

Game Changer 6: New Economies

Transcript

Our 6th major transformation is post-scarcity economics, which we can think of as the societal heave for a system that feels fairer and more right. This is coming together for a number of reasons. With things like digital fabrication, we have concepts and new models such as the sharing economy. We have growing dissatisfaction with our current economic assumptions and practices, and we have growing concern about the basic economic trajectories that society is on, and our consumption, and our production, and our waste and just how unsustainable some of these things might really be. And then of course underneath all of this we've got shifting generational values and expectations.

And so when we are stepping back to try to understand, in terms of the economy in our society, where things might be going or what they're pointing towards, you have these issues that start to rise up out of all of this, such as the desire and, frankly, probably the need to renegotiate many of the social compacts that a lot of us have been born and raised on. You have things like the gig economy and the rise of the gig worker, and while that might be playing itself out now, those are all issues that cause us to—and are going to increasingly cause us to—question, and reexamine, and often renegotiate a lot of these written and unwritten relationships that we have in society: who owns what, who produces what, what people are owed, what benefits are owed, all of these kinds of things.

And so you end up with these possibilities around redefining some of our core economic concepts like capital and property rights. So it's a big, somewhat sprawling area, but the issue of post-scarcity economics and what economic life looks like and how it's defined for the next generation or the next era is one of our big strategic issues.

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Please email requests or questions to: info@rippelfoundation.org

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