Radical Technology 2.0 event

# "WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT RADICAL TECHNOLOGY 3.0”

Joe Ravetz

*This presentation considers what have we learned since the 1970s, and what are the implications for the next 40 years? It draws on an emerging theory & practice of co-evolution & social intelligence. This is framed as RT-3.0, pointing to the potential opportunities from a step-change in social learning & thinking. The presentation uses interactive questions & visual thinking tracks*

*For background see* [*www.urban3.net/urban-3-0-the-book/*](http://www.urban3.net/urban-3-0-the-book/)

## 1) Analysis:

* ‘growth’ / progress is currently framed as techno-economic material growth – often destructive of social, cultural, ecological values, both local & global.
* Intermediate / Radical Tech 1.0 aimed to rebalance towards social, ecological etc,... but then the gaps & contradictions multiplied on the technology & economics & politics.
* E.g... small community wind power: ( a) low efficiency, (b) relies on hidden infrastructure, (c) needs complex transfers between supply / demand, investment-return, etc.
* Question of optimum scale for energy systems? Not a simple question, as many parameters of supply, innovation, demand, distribution, impact mitigation etc.
* Question of optimum political-economy for energy systems? With hindsight, localized coop model is very naive, ignoring realities of rich/poor, investment / return, resource scarcity etc.
* Larger question applies to ‘growth’: growth of what, where, for who, what conditions? At the moment, there’s an existential conflict between conservation of the global climate as we know it, and global economy as we know it.
* So, we can put alternative growth / prosperity models side by side: techno-economic material growth: socio-political empowerment growth: deep eco-cultural growth: and many combinations of these. Is there a possibility they can be mutually compatible?

## 2) Implications:

* Overall, we need to talk about a **Radical Technology 3.0** – not only the tonnes of CO2, etc, but ways of growing social learning & social intelligence, which can look for the synergies between these alternative models of growth.
* E.g. community energy / energy democracy needs to combine: social-community collateral: technology integration of supply-demand: economic & investment viability: ecological sustainability: political-institutional viability: cultural commitment: urban practicality for real places & structures: i.e. all with the acronym STEEPCU).
* Also, this needs to work at different spatial scales from local / regional / national / global: different timescales, different levels of risk & uncertainty, different levels of human conflict competition, etc.
* Who can put all these competing goals and demands and systems together ??????
* We can. It’s very challenging but actually there’s little alternative.
* It calls for a step change in how we learn & think & create collectively. So we need methods & tools for doing this.
* Social-Mind Synergistics aims to provide at least a starter kit for Radical Technology 3.0.
* Some preliminary results are ready to be discussed.....