

# A Reflection on 200 Years of Our Youngest Bodily Organ—*Convivalis Futuris*

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Susanne Bosch et al.<sup>1</sup>

Future generations will look back at the epochal transition we are making to a life-sustaining society. And they may well call this the time of the Great Turning. It is happening now ... The Great Turning is a name for the essential adventure of our time: the shift from the Industrial Growth Society to a life-sustaining civilization.

(Joanna Macy, 2009)

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- 1 The conceptual setting was developed by Susanne Bosch and put into practice in a conversation lasting three hours on April 11, 2021, together with: Dr. Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio (researcher, curator, lecturer), Dr. Susanne Bosch (artist, artistic researcher), Aje Brücken (script writer, coach), Niamh DeLoughry (humanitarian and development worker, Deputy Chief Executive at Royal Dublin Society), Dr. Angela Dreßler (ethnographer and artistic researcher, büro eta boeklund), Siri Frech (landscape architect, urbanist, process facilitator), Christina Jacoby (art mediator, exhibition production manager), Tellervo Kalleinen (artist, musician, acupuncturist), Prof. Dr. Elke Krasny (cultural theorist, curator, urbanist and author), Sahar Qawasami (architect, architect restorer, planner, and cultural heritage expert, curator, writer, co-founder and director of Sakiya), and Jeffrey Tan (theatre director, creative producer, drama educator). This text was inspired by many things but chiefly by Elke Krasny, Lena Fritsch, Sophie Lingg, and Claudia Lomoschitz and their organ-based collective writing process "I KNOW, I (Self-) CARE. TAKING BACK SELF CARE" on February 4, 2021 (online), and by an exercise developed by Joanna Macy, called "7th Generation" (also called "The Double Circle") as part of her "Work that Reconnects." Susanne Bosch wants to thank everyone involved for the inspiring and generous contri-

## 1. From Today's Perspective in 2221

A virus that globally appeared around late 2019–early 2020 (called coronavirus or COVID-19), tipped the long-predicted simmering peak of the industrial growth society, facing a social, economic, political, environmental and climate change. The shift came through collapse and turmoil, not through a disaster-free moment of designing our future. Everything long predicted happened very quickly from 2020 onwards, as we had reached various tipping points by then. It also led to a transformative change in our bodies and subsequently our minds.

It turned out that the virus started the evolutionary process of growing a new bodily organ. Yes, from today's perspective in 2221, it seems unimaginable that we as a human species did not have this internal and external organ all along. Indeed, this extremely sensory organ with the medical name *convivalis futuris* (today conventionally known as *CF*) started to slowly grow from 2020.

In 2021–22, *CF* was detected and from then onwards carefully observed and monitored. At first, scientists thought this would be the end of the human species with unknown and uncontrollable extra tissue growing in everyone's body. COVID-19 was a contagious disease with zoonotic origin: hidden cellular information that jumped from the animal and plant world to the human one.

Back then, we humans separated ourselves from plants, animals, and other living beings. We defined ourselves as different, believing only humans had a consciousness and the ability to think and therefore freely decide. Little did we understand, back then, of the compassion and need for interconnectedness, but this revolutionary moment of our ancestors became the starting point of everything that we as present-day beings live and represent.

In 2021, scientists only slowly started to understand that the human body is made of symbiotic material. It takes the form of great biodi-

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versity between bacteria, virus, micro-organism, and fungi, all living in peaceful coexistence within the human body. Philosopher Timothy Morton, referring to Donna Haraway, asserted that human beings are cyborgs of a kind, since we are made up of all sorts of non-human components. Our DNA contains a significant amount of genetic material from others.

## 2. A Global Meeting of Delegates beyond Chronological Time

To explore and specify the qualities of the *CF*, five living beings from 2221 met five ancestors from 2021, the generation that was first introduced to COVID-19, and subsequently the bodily organ. Their meeting alternated between one-on-one interviews, reflections, and group sessions. Twice they all spoke intimately in pairs and twice they all met listening to the outcomes of these conversations. Such as a trial of how to understand one's present.

This text is a report of such an encounter. Ten delegates speaking from different global locations, this being their place of origin, place of choice or place of existence. Some of these places have vanished in 2221, some still exist or have been newly formed. The delegates' words reveal perspectives in various cultural, geographical, social, and political contexts and, of course, in time. Summed up in this report one will find the most crucial findings and musings of this encounter. Each part of the following centers around specific aspects and sheds a light on perceptions each of the two generations bear in mind. It is strongly informed by the ancestor's keen interest to learn about the bodily organ, its shape and function, and thus, life 200 years after the *CF* first developed. And though *CF* clearly enables time travel, yet these types of concentrated exchanges are rare and obviously less familiar for the present ancestors.

The ancestor Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, from Barcelona, former Spain, met with Christina Jacoby, from Bregenz, former Austria. Ancestor Elke Krasny, from Vienna/Austria met Niamh DeLoughry, from the Wicklow Mountains, formerly Ireland. Jeffrey Tan, from a place formerly known as Singapore, spoke with ancestor Angela

Dressler, from former Berlin. Tellervo Kalleinen, from former Helsinki in Finland, conversed with Aje Brücken, an ancestor from Berlin/Germany. Finally, Siri Frech, from former Berlin, talked to ancestor Sahar Qawasmi, from former Ramallah/Palestine.

### 3. *Convivalis Futuris (CF)* and Its Sensory Abilities

It came as a blunt surprise to many of the ancestors, that humankind was still alive and mostly well in 2221 and indeed, the curiosity to understand life with and without *CF* became the driving force of the following conversations. We are still living as biological beings in the circle of life and death, here with our delicate and precious bodies.

#### Its Shape

The five future delegates described shape and functions of their organs in detail. First of all, ancestors had to understand not all organs were alike nor perfectly equal in their functions. In the former Singaporean area, only old people with life experience—and not all of them—, are experiencing the growth of an external bodily organ on their forehead. In many Asian religions as Buddhism, Hinduism, Zen and Taoism, this special sensory function was historically titled the *third eye*. The third eye provides a perception beyond ordinary sight. It is said to allow humans to tune into the correct *vibration* of the universe. Delegate Jeffrey pointed out that wearing facial masks for 200 years and all the time made the eyes in general become more expressive and communicative: the eyes of compassion, the eyes of understanding, the eyes of being there, the eyes of resilience, the eyes of mutual observation, the eyes of honoring nature and reclaiming land that was destroyed.

Tunar, a being from the former North of Europe, described the *CF* of that region in great detail to her partner. It is called Wing Brain. It is located in the neck around the C7 vortex, at the lowest end of it. It merges with the spinal column and goes up on the back of the head, where it divides into two wing-like shapes. It serves as a connector be-

tween the outer body and our nervous system. The external and internal organ is very sensitive to different kinds of resonances and can feel the effect of actions. It reads information in a non-verbal way. It is a parallel system where information is not filtered through our brain. In daily life, people can consciously tune in to either their rational mind or their Wing Brain.

Siri from former Germany described her external and internal organ, located also in the neck around the C7 vortex, to ancestor Sahar like this: “It is a kind of impulse bodily organ more directed to the outside. It connects your inner impulse to the multiple impulses around you. It connects to the vibrating impulse that all living beings have: plants, animals, and minerals. We can connect to their difference sequences. It gives us energy. It is nutritious.”

The bodily organs in Middle Europe (former Austria and Ireland) are located in the front of the body, close to the heart on the chest. Christina:

“The bodily organ has the external shape of a flower. It can be open or closed. It can perceive, on the one hand, the inner landscape and be in connection with all the other internal organs in my body. And on the other hand, it can be open to the outside world and connect with other living beings. It is primarily a sensory organ of perception. What is special: I can cultivate and decide to be on the outside or focus on the inside so that I can be more connected or focused on myself.”

Niamh described her external *CF* on the chest, covered when not wanting to expose what you are feeling as it changes in color depending on what it is that one is feeling deficient in. When government representatives are coming together it is obligatory to make it visible so that there is full transparency over the aim to serve societal needs over capital gains.

## Its Function

The *CF*, as third eye, allows the elders to experience a kind of *tuning in*. They are not afraid to try things they have never done before. The

*CF* gives them courage, energy, and a feeling of connecting physically and emotionally. They feel very positive, and are recognized by their smiling faces and creative instincts. Delegate Jeffrey cautions, however, that having the *CF* does not transform you. It's a passport or a fuel that allows you to connect with somebody else; to interact with other people, bringing like-minded people together. Jeffrey expressed the wish to grow older quicker to experience this.

The Wing Brain amplifies instinctive or intuitive impulses, making them clearer, and promoting our intuition. The evolved Wing Brain is not confused by biased thought, rather retains precision, clarity, and sophistication. The Wing Brains are communicating between each other. Until today, we do not know exactly what they communicate. The ethos of the connected Wing Brain is the wellbeing of all through collective, instinctive wisdom.

Siri added that the *CF* allows to relax deeply so one feels these impulses and connections all the time. From this state of deep relaxation, one interacts with others. The neck area is the most relaxed and connected zone of the human body. The front and back of our body both sense the world.

Christina described how the day with her flower-shaped *CF* starts: "The *CF* makes a kind of 'proposal' in the morning. It gives an impulse. I can consciously open or close it. During the day, from time to time, I receive an impulse that feels like a small tickle. It reminds me that I can decide to be listening, feeling, and perceiving outwards or inwards."

The *CF* regulates and balances body, mind, spirit, and emotions.

Grief is the original *driver* of the *CF* that Niamh described to ancestor Elke: "COVID-19 caused so many deaths. It reminded us how precious life is." Regardless of socioeconomic status or nationality, sexual orientation or whatever markers humans were pigeonholed with in 2021, nowadays the *CF* connects us. Helps us see each other's common humanity and everyone's basic needs. It also helps us connect with the environment and with climate, ensuring a fair and equitable world, whatever global policies are in place. The *CF* functions in two parts. Part one is about the individual feelings. Part two is foregrounding the

surrounding environment and reacting to its needs and our responsibilities as well as contributions.

#### 4. Life & Death and the Presence of Time

People are still being born, grow up and die. In former Singapore, what has changed in 200 years is the fact that people work less, on the level of retired people in 2021. They have less stress and spend time with things that are important to them such as nature and family. As there is close to no travel movement possible due to the mutated virus, borders stopped to exist.

In 2021, research found out that the nervous system stays awake for still some time after death. The Wing Brain actually stays active years after death. It very slowly decomposes. The decomposed soil still holds some kind of consciousness and awareness for hundreds of years after death. We are growing food in this soil. The food carries parts of this awareness. In 2021, there was an obvious learning blockage. Intellectual knowledge and experimental wisdom did not make humans arrive at new practices. Rather, a lot of emotional trauma through experience blocked the awareness even more. The Wing Brain is answering this problem through cultivating awareness. Every generation is arriving already with certain insights. All are surrounded by and fed from Wing Brain soil. Everyone has a Wing Brain. Depression, a long-lasting pandemic in former centuries, has disappeared. Feelings of isolation, struggling for love and attention are unknown. Instead, to exploring one's own self and life is more connected to the feeling of curiosity. One-self and others are not two separate things. Belonging is not a struggle anymore. Everyone can have strong encounters with others because the Wing Brains are resonating with many people and places. Being in strong resonance is not questioned nor problematic.

Siri explained that time is a constant rhythm and not being counted. We live still in our bodies and in a specific place, but we can connect to everywhere everywhere:

“It is still wonderful to see different places. We still travel with our physical bodies. But we travel a lot with our organ. If I want to connect to somebody in another place, I use the *CF*. A good friend might be somewhere else, but I don’t feel disconnected. There is no feeling of being apart because of space. Borders therefore don’t have any use anymore. We don’t have them anymore.” Siri admits: “We are really open to change and live in/with constant change. We lost the fear of change. Not completely, to be honest, but there is trust in life. We know of its complexity and we physically feel we are part of it.”

In death, the personal impulse does not stop being an impulse, it just changes the condition: “When we die, we are still connected in this kind of impulse network. We won’t fall out of it.”

Christina pointed out that we are no longer familiar with many former diseases like *burn-out* because the *CF* reacts and regulates swiftly. The bodily *CF* organ does not require us to think about our needs or the needs of the ecosystem, but helps us perceive the need for balance. Herman, the enquiring ancestor, called this quality peace, harmony, beauty, and love. Christina left it open, as all correctly express the qualities of living beings. Work as such does not exist anymore. Work is about creating situations. Things now happen in a more fluid and organic space with no timetable. Christina describes life as a cycle of rising and growing until, step by step, we let life leave the body to become part of the body of the bigger Earth. In death, the *CF* is balancing the mental, emotional, and physical process. Emotions like joy and sorrow are part of being human and welcomed. As a regular traveler in time, Christina knows: “We have a lot of states of the mind you don’t have. Everybody has individual mind states here. We enjoy diversity.”

Niamh introduced a world in 2221 that no longer feels time-poor:

“To be more connected means that we are able to ensure people can have a better balanced, more rounded life so that there is more time to do everything it takes to live that life. There are enough hours in the day to cook healthy meals, perhaps from your garden or your community garden. And there is enough time to experience nature regardless of the weather. There is enough time to still work and earn enough to

have a standard of living that is more equal. The organ helps to ensure that the policies in place are allowing for that more all-round life. There is still a need for economic sustainability. But that has been reduced by the recognition of the increased need for more time in the day to be more balanced.”

As *CF* it triggers being grounded and fully in the moment. All lives are now fully intentional and fully present. By being more present with a quieter mind allows to be more productive as human beings, because we are engaging 100 percent with our mind and body. Elke was fascinated to find out that the new layers of sensitivity express themselves in words, as well as in feelings and bodily sensations.

## 5. Interim

Along the intimate exchanges around these astonishing insights, a number of general questions came up. One might be summarized as the great question of knowing: Do people in 2221 know more about the great mystery of life? It became clear that despite the *CF*'s workings, future people do not necessarily know about life's mysteries in full but that they seem to live in greater appreciation of the offerings of not-knowing. Delegate Jeffrey used the term “fluid Milky Way of things coming and going” and delegate Siri paraphrased it as trusting complexity:

“It's more like you stand in front of wonderful art piece and you feel touched. You will never get to its ground, what is there and what you are able to feel, to see and to connect to. You will never understand your own complexity. It is even more basic: You can't understand. It allows for this openness to accept: I just can't see it, I can't hold it, but it's beautiful because it's so big.”

Further questions informed by the realities in 2021 came up. One of the ancestors, Elke, wondered about legal and illegal organ trade markets. Was there such thing in 2221? We as future beings promptly clarified the

impossibility to steal or transplant the organ and reinforced the thought of any wellbeing be less individualized but rather collective for us. The Wing Brains for example are interconnected on the basis of the collective wellbeing. The *CFs* would send strong impulses in case of any act against the wellbeing of this network. Jeffrey pointed out that the third eye is not something that one could manufacture. The *CF* is not an object. He phrased it as an almost mysterious gift or passport that can only work when all the elements come together. Taking it off someone who has passed away would also not work. Should a *CF* signal a malfunction through its color and shape, there is expertise to recognize its signal and try to heal it.

In summary, the ancestors saw all the organs working on a different level of connectedness, almost on a global one and resisted the globalized economy that existed in 2021. Ancestor Elke summarized: “The world that my future being shared with me was not at all an ideal world. It was still a very brutal world. The *CF* organ makes people feel more intensely and therefore makes it more difficult to conceal the existing injustices.” Concerning the depiction of rather positive effects of the *convivialis futuris* workings, ancestral delegates like Sahar started wondering about inherent geopolitical settings. Are they still existing in our times, like the East–West or North–South epistemologies? And didn’t all these descriptions mirror well-known narratives of progress in some areas of the world and dystopias in others?

## 6. Resources, Distribution, Consumption, and Survival

In order to enhance the mutual understanding, the situation of and around life-securing resources in 2221 as well as distribution, consumption and survival needed more detailed description, also befitting the need to position the role of the organ.

Compared to 2021, our life in 2221 seems more simplistic: Communities, be it cities, villages, or towns, strongly depend on local food and material production with due effects on diet as well as housing. Global economy as such is based on circular economies, re- and upcy-

cling as well as renewable energies. We still experience the impact of the resource overuse in the early 21st century as huge burden. In response to this, we in 2221 rely on shorter productions chains and less good traffic, however modern technologies such as 3D printing allow universal knowledge to be translated into production onsite. In some geographical areas, the supply of external goods is still necessary. People nowadays enjoy the lightness of simplicity and non-possession.

Quite naturally ancestors inquired about the possibility to balance needs and consumption and individual desires. In general, many of us 2221'ers pointed out that work as such does not exist in the old form anymore and things happen in a more fluid, organic pace without timetables, making space to create instead. In places like Singapore everyday life was characterized by less work and less stress, meeting a lower living standard due to the 21st centuries turmoils and a persisting scarcity of resources. Nowadays we address this with more time to spend with 'what matters to people,' e. g. nature and family, as well as general forms of community building or urban gardening, planting trees and crop. Fostered by the elders' knowledge about what is essential, people are living less segregated, too.

The Wing Brain has helped to develop an advanced form of artificial intelligence. In 2021, artificial intelligence was about algorithms with a very problematic bias as it was developed and programmed by the human intelligence with bias tendencies. This next generation of artificial intelligence takes care to be connected with everything globally and makes sure that the basic things are distributed equally.

Siri described the spatial proximity in order to be more mindful with our resources. She also highlighted how we are able to live together in bigger groups and therefore bigger open spaces as we are not afraid of each other nor of intimacy with many. The urge to travel and move a lot has decreased massively as we experience ongoing connectedness. "The *CF* helps to always stay connected with oneself and with this resource to connect to the others. There is more openness for complexity and not knowing. We are not afraid of the complexity of other people. To be closer helps to share and to create."

Christina's description mirrors the absence of fear and the certain knowledge there is enough for everybody. Everyone takes what one needs and not more. The *CF* senses when it is enough.

In former Middle Europe, there is still a need to work and the need for a degree of production. Niamh highlighted there is still a language of concern. There continues to be religion and some governments that want to push against the global system. But there is a much more conscious awakening that wealth is not just about money and material gain. Investments are continuously being made to reduce mental and physical health issues caused by overabundance. The *CF* organ is increasing everybody's individual level of responsibility and awareness over the knock-on effect of every action. Mental and physical wellbeing are as important as money. The rising level of individual responsibility extends to a different type of resourcefulness or resource ethic.

Niamh: "Our *CF* has evolved to ensure that our countries and our governments are working together to create an equitable balance, recognizing diversity of culture, religion, language, climate. There is not one model for all, but there is a minimum standard that we are living with today that ensures that all human beings do have more balance in their life, a wellbeing valued as much as economic wellbeing or financial stability. Distress and depression have been off-set by our *CF*, ensuring more time is available for being with nature, eating well and contributing to one's immediate community."

In 2221, there are banks not only for money, but for wellbeing. The banks manage the re-distribution of resources to ensure that all people have access to a minimum standard of wellbeing.

## 7. Ending Transcendental Homelessness

What became evident in the exchange between all delegates were the *CF*'s many similarities through geographical contexts, chiefly its impacts on becoming social. To imagine ways of living in ethical, political, and social terms from the perspective of the youngest bodily organ

seemed alien to the ancestors. For us future beings, in retrospect, our *CF* organs provide for a greater sense of compassion and social sensing, social interdependence, interconnectedness and interrelatedness and foster reflections as much as insights. Some of the ancestors mused towards the end of the conversation, if some of this *CF*'s knowledge might be much older, but overseen or overwritten. As future delegate Niamh responded, also referring to the setting of the conversation, that perhaps "in that respect, it is flipping the learning: We have a lot to learn from them. We are lagging so far behind the propositions they are giving to us."

Ancestor Herman reflected upon power and control, which our *CF* organ has not solved up to this point. The *CF* augmented—and is still augmenting—the sensitivity to approach these goals of heightened global social awareness: "If the *CF* controls the individual storms that we have, then the other global storms, the global systems, the brutality of the systems, should be automatically controlled as well."

As our form of existence is so common and well known to ourselves, the ten delegates speaking helps us understand better our collective, as well as individual purpose, in the context of time.

