the solidarity & social economy, co-operative, commons, sustainability, and green social movements to learn from each other and to advance our collective efforts at systems change**.**

**We also invite you to leverage the course to advance your own capacity, further your organization’s mission, and strengthen your networks and alliances.** We will design the means by which the participants you target can be given space on our online platform to dialogue collectively around what they are learning and the implications for their work.

**Peer-to-peer learning and knowledge creation is a key priority and we are encouraging the formation of study circles and local action circles to reflect upon and apply the lessons learned in this course to active issues and local contexts.**

**The Synergia MOOC offers a certificate** and we are working to secure graduate level accreditation. **The course is free at the certificate level.** The cost of degree accreditation is not yet finalized.

Our aim now is to make this free online program as widely available as possible. With your help, we can make this happen.

For updates, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/synergiainstitute/?ref=bookmarks>

To learn more about the theories and approaches that underpin our vision and work, see the attached course overview and visit: <https://synergiainstitute.wordpress.com/> To learn more about our face-to-face programs, click here: <https://vimeo.com/305934867>

If you have questions about the MOOC or if you want to discuss how we can help facilitate group learning that is geared to your priorities and objectives, please contact Michael Lewis at [lewiscccr@shaw.ca](mailto:lewiscccr@shaw.ca)

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

The Synergia Team

Michael Lewis, John Restakis Mike Gismondi Pat Conaty

Author, The Resilience Imperative Author, Humanizing the Professor, Sociology & Author, The Resilience Imperative Activist, Adjunct Professor, Economy, Activist, Adjunct Global Studies, Fellow, New Economics Foundation

Athabasca U., Canada Professor, SFU, Canada Athabasca U., Canada UK

.

**Towards Co-operative Common Wealth: Transition in our Perilous Century**

Course Overview & Structure

Our approach to the Synergia course design has been to emphasize ideas and practices that define effective action across strategic sectors that, taken together, create systemic change at local, regional, and macro levels. The matrix below depicts the content & themes that the course addresses. The cross weave illustrates the dots we seek to connect within a unified vision of change.

While introductory, the course has depth and offers clear examples that open up new channels of awareness. It bridges the micro and the macro and sharpens critical understanding of the systemic factors supporting or thwarting the diffusion and scaling of real solutions.



Eight Thematic Modules

Our thematic modules cover essential elements of integrated system change and address the major fields of action necessary for transition.

**Segment 1 – Four Weeks starting March 11 (TBC)**

**1. Framing the Journey: Capitalism, Planetary Limits & The Struggle to Restore & Share our Common Wealth**

**2. Stewarding Land & Resources for the Common Good**

**3. Ecological Resilience and a Just Food System**

**4. Precarious Livelihoods: Pathways to Solidarity**

**Segment 2 – Four Weeks starting May (final date pending)**

**5. Democratizing Social Care: From Welfare State to Caring Society**

**6. Democratic Ownership: Pathways to a Resilient Energy Future**

**7. Democratic Financing Solutions for the Great Transition**

**8. Synthesis: Building the Politics for Systems Change**

In each of the modules key elements of context are highlighted and concrete working solutions presented. We examine policies supporting diffusion and scaling impacts, analyze systems and institutions – large and small – that constrain transition efforts, and explore movements that combine effective resistance to entrenched power while building alternatives.

Conceptual tools are also strategically introduced to help participants think critically about multiple levels of action and the historical factors shaping our current context. Guiding questions for reflection & dialogue, are coupled with practical exercises to help to deepen participant’s analysis and understanding.

Finally, Peer-to- Peer learning groups are structured for on line interaction and through video, which will also facilitate interaction between participants, course facilitators and special guest presenters. We also encourage the formation of *study circles* from within a particular organization or locale, or *action circles* comprised of individuals or groups actively engaged in a campaign or issue at a local level.