

An r3.0 Open Dialogue Session with  
**JEM BENDELL**  
Author of  
**‘Breaking Together –  
A Freedom-Loving Response to  
Collapse’**

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**8 April 2024**

Facilitated by:

**Ralph Thurm | Managing Director | r3.0**  
**Bill Baue | Senior Director | r3.0**

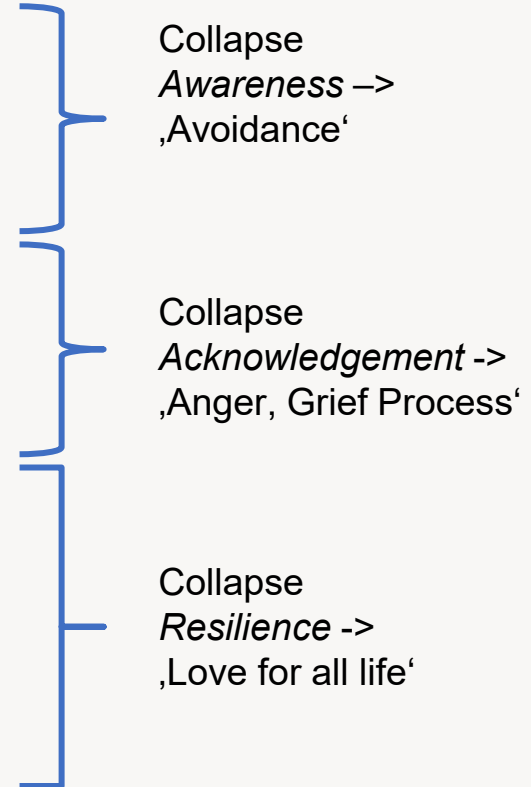


# A Quick Guide through r3.0 Materials and Processes

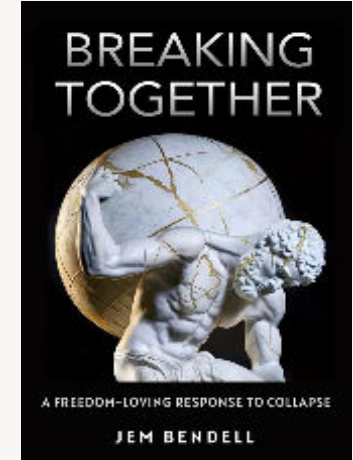
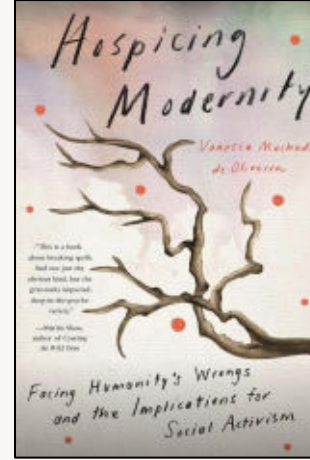
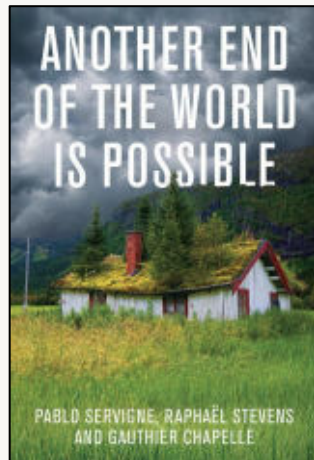
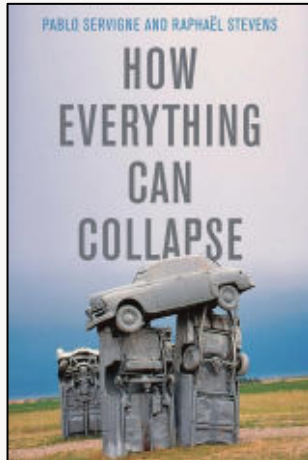
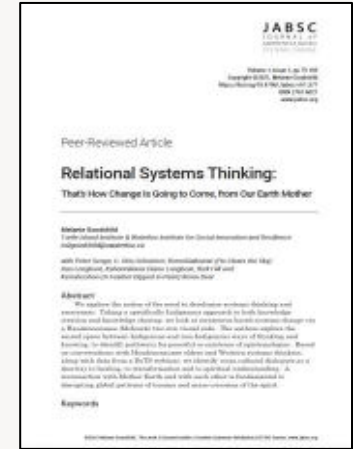
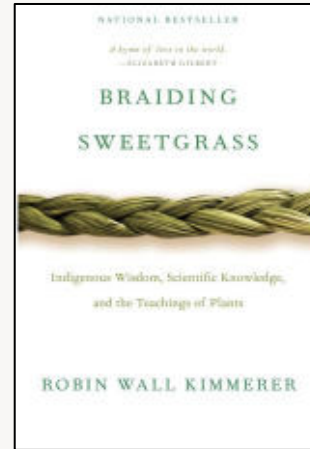
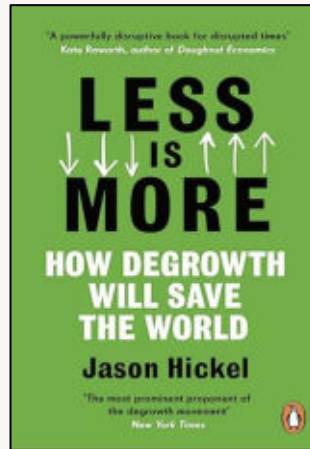
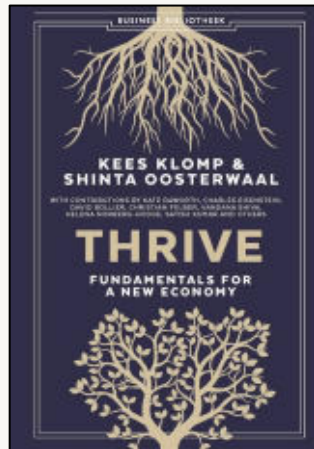
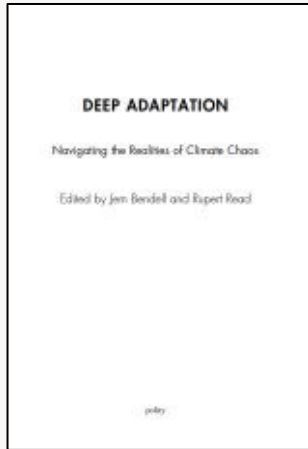
- **The Knowledge Commons: 9 Blueprints (Generation 1)**  
Reporting, Accounting, Data, Business Models, Sustainable Finance, Value Cycles, Educational Transformation, Funding Governance for Systemic Transformation, Transformation Journey. First BP of 2nd Generation: Just Transitions to Regenerative Economies & Cultures
- **Transformation Journey Programs: 8 Cohorts since 2019**  
US, France, Netherlands, India, Germany
- **r3.0 Annual Conference: 10 Conferences since 2013, 11th Edition September 10/11**
- **Specific Agenda-Enforcing Projects:**  
UNSDPI and Monthly Training, Global Thresholds & Allocations Network
- **Medium Channel: More than 115 specific articles:**  
Including series like 'What we're reading at r3.0', plus topic-specific articles on all areas dealing with a regenerative & distributive economy transformation
- **Advocation Partners and Academic Alliance 'Orbits', Newsletters and Social Media Coverage**
- **New in 2024 - r3.0 Open Dialog Sessions:**
  - 1) An Open Dialogue on the Earth Commission's 'Translating Earth System Boundaries for Cities and Businesses' Paper
  - 2) An Open Dialogue on the Earth Commission's 'Planetary Commons' Paper
  - 3) **...today: An Open Dialog with Jem Bendell on Collapse and Freedom-Loving Responses**
  - 4) An Open Dialog on the 'Sustainability Context Gap' (May 1, 2024) with Connor Guilherme

# r3.0's Journey towards Collapse Resilience

- Since 2012: (after Rio+20) developing the ,Ideal' of a regenerative & distributive economy & backcasting from there to what is deemed ,necessary' to reach that ideal.
- Since 2015: developing the first generation of Blueprints that should serve a systemic and simultaneous leapfrog; first notion of ,bioregions' as a new narrative for a regenerative way of clustering.
- 2022: finalizing the first generation of Blueprints.
- 2023 conference: full focus on positive social tipping points; debunking ESG logic of sustainability standard setters as ,[The Lost Decade](#).'
- 2024 conference: Tipping points on tipping points – building necessary collapse resilience.
- 2025: Blueprint ZERO launch



# Literature we looked at along the way (a chronological selection)



# Breaking Together – Part 1 – The reasons for collapse



*‘...when I say “breaking together” I mean allowing the breakdowns in our privileges, comforts, worldviews and identities, to allow a **new openness** for connection with people, nature and even the eternal. We can also allow this breaking to **reconnect us** with aspects of who we are that have been hidden under the social conditioning we’ve experienced since birth. We have tended to cling to the products of that conditioning, in order to feel safe, respected, capable, and able to have fun in ways we already know. But we’ve got to **let go and begin breaking together.**’*

**Chapters 1–6** of the book develop the ‘dashboard’ of **collapse indicators** in great depth, discussing **economic collapse, monetary collapse, energy collapse, biosphere collapse, climate collapse, and food collapse** extensively. The span of data used, the interpretation of the role of diverse players involved, and the **inability for us to reject, step out, and re-design** what’s necessary becomes painfully clear.

**Chapter 7** discusses **societal collapse** as an ongoing parallel decay. It is clear that it is the consequence of the beforementioned discussed areas of collapse. What’s particularly interesting in this chapter is a deeper dive into our **denial of the reality, the ‘taboo’ to acknowledge**, including aspects like siloed research and reductionism, normalcy bias in all its forms and consequences, and elements of the ‘cultural cement’ (legal, commercial, monetary, political, and personal egoisms).

## Breaking Together – Part 2 – the reactions to collapse



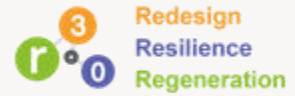
*,Critical Wisdom: the elusive capability for understanding oneself in the world that combines insight from mindfulness, critical literacy, rationality, and intuition. A capability for mindfulness involves awareness of the motivations for our thought, including our mind states, emotional reactions and why we might want to “know” about phenomena. A capability for rationality involves awareness of logic, logical fallacies and forms of bias. A capability for critical literacy involves awareness of how the tools by which we think, including linguistically constructed concepts and stories, are derived from, and reproduce, culture, including relationships of power. A capability for intuition involves awareness of insights from non-conceptual experiences including epiphanies and insights from non-ordinary states of consciousness.’*

Further chapters include

- ‘Freedom from progress’ (rediscover the immense wisdom of indigenous peoples)
- ‘Freedom from banking’ (monetary power was not an accident, but organised by a complex of people, organisations, resources, norms and rules that served the monetarily wealthy.)
- ‘Freedom in nature’ (liberating ourselves into a free will to allow for ecolibertarianism to be birthed)
- ‘Freedom to collapse and grow the doomster way’ (the 15 characteristics of becoming a ,doomster‘)
- ‘Freedom from fake green globalists’ (counter media manipulation and conspiracy porn, how to focus on the 5th ‘R’s) , helping to resist authoritarianism, avoid distraction and dilution.

Each of these chapters is a treasure trove of insights and argues for positions against **Imperial Modernity**.

# Bendell's ,5R' Framework



- **Resilience:** what do we most value that we want to keep, and how?
- **Relinquishment:** what do we need to let go of so as not to make matters worse?
- **Restoration:** what could we bring back to help us with these difficult times?
- **Reconciliation:** with what and whom shall we make peace as we awaken to our mutual mortality?
- **Reclaiming:** how can we resist authoritarianism and avoid distraction and dilution?

## Recent posts useful for this conversation



Prof Jem Bendell

[Read on blog](#) or [Reader](#)

### **The Professional Implications of Collapse: Deep Adaptation in Organizations**

jembendell

March 6

As modern societies experience further disruption and decline, how can our work in organizations help more of us 'break together' not apart? Because, once people conclude societies are in a situation of actual breakdown, not everyone can quit their job and do something new. How to integrate an acceptance of societal collapse into one's professional job in a large organisation is therefore a huge issue. Five years after the Deep Adaptation (DA) movement took off, some people in the field of organisational development are engaging with this agenda. Therefore, in this essay I offer some initial ideas for how to work on societal collapse risk, readiness, and response, within organisations. Consequently it is a rather dry piece of writing... but maybe of use if you want to work on this agenda more within a large organization. Rather too warmly,  
Jem

[Read more of this post](#)



Prof Jem Bendell

[Read on blog](#) or [Reader](#)

### **Keeping your job at the end of the world (as we know it)**

jembendell

April 3

I hope you had a good break, whether for Easter or another reason. If you are returning to work in a career that has lost much of its meaning for you, then I hope you find this essay to provide useful input and, perhaps, provocation.

Warmly, Jem

[Read more of this post](#)

<https://jembendell.com/2024/03/06/the-professional-implications-of-collapse-deep-adaptation-in-organizations/>  
<https://jembendell.com/2024/04/03/keeping-your-job-at-the-end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it/>



# Facilitated Questions & Answers

## Questions:

- Looking at your journey from awareness to acknowledgement of collapse, how does it feel to be a ,doomster‘ today?
- What are recommendations for people dealing with this journey process right now, what releases and relieves the grief/mourning process?
- What recommendations can be given to those in jobs today, realizing being part of Imperial Modernism, but needing to put food on the table, invest in children, and need to hold a relationship together (partner, family, community)?
- Organizational Adaptation: what businesses need to be gently hospiced, what midwifing can be supported?
- How does it feel to become a farmer and musician, after disconnecting from the academic career?

# R3.0 2024 Conference – Tipping Points of Tipping Points

## 2024 Conference Structure

We structure this year's Conference around four interconnected Themes:

- **Tipping Points: *The Negatives & The Positives***

As the world teeters on the brink of multiple catastrophic tipping points that can trigger collapses in ecological and social systems, humanity holds a key to its salvation: the potential to trigger *positive* tipping points for rapid transformation to social norms that reinforce earth system stability and social system resilience. This session will gather leading experts on tipping points – both adverse ones and beneficial ones – to explore how best to navigate our predicaments.

- **Blueprint ZERO: *Just Transitions to Regenerative Economies & Cultures***

Building on 7 years of co-creating a first generation of nine Blueprints in its Knowledge Commons, r3.0 launches a second generation with the foundational Blueprint ZERO, focused on *just transitions to regenerative economies & cultures*. This session features experts leading the visioning of new economies and the evolution of cultures necessary to spur the emergence of regeneration and flourishing.

- **Municipalities & Bioregions: *Place-Based Collapse Resilience*** 2024 marks a conscious shift for r3.0 into a primary focus on place-based engagement, specifically at the nested scales of municipalities and bioregions, as these represent the most promising contexts for navigating collapse with resilience. This session focuses on the systemic innovations that communities are seeding to ruggedize in the context of increasing complexity and potential crashes.

- **Thresholds & Allocations: *Respecting Carrying (and Caring) Capacities of the Commons***

*Limits to Growth* Lead Author Dana Meadows coined the term "overshoot and collapse" to describe the dynamic of transgressing carrying capacity thresholds, leading to inevitable systemic breakdowns. To counteract overshoot and collapse, we need to respect the carrying capacities of ecological and social systems in our collective commons, which we can best do by focusing on our collective *caring* capacity (to use the term Daniel Christian Wahl inventing in conversation with us.)



<https://conference2024.r3-0.org>

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