The *Future-wise Mind-Lab* is a global online *Collaboratorium* or ‘*Laboratory for collective intelligence*’

We aim to develop and test new kinds of systems based on *collective intelligence*: and pathways for transformation towards such systems.

In 2021 we are working on three main themes, each with several topics:

- **Eco-wise**: bio-regional, peri-eco-urban, green new deal, and the ‘*collective climatic intelligence*’;
- **Smart-wise**: cities, platforms, governance and the ‘CHAI’ (*Collective Human-Artificial Intelligence*);
- **Fore-wise**: foresight cities, communities, ‘pandemonics’, and the ‘*collective policy intelligence*’;

The first cartoon here shows a ‘*Deeper Mind Lab*’ - a future-fiction version. In a similar way we have various pilots going on in a large experimental zone – various people walk around, debate progress & insights, or design the pathways which follow... The second graphic shows a *Mind-Lab* as part of a ‘*multi-versity*’ – a city or community where everyone learns with & from everyone...

For updates and background see the [Future-wise conversations/](https://future-wise.ac.uk/)

The *Mind-lab* is linked to the *Future-wise Cities* theme at the Manchester Urban Institute ([https://www.mui.manchester.ac.uk/research/themes/future-proof-cities/](https://www.mui.manchester.ac.uk/research/themes/future-proof-cities/)).

*We would like to acknowledge the financial support from the ISSEK (Institute of Statistical Studies for the Economics of Knowledge), at the Higher School of Economics, National Research University, Moscow, [www.issek.hse.ru/](http://www.issek.hse.ru/).*
These are the 3 themes, each with its range of Conversations & topics. Each is open to proposals for pilots / experiments to work on, in the online space.

### FORE-WISE THEME

- **Strategic policy intelligence for cities & regions** – how to do next generation policy & planning? practical applications in public & corporate sectors (with HSE): April 14th
- **Foresight from theory to practice**: capacity building (for the HSE Masters program): April-June
- **Pandemonics 3.0**: tools for collective foresight intelligence, turning crisis into opportunity (hosted at ORS63), Sept 15th
- **Foresight – Going Viral? oct 21st** – taking FS3.0 upwards & outwards (hosted at the XI Conference on foresight and STI policy, HSE Moscow).
- **Climate-sight-3.0-** beyond COP26 – thinking ahead in disruption & opportunity – Dec 3rd

### SMART-WISE THEME

- **Smart-wise cities 3.0** How to design ‘smarter’ technology to enable ‘wiser’ human systems? (with Shanghai SCDI): **Feb 26th**
- **Smart-wise-Locality 3.0** - how to take smart-wise governance to the streets? practical applications on the urban frontline (with Manchester City Council): **June 25th**
- **Smart-Wise CHAI** (growing the 'Collective Human-Artificial Intelligence'): how to turn tech disruption into social opportunity? **Oct 22nd**
- **‘Smart-Wise Metro-Scape 3.0’** mobilizing the digital hinterland for human synergy: (Dec 10th)

### ECO-WISE THEME

- **‘Green new deal 3.0** - how to do carbon neutral / net-zero pathways that really work?? (with EC-JRC): **March 26TH**
- **Bio-regional 3.0** : how to tame the global tiger? (Univ Granada & UC San Diego): May 27th;
- **(Peri-cene.net/ Policy Lab Workshops)**: interactive sessions, also open for special interests (June 8-17th);
- **Towards a Sustainable Earth - synthesis**: with NERC & program partners: July 7th
- **Food 3.0** - how to link agro-ecology, super-food & urban livelihood? (with Camley St Community Land Trust): (**TBC**)
- **Resilience 3.0** - how to cope with 2, 3 or 4 degrees: Oct 14th
- **Climate-sight-3.0-** beyond COP26 - thinking ahead in disruption & opportunity - Dec 3rd
HOW IT WORKS

For each theme we set up an online ‘experimental zone’. This includes –

- Pilot projects & case studies (from participants & speakers), both ‘what-if’ and actual;
- Each pilot aims to explore pathways towards a collective intelligence;
- In the workshop we start with the presentations and questions raised
- Then we tour around the experimental zone, with questions & critique, ideas & connections.
- We focus on 1-2 case studies for active debate & development (more can be done with subgroups if needed);
- Each pilot project gathers over time a community of interest, for further research, funding and/or publication: for the whole theme we plan a ‘white paper’ & special issue in 2022.

For each theme and its various conversations & experiments, we invite:

- Contributions from speakers;
- a wider community of interest with potential co-authors

For each pilot / experiment we explore some over-arching questions:

a) What is the scope of the problem / challenge here? (i.e. ‘system mapping’)
b) How would a collective intelligence look & work on the ground? (‘synergy mapping’)
c) Which pathways could lead towards such collective intelligence? (‘strategy mapping’)
d) What other pilot experiments could be set up?
For the outputs, we aim towards:

- academic papers in a special issue
- online comment / ‘white papers’ / co-authored book

The online whiteboard is very useful as an interactive workspace. We use a common set of templates (the so-called ‘synergistic model canvas’), and others can be added when needed. Slides or documents can be loaded and comments made on sticky notes: (these can be colour coded, e.g. yellow=normal comment; green=idea; red=disagreement; purple=question, etc).

In all this visual thinking is a key, essential for the transition to holistic ‘whole-system’ thinking. So we use multiple channels in a unique ‘1-2-3’ online combination:

- ‘1D’ discussion platform,
- 2D whiteboard, with links to online system dynamics / network apps
- 3D virtual gallery / garden space (shown here), for coffee, viewings and informal chat.

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**WHO IS INVOLVED**

As of mid 2021 the Mind-Lab has emerged as a viable concept, with so far around 250 participants, in 15 major meetings, covering 8 main topics. People are invited to join as:

- **Community**: an open ‘community of interest’, including potential co-authors.
- **Invited speakers** with special contributions.

The Mind-Lab as of 2021 is a self-organized network within the Manchester Urban Institute. When the first round is complete, we aim at further funding to set up (if needed) as a free-standing operation.

(The cartoon here shows a process in 4 stages, in real-time meeting room, as the inspiration for the online version).
WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?

Overall each theme, and each pilot / experiment within it, aims for results both practical and transformative:

- R&D on concept models for collective intelligence
- Recommendations for pathways
- Proposals for further research & next steps.

WHAT LIES BEHIND?

The methods and tools used here draw on the new book *Deeper-City: Collective-Intelligence-and-the-Pathways-from-Smart-to-Wise*.

This set out the general scope of a *Mind-Lab / Collaboratorium*:

- **Wider** synergies between actors:
- **Further** synergies between factors:
- **Deeper** synergies of layers / domains:
- **Co-evolutionary** synergies for transformation, towards a ‘3.0’ level of ‘collective intelligence’

WHY DO THIS?

We see multiple overlapping global challenges ahead – climate change, artificial intelligence, political extremism, to name a few. In each it’s clear we need to look beyond short term problems, towards the potential for transformation – and this calls for an emerging *collective intelligence*, with deeper layers of value: social, technical, economic, ecological, political, cultural, and so on.

The book *Deeper-City-Collective-Intelligence-and-the-Pathways-from-Smart-to-Wise* demonstrates the mappings of 40 such pathways. The *Mind-Lab / Collaboratorium* takes them forward into practice, by development and testing with a wider global community. The pandemic 2020-21 is a huge challenge, but also catalysed a shift to online, in some ways better for low-carbon international collaboration.

Overall the whole *Mind-Lab / Collaboratorium* is itself an experiment, to see how far a global community can work together on challenges of common interest.