

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 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)