Panel: Networked Publics as Third Places
“By 2035, there will be almost no poor countries left in the world.”

Bill Gates
3 Myths that Block Progress for the Poor
2014 Gates Annual Letter
http://annualletter.gatesfoundation.org/

https://www.flickr.com/photos/kaptainkobold/9324963783/
REASON TO HOPE

THE POVERTY CURVE: FROM TWO HUMPS TO ONE

A half-century ago, the distribution of income in the world looked like a camel with two humps. The first hump represented the so-called developing world. The second hump represented people in wealthier countries (mostly in the West). But the world is no longer separated into the West and the rest. More than a billion people have risen out of extreme poverty, and most of humanity is now in the large dromedary-like hump in the middle.

REDEFINING PROSPERITY

We can foster well-being by impacting people’s ability to flourish – to participate in life.

Everyone can be prosperous through sustainable practices.
## Global Causes of Low Well-Being

<table>
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<th>Cause</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overpopulation, as ratio of: population size to available economic resources.</td>
<td>Impact population size: education and shift cultural norms around family planning; access to birth control; education and shift cultural norms around gender equality policies. Impact available resources: increase productivity of local economy through modernization of industry, e.g., mechanize food production.</td>
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<td>Unequal distribution of resources.</td>
<td>Develop economies with industry and technology; infusion of essential raw materials and infrastructure; access to resources; Develop skills through education/training; Change in policies through more equal trade practices with other more developed countries (shift in cultural norms); More investment and equal access to social programs that reduce impact on productivity: mental health, drug abuse, learned helplessness, etc. Redistribution of income from the haves to the have-nots. Minimum wage/tax incentives</td>
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<td>Inadequate education and employment, illiteracy and lack of work force with context independent skills</td>
<td>Increase access and adoption of education technologies. Increase productivity of local economy and related employment opportunities – e.g., globalization of work force with context independent skills</td>
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<td>Environmental degradation, leading to shortages in available resources; often caused by overpopulation</td>
<td>Education and shift of cultural norms and policy around sustainability/environmental issues such as deforestation. Increase access to other resources/economic opportunities</td>
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<td>General economic trends, such as changing demands of work force for more skilled labor, increase poverty rate of those without skills.</td>
<td>Education/training specialized skills. Predicting/tracking trends to support an adapting workforce (analysis, and skills retraining).</td>
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<td>Changing demographic shifts, such as increases in single parenthood making it difficult to escape cycle of poverty over generations.</td>
<td>Change in cultural shift around family planning: supporting education and access to birth control. Economic/policy incentives to support two parent families &amp; other social structures. Cultural awareness and shift in social policies that &quot;punish&quot; the child, assuring cross-generational entrapment in poverty.</td>
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<td>Intra-individual factors, such as motivational / individual responsibility, health problems, addictions, and problems with welfare dependency.</td>
<td>Foster cultural education, awareness, and investment in social programs to address intra-individual factors impacting joining the work force, including learned helplessness, drug abuse, mental illness (depression; schizophrenia), physical well-being (obesity, malnutrition, disabilities), social disenfranchisement, social skills. Welfare/wealth redistribution policy incentives; structured to incentivize work, while at the same time assuring minimal well-being, health, homelessness, other issues preventing ability to work or accessibility/adoption of skills training and/or entrapment in poverty life-cycles.</td>
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EMERGING TRENDS IN TECHNOLOGY = NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Learning networks that provide global access to free education and related social support systems to assure successful motivation and adoption towards the development of the new skills needed to foster a growing economy.

- Civic crowd-sourcing services enabling direct redistribution of wealth to most impactful social programs addressing causes of poverty, such as kickstarter for social programs, supplementary self-taxing programs, community self-support programs.

- Development of services such as microfinancing that enable indirect redistribution of resources to programs that foster economic development.

- Analysis tools of large scale data systems (economics/social services/policies) examining relative impact of various factors in influencing well-being, measuring the success of various programs to improve well-being, and where to focus energy to maximally impact change.

- Social media tools that empower citizens for increasing awareness, shifting cultural norms, increasing engagement, empathy, and collective action, around factors impacting individual well-being and community well-being.

- Economic participation tools such as crowd-sourcing, sharing economy services, online stores, DIY sites, for self-directed, bottoms up engagement in global economy.

- Dematerialization of assets, driving economy without consumption of limited natural resources e.g., objects in games, digital art, experiential gifts, virtual signals of social status.
NETWORKED PUBLICS AS THIRD PLACES

• Third Places:
  • Public places away from home and work
  • Gathering places for conversation
  • Community development and collective action

• Networked Publics:
  • Social media, community technologies, big social data, learning networks
  • Increasingly ubiquitous
  • Increasingly open
  • Increasingly global
OPPORTUNITY SPACE

First Place
- home
- friends
- family
- personal
- productive
- governance

Second Place
- work
- professional
- Office 365
- productive

Third Place
- community
- civic
- collective action
- Nextdoor

- play
- XBOX
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
Panel

• How can we leverage the new affordances in public networks for increasing civic engagement and community well-being?
• What are key lessons learned from your own work?
• What is accelerating or inhibiting progress in this space?
• What are important next steps for us as a field?

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Save the planet and return your name badge before you leave (on Tuesday)