

IMAGINARIES FOR A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE NEW WORLD

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A global web talk series to imagine new pathways for humanity in a post-COVID world



When: **Every Friday, 5 pm (IST)**

Where: Hosted on Zoom

Organised by:

[Environment Support Group](#)



Prof. Andrew Stirling - Speaker, Week 4

Andrew Stirling is a Professor in the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University and a fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences. Working on issues of democracy, power and uncertainty in science and innovation, he co-directs the ESRC STEPS Centre and currently collaborates with ESG colleagues in the GOST Project. An interdisciplinary researcher with a background in astrophysics, archaeology and anthropology, he's served on many science advisory bodies in the UK and EU. Formerly an environmental and peace activist, he's also served on boards for Greenpeace International and Greenpeace UK.

Friday, 15th May 2020, on Zoom, 5 pm IST.

WELCOME TO WEEK 4:

MODERNITY WITHOUT ITS CLOTHES: THE PANDEMIC CRISIS SHINES A LIGHT ON FUTILITIES OF CONTROL

By **Andrew Stirling**

Professor, Science Policy Research Unit
Sussex University

Contrary to the many confident pronouncements on all sides, a key feature of the current global pandemic is the underscoring in high level policy making, of uncertainties of kinds that normally remain hidden. Despite the eager rhetorics on how it might be harnessed, no-one knows what this pandemic really means. And it is this quality of ignorance (rather than any particular identifiable impact on social or environmental structures or forces), that may in the long run prove to be most politically potent.

For in a world of intensifying global structures of inequality and appropriation, uncertainty-denial forms a major part of wider fallacies of control. And it is these fictions, fantasies and futilities of control that arguably form the most important diagnostic common denominator of globalising Modernities themselves.

So, in highlighting the ever-present salience of uncertainty and uncontrollability, it may be (whatever other diverse effects might arise) that this pandemic can help open ways for radically new formations based on: humility (not hubris); hope (not fear); diversity (not singularity); mutualism (not hierarchy); equality (not superiority); precaution (not calculation); flourishing (not growth); and care (not control). It is in these cues and spurs to new murmurations, that chances may be arising to revolve Modernity itself.

This series of talks by leading academicians, researchers and activists from around the world is organised to benefit from their understanding of the imaginaries needed for our common and healthy futures.



Watch Week 3 of the Series by **Prof. Michael Goldman**, University of Minnesota on [Youtube](#).



Watch Week 2 of the Series by **Nilufer Koc**, Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) on [Youtube](#).



Watch Week 1 of the Series by **Prof. Sheila Jasanoff**, Harvard Kennedy School on [Youtube](#).

