

SUMMERLAB 2016
from July 4th to 8th

FORKS
Exploring other paths

“ forks: marked and perhaps sudden changes in the direction of life, occasioned by a profound re-examination of one's reference universe and value system”

—Cédric Biagini and Pierre Thiessel in the preface of the book
“La décroissance. Vivre la simplicité volontaire. Histoires et témoignages”.

Unless you live on another planet, are completely blind, or an eternal optimist, you may have noticed that the world we live in isn't going too well... to say the least. But let's not be too quick to cast a cloud over the whole proceedings.

The challenges our societies face are numerous and complex. On top of environmental catastrophe – climate change, diverse pollution, biodiversity reduction, natural resource exhaustion – we experience social crisis. No-one seems equal to the current challenge and, in a society that seems less and less humane, many are left by the roadside (some of them even have to step off it). One such exit could be the design of a different social future, led by the powers-that-be. But our existing leaders depend on financial logic, industrial power, and corporate lobbying, which makes any brand new, inspirational vision they might propose, problematic, to say the least. As we see it, we face system obsolescence (planned by us because we participate in it?). Some see the digital revolution as another promised exit. But is it the remedy or a poison? Can technology save us? Who would it save? Everyone, or just those who can afford it? If so, how? Or are such technological visions just part of the problem?

The future (already here?) seems a gloomy place. But despite this we keep walking, more or less consciously, down the path designed by Mr Globalization. To avoid catastrophic collapse, we assume that other possible paths must be explored. And this is what we will do at the next summerlab in Nantes. Transition is one possible path, but is it the only one? What are the other ways, paths, currents and counter-currents we might explore, test, imagine or share? What are your forks?

We invite you to Nantes from 4—8 July 2016 to join us for a walk down those other possible paths, to share experiences, place them in perspective, and tell stories, all summerlab long (and maybe into the future).

The PiNG team.