

40 Uncontained World Crises – Growing with Growth

Environmental:

Invasive Species

Resource depletion

Ecological Disruption

Ocean dead zones

Chemical pollution

Habitat loss

Deforestation

Resistant Diseases

Overfishing

Climate crisis

Biodiversity loss

Water crisis

Plastic waste

Ocean acidification

Economic/Societal:

Excess population

Sovereign debt

Traumatic Migration

Distressed regions

Digital vulnerability

Information overload

Infectious diseases

Ageing Infrastructure

Lack of decoupling

Disruptive change

Traumatic Stress

Native culture loss

Economic inequity

Competitive inequity

Communication silos

Governance failure

Social media threats

Solution failures

Sectarian conflict

Growth imperative

Animal extinction

Cultural conflict

Slow Recoveries

Disaster costs

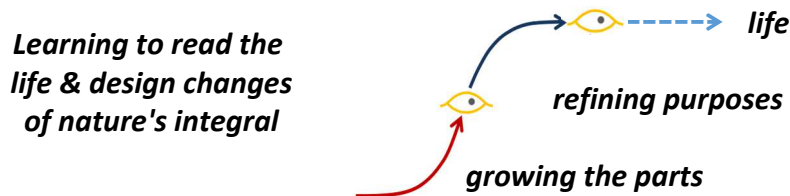
Societal instability

Rising suicide

One big question is: Why does *EVERY form of life* seem to begin with the exponential growth of its parts, but only our world economy tries to avoid the usual mid-course turn toward perfecting and securing its designs to work in the future? Human lives multiply their parts expansively in the womb, but then spend 20+ years maturing and inventing their future ways of living in the world more slowly!

Another way to ask nearly the same question is:

“Why don’t the owners of the earth invest in taking take care of the earth?”



As a physicist turned designer, I’ve spent several decades studying why nature so regularly follows that pattern, finding that the design comes from growth being an organization building process, not a numerical process. The difference is that organizational processes have internal designs with natural behavioral limits. Airflow pushed ever faster triggers turbulence, and taking ever bigger or faster steps causes you to tumble. So expanding and changing how we live by ever bigger steps leads to emerging crises for societies too. Because that’s so predictable, inherent in natural design, appears to be why I was able to predict with high confidence many years ago today’s emerging state of general ecology, economic, and governing confusion, our systems and languages increasingly failing to communicate.

The owners of the earth need to invest in taking care of the earth! Do ask them to.