

Design, Description of, and Principles for, Planetary Bricolage (PB)

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In PB¹ we recognise the importance to our becoming fully human by, in part, recrossing the first digital divide and lens living learning and loving through our hands and our ten fingers/digits. Long ago education and much philosophy left the ‘chiro’ part of our humanity behind and even in the past such ‘work’ was left to slaves, women and now the autobots. Yet our hands play such a crucial role for us in our day to day lives (for kids and adults) – just ask someone to talk while sitting on their hands!!!!

If we look around us to-day we can see the Bricoleur (covering the following three categories) in many many areas yet these are like remnants, shards even, of a prior unity. We seek a post-modern-re-unity of these shards. We seek here a unity of lots of little stories rather than the re-appearance of the Grand Progress Narrative. In exploring the Bricoleur there are three primary component categories in our English language: 1 Tinkerer (hobbyist), 2 Bush Mechanic (Australian for ingenious and often indigenous innovator)² and, 3 Artificer (more formal even military nuance); the concept however occurs in all cultures and especially in indigenous communities.

We are firmly committed to this approach as an antidote to our ‘systemic systems failure’ we see all around us today from failing governments, electricity grids, education, social services health and on to Big Data and Big Pharma etc. This has, I submit, all been made possible by the rapid and increasing split between social innovation and technological innovation with some pundits positing the latter running several hundred thousand times the rate of the former.³

The Bricoleur, we maintain, is a valid and ultimately crucial sociological innovation in response to this collapse of our grand modern-techno-utopian-progressive narrative. For us sustainability requires the **Bricoleur Logic Base** (see following section) in effect to operate at a planetary level – the Planetary Bricoleur – an omnibus term that in effect offers common principles and helps hold a space, doula like, for associated movements to interweave, movements such as Transition-Towns, Perma-Culture, Bio-Char, Earth-Ships etc.

¹ *What then is Bricolage?* (B from French means ‘tinkerer’) is about the use of human ingenuity in a ‘crafty’ construction made of whatever materials are at hand; something created from a variety of available things – a Jack or Jill of all trades and master of some!! A person/craftsperson/design/system who is comfortable with unfamiliar realms and emergent situations and who can try/mix’n’match various options out until a suitable design emerges, such a form of praxis also includes design and fabrication of a tool for the job at hand. Tool in the sense of *Technique* (tool as extension of the human) rather than *Technique* (human as extension of the tool) an absolutely crucial nuance – in my opinion. See f/n 6 below.

As such Bricoleur’s can *join the dots* at the Lived Life level first and foremost even more so than in Grand Theory. That is Grounded Theory rather than Grand Theory as such Bricolage as a *prima mobile* (first step) is inherently embedded in Nature. In design terms such an effect also may be deliberately created as with ‘the post-modernist bricolage of the new shopping centre’. Also it can be an interweaving, even gaggle, of methodologies in Social Science Research ‘to get the job done’ without endless recourse to pure theory. Further PB is inherently *bottom up* sociological phenomena that is largely ignored and trivialised in today’s world esp. in education. Indeed it is a grounded counterpoint to Grand Theory’s top down approach indeed PB can be a *self-organising communitas*. Other terms for this are for instance Bush Mechanic (Australia) and Artificer (in more military terms). Such a B approach to living is part and parcel of indigenous cultures see for instance: <https://shop.abc.net.au/products/bush-mechanics-the-series-1>. This, for us, is a key missing ingredient in many otherwise brilliant methodologies such as TransitionTowns, BioChar and PermaCultre.

I have sought to explore and document analyse and synthesise (with my own BM project) BM/PB/A in my 15yr research as documented in the Public Domain in <http://www.crafters-connect.com/craft-issue-8/>.

² E.g. see <https://shop.abc.net.au/products/bush-mechanics-the-series-1>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/embed/XRCIzZHpFtY?rel=0> shows us all the steps in getting to Mars – just spellbindingly spectacular technological innovation operating 500million km away, yet here on earth we still can’t even run a good meeting (social innovation) or get a democracy that works or an education system that doesn’t stifle the child’s creativity.

On the other hand we may well ask what are the components of a contemporary Anglo **Logic Base**? One that is presently being uploaded into AI?⁴

Collectively and individually I submit we need/our planet desperately needs the alternative **PB Logic Base**.

In this workshop seminar we will explore these various aspects of PB and explore how these may assist your, and your organisations, endeavours to discover and activate such an alternative Logic Base.

Paul Wildman 23-03-2017

Some underlying Principles and Aspects of a PB Logic Base v6@20-03-2017⁵

[A] Principles of PB:

1. *Three parts of our PB Project* (praxis, extension, analysis ∞ eudaimonia, intention, synthesis)
2. *Four PB requirement of becoming Fully-Human* (PB, AR (Archaic Renaissance), DP (Direct Participation) & DE (Deep Empathy))
3. *Six principles of Bricolage* (see below)

[B] Aspects of PB:

1. *Learning By Doing*: Childcare, Adult Ed.,
2. *Agency with dexterity*,
3. *Robust functionality and simplicity* over complexity,
4. *Technique before Technique* (see f/n6),
5. *Resilience* esp. for youth inc. young men,
6. *Participatory Governance* – Deep Participation and collaboration (DP)
7. *Evolvable sustainability*,
8. *Politics of Peace* (8a) Beneath Host Systems' Radar crucial (politics), (8b). Power-with,
9. *Archaic Renaissance* (context) (AR),
10. *Doula* (Deep Empathy (DE) Ethos),
11. *Becoming fully-human* (the 1st digital divide) before we become post-human (the 2nd digital divide),
12. *Local/Glocal attribute* – *your (groups) attribute* & contribution.

[C] Resources available for PB:

1. *CRAFT eZine* PB Resource site (see analysis in Attribute 1 above – f/n 4 below)
2. *Superannuation* (DIO funding)

[D] Collaborative PB movement – outcomes sought:

1. *Shards* – re-joining the dots ⁶,
2. *Independent U/SubVersity self-taught study program*

⁴ **What then is our contemporary Logic Base?** Somewhat gruesomely, my research indicates that it is likely to include esp. in Western Anglo countries: 1 The world is a bad and dangerous place, 2 (My) Might is (your) right, 3 A saviour (Me/\$) is needed, 4 Simplistic either/or thinking is all that is required, 5 Obedience to the centre is key, 6 Violence by me on you/other is ok, 7 Prejudice is necessary for my triumph, 8 Our earth is dispensable, 9 Exclusive self-interest is morally superior, 10 Arts and Crafts (humanities) are essentially worthless, 11 Commodification of human relations and indeed our planet is inevitable and good, 12 Free trade is a necessity, 13 (My) Capital is free to roam the planet; Labour must be padlocked to the Nation State, 14 Growth is Go(o)d, 15 Technology trumps Nature, 16 few to many (whereas democracy is many to few), 17 Only the global, centrally (read US!) defined, news etc. matters the periphery and 'others' such as women, the indigenous, GLBTI and local etc. are dispensable. **Source:** In part drawn from <http://www.alternet.org/election-2016/trumps-worldview-mirrors-most-archaic-and-apocalyptic-christian-beliefs> - all this sounds like US Exceptionalism/President Trump's/NeoCon's philosophy doesn't it?

⁵ **This overview is an abbreviation of:** Wildman, P. (2016). *Planetary Bricolage as Antidote for Planetary Destruction: Recrossing the first digital divide towards Homo sapiens becoming fully human*. Brisbane: The Kalgrove Institute. 30pgs. For full document please see: <http://www.crafters-connect.com/craft-issue-8/> Top Right column.

⁶ **Where then may we see the Bricoleur today?** We see this today in various arenas such as: Bricolage as convivial Service to Gaia for instance illustrates how Civil Society can be enhanced though a 'maker', 'DIY', 'DIO', 'Artificer', 'Prime'atives/Primeactives', Prepper's, Communalists, Wilders, Survivalists, Hobbyists (e.g. restoration of old cars and motorcycles), Crafters, Gardner's, Retroists, Prosumers, Co-ops, Intentional Communities, Bricolage World Service and so forth approach to sociability as mutual aid. Inversely we see aspects of the Bricoleur in ISIS activities and Transhumanist eugenics. Finally these arenas are largely discrete and not linked 'these dots aren't joined' in short they are **shards**, like parts of a broken bottle, once whole now in pieces scattered around.

3. *Learning/Extension*: (Pedagogy; Play for Kids and Learning Circles for Adults)
4. *Praxis*: (3a) Support Group web based such as Hot Futures, (3b) PB app for rapid lateral sharing of PB projects, (3c) PB project clearing house
5. *Un-project*– post NGO (participatory Governance, social innovation etc.)
6. Independent/doula/intervolved and *autonomous affinity projects* who commit so a similar principles, analysis, extension and praxis and collaborate

[E] PB Follow-through:

1. *Anti-dote* 2. *Next Steps* (from follow through meeting after workshop)
3. *Intervolvement with affinity Projects* – TT (Transition Towns), BC (BioChar) , PC PermaCulture) etc.

The Six Emergent Principles of Bricolage/Bush Mechanics

These six principles represent the **commonalities in process** Dr. Wildman identified in a 15 year research project applying Grounded Theory approach to some six Bush Mechanics in Australia. By applying Grounded Theory to entries in a learning journal made in the field as I built my own Exemplar Project (a boat) under the guidance of a Bush Mechanic and under the supervision of a respected Academic Elder Dr. Bob Dick. In the following we see embodied participation through a perspective that recognises Hand, Heart and Head, generally in that order as vital to understanding the pattern that connects different types of artificers, and that can lead to transformative outcomes.

Indeed Dr. Wildman argues that *the urge to create/fabricate/make/bricoleur* and relate is a *fundamental human right*. This *will to create* is foundational in understanding what it is to be human and indeed he argues as such it/this manifesto should be recognised as a **‘human right to bricoleur’** where as it has been excluded from most education, social, religious and economic relations which all valorise abstract thinking, ideas and grand theory. He argues this distortion needs to be redressed urgently in individual and community projects with the following principles, as they emerged from his grounded research over the past 15years:

1. **Exemplar Project Principle** – *Exemplar Category – journeyman’s piece*
2. **Inner-Outer Worlds Principle** - *Individuation Category – outer doing∞ inner knowing*
3. **Social Holon Principle** - *Relationship Category – mutual aid*
4. **Global Problematique Principle** - *Planetary category – the big picture our project fits into*
5. **Harmonisation Principle** - *Harmony category – the parts fit together*
6. **Deep Learning Principle** - *Learning category – learning from doing*

Today we find the **shards** of what used to be a much wider and cohesive distribution of Bricoleurs. Several of these I have identified include: (1) **Bush Mechanic** (techne/artifact builder⁷; P1); (2) **Agape Artificer** (relationship/nurturance facilitator; P3); (3) **Eco-Artificer** (ecological praxis; P4); (4) **Artisan-Artificer** (artistic, artisan specialist; P1), (5) **Community-Artificer** (community animateur; P3), **Green Activist/Social Justice Crusader** (P4), (6) **Systems Design practitioner** (P5); (7) **Pedagogical artificer** (learning, education; P6).

NB: These Principles are drawn from Wildman, P. (2005b) below.

Other references include:

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/mar/23/how-the-collapse-in-full-time-jobs-for-men-is-fuelling-record-underemployment?CMP=share_btn_fb <http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/four-corners#playing> Climate change wars

⁷ Techne’que in this sense means where a tool is an extension or expression of the human not as in Techni’que where the opposite is the case and although this distinction was hugely important for the Ancient Greeks and tragically today we have lost this discernment and indeed whole societies have become expressions of la’technique.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/XRCIzZHpFtY?rel=0> How we got to Mars, and consider how hard it is to have a well-run meeting even!! Technological change outstripping our social change by a million times I reckon.

Adorno, T. (2003). *Can One Live After Auschwitz? A Philosophical Reader*. Stanford, Stanford University Press. 525pgs.

Arendt, H. (1963). *On Revolution*. London: Penguin. 350 pgs.

Wildman, P. (2005a) Futuring and the Artifice of Ingenuity. *Futures Bulletin - World Futures Studies Federation*, **30**(2&3): p. 10-11, 21-23.

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