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### **Presentation Title: The Politics of Cyber-Physical Commons**

The presentation aims to highlight the current emergence of cyber-physical commons that seek to scale the commons by bridging local and global (digital) commons via Blockchain-based tokens engineering design. Blockchain technology comes with a number of tools that may foster transparency and accountability as well as facilitate democratic governance and provide funding for the commons.

The presentation begins by outlining the theoretical background of the commons (Papadimitropoulos 2020). The contemporary theorizations of the commons boil down to three basic approaches: a liberal (Benkler 2006; Lessig 2001; Ostrom 1990), a reformist (Bollier and Helfrich 2019; Arvidsson and Peitersen 2013; Kostakis and Bauwens 2014; Olin Wright 2009; Rifkin 2014; Rushkoff 2016; Scholz 2016a, 2016b) and an anticapitalist (Caffentzis 2013; Dardot and Laval 2014; Dean 2009, 2012; De Angelis 2017; Dyer-Witherford 1999, 2006, 2015; Federici 2012; Fuchs 2008, 2011; Gibson and Graham 1996, 2006; Hardt and Negri 2000, 2004, 2009; Harvey 2003, 2005, 2010; Kioupkiolis 2019; Laclau and Mouffe 1985; Mason 2015; Söderberg 2008; Žižek 2008, 2010).

The presentation points to limitations of the arguments, bringing to the fore the contradictions of the commons: commerciality vs non-commerciality, competition vs cooperation, private vs common property, exchange vs use value, centralisation vs decentralisation, exclusion vs inclusion, individuality vs communality, localism vs globalism, fragmentation vs scale. The above contradictions prevent the commons from scaling into a sustainable socio-economic paradigm capable of challenging neoliberalism.

The presentation moves on then to examining Blockchain technology, narrowing down the analysis to the basic division between cryptolibertarians and cryptocommoners. Cryptocommoners employ Blockchain-based tools to address the problem of scaling the commons. The presentation brings up some potential contradictions in this attempt and offers some potential solutions.

For the commons to resolve their contradictions and progress into an organic, self-sustaining model capable of challenging neoliberalism, they need to evolve into a federation of open cooperatives that provide their user communities a sustainable livelihood along the lines of

transparency, accountability and democracy. Blockchain technology has the potential to scale the commons by providing novel tools of governance and funding. However, technology alone cannot address the contradictions of the commons. For the commons to establish a dominant socio-economic model vis-à-vis neoliberalism, a post-hegemonic transformation of society is sine qua non. Post-hegemony is the transformative political strategy that seeks to integrate the different types of commons (digital, rural, urban) into a synergetic network of *glocal* commons, supported by reticular market and institutional mechanisms aligned around the commons. Proper incentive schemes, well-designed policies, financial mechanisms, law reforms, affordable housing, education, sustainability science, are all part and parcel of a post-hegemonic strategy aiming to transform neoliberalism into the post-capitalism of the commons, supported by a partner state that represents the interests of the people rather than elites.

## REFERENCES

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