

Panel: Radical Action is a Rational Response – Saturday 01/06/2019

Food Autonomy Festival #3 Amsterdam

'Radical' sometimes has extreme connotation but rather we mean it as to get to the root of something.

Paul Hendrickson - Extinction Rebellion, Transition NL

Focus on local resilience - alternative society - permaculture social principles of earth awareness - non violent but also confrontational.

Flip - Free the Soil

ASEED - different types of strategies - how and what different types of actions and strategies complement. Can you combine your activism with staying alive (daily living)?

Ilona - Code Rood

Started with solidarity movement with Latin America, nature / climate / social equality. How to be an activist? Empowering to be with people that share same ideals - fed up with society.

Juna - Students Movement - Stop the War on Migrants - arms trade, immigration policy.

WSSC - Wij Stoppen Coal: unannounced direct action. Theatrics. Structured within a broader plan.

XR - specific demands to be fulfilled - aiming for that by escalation - big, bigger, and bigger. Single actions need demands to be fulfilled. You might end up doing things indefinitely.

Civil Disobedience (CD) - good for mobilising new people - media attention.

Need whole spectrum - policy - NGOs - grassroots. Freedom to have your own strategies.

Stress the urgency. Empower people to be disobedient - disrupt the daily course of events. Not only about putting your body in the CD - other people feel comfortable cooking / dishes - good to not think the more radical you are the better.

Repressive tolerance - if it's unannounced, the authorities can't go there. It's a process to facilitate coordinating an action. Ende Gelände - one action takes so much energy, people don't have energy to do more. One action a year is not enough.

Unseen actions. Choosing tactics - media.

Supportive structure behind you - need people power behind you.

Local government to declare climate emergency to then put pressure on the national government.

In the UK, unpreparedness of XR has shut down legal help for other activists.

Goal also - to have such a big group that you don't get arrested. Strategy - make people not afraid from getting arrested on the other hand court cases can be exhausting and demotivating.

Q - How can XR movement be intersectional?

Differently accessible. If we choose a strategy of escalation - government can also escalate - they can create more police and more prisons. Have to be mindful of repression all over the world. Right wing parties and people have been elected - they are attractive for a lot of people - we cannot lose contact with local people.

Q - what do you mean to take direct action?

Blueprint for a revolution.

5 people can dominate a narrative. Defining radical is a personal opinion.

Radical black thought - Radicalism vs Extremism.

We should own the word. Is it getting to the root?

Humour as a necessary tool.

Do things including political message.

More reflexive analysis - decolonise yourself.

Restructuring - destroy a power structure but don't build something else - horizontal organising, consensus = long time but we want to do it because we want it.

Media don't understand non-hierarchy.

Shell is a symptom of the bigger structure and we are not going to sit on a table with them because we will never be equal. They are shareholders interested in profit.

Start with an alternative and end with a conclusion. This is where we want to go and to get there New campaign Shell must fall.

Movements as eco-systems - more diverse we are the stronger we are.

All these companies investing in green things - not necessarily our idea - still capitalist thinking.

It's a numbers game we need as many people as possible.