Appendixes

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1 ToolBox

In the table 1, all the tools that were suggested are listed and categorized as a start of a toolbox. These will be shared with activists in general and made publicly available. In table 2, tips for practice as given by the participants are recorded.

Table 1: Tools to foster the utopian imagination

Tools to foster UI	
Type	**Suggestion**
Artistic & Fun	Read science fiction as inspiration (Respondent 1 (tester))
	Use creative, soulful, intuitive methods (e.g. SoulCollage)[1] (Respondent 17)
	Use ritual-like practices (shamanic or wicca, or...) (i.e. starhawk.org – combines activism and ritual[2]) (Respondent 17)
	Use more utopian art: music, poems, crafts, movie, sketch, show, etc : "We're all big children, and it's widely known, that You learn the fastest when You're having fun at the same time." (Respondent 28)
	"The [Galway grassroots] zine[3] provides a space for alternative ideas to be discusses and shared. The physical printing and distribution of the zine in the city is an important 'intervention' in the city space, opening up space for these alternatives through chance encounters" (Respondent 44)
Books & Literature: visions, eutopias, dystopias	Book "bolo'bolo"[4] (Respondent 23)
	Venus project[5] (Respondent 8)

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1   "SoulCollage is a process for accessing your intuition and creating an incredible deck of cards with deep personal meaning that will help you with life's questions and transitions." (http://www.soulcollage.com/)
2   Earth Activism: "In this workshop, we'll use ritual, meditation, guided journeys, dance and song to connect with the deep wellsprings of inspiration that the earth offers us. We'll explore the internal and social barriers that keep us from stepping into our full power. And we'll work with tools and insights that can help us become more effective co-creators of the new world we must bring to birth." http://starhawk.org/event/earth-activism-weekend-workshop-kressberg-germany/
3   https://ggnetwork.blackblogs.org/tag/zine/

	"Have a booklist of utopian and dystopian books/films for sharing.ask everyone for suggestions" (Respondent 17) 1. **Fiction**: '1984' (Orwell, 1949), 'Animal Farm' (Orwell, 1945), 'Brave New World' (Huxley, 1932), 'Woman on the Edge of Time' (Piercy, 1976), 'Oryx and Crake Triology' (Atwood, 2003, 2009, 2013) 2. **Non-fiction**: Starhawk[6], 'The Great Turning'[7] (Joanne Macy)
	Look at authors: Eduardo Galeano, Gustavo Esteva: video 'social movement and hope'[8] (Respondent 19)
	Look at writings from activist perspective of Westoby[9], Mcintosh and Jensen, in Solnit and Griffiths (Respondent 39)
	Writings not from activist perspective who "mange to be open to possibility and share that through their writings e.g. Macfarlane, Jamie, Maitland writing about landscape, poetry and silence among other things." (Respondent 39)
	Look at "fourfold process of transformation" (Matthew Fox[10])[11] (Respondent 39)
Intersectionality	"the linking of issues" (Respondent 3 (tester))
	"combining issues to have more people with similar ways of thinking together. like having a camp" (Respondent 28)
Children[12]	"Work with children" (Respondent 1 (tester))
	"Addressing young people, especially children who still have the natural ability of thinking radically. Their [UI] […] can be preserved by working with them, learning from them and with them" (Respondent 3 (tester))
Meetings	"Meetings that are dedicated to just imagine together with others what we want the world to be like, being open to new action ideas" (Respondent 9)
	"Practicing UI will improve the method" (Respondent 21)
	"introduce the concept to more people and meet to practise it, brainstorm ideas and actually implement them" (Respondent 22)
	"It needs an open mind to think of a different world. And such an openness needs places and times for people to creatively think, of what could be different, what they could live like if things would be different." (Respondent 23)

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4   http://sfbay-anarchists.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/bb_3.pdf
5   "The Venus Project proposes an alternative vision of what the future can be if we apply what we already know in order to achieve a sustainable new world civilization. It calls for a straightforward redesign of our culture in which the age-old inadequacies of war, poverty, hunger, debt and unnecessary human suffering are viewed not only as avoidable, but as totally unacceptable." - https://www.thevenusproject.com/
6   Starhawk: see writings on the website, i.e. 'The City of Refuge' (http://starhawk.org/writing/books/city-of-refuge)
7   "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." (http://www.joannamacy.net/thegreatturning.html)
8   Can't find the video.... other one: Esteva, Video: 2006 Oaxaca Police killings, democracy now: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMMo23neIOo
9   https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=2PXSnHsAAAAJ&hl=en
10 Matthew Fox is a "Dominican priest" (see also for details and critique) (http://www.dialogueireland.org/dicontent/resources/dciarchive/zheresyhope.html)
11 "Matthew Fox speaks about of the Via Positiva needing the Via Negatiain order to access the Via Creativa which leads to the Via Transformativa and back into the cycle once more." (Respondent 39)
12 Some ideas could potentially be found in Ginwright (2008).

	Discussing "ideas of how things could be better […] might be a helpful start for discussing the strategies to get there." (Respondent 15)
	"I think the most important is that people come together and have time to imagine and brainstorm things. You will never get as much ideas and dreams in an online plattform or chat or whatever, as with some people sitting together on a bonfire or spending a weekend together." (Respondent 24)
	"important too to have fun, get togehter,build community,potluck shared dinners, musicmaking etc" (Respondent 17)
	"Working in dialogue, to question, explore and create meaning together. This could be as informal as having chats over tea or a formal organised workshop (Respondent 44)
	"I link the idea of utopian imagination to Paulo Freire's idea of consciensiation[13]: supporting individuals and groups to develop an analysis that challenges the hegemonic 'common sense' of elites. In this sense, popular education approaches and methods could be seen as fostering a utopian imagination." (Respondent 44)
Retreats	"Taking long breaks from capitalist society, being given an opportunity to be, think, reflect" (Respondent 1 (tester))
	"So places where people get together and do something in a different way can create such an atmosphere, even if it is only temporarily. Places where people try to live different ways over a longer period (like communes, …) also can help to foster imagination" (Respondent 23)
Inspiration	"Being open to new action ideas, inform yourself about struggles and methods of other activists" (Respondent 9)
	"Taking the time to share utopian ideas, thereby inspire each other, thereby become more inspiring for others. This leads to positive feedback by seeing people become more open to ones ideas..." (Respondent 15)
	"Learning more about what happened in spain in the thirties[14],and what is happening in Kobane and other parts in kurdistan/syria[15] at present in the midst of all the violence..to spread that info and be inspired." (Respondent 17)
	Home weeks[16] of CDRA (Community Development Resource Association)[17] in Cape Town (Respondent 39)
	"First nations communities in Canada that through a process of utopian imagination that emerged form the grassroots the model of service delivery was abandoned and a new model is being experimented with that builds on traditional ways of doing things that work through the idea of interconnectedness[18]." (Respondent 39)

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13 See also: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TioH-t9FWMU and http://www.freire.org/component/easytagcloud/118-module/conscientization/

14 Spain in the 30s: The Respondent most likely refers to Spain's Revolutionary Anarchist Movement. See http://flag.blackened.net/liberty/spain-rev.html, https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/david-porter-spain-model-for-anarchist-organizing and https://libcom.org/history/1868-1936-anarchism-in-spain

15 See for example http://anarchism.pageabode.com/andrewnflood/resources-rojava-revolution-kurdistan-syria, http://anarchistnews.org/tags/kobane and http://www.submedia.tv/stimulator/2015/02/21/anarchy-rojava-libertarian-revolution-middle-east/

16   "During home weeks the focus of the organisation is on itself and what is happening within it. Everyone is involved in this process no matter what their job description is. In this way they engage with not only what is emergent but also with what is being hidden the shadow side of things." (Respondent 39)

17 http://www.cdra.org.za/

	"Spreading the ideas, solutions, initiatives, ways of struggling with different issues." (Respondent 28)
	"And isn't maybe art another indicator for the presence of UI (for example utopian architects after french revolution[19], ideal workers city[20] etc.)?" (Respondent 24)
Individual	"Apply this imagination […] also just for your own life, starting with small goals that are easier to achieve and that make you trust in that way of trying to change the world, focus on one goal at a time to not overload yourself". (Respondent 9)
	"I think a few lead questions would help, also maybe just little inspirations how to creatively escape the pre-fabricated cage of a mind within which I think, could help. Like, day-dreaming while you ride your bike downhill to imagine how you really want things to be. No compromise." (Respondent 22)

2 Tips for practice of UI

Table 2: Tips for practice of UI

Tips for practice of UI	
Tips for practice	"Making the case for its usefulness" (Respondent 8)
	"Developing the habit of not confusing radical imagination with unrealistic expectations and welcome it as something positive among activist". (Respondent 22)
	"Anything that promotes positive (but realistic) thinking." (Respondent 15)
	"A new frame of reference within which to operate, based in values[21] which have a universal meaning, as opposed to tied to ideology". (Respondent 18)
	"Some questions that guide me to think about some of the ideas given in the definition of utopan imagination would be useful at a personal level, while a similar process could be made into a workshop for groups who want to envision the future they are working towards. I would find an intersectional approach that explores how we challenge and transform class, 'race' and gender issues in the way we work crucial to any discussion of utopian imagination." (Respondent 44)
	"Opposing the ideas and policies of Thatcher and of Reagan/Nixon and their modern day equivalents: May and Trump, by every possible means." (Respondent 41)
	"Learn systems thinking" (Respondent 40)
	"Reinforcing feedback loops" (Respondent 40)
	"More networking with others who think the same in order to find the right

18   Some information on interconnectedness: http://firstnationspedagogy.ca/interconnect.html and https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/mentally_healthy_communities_aboriginal_perspectives_e.pdf

19   Unclear what exactly is meant. Possibly see https://thecharnelhouse.org/2013/09/08/architecture-in-revolutionary-times/ and Vidler (1991).

20   Could refer to https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/apr/13/story-cities-21-adriano-olivetti-ivrea-italy-typewriter-factory-human-city or to Menier Chocolate in Noisiel, France (established in 1825): https://wiley-vch.e-bookshelf.de/products/reading-epub/product-id/577084/title/Redeveloping%2BIndustrial%2BSites.html

21   An interesting organisation in this context is Common Cause Foundation: http://valuesandframes.org/

	way". (Respondent 36)
	"I like the idea of "head/heart/hand" which I use to make sure I'm mixing up methods in the workshop between intellectual work, emotional work and physical moving about/creating work. I also find that paired discussions and small group work can be really important in supporting those who are less confident to speak in plenary groups to be able to contribute." (Respondent 44)
	"Important to root utopian imagination in popular education (Freire, Augusto Boal's Games for Actors and Non-Actors[22]) and in narrative storytelling approaches (Centre for Story Based Strategy[23])." (Respondent 44)

3 General activist strategy

Appendix: General activist strategy	
Respondent 40	"Give time by taking care of each other"
	"Build autonomous operating groups"
	"Donating to the direct groups a la effective altruism"
	"Build funds"
	"Build knowledge, resources for activism"
	"Convince the skeptic ones closer to you, fight the powerful far from you"
	"Seek allies among the powerful"
	"Frame around issues you have trouble winning their minds and hearts with"
Respondent 41	"Working collectively to educate and inform in small groups in communities and workplaces using community development principles."
	"Actively opposing poverty and discrimination."

4 Barriers for UI

Even though the question was not asking for the barriers but just using them as a point to depart, many respondents did list what they thought are barriers to utopian thinking, with some only listing barriers and no ideas on how to overcome them, some people explicitly expressing hopelessness. However, it seems that some respondents were thinking more broadly about the barriers that prevent success of activism in general, or aspects that make activist groups and movements less inclusive.

Appendix: Barriers for UI	
Space, time, and money	Lack of time. (Respondent 17)
	There is tension between action and reflection, as simple as it both demands time. (Respondent 40)
	Time constraints and the juggling of personal resources (money, food, other obligations) lead

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22 "Games for Actors and Non-Actors is the classic and best-selling book by the founder of Theatre of the Oppressed, Augusto Boal. It sets out the principles and practice of Boal's revolutionary method, showing how theatre can be used to transform and liberate everyone – actors and non-actors alike!" Download the book here: https://geraldkeaney.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/augusto_boal_games_for_actors_and_non-actorsbookfi-org.pdf
23 http://www.storybasedstrategy.org/

	to compromises and maybe a lower level of radicality. (Respondent 22)
	Financial problems are a barrier. Lack of space and time is a barrier. (Respondent 24)
	Other than the barriers for utopian imagination that can't be overcome (biological and historical) I guess the only other barrier I can think of is that people don't see any value in utopian thinking. (Respondent 8)
	Status quo. (Respondent 33)
Differences	Lack of time lack of clarity, different motivations why people are in activism. (Respondent 17)
	Unfortunately I see more and more divisions all over in the anarchist/activist society. (Respondent 28)
Personal level	Most people somehow arrange with the situation as it is (which is important to feel good, I guess, but it can also lead to some laziness). (Respondent 9)
	The biggest limitation are the limitations we accept internally and challenging them is an internal process that might be very subjective and depends on different parameters. (Respondent 22)
	We have been conditioned so deeply, so long in repressive ways of being, patriarchy, capitalism/now neoliberalism.we lost connection to ourselves, to rest of nature etc. to have faith in what may emerge in crisis if we are very aware. (Respondent 17)
Status quo	Repression is a barrier. Hegemonic Education and Socialisation is a barrier. (Respondent 24)
	Exactly the lack of alternatives reinforces a feeling of helplessness. (Respondent 22)
	Desperation (Respondent 43)
	Maggie Thatcher once said "there is no alternative". That point of view is what is so restrictive - like Gramsci's "hegemony" as refined by Chomsky. Its a state of thinking that purports that what we have is the only possibility, that its just "common sense". (Respondent 41)
	I think that the ravages of austerity/neo-liberalism have badly damaged utopian imagination in Ireland. (Respondent 41)
	The emphasis on evidence-based practice with evidence derived not from practice but from other sources discourages the use of the imagination ordinary, extraordinary or radical. (Respondent 39)
	However, I feel that there is a deeply seated distrust towards concrete steps towards improvement. (Respondent 22)
Urgency	It is often put in the defensive corner by (the perception of) more immediate, higher prioritized needs. (Respondent 40)
	Having urgent issues that are discussed or need to be dealt with (Respondent 9)
Other	When working on a specific topic it can be more difficult to envision radical change in society as a whole. (Respondent 38)
	The hegemonic discourses which activists operate within and enact" as well as by the lack of deep systemic analysis and exposure to radical ideas, approaches and alternatives." (Respondent 44)
	The same and quite fixed structures in political groups that don't allow much free thinking space together; the use of similar methods; the factor that people might think differently from "mainstream" society but still in shaped ways and routines. (Respondent 9)

5 List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full
CDRA	Community Development Resource Association
EU	European Union
GJM	Global Justice Movement
IROS	Imaginary Reconstitution Of Society
LDT	Liberal Democratic Theory
RI	Radical imagination
SECC	The Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee
T.A.B.O.O.	There are Billions of Options
TAMA	There are many alternatives
TAZ	Temporary Autonomous Zones
TINA	There is no alternative
UI	Utopian imagination
zine	A self-published booklet, derived from magazine

6 Survey questions

The definition was presented in the welcome page of the survey as well as in two questions.

Utopian Imagination is something we *do* together, envisioning and working towards a better future that is radically, from its roots, different to the present. Utopian Imagination grows by bringing conflicts and differences into the open, leading to multiple, rough, and fussy ideas of how things could be better. It serves to give direction, inspire, and mobilise to action. It can be seen as a dynamic process of small steps, of trying out and leaning into, with constant re-evaluation of values, horizons and directions.

Question 0:	To warm up: What three words would you use to describe the world you are trying to create through your activism?
Help:	Be creative, there is no right or wrong!

Question 1:	What do you think about the state of utopian imagination in activism?
Help:	Is it widespread? Is it limited? Is it used at all? + Definition

Question 2:	In what ways could utopian imagination be beneficial and / or detrimental for activism in general?
Help:	Feel free to take a strong position! + Definition

Question 3:	Think about the barriers for utopian imagination in your activism. What tools and methods could be developed and used to overcome those barriers and foster the utopian imagination?
Help:	Any ideas are helpful, no need to be detailed or complete! *The answers to this question will be compiled in a resource for all to use.*

Question:	Almost finished. Use this box for any comments, thoughts, or suggestions. Thanks!
Help:	

7 Survey invitation

Dear friend and activist,

in an attempt to improve activist strategies and tactics, I am working on a research-project at the moment, which explores whether or not we need (more) utopian imagination [1] in activism, if it is beneficial or detrimental, and how this could be implemented in our practices.

What do you think about the state of utopian thinking? Is it an helpful concept? And how could we include visioning, radical imagination, or utopian thinking, into our groups and movements?

I am dedicating my time working on the thesis with the aim to create a resource for all to use who are interested in changing the world starting with radical and utopian visions.

If you can dedicate a few minutes to contribute to this collective process, I'd be very much obliged. Please follow the link below to fill out the short survey. The information will be used in the thesis as part of my studies in MA Public Advocacy and Activism in Galway, potentially in an academic paper [2], and will additionally be compiled into a resource that will be made publicly available by the end of September '16.

Link to **survey**: http://radical-utopia.limequery.org/929574?lang=en

The **resource** will be made available here [3]: https://ggnetwork.blackblogs.org/fostering-radical-imagination/

Please answer the survey as soon as possible, the latest until July 31, 2016 (you know, these deadlines...).

Thank you very much,

Martin

Data security and privacy notice: The data you submit is anonymous, and I chose an open-source survey provider located under strict privacy laws, who will keep the information out of corporate hands.

Read more: https://ggnetwork.blackblogs.org/2016/04/12/zine-1-prefigurative-activism-radical-imagination/

Contact: ggn-utopia@riseup.net

[1] Some definition will be given at the start of the survey.

[2] The information will be handled not only in accordance to standard ethical considerations of academic research, but also according to activist-research ethics of movement relevance, anti-oppression, and prefiguration (see Luchies 'Towards an Insurrectionary Power/ Knowledge').

[3] You could subscribe to the blog's rss, to get notified when it's ready: https://ggnetwork.blackblogs.org/feed/

8   Radical Imagination Workshop #1

Radical Imagination Workshop, WeCreate Wed 18ᵗʰ May 8-10pm

G**oal:** Create a space of dialogue and possibility, sparking the radical imagination towards a radically different future with focus on sustainability and the EcoVillage.

Materials needed:
- Paper & colour pens, different kinds
- Flipchart paper and colour markers
- Audio tape recorder (digital)
- Laptop & beamer to show future news video (2:01 min)
- Speakers

[Total time: 100 min!]

5 min Welcome & intro

10 min: Introduction:

    5 min **What 'is' radical imagination:**

- based on The Radical Imagination Project (Haiven, Khasnabish)
- radical (lat. Radix: roots): change from roots, fundamental, systemic, unconventional
- imagination: forming mental images or concepts of what is not actually present
- capacity to project how world might be
- something we do together (not something one individual 'has')
- grows through overlap, conflict, contradiction, communication
- around stories, images, practices, beliefs, values, relationships, ideas, institutions

    5 min **Connecting 1916 with radical imagination**

30 min: Part I: Imagining the ideal

    5 min**: Intro to Part I**

        2 min: show future news from wedeclare.ie:
        https://www.youtube.com/embed/FCHgWTYafeE

- **It's about the process, not an outcome, no need to finish**
- As basis for later discussion
- Alone or in pairs

- think about your ideal society, local or global, in 2050
- How does the 'world' now feel like, smell like, look like? How do we interact with others and with our surroundings? What values are important?
- Start creating a short story, a drawing, a little poem, a short radio news item, or a poster, front page of newspaper (headings)

20 min **to start create**
5 min to **share** with the group

40 min: Part II: Radical imagination & the EcoVillage

5 min: **radical you** (short round OR open round)
- What does radical mean to you?
- Do you think imagination is important to achieve goals?

35 min**: radical we: Discussion**
- What is radical / imaginative / revolutionary about the EcoVillage?
- Where / How could the project be more radical / imaginative / revolutionary?

15 min: where do we go from here?

How can the radical imagination be fostered in the future (in the EcoVillage)?

END

9 Radical Imagination Workshop #2

Radical Imagination Workshop, Summer-Camp Fri 1st July 3-6pm

G**oal:** The goal of the workshop is to introduce utopian thinking and radical imagination as an activist process and enthuse people to incorporate it in their work within their groups.

Overall goal of the process is to improve activism, make it more creative and successful, be better in achieving what we want, by giving it direction and by inspiring change!

Materials needed:
- Paper & colour pens, different kinds
- (Flipchart) paper and colour markers
- bluetag or similar
- tape for names!
- Camera to archive stuff
- space in common area to showcase results

[Total time: 160 (180) min!]

15 min Welcome & introduction round
who am I, what's the workshop (it's in development process), aims of the workshop
(proposed outcomes, learnings to take home with

explore why utopian thinking / RI is important
overcome fears and difficulties around imagining alternatives, about using artistic methods,
discover what you want
get inspired by other people's imagination
learn a process on how to foster the RI
a stronger sense of hope, understanding that there are many alternatives
)

who are they, why did they come, what do they expect?

15 min: <u>Introduction:</u>

10 min: **radical you** (short round) – put answers on mind-maps
- What does radical mean to you?
- What does imagination mean to you?
- Is imagination important for activism?

5 min **What 'is' radical imagination: (only add if missing)**

- based on The Radical Imagination Project (Haiven, Khasnabish)
- radical (lat. Radix: roots): change from roots, fundamental, systemic, unconventional
- imagination: forming mental images or concepts of what is not actually present
- capacity to project how world might be
- something we do together (not something one individual 'has')
- grows through overlap, conflict, contradiction, communication
- around stories, images, practices, beliefs, values, relationships, ideas, institutions

30 min: <u>Values in ideal world</u>
Which values do we want to see in your ideal world? (Recognize how that is influenced by what we don't want)

<u>5 min: intro and set-up</u>
/ groups of max 4 people – each gets flipcharts and markers

Draw a rough map of a planet
place on it in writing or images/sketches the positive values existing in this utopian world. Only positive. Recognize what you don't want, use it as direction giving, to formulate positive wish.

<u>20 min: for the exercise</u>
<u>5 min: sharing</u>
Every group: 3 values →noted down on a flipchart→ put worlds on wall wall

60 min: <u>Imagining the ideal</u> (take break at half time. Announce after 25 min over)

5 min**: Set up and intro**

people sit at tables, with paper and colours ready

     Alone (2 min)
- Ask to close eyes. Then think about the values. **Then: How does the 'world' now feel like, smell like, look like? What can you hear?** Ask to put anything down on paper. A colour, anything abstract, be free!

     Alone or in pairs:
- Now imagine aspects of your ideal society that you are most interested in, local, regional, or global, in 2116, drawing from values from previous step
- *How do we interact with others and with our surroundings? What does activity look like? How do we live? How do we eat? Envisage strategies and tactics, what does activism look like?*
- Start by creating
  - a short story (ie 'a perfect day in my life'),
  - a drawing (ie 'my perfect neighbourhood'),
  - a little poem, a poster,
  - …
- **It's about the process, not an outcome, no need to finish**

25 min: sharing results from previous step (creations & process)

     10 min: ask for few volunteers to present what was created (10 min)
     Offer to make a little exhibition for the duration of the camp in some common area, if people want that.

     15 min: (go around in a circle) **Insights about/ through process**
     comments on what it made people think of, any insights, inspiration, new thoughts, revelations, feelings etc they had, be they personal or on topic.

15 min: Conclusion & feedback (quality of workshop)

     10 min: feedback (written) Ask to go around, and to come back to circle when finished.

What was good?
What could be improved? What could be added?
What are you taking home / what did you learn?

     5 min: Thanks & goodbye!

END