TOWARDS A ROBUST LIGHT COMMUNITY STRATEGIES TO INCUBATE ROOTED COSMOPOLITANS

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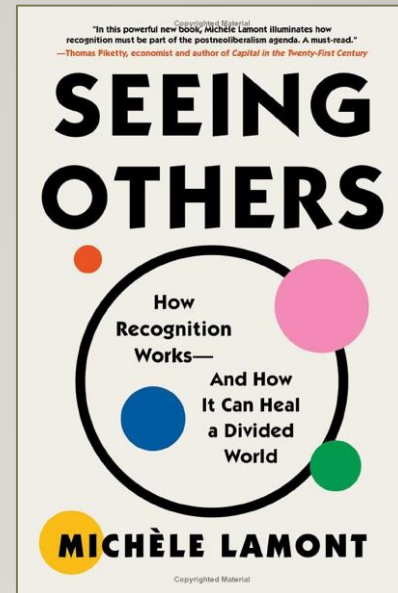SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ASIA CENTER

PUZZLE

- Exploring light community strategy of struggling with neoliberalism while facing fragmented individualism as well as digital revolution.

- Assuming a light community as a democratic place in which we creatively and actively discovers meaningful solutions for life-long care.

- Light community is an open space where anyone can move around. It is a space of cooperation that overcomes strong connections such as gender, age, class, and race/tribe, and recognizes and respects participants as others.

- Exploring how grassroots people learn light community strategies through regular contact and meetings.

- Examining light community experiments as a place for incubating rooted cosmopolitan equipped with cooperative values in a glocal contexts. It means to be a healthy 'Rooted Cosmopolitan' growing from below.

- Meaningful innovations and alternatives can be created through mutual deliberation and communication through collaborative projects.

KEY CONCEPTS: CIVIL SOCIETY (CITIZENSHIP), COMMUNITY, ALGOCRACY, ROOTED COSMOPOLITAN

- A. Scholte (2003): Civil Society's 5 Roles for Democracy
  - Public Education: civility and awareness
  - Public Debate: deliberation and persuasion
  - Public Participation: engagement and involvement
  - Public Transparency: openness and accessibility
  - Public Accountability: monitoring from below and responsibility

- Algocracy, Digital Panopticon with AI and Big Data
  - Transnational Capitalist Class (TCC) vs. Rooted Cosmopolitan

- Competitive Individualism & Meritocracy vs. Civility
  - l neoliberal virtues of material success, self-Reliance, individualism, entrepreneurialism, and competitiveness
  - Recognition, dignity and worth (B. Han, 2023)
  - Hapticality & Interaction "Easily Connected but Incompetent); Talking Politics (W. Gamson, 1982)
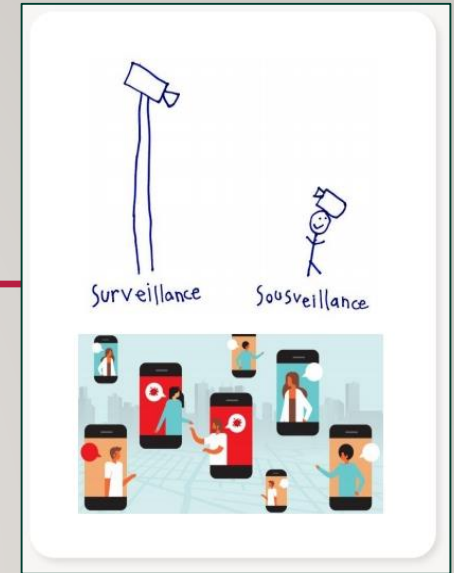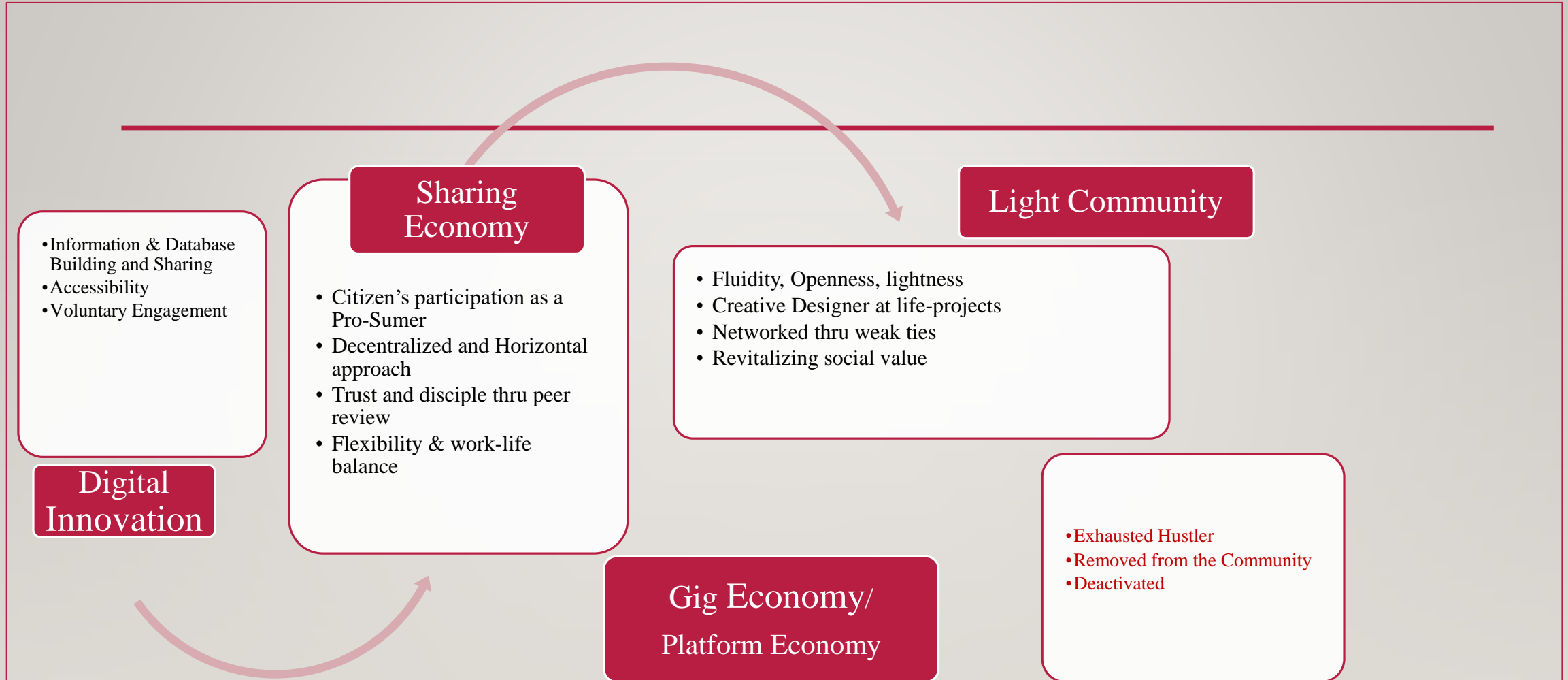
M. Lamont (2023)

GLOCAL THREATS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Recognition and Respect vs. Stigmatization and Discrimination

- Competitive Individualism, Meritocracy

- Depopulation, hyper-aging society, urbanization

- Loneliness: Lonely Sapience vs. Care

- Digital Revolution: AI and Big Data, & Algocracy

- Digital Platform Economy: Concierge Economy, Ghost work

- Migration vs. anti-migration & nationalism, Right-wing populism

- Climate Crises: Energy transition

Light Community Strategy & Experiments
(E. Manzini, 2019)

Sharing Economy

Light Community

- Information & Database Building and Sharing
- Accessibility
- Voluntary Engagement

- Citizen's participation as a Pro-Sumer
- Decentralized and Horizontal approach
- Trust and disciple thru peer review
- Flexibility & work-life balance

- Fluidity, Openness, lightness
- Creative Designer at life-projects
- Networked thru weak ties
- Revitalizing social value

Digital Innovation

Gig Economy/ Platform Economy

- Exhausted Hustler
- Removed from the Community
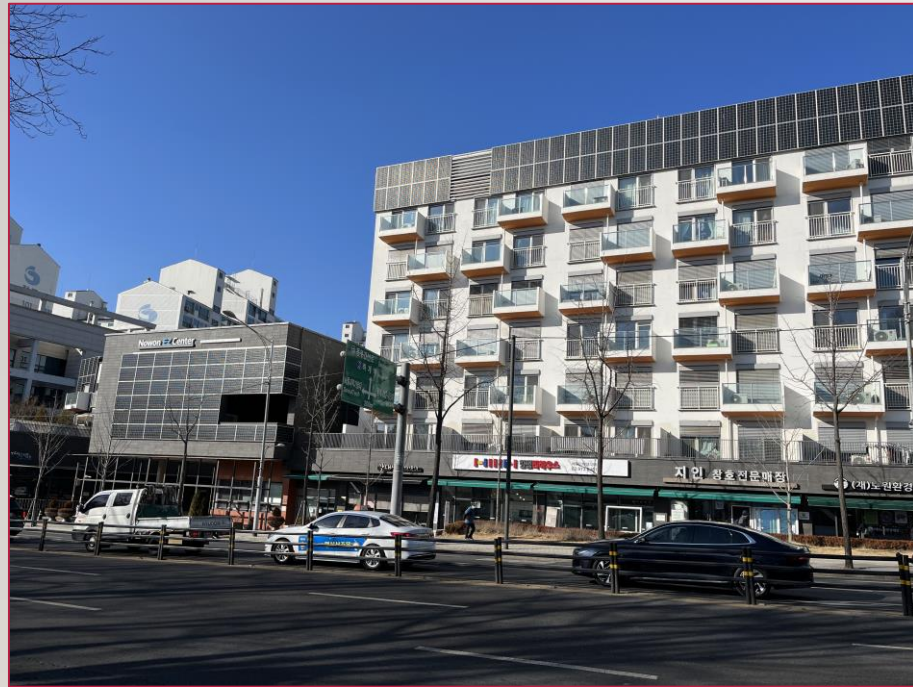- Deactivated

LOCAL RESILIENCE & PERSEVERANCE

- Collaboration Tradition
- Catholic
- Place (Geography)
- Coop & Solidarity

Trento, Italy

TOP-DOWN PROJECTS: ENERGY TRANSITION IN KOREA

EZ House, Nowon-gu, Seoul

Saemangeum Solar Projects, Gunsan

BOTTOM-UP PROJECTS: HANGANG SOCIAL COOP & WANJOO SOCIAL GOODS CENTER

ROOTED COSMOPOLITANS: KAMIYAMA PROJECT

boarding technical school
whole town as a campus
dorm & cafeteria

technology x design x entrepreneurship
200 students
(@40 x 5 grades)
21 teaching staffs
50 guest lecturers
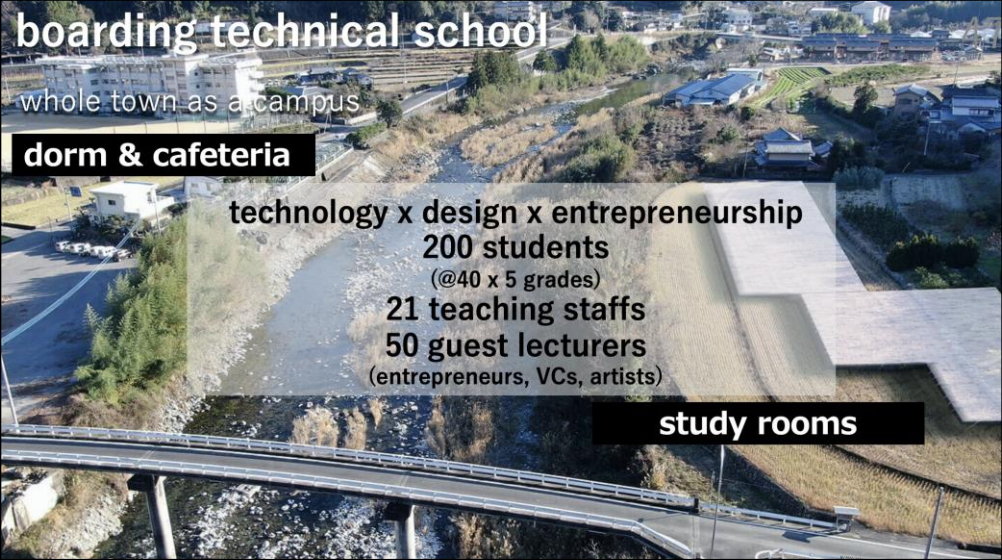(entrepreneurs, VCs, artists)

study rooms

Photo: Shinya Ominami.
(Courtesy of NPO Green Valley)

ROOTED COSMOPOLITANS: TATEYABASHI PROJECT (JUNGLE DELIVERY)

ROOTED COSMOPOLITANS: KAMIICH PROJECT

FIVE CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Activism to promote community, recognition, equity, and social change.

- Digital platform economy and Algocracy

- Embracing MZ Generations

- Sustainable Resource Mobilization to Empower Grassroots Democracy

- Incubating Rooted Cosmopolitans for Local Community

Changemaker at Heyground, Seoul

Zero Waste Organic Market, Kyoto

Q & A