

BREAKING FREE WITH NEXT SYSTEM STUDIES

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AGENDA

Next System Studies

The Next System Fellows at Arlington

Pedagogical Challenges


A Movement Centered Approach

Additional Approaches

NEXT SYSTEM STUDIES (NSS)

Established 2021 as a model program and field center, Next System Studies at Mason emphasizes the relationships between systemic crises, systemic movements, next system design, and system change.





“ **HOW DO WE DISTINGUISH** SYSTEM-CHANGING INITIATIVES FROM REFORMS THAT SEEK SOCIAL BETTERMENT WITHIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM? **WE NEED A BASIS FOR KNOWING** WHAT INITIATIVES ARE TRULY TRANSFORMATIVE AND NOT MERELY TRANSACTIONAL. ”

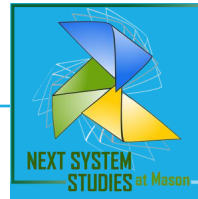
Gus Speth

A CENTER FOR NSS



ENGAGED RESEARCH

- Democratizing NOVA
- Digital Commonwealth Project
- Popular Constitutionalism Research Hub



CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

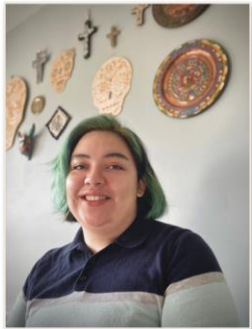
- Next System Fellows
- Course Development
- Minor and Certificates



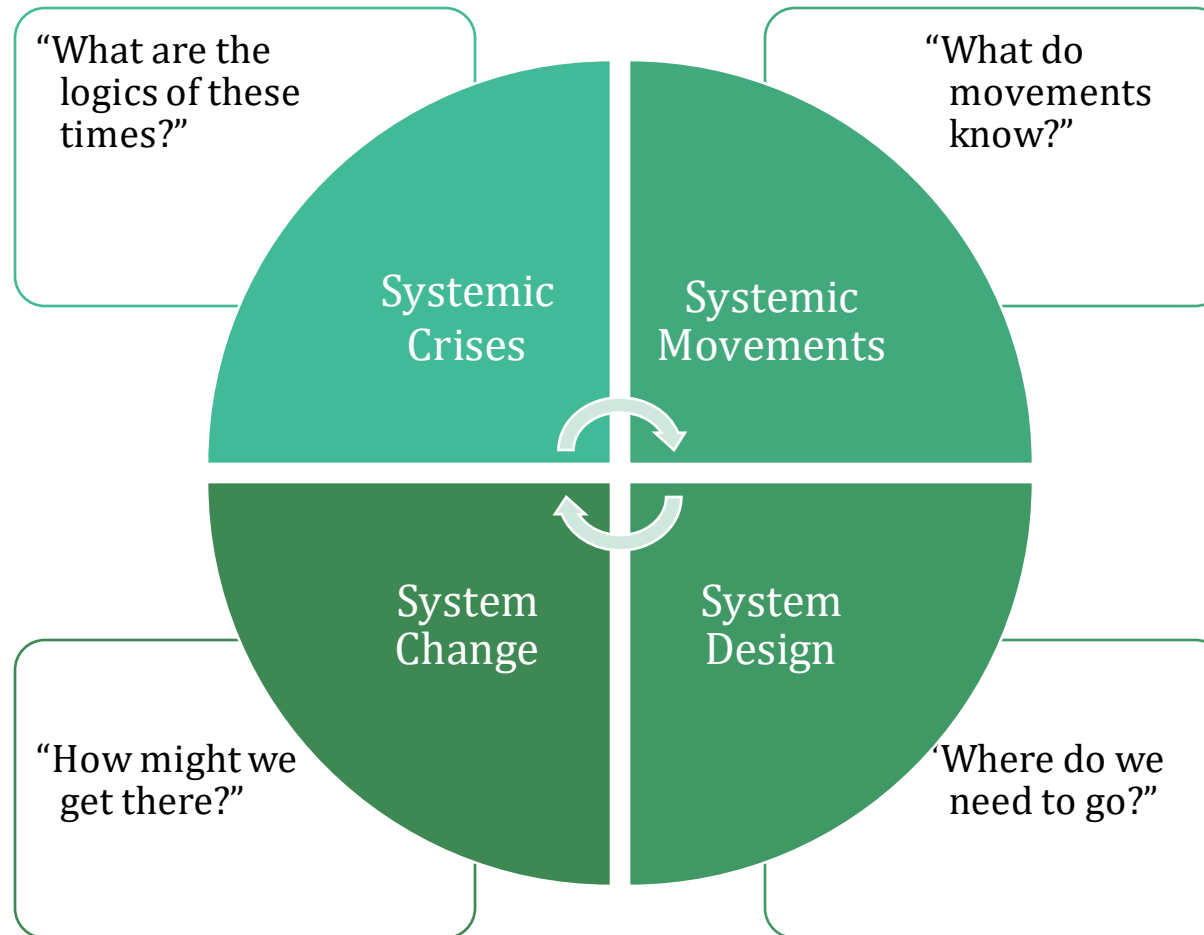
A CENTER FOR THE FIELD

- Speakers
- Visiting Scholars
- Next System Studies Association initiative

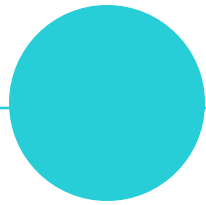
THE NEXT SYSTEM FELLOWS AT ARLINGTON



PEDAGOGY & EPISTEMOLOGY

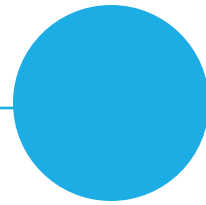


PEDAGOGICAL CHALLENGES



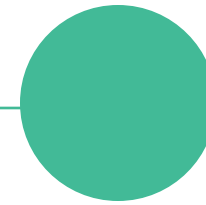
CLOSURE

- Closed system thinking
- Eventism
- Disciplinarity



SCALE

- Levels of analysis
- The dauntingness of big things
- The power of tiny things



POSSIBILITY

- Counterfactuals
- Emergence and the future

A MOVEMENT CENTERED APPROACH TO TEACHING



WHAT MOVEMENT CENTERED MEANS

STRUCTURE



MOVEMENT



SYSTEMIC MOVEMENTS

- large numbers of people working together intending to replace current world system with a new one
- revolutionary, transformative, and reconstructive
- generally emerge out of anti-systemic movements



SYSTEMIC MOVEMENTS: CASES



CONSTITUTIONAL

Move to Amend



SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Cooperation Jackson



COMMUNITY WEALTH

Evergreen Cooperatives



**MUNICIPALISM
LEARNING SERIES**

MUNICIPALIST

Los Angeles



ADDITIONAL APPROACHES

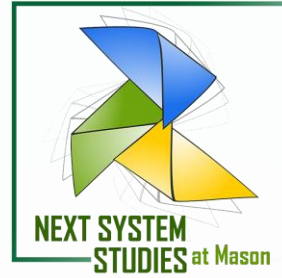
Emphasize philosophy of science, particularly critical realism

Engage students in building the field

Introduce appropriate methods

- configurational analysis
- engaged research (e.g, intervention, PAR)
- solidarity practice (e.g. anchor institutions)





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