



35. Signs of progress, Part 2

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Future Sense is a podcast edited from the radio show of the same name, broadcast on BayFM in Byron Bay, Australia, at www.bayfm.org. Hosted by Nyck Jeanes and well-known international futurist, Steve McDonald, Future Sense provides a fresh, deep analysis of global trends and emerging technologies. How can we identify the layers of growth personally, socially and globally? What are the signs missed; the truths being denied? Political science, history, politics, psychology, ancient civilisations, alien contact, the new psychedelic revolution, cryptocurrency and other disruptive and distributed technologies, and much more.

This is Future Sense.

Nyck: There are many changes we can point to—and of course, as Steve said a couple of times, we do generalise here and we take that on board because it is such a complex thing to address any of these topics—but without dismissing or certainly minimising some of the real problems that exist (of course, they do and many people say 'but what about this? What about that?' and yes, of course) we are in a transition. As Steve was saying, it's complex; it's difficult to negotiate, but from the same site that Steve referred to before www.humanprogress.org, a little piece from that (<https://www.humanprogress.org/improvements-in-human-well-being-since-the-start-of-the-new-millennium/>).

In the beginning it says here: "The story of humanity over the course of the last two centuries is nothing short of remarkable. As late as 1870, life expectancy in Europe and the world was 36 and 30 years, respectively. Today, it is 81 and 72 years, respectively. In 1820, 90 percent of the population of humanity lived in extreme poverty. Today, less than 10 percent does. In 1800, 88 percent of the world's population was illiterate. Today, 13 percent of the world's population is illiterate. In 1800, 43 percent of children died before their fifth birthday. Today, less than 4 percent do. In 1816, 0.87 percent of the world's population lived in a democracy. In 2015, 56 percent did." There are further statistics, of course, but to look at that in perspective, you go, well, actually, we really have advanced on one level—and I reiterate that: on one level—because, of course, many other issues and problems have been created, too, in the solving of these problems and that's what we are facing—a change into a new paradigm in order to deal with those new and emerging problems.

Steve: Yes, the overall trajectory, though, is towards a safer and better world in many, many different respects. That's a great site, too, www.humanprogress.org. If you're ever feeling depressed by listening to the news, then stop listening to the news and go to look at this and see what's really happening around the place.

Some other milestones, just talking generally now about how these new paradigms are showing up in the world, I'm looking at it at the www.singularityhub.com website now and a story from December which is looking at some of the more optimistic things that are happening in the world. One section of the article here is about us being on track to become an interplanetary species (<https://singularityhub.com/2018/12/27/the-milestones-of-human-progress-we-reached-in-2018/>).

One of the key characteristics of the emergence of more complex values sets is the expansion of our perspective, so the world that we live within becomes larger and we start thinking bigger, and here we are once again, thinking about things off the planet. We went through an early stage of this back in the 60s, that time when there was so much revolution and this big wave of new values that came through in the 60s that resulted in many of the things that are happening now because we're seeing another wave except it's a bigger wave and this one's going to splash all over us, I think. Back in the 60s, it's a great example of early stage change that's very, very similar to what's happening in the world right now. We had social revolutions, we had this call for everybody to love everyone else and social freedoms; there was an emergence of psychedelic use; and of course, we left the planet to go to the Moon. There's an example back there of our perspective becoming larger and our interest growing in things off the planet, and that's happening again, this time with the efforts of organisations like *SpaceX*, for example.

Nyck: Which launched 21 satellites last year in 2018, which is amazing.

Steve: 21 successful rocket launches.

Nyck: Launches, yes, not satellites. Yes, they're experimenting, aren't they? But aren't the first group of those tiny little cube satellites up there yet?

Steve: Yes, I think they just launched a big bunch of them in the last month or so and it was such a big cluster of micro-satellites that you could see it at night time shining in the sky, I heard. Of course, *SpaceX* isn't the only organisation that is launching things off the planet at the moment. There are a couple of other private sector organisations doing it, and this is also a reflection of another huge trend, which is a trend away from centralised government control of these sorts of things.

Back in the 60s, it was the government that was doing this, but now we're seeing the private sector getting more involved and so there's a big shift back to the private sector, which is also part of this decentralisation thing. Whereas in the past, governments have always been in control of these things and it has been very centralised, now anybody who's got the money, basically, can do it and are doing it, and they're starting to exceed the efforts of government.

Nyck: And of course, our natural instinct, many of us who have already perhaps moved into the newer paradigm, to the Green layer [Layer 6] would be somewhat suspicious about private enterprise moving into these spaces, but perhaps that's also not a complex enough appreciation of what's actually happening there, because neither government nor private enterprise themselves have the solutions. It's better to perhaps allow combinations, and that eventually these things—all things—come from an ownership, so to speak (ownership is a difficult word) an ownership from the ground up. Shareholding, I guess, is the first stage of that, perhaps.

Steve: One of the difficulties of talking about this at the moment is it's like talking about Left and Right in politics. Everything's changing and so our old definitions of what's public and what's private, our old definitions of left- and right-wing in politics, they don't hold anymore because values are shifting and these things which we would put into a particular pigeonhole are changing and so they don't necessarily fit in the pigeonholes anymore.

I think better language around what's going on is moving from centralisation to decentralisation, so rather than the central control of governments in the past, we're seeing private organisations crop up in a decentralised way, each of them doing their own thing and doing it in different ways, which is bringing more diversity. That's really the best way of describing this trend—is from centralised to decentralised—and it's applying across the board, not just with space travel, obviously.

Nyck: Another piece from the *Singularity Hub* article that I found interesting is about breakthrough mental health therapy, and just quoting from this: "While cleaner energy, access to education and higher employment rates can improve quality of life, they do not guarantee happiness and inner peace. According to the World Economic Forum, mental health disorders affect one in four people globally, ..." most of us know this now, "... and in many places they are significantly under-reported. More people are beginning to realise that our mental health is just as important as our physical health". We mentioned that before, that turning inwards, first towards the physical body—let's get the physical body tight and taut and terrific and looking great—but now it's about mental health, more-so, for more people; that we ought to take care of our minds just as much as our bodies.

Steve: That's right, and also, taking care of people who are mentally ill and doing it in such a way that they remain integrated within society. Whereas in the past, if somebody was mentally ill, they often would be locked up in an asylum, now what I'm seeing is much more tolerance for people who are mentally ill to remain integrated within society and to be treated within that particular context.

In my own experience, one obvious example of that is that the military are becoming much more tolerant of people who are mentally ill, for example, with post-traumatic stress disorder, whereas only probably 10, 20 years ago, somebody would have just been kicked out straightaway if they were diagnosed as being unwell. Now they're allowing people to remain in service, to continue to be integrated within the military and be treated for mental illness in the process, and that's happening right across society. Certainly in this area where we live, in the Byron Shire, something that's been notable for many years is the prevalence of more people who are clearly mentally ill but who remain within society rather than being separated and locked up as these people have been in the past.

Nyck: And, of course, there have been quite a lot of applications to put mental health and wellbeing at the centre of things—breakthrough advancements in genetics allowing us to better understand the genetic makeup of disorders like clinical depression or schizophrenia and paving the way for personalised medical treatment. We're also seeing the rise of increasingly effective therapeutic treatments for anxiety.

And of course, we're not really talking here about pharmaceuticals, so that's a big change. We're talking, partly at least, about the new psychedelic revolution, which we've talked about often here on this show. There's many indications of that clearly happening in a much more fully researched and proper manner than it did in the first iteration, as you mentioned before, in the 1960s.

Steve: Yes, that's right, and I think that is a good general difference between what happened in the 1960s and what's happening now. It's the same values set which is driving the change, but it's more organised and more structured. Part of the reason is that in the 60s there was no internet and so there was no communication scaffolding to hold up the efforts of people who were trying to drive change back then. Now we've got this scaffolding and it is, by definition, more organised; it has a scaffold there. And so all of the efforts to bring change, whether it be in health or whatever aspect of living, each of them is more organised and they're being underpinned by research which is more widely accepted. There was a lot of research that happened back in the 60s in the psychedelic world, but it was basically all squashed down because of the prohibition.

Nyck: Richard Nixon didn't like it.

Steve: He was certainly one of the characters involved, wasn't he?

Nyck: He was one of the characters involved.

Lastly, from the *Singularity Hub*, we've mentioned Steven Pinker before (an interesting character) and the *TED* talk of his. He says, and I think this sums it up quite well: "Progress does not mean that everything becomes better for everyone, everywhere, all the time. That would be a miracle, and progress is not a miracle but problem solving. Problems are inevitable and solutions create new problems which have to be solved in their turn" (<https://singularityhub.com/2018/07/01/new-evidence-that-the-world-really-is-getting-better/>).

Steve: I think he's been listening to our podcast.

Nyck: I know, that's what I'm thinking. But it's such an important point, this, and until I met you, Mr. McDonald over there, I didn't really think that way, although the first time I heard that kind of statement, I thought, 'of course! Of course we solve problems and we create more. Of course, that's obvious'. And it advances; it's not like history repeats itself in this cycle going round around the same circle. No! It goes up and there are resonances and it's a spiral, essentially.

Steve: Absolutely, and I think understanding that change doesn't happen everywhere simultaneously is a really important thing. That's been an assumption of the past, that when the world changes—and many people who have been anticipating this big shift which is underway at the moment often used to think about it in a somewhat romantic terms—where we would all wake up one morning and there would have been a sudden thing happen overnight and everybody's different.

Nyck: And I must admit, there's a part of me that still likes to believe that, I have to be honest with you.

Steve: Well, that's right, totally. There are still people that I talk who are still locked into that thing—that there will be this magical day where somebody waves a magic wand and everything changes.

Nyck: The aliens come down, or the angels, or we're all lifted off—there's a thousand different versions. Maybe we'll go into the centre of the earth—all sorts of things.

Steve: Look, it's all possible, but it probably won't all happen on the same day.

And these things are fractal patterns, too, so you can look at what's happening in your own neighbourhood, in your own street or country lane where-ever you might live, and how one neighbour does something differently one day and then that slowly spreads. This is how change happens—it's a natural, organic process.

Nyck: When you think of simple things like what we eat and how we prepare our food, who first came across something and prepared it in a certain way and discovered the attributes of that thing? Where did that happen? And then how did it become endemic to a culture or across the whole planet? It's quite an amazing thing.

Steve: Someone tweeted it. That's how it happened, that's how it spread.

Nyck: Well, it was the birds that dropped seeds before, now we're tweeting in a different way altogether.

Nyck: You're on *Future Sense* this morning with Steve McDonald and myself, Nyck Jeanes. We're looking at positive signs of change, the emergence of new values and new ways of being on this planet.

Steve: We're going to have a look at the decentralisation theme at the moment, and part of this of course, is the fact that some people have got money to throw around. I was just looking at a post from www.nielsen.com (Nielsen is the big market survey company) which says that people are buying the change that they need to see the world—which is a little tweak on that famous saying, 'being the change', of course—and this is true (<https://www.nielsen.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/04/global-sustainable-shoppers-report-2018.pdf>). Particularly with the emergence of cryptocurrency and those sorts of things, we're seeing a redistribution of wealth. A lot of young people are suddenly becoming rich, and of course, if they've got the money, they go ahead and buy the change that they want to see in the world. One of the ways that is showing up is that there's a reversal of the centralisation of living. We've been through a time where people have been very much drawn to live either close to, or even, in the latter stages of the Modern era, right in the central business district in the city. That's been a huge trend and there are early signs now that that trend is reversing.

I've got an article here about the UK and what's happening there. Let me just quickly find the information.

Nyck: We're also seeing it in Australia, as you're finding that there, which is interesting. I have a report here, *Could moving to small towns be the new Australian Dream?* (<https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/could-moving-to-small-towns-be-the-new-australian-dream/10170684>). This is from last year from the ABC. The common wisdom is that the small towns of Australia are failing, especially with the agricultural business sector being under lots of stress for all sorts of reasons, but there is this movement away. We've seen it as a tree change, sea change—those sorts of terms have been used for quite a long time.

Steve: That's right. Some of the things that are driving that are that because everything is all about pushing the limits, and it's pushing ourselves as well when we're living life the Modern way, the Scientific-Industrial way, usually the end result, typically, for many, many people, is that this ends in burnout. They end up ejecting from the corporate lifestyle, for example, because they've just worked too hard and they realise that life just isn't fun anymore and it's not worth the effort, so it does result in a sea change and tree change trend as you've been saying.

Nyck: Yes, and of course, a lot of that is helped by technology, as we were talking about, because you can—and there are many people, particularly in this region of the Northern Rivers, no doubt, who are essentially doing this—working from here into the cities and possibly into the world, anywhere in the world, via technology. That allows people in these remote working arrangements to lead a more cohesive, so to speak, congruent lifestyle with their desires and needs, rather than being dictated by the job that they happen to be in at the time.

Steve: I guess we fall into that category, don't we?

Nyck: I don't know what you're talking about. What job?

Steve: No, I'm not insinuating that you actually work, Nyck. Don't panic.

So, yes, back to the trend. I just had a quick look around on the internet and found a few articles from the last few months talking about this. There's an article here that says *Rural America Rising: Why Professionals and Moving to the Countryside* (<https://apolitical.co/solution-articles/en/rural-america-rising-why-professionals-are-moving-to-the-countryside>), and it's essentially driven by this desire for a better quality of life and looking for a more peaceful life, all of those things that we said before which run through the shift to Layer 6 values are really applying here. It's a broad spectrum of things but the result is that people in the cities have got money and because the countryside has been drained during this most recent era—people have been moving

away from the country and into the cities chasing work and opportunities—what's happened is that people have started to look back out into the country and say, 'hey, all the houses are actually really cheap out in the country and there's no traffic and we can walk to the shop', and there's a whole lot of advantages that people are seeing and it's starting to show up in the stats as well.

Nyck: At the same time, for many people, they would go, 'yeah, but', because again, the conventional wisdom which you'll hear often is the recentralisation of cities. We're talking about high rises, we're talking about smaller living spaces—certainly in cities around Asia, that's clearly true—and yet there is this other movement, I think, almost like this washing out of the city. Perhaps it's been that people who have been living there for a long time are now having to change, and as they're evolving into a new paradigm of themselves, wellbeing becomes that essential to them and more important than the centralisation and being close to culture and the things that they normally would be familiar with and need in their lives, and making a choice, as you're saying, for more peace, for more nature, for more community in these ways, which is exactly what we're talking about—that movement towards a network-centric paradigm.

Steve: Yes, and because of the technology, you can have the network-centric living and you don't actually need to be living next door to somebody when you're working with them. It also reflects this general redirection of our attention from the outside world to our inner world, particularly that desire for inner peace, and so we want peaceful life conditions to match that.

There's an article here from the UK, which says: "Research by Hamptons International shows that almost 94,500 people made the move out of cities to the countryside over the past 12 months", and this is a recent article from the late 2017 (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/property/uk/great-exodus-many-people-moving-cities-going/>). It says up to 30% of the leavers are in the 20 to 29 age group so that's something that you may not have guessed, and then it goes to a few of the different places to where the population has been shifting around, but this is in the UK.

Nyck: One of the things that we've been looking at too, which I found rather unusual and probably, again, counterintuitive in the way we use that word, comes from a piece from *Boston CBS* television by the look of it (<https://boston.cbslocal.com/2018/06/27/kids-patience-children-study-marshmallow-test/comment-page-1/>). It's about our children being more patient than 50 years ago—and probably most of you going like 'really?'. I certainly did at first but the statistics do hold this up, and I'll read a paragraph or two here: "If you think today's kids are less patient in years past, you may be wrong. A study from the American Psychological Association finds that today's pre-schoolers may have better impulse control than 50 years ago. That's hard to believe since we seem to live in an era of instant gratification.

Back in the 1960s, researchers at Stanford conducted the first so-called 'marshmallow test' ...". This is a very famous psychological test, the marshmallow test. You may have heard of it. "They took kids ages 3-to-5 and offered them one treat like a marshmallow or a cookie, but said that they could get two if they simply waited, then they left the room to see how long it took the kids to eat the treat. Kids who did the same study in the early 2000s, waited on average two minutes longer than those from the 1960s and one minute longer than those in the 1980s, suggesting the kids are getting more patient. Why? Some theories include: kids' IQ scores have been rising; there is now more of a focus on early education which reinforces self-control; parenting strategies have changed; and modern screen technology may improve cognitive skills and contribute to delayed gratification." Some contestable ideas, or are they?

Steve: Well, they're certainly controversial ideas, I think, because that does seem to run in the opposite direction of what the general discussion has been as of late, doesn't it? But it's interesting to see that kind of research coming out. I think it's fair to say that because life conditions are becoming more complex, and in large part because of the technology, then that will be having an effect on kids, and while I think it's probably forever—since Hunter-Gatherer days—parents have been worried about their kids not doing the same things that they did (if their kids are doing something different, it's a concern) and many parents, of course, have been very worried about screen time exposure for kids with their face buried in devices and those sorts of things and not getting out and running around on the grass in bare feet. But of course, there are always ups and downs to all of these things and one of the advantages of the screen time may be just this—it may be that they're becoming more patient.

Nyck: And again, like so many of these issues for me, I've been using recently the word 'transition' a lot because it feels to me like many of these things are transition spaces that we're entering. For example, when we're talking about that counterintuitive element of that piece I just read there, and then the wisdom, particularly in areas like this, of whether the kids should be off the screen and they should be out playing just like we used to—as you mentioned, get their bare feet on the ground and actually feel the energy of the earth coming up—and all those things are very good. But perhaps it's also true that something about technology is bringing some kind of positive reinforcement about these things to young people too, because they're seeing, for example, landscapes from all around the world, animals from everywhere, they're seeing amazing ways of using those elements of nature in video, in film, and in various other forms, so perhaps there's a whole new and expanding appreciation of nature that can, if it hasn't already, emerge in younger people; that is engaged because their own consciousness, their own intelligence, their own way, is expanding, even though some of those elements contributing to that could be seen as, so to speak, negative.

Steve: Yes, because we are in this transition time, one of the tricky things has been that the technology that we're using right now was mostly designed out of the Scientific-Industrial mindset, so even though it's connecting us together electronically, it's kind of missing that deep personal connection that people are being driven by now—people who are feeling this emergence into the to the next way of being human—and so I can see that technology, probably in the next 10 years, is going to shift and it's going to drive us back to more engagement with the real world. We're seeing this through things like augmented reality, which is taking the technology off the screen and putting it in the outside world, even though we need to view it through some sort of a device. It's a sign of a redirection to engagement once again with the real world and with real people and I'm pretty confident that our technology is going to lead us back in that direction, and largely because of this response that people are having. It's like, 'no, we're too lonely and we want to re-engage with real people.'

Nyck: And on a similar thing to that, one of these that we really loved this week actually comes from www.businessinsider.com.au here in Australia, and it's entitled *Trippy photos show how beautiful water can look when it is blasted with sound* (<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/water-slow-motion-video-standing-waves-cymatics-2018-5>). You've got to have a look at this, folks—we'll post these on our *Future Sense* Twitter feed and other places for you to check out so you don't have to rely on remembering all that sort of stuff. There's a chap who is a pharmaceutical biochemist, Lyndon Gledhill in Philadelphia, who retreats to his basement lab and then he builds custom gear so that you can record the beautiful, complex and sometimes very weird intersection of science, art and nature. It's a whole way that he does this, which I won't go into—quite amazing—and the images that he brings forth, basically from cymatics, which is the science of vibrating or using sound to vibrate something. You might have seen a somatic plate, which is the original steel plate; you put sand on that plate, you get a tone, you vibrate the plate and it will form some amazing mandala. You can do this with water, you can do it with many other substances too, and this man has done these incredible things and taken photos.

But the interesting part about this is they're now being used, for example, in fashion—on clothing and high fashion—and also in video clips and so forth, so he's actually made a bit of a living out of these amazing designs. But the thing that's interesting to me is how many people in the world now who have not come across these kind of natural designs are seeing these things for the first time, even if they're just on some sort of high fashion in a show somewhere in the world. They're entering the zeitgeist, they're entering consciousness, and this is very important because this is a natural thing coming through technology.

Steve: Absolutely, and of course, it's all sacred geometry, isn't it, in the cymatic patterns?

Nyck: It's all sacred geometry.

Steve: Which has interesting effects on our consciousness.

Nyck: You are here on *Future Sense* in the last half hour. Thanks for your texts. I'll mention one here, it's good fun: "Loving the hallelujah celebration of today's sermon from Brothers Steve and Nyck. Praise be to you and all love", and all love back to you, David. Thank you.

Steve: That's right. Blessings to you. Good stuff.

Something else that is happening, which is a very positive sign of change, is that shareholder activism is on the rise. That's a headline from a *Forbes* article from December just gone (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/esade/2018/12/10/shareholder-activism-is-on-the-rise-caution-required/?sh=39aea4c94844>). It's talking about, not just mum and dad shareholders here, but they're talking about some big institutional investment funds which are managing an awful lot of money. They quote one here called *BlackRock*, which has more than \$6 billion in assets under management, and then next in line is the *Vanguard Group* with \$5 billion of funds under management there, so these big institutional funds are demanding of companies that they change their ways, and of course, this is very much tied into the emerging trend of the desire for sustainability and fair trade and all those sorts of things.

I know Nyck mentioned some sustainability stats earlier on in another report from *Nielsen*, the marketing company. They're saying that by 2021, they expect sustainability-minded US shoppers—so these figures are just for the USA—to spend up to \$150 billion on sustainable consumer packaged goods. That's an awful lot of money, and that represents an increase of between \$14 billion and up to \$22 billion between now and then, which is only a short space in time.

This is a rapidly emerging sector of the market, so much so that all the big businesses are actually taking notice, so this is creating real change, and because the economic system has been a key driver of the old paradigm, in this transition period, it's still a very, very powerful driver and perhaps the most powerful driver of change. So where organisations see that, okay, there's more money to be made if we cater for this particular market, that's where some very effective and very fast change is happening.

Some of the other headlines from the *Nielsen* report: they're saying that the growth in products is related to people demanding fair trade, demanding ethical practices by businesses, demanding fair wages, those sorts of things. And some of the key issues in market segments that they're seeing growing at the moment: there's been a massive growth in demand for vegan products, up 105%; same for cruelty free products; and

same for products that come from companies that are known to have good ethical standards within the organisations. People are asking for more recyclable materials, they're asking for more plant-based materials, and asking for products that don't involve any animal cruelty in their testing.

Nyck: And of course, along the way you'll get what's known as 'greenwash' as these kind of trends are also taken up and appropriated, so to speak, and adopted by companies still running under the previous paradigm, but that's also another transitory moment, because in a way, these can't come to market without them coming through the system that it already exists. But the transformation is occurring from the ground up with people actually asking for something else—asking for sustainability, asking for renewables, asking for more health and so on. So, yes, big change.

Steve: Big change underway; and another area that's really, really changing rapidly is the emergence of blockchain and cryptocurrency. We've had a very long crypto winter, so the market had a big crash last year, of course, and things went very quiet and very cold for quite a while, but things are warming up again with summer coming in the northern hemisphere, albeit a little late, and the market is running again, which I know a lot of people are quite excited about. *Deloitte* came out fairly recently, just this month, with an article headed *80% of Businesses See Blockchain as a Strategic Priority* (<https://media.consensys.net/deloitte-80-of-businesses-see-blockchain-as-a-strategic-priority-e8c89cb0a57f?gi=fffa036045fb>), so people are taking notice of this technology and organisations are starting to understand that, OK, this is real change, it's really going to happen, and if we don't change with it then we're going to get left behind.

Some examples of how things are moving in the cryptocurrency region: *Coinbase*, which is the largest crypto broker organisation in the USA, have recently expanded access to their cryptocurrency-based Visa debit card, allowing people to effectively go and spend their cryptocurrency just as easy as they would spend any other currency in a shop using a debit card, so that's being rolled out across Europe now; and of course, the major, major headline here globally right now is *Facebook's* talk of introducing cryptocurrency (<https://en.cryptonomist.ch/2019/06/18/facebook-whitepaper-libra-crypto/>).

Nyck: Which is extraordinary, first of all, because it's only come out in the last few days and we certainly hadn't come across it and I don't know who has. We haven't seen any other reporting about this. They've kept it pretty under the radar.

Steve: There have been some whispers going on for a long time, but no detail. Really, the detail only really broke just in the last week or two.

Nyck: But it's a very big because of the number of very large companies that have been swept into or collaborated with *Facebook* under the new name, which has been registered in Geneva in Switzerland, which is *Libra Networks LLC*.

Steve: Yes, they're calling the *Libra Association*, which is a consortium of firms that *Facebook* is pulling together for this venture, which is very interesting and it's very much a transitional move. In this period where we're halfway between—we've got one foot still in the old Modern Scientific-Industrial and one foot in the new emerging—and so we're seeing these hybrid things crop up. Essentially this will be centralised around *Facebook*, and *Facebook* have a very grubby reputation for stealing people's data and not behaving ethically, and I can almost guarantee that whatever they do with this, they're probably going to mess it up somehow. However, it is a wonderful, wonderful step forward, and they're bringing together a consortium, so it's not something that they're just doing on their own. There's an amazing list of members of this consortium.

Nyck: *Visa, MasterCard, PayPal* and more.

Steve: Yes, all of those: *Stripe*, another big payment-oriented company; some investment companies—you might not know some of these names, but there's some very big names in investment—*Andreessen Horowitz*; I love the name of this organisation called the *Creative Destruction Lab*, which clearly has some disruptive intentions according to their name there; *Thrive Capital, Ribbit Capital, Union Square Ventures* are all part of this consortium with *Facebook*. In the block chain arena, *Coinbase, Xapo, Anchorage, Bison Trails*; and in the social media world, as well as *Facebook, Calibra* are also involved. *Vodafone*, the telephone company, and another telecommunications company, *Iliad*, are signing up to this. E-commerce, you've got *Farfetch, eBay, Mercado Libre*; in the non-profit world—so they've got a few non-profit organisations as part of this consortium—*Women's World Banking, Kiva* and *Mercy Corps*; *Uber* and *Lyft*, the ride share companies are involved; *Spotify* from the music world; from the travel world, *Booking Holdings*. So a very, very interesting collection of different organisations that are coming together to join in this venture.

I might also mention too that, as far as I'm aware, there is a whitepaper coming, so for those of you who don't follow the crypto world, usually before a crypto token is issued, an organisation will put out a whitepaper just explaining their strategy and how they hope the cryptocurrency will be used and how they'll organise the technology, and that should be coming pretty soon, but I understand that, amongst other things, this cryptocurrency obviously will be for use on the *Facebook* platform, but also people will be able to send it through *WhatsApp*.

Nyck: Yes, it's interesting, though, I note in the same article that the company, *Facebook*, "originally had ambitions to get Wall Street involved, but found a lack of interest amongst institutional giants like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan." That might be a good thing.

Steve: Yes, it is interesting, and, of course, one of the key characters here, Jamie Dimon, has been very, very critical of cryptocurrency in the past, but also his organisation has been caught investing in it as well.

Nyck: You've got to have money both ways. You know you know how it works.

Steve: It's true, yes. It's called hedging, I think.

So this raises a lot of questions and it is going to test a lot of our social systems as well. Obviously *Facebook* is based in the USA and they're already getting letters from, for example, US senators on a particular banking committee who have addressed an open letter to *Facebook* just asking 'how is this going to work exactly?' So all of our old and fairly rigid organisations like, for example, the *FCC* and the *US Commodity Futures Trading Commission*, these sorts of things, are all looking very critically at this and waiting to see the whitepaper, I guess, and wondering how it's going to work. So what it will do is it will test the interface between the old regulation systems within our economic world and how they are going to deal with the emergence of this new thing, cryptocurrency, which crosses a lot of boundaries that have been fairly rigid and in place for a long time.

Nyck: And you mentioned already this recentralisation. Our good, dear new friend, Ashoka—if you're listening out there, hi!—we were talking about this the other night and he said, 'ah, well blockchain is all about decentralisation, but this is like the recentralisation of the decentral' and there is a truth to that, so that's another transition.

Steve: It kind of is, yes, and we're seeing a lot of this at the moment because we are in a halfway place. As new technologies arise and they look interesting, the older organisations which are still operating from the centralised paradigm, the Scientific-Industrial paradigm, they'll grab hold of these and they'll try to use them as best they can to do what they do, which is to make money. This is the world that we're living in—a world with one foot in in each paradigm—and these strange merges or hybrids are going to arise where these new technologies are trying to be used in ways that are typical of the old way of operating, but because the technologies are what they are and because they've been designed to basically undercut the centralisation and the organisations that have grown out of a centralised world, then just their presence in the

world is going to bring change and it's going to blur the boundaries and undercut some of the centralisation for sure.

Nyck: Yes, indeed.

We're nearly out of time. What else can we point to in terms of change? Actually I've got a piece here. Have you got anything more on crypto?

Steve: No, that's all.

Nyck: Ok. I just wanted to bring attention to one or two other things. An interesting thing in *Forbes* magazine this week is that the Church of England's \$10.5 billion fund—that's the Church of England under the auspices of the Queen, in fact—their billion dollar fund will now begin to invest in medicinal cannabis (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/javierhasse/2019/06/13/the-church-of-englands-10-5b-fund-will-now-invest-cannabis/?sh=61f052e217fd>). This is a pretty amazing turn, isn't it? It crosses those boundaries again; shakes up the perimeters and the borders between things.

Steve: It's very interesting, and at a time where the acceptance of medical cannabis is still very controversial in most countries, and certainly here in Australia, where the government has, in theory, legalised medical cannabis but medical cannabis is not available for most of the people who need it and so most of those people are still being forced to source it illegally.

Nyck: They also refer to in this little article about the UK, and we know that, in fact, the UK, strangely, has followed the Australian government's position and policies on medical cannabis, which is basically, 'yeah, we'll sort of make it legal, however ...'

Steve: It's like 'we don't want this to work either, let's do what Australia is doing; put some roadblocks in place.'

Nyck: Another lovely piece was from *Scientific American* from last year, and it's entitled *The Hippies Were Right: It's All about Vibrations, Man!* (<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/the-hippies-were-right-its-all-about-vibrations-man/>). I think this is one of the key things for me—and I mentioned those beautiful trippy water photos from *Business Insider* a little while ago—but this is a lovely article about the fact that maybe the notion of vibration and resonance may actually be

a better way of describing the universe (pretty well everything) than our current set of physics and science would indicate, which we've been saying for a long time.

Steve: It's interesting that you mention vibration and resonance in general, actually.

Nyck: Are you feeling something?

Steve: With this paradigm, this humanistic, network-centric Layer 6 paradigm that is in the process of emerging right now, the fact is that that's going to be so short in duration. We're going to see this quantum leap in human capacity in the transition from 6 to 7—to this integrative, multidimensional way of being human—happen very, very quickly and it's already underway. Remember that Graves found some people who had already transitioned into Layer 7 back in the 1950s, believe it or not, a very small percentage, so this has been ticking along in the background and this is evidence of multiple paradigm shifts in progress simultaneously.

7 is so capable in terms of the broad perspective it can take—and not just a single-dimensional perspective but a multidimensional perspective—and it's problem-solving capacity is just off-the-scale compared to anything that we have right now. It's fair to say that it's going to be our saving grace, and really all of the compounding global-scale problems that we see emerging at the moment (and promising to get much worse in the decade ahead) are creating the evolutionary tension that is really going to launch us into this quantum leap.

The tension that is going to come is going to drive many, many people to the point of not being able to cope with their current worldview and they will go through a transformation into and through this quantum leap. Those folks are the biggest hope that we have globally in terms of solving these problems, and I'm quite optimistic that we will quite successfully get on top of many of these problems which look insurmountable at present.

But one of the key indicators of the emergence of this Layer 7 consciousness is a reorientation, a reinterpretation of everything around the concept of frequency—and I'm talking about frequency from a physics base now—so starting to look at patterns of frequency and starting to look, for example, from the medical perspective of how the body operates on different frequencies and how we can actually use physics as a frequency-based medicine. This is one of the indicators of this very, very capable way of being human emerging already in the world.

Nyck: Very exciting stuff, very exciting.

Steve: Some of the other things that you can look for—and I'm sure that you're hopeful, like me, of a rapid emergence of this integrative way of being human to solve all of these problems—but things like factoring in an awareness of different layers of consciousness, even being aware that there are different layers of consciousness, and being able to interpret those and cater for those, which gives us an entirely new toolset in terms of the way we interact with people and also manage people around the world.

Some emergent signs include customisation of different services for individuals—and this goes back to things like the frequency-based medicine, for example, so having ways of analysing a person's body and its operating systems and then being able to tailor medicine or therapy or whatever it uses to suit each individual's differences. These are the sorts of things that we can expect to see, as well as regenerative technologies. We're moving from 'construct using trash' mindset in the Modern era to a sustainable mindset in the emerging 6, and that will shift again and is already shifting again in small-scale regenerative technologies in the seventh layer, where it's not just sustainable, it actually creates and re-establishes things that need regenerating.

Nyck: Yes, beautiful. That's about it for the show.

I want to quote something that's relevant to what we're saying here. We receive every Monday, from Bobby K (and you might like to check it out), an *I Ching* reading, the *I Ching*, of course, being an ancient system and more than that—and maybe we'll talk about that further another time—but just quoting a little bit from that.

"At this time", he says—and this is a reading for this week in particular: "Exercising compassion and kindness in the face of the chaos and fear mongering that comes forward towards you is of the greatest challenge and precisely why the benefit is to seek inner stillness. Walk and work with dignity, spine erect, literally, so you will receive the full dose of energy being transmitted to Earth, entering through the soles of your feet and rising up to the crown. What is available now is unprecedented. The Earth is in survival mode and thus is calling on very powerful cosmic healing forces. This light is coming at warp speed and denotes the dynamics of rapid change on Earth." Now that's taking it out a bit far, but we like to go out a little bit far occasionally.

Steve: Always good to stretch the envelope a little.

Nyck: Indeed. That's about it for now. Anything else we can add? I think we've got to go.

Steve: I think we'll just add: have a wonderful week, folks, and we'll be back next week.

Nyck: Stay positive. Beautiful. That's it for us here, Nyck and Steve at *Future Sense*, and as we've said before, you can check out the edited podcasts at our website, www.future sense.it, and also on our Twitter feed @futuresenseshow where you can find links to all the articles that we have talked about today and on other shows.

Steve: Or a good selection, at least.

Nyck: Thanks for joining us.

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