

Design for This Century

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Response

I found Stephanie Wakefield's idea of Black Loop fascinating. It is extremely difficult for us to imagine a world without humans. That's why she mentioned in her work *"Field Notes from the Anthropocene: Living in the Back Loop"*, what we are seeing as apocalypse might be just one stamp of the timeline of the Earth. Wakefield defines a concept that explains the dynamics of ecosystem as four stages: exploitation, conservation, release, and reorganization. What we called the climate change right now is in fact one sign of the Black Loop, when individual organisms or small groups of individual organisms interact across previously unbridgeable divides and in doing create something fundamentally original.

Someone also mentioned this perspective of the a sustainable world for humans in a speculative design class. In our discussion, a student mentioned that instead of trying to change the world and keeping the climate in its old balanced state, wouldn't it make more sense to come up with adaption techniques. If we cast our world perspective to be a little bit longer, and eliminate the human-centric view. We could probably understand the facts of climate change better. Instead of squandering all the resources on making trivial improvements to keep global emissions and temperatures in check, it is also worth developing a series of disaster protocols to adapt humans better to more extreme environments. Can we make humans multi-planetary species? Can humans sustain daily activities in a drier and hotter environment. In the ecosystem, can we imagine to place humans lower in the food chain. All of these assumptions are valuable foundries of our emergency tactics in the face of climate change. Especially, what if all our existing approaches just simply don't have time to truly implement in case of immediate changes?

