

Symposium report

The New Paradigm in Politics Symposium revealed that the spirit of democracy as an inclusive participatory governance process is alive in the heart and mind of humanity. This is especially evident in the growing movement of groups, networks, communities, and organizations who are experimenting with *new decentralized and distributed forms of governance and coordination* that enable more inclusive and diverse participation in decision-making. These experiments are essential, because the old forms of democracy are dying and unfit to guide humanity to safeguard our planetary wellbeing.

As the IPCC confirmed humanity has entered “code red”. We are now in a climate emergency, in addition to the many other challenges that place us and our world under pressure. *The spirit of democracy is calling us to evolve our institutions, cultures, systems, models, laws, and frameworks.* If we don’t answer this urgent call, we will lose democratic movements to extremist groups, new forms of terrorism, and the puppet masters who continue to govern the political and corporate elites who create the threat of an ecocide.

A new paradigm in politics is required to navigate and guide humanity, as well as new evolutionary constitutions to ground and enact the principles and practices implied by that paradigm. Evolutionary constitutions cannot merely be declared but must be born from a transformative and participatory process. We have to become *the new paradigm people*. The co-creation of a new paradigm in politics is an educational process that prepares people for regeneration, living, and thriving.

The symposium confirmed new paradigm principles for the transformation of our leadership and for the redesign of our economic, legal, political, and educational systems. These paradigm principles include: unity, wholeness, diversity, holarchy, syntony, coherence, and evolutionary coherent growth and development. The ultimate response, however, takes place inside our own consciousness, to enable us to become the creators of a new earth-based and life-centered civilization.

The symposium offered guidelines and practices for answering the call of democracy through a psycho-social challenge of personal mastery, as well as through the cultivation of new and earlier indigenous practices of being and interbeing. It was noted that we are being called to a deeper partnering with the universal wisdom of life, by giving primacy to our sentience, and using our rational cognitive capacities in service of life.

[From the report of Dr. Anneloes Smitsman and Dr. Alexander Laszlo, as part of the forthcoming publication series on Symposia outcomes, this symposium on *The New Paradigm in Politics* having been the first in that series]