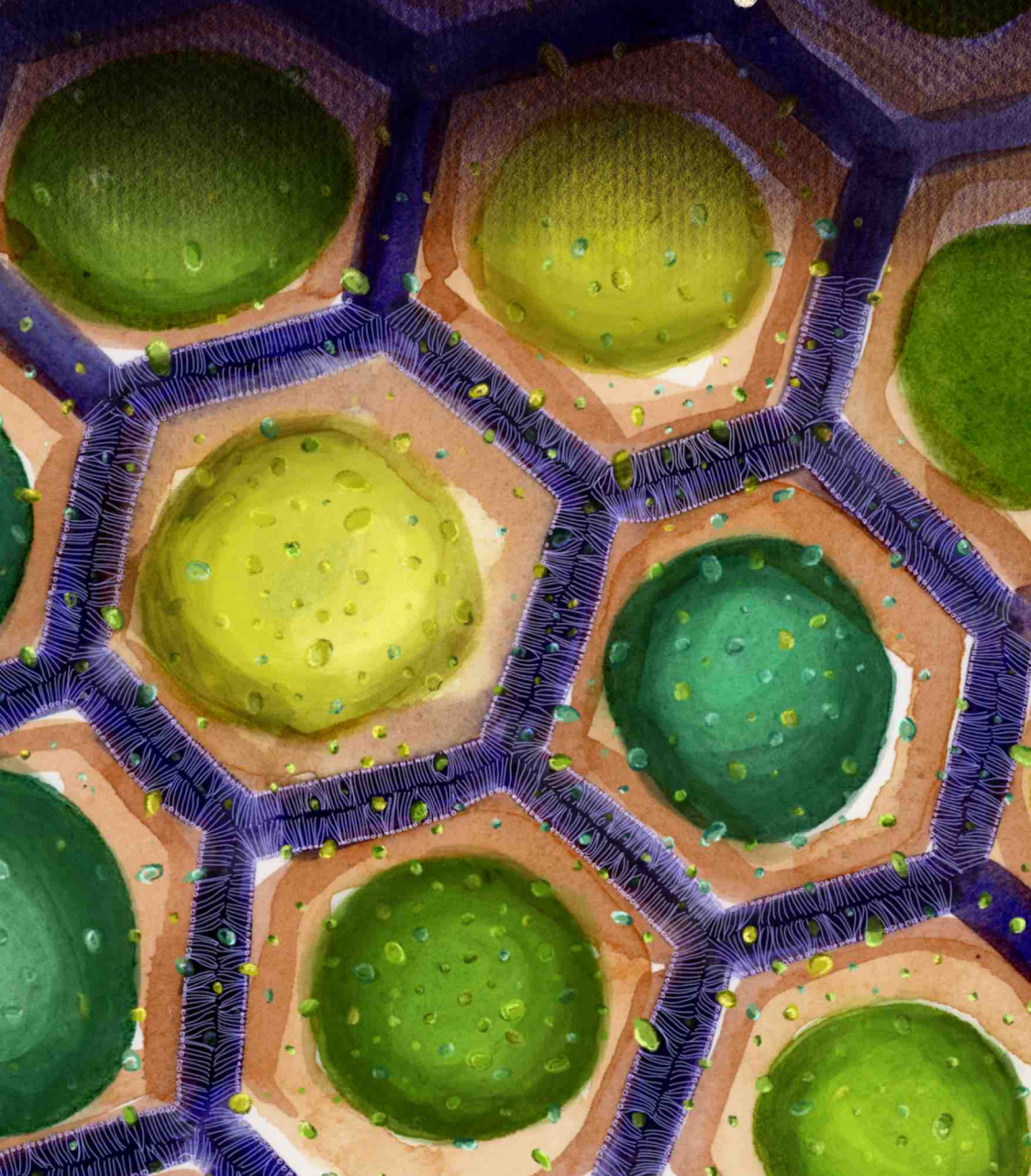


RESTORING INTERDEPENDENCE TO THE DATA ECOSYSTEM



HOW TO USE THIS ZINE

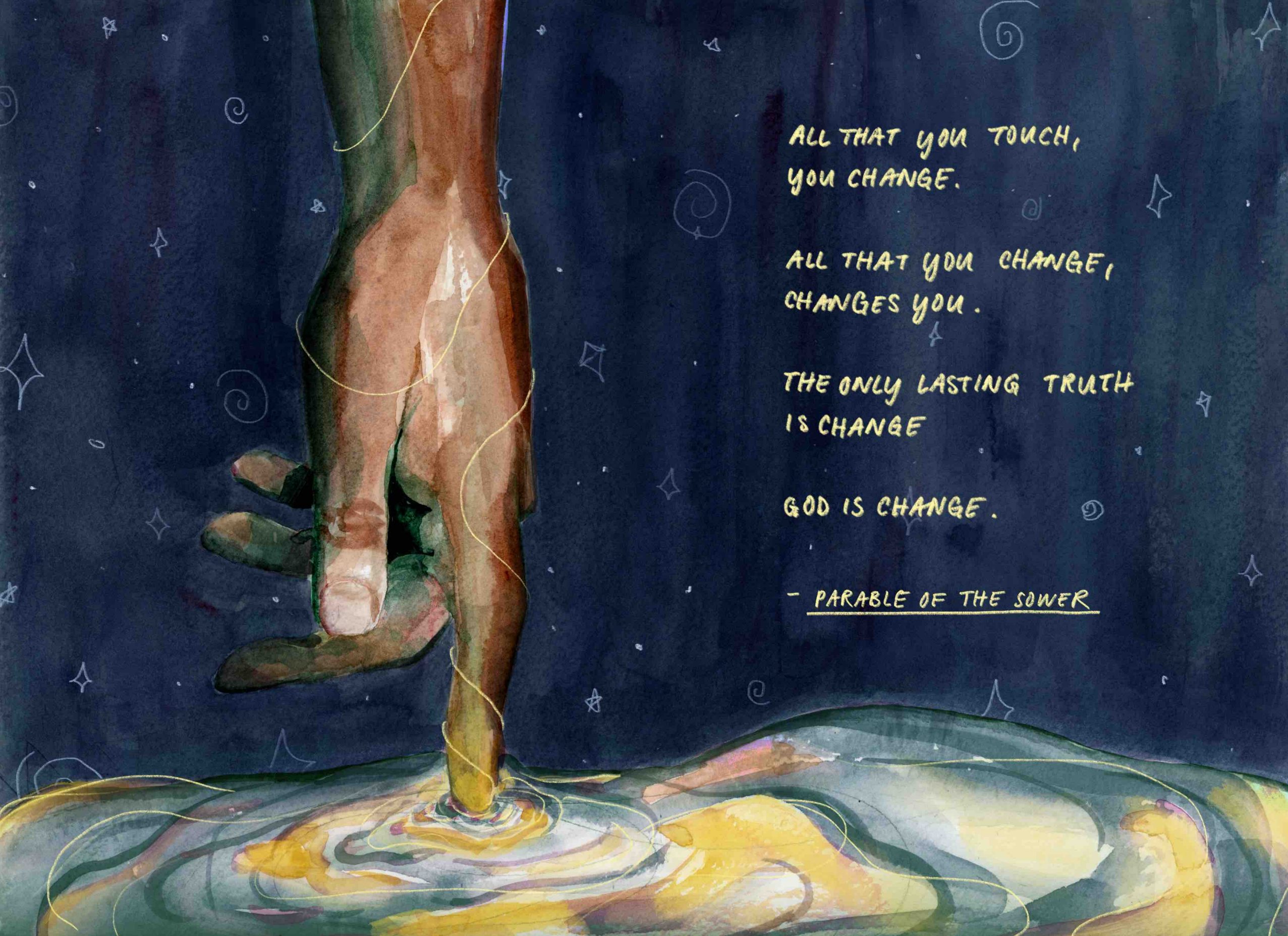
THIS ZINE IS A GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO EXAMINE HOW THEIR WORK IN TECHNOLOGY COULD NURTURE A DATA ECOSYSTEM GROUNDED IN INTERDEPENDENCE, CARE, AND HUMANIZED CONNECTION, RATHER THAN OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF CONSUMPTION AND EXTRACTION.

IT SHOULD BE USED IN A GROUP SETTING AS A TOOL TO GENERATE SELF-REFLECTION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION.

BECAUSE THIS ZINE INTRODUCES IDEAS ONLY AT A HIGH LEVEL, I INVITE YOU TO RIGOROUSLY QUESTION WHAT EACH WORD, SENTENCE, AND IDEA MEANS TO YOU; TO AFFIRM, CONTRADICT, OR INFORM WHAT IS PRESENTED HERE WITH THE FLESH OF YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCES.

WARM UP QUESTIONS

- WHAT DATA DO YOU CREATE AS YOU MOVE THROUGH YOUR DAILY LIFE?
- WHAT TECHNOLOGIES HAVE YOU INTENTIONALLY CHOSEN TO BRING INTO YOUR LIFE?
- WHAT OTHER TECHNOLOGIES TOUCH OR SHAPE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE WORLD?



ALL THAT YOU TOUCH,
YOU CHANGE.

ALL THAT YOU CHANGE,
CHANGES YOU.

THE ONLY LASTING TRUTH
IS CHANGE

GOD IS CHANGE.

- PARABLE OF THE SOWER

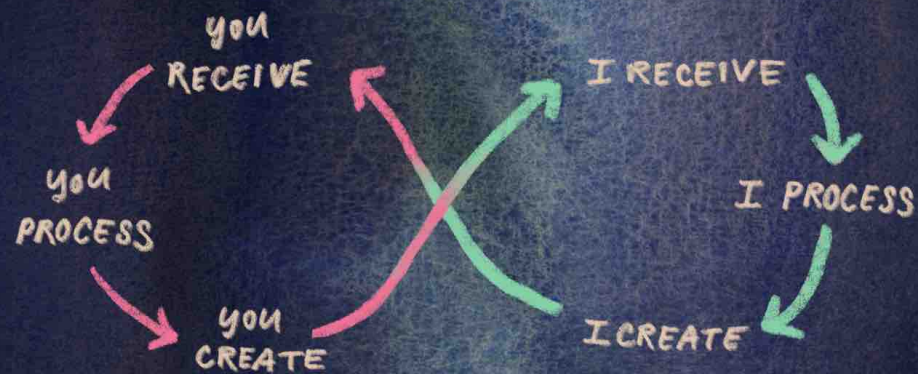


I SHAPE YOU.
YOU SHAPE ME.

WE EXIST WITHIN AN INTERCONNECTED
SYSTEM OF KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCE,
AND CARE EXCHANGE.

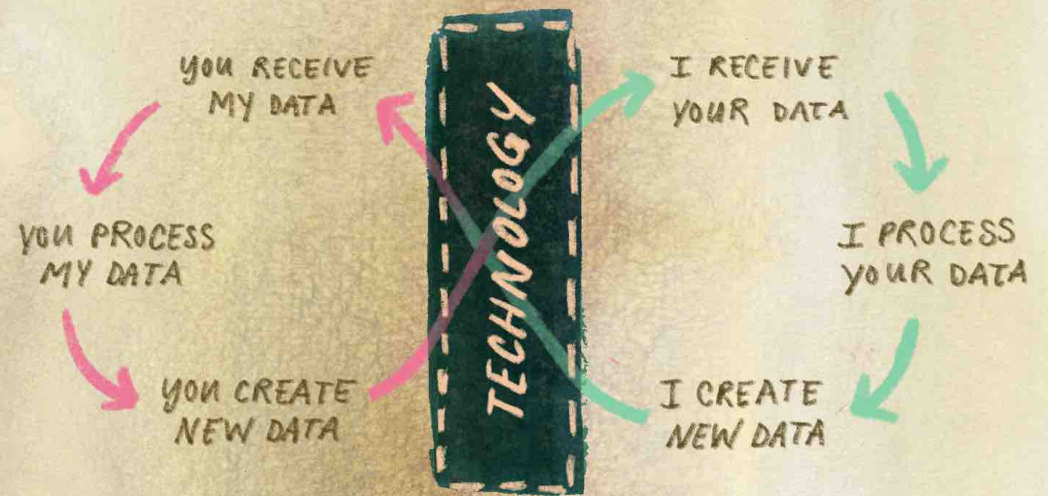
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.

BITS OF YOU
LIVE WITHIN ME,
AND ME WITHIN YOU.



WE ARE IN CONTINUAL EXCHANGE
WITH EACH OTHER AND OTHER BEINGS
IN OUR ECOSYSTEM. OUR EXISTENCES
SHAPE ONE ANOTHER, WHETHER WE
INTEND THEM TO OR NOT.

THE DATA WE PRODUCE AS WE MOVE
THROUGH OUR DAILY LIVES ARE RECORDED,
AGGREGATED, AND STORED, ENCODING A
PROJECTION OF OUR MATERIAL SELVES INTO
THE DATA WE PRODUCE. THAT DATA THEN
REACHES ANOTHER HUMAN BEING VIA
DATA-DRIVEN TECHNOLOGIES.



TECHNOLOGY FACILITATES
CONNECTION BETWEEN
YOU AND ME.

BUT UNLIKE OUR MATERIAL SELVES,
OUR DATA-SELVES PERSIST BEYOND
VIEW, MOVING INDEPENDENTLY
THROUGH (VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL)
SPACE AND TIME.

HOW DO DATA-DRIVEN TECHNOLOGIES
DISTORT, FILTER, OR OBSCURE
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
ONE ANOTHER?

WHO CAN
SEE YOU?

HOW ARE
YOU SEEN?

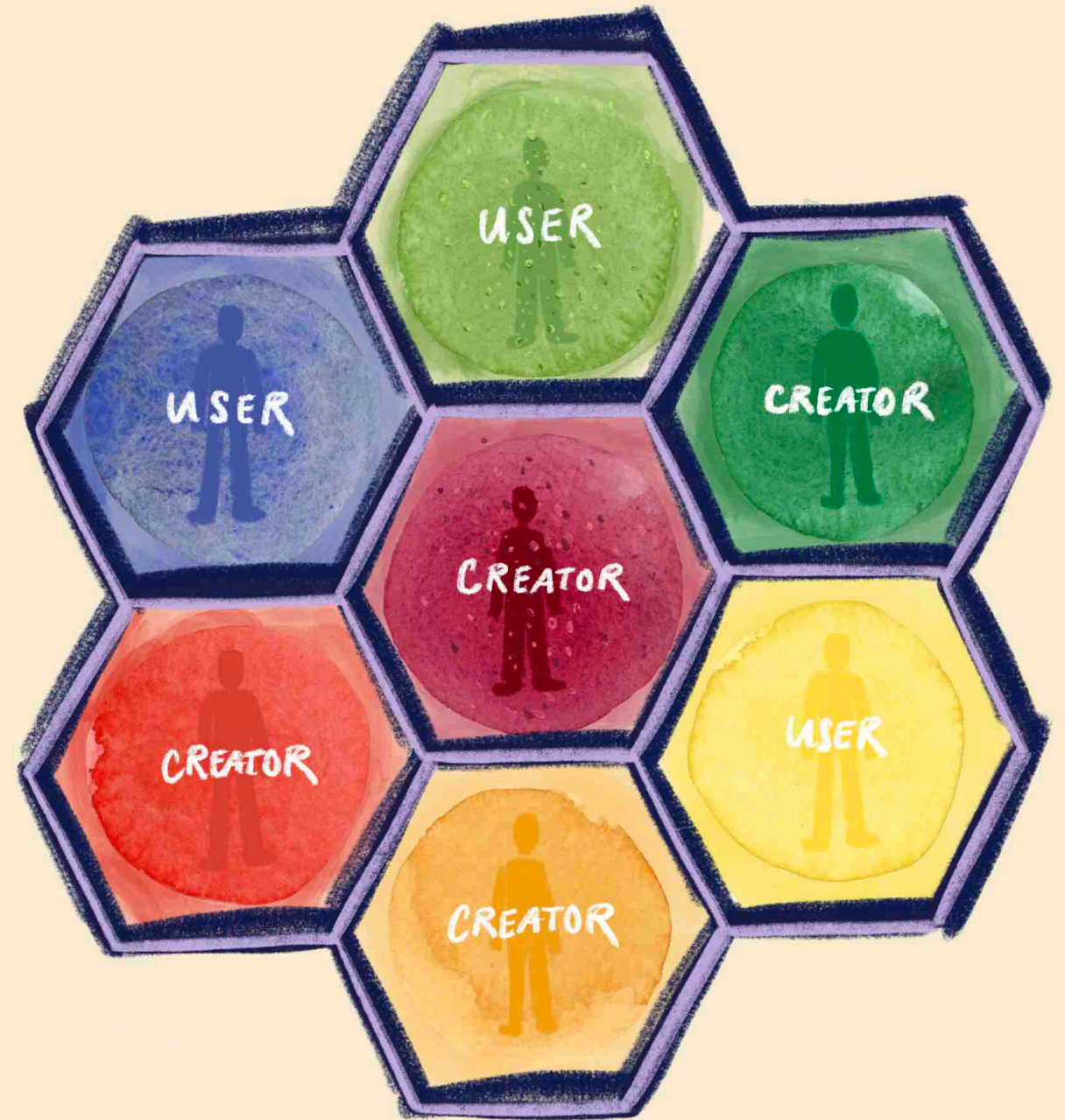
WHAT CAN
YOU SEE?



WHEN TECHNOLOGY BECOMES THE PRIMARY
INTERFACE FOR EXCHANGE,

**OUR NATURAL
INTERCONNECTEDNESS
IS SEVERED.**

WE ARE FORCED INTO BINARY ROLES OF
"CREATOR" OR "USER" OF TECH, LOSING THE
ABILITY TO INHABIT MULTIPLE ROLES AT ONCE.
OUR FLUID IDENTITIES BECOME RIGID AND PRESCRIPTIVE.



IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU IDENTIFY
AS A CREATOR OF TECH? AS A
USER? DO YOU HOLD ANY OTHER
IDENTITIES IN THE DATA ECOSYSTEM?

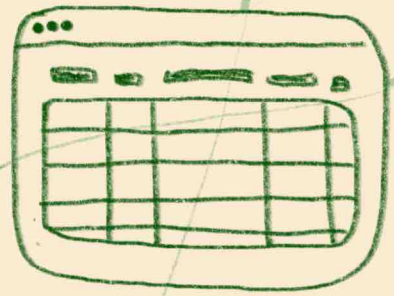
HOW DOES THE TECHNOLOGICAL
"BLACK BOX" MANIFEST ITSELF
FOR YOU?

NO TECHNOLOGY CAN EXIST WITHOUT A HUMAN TO DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND MAINTAIN IT.



SUPPLIES NEW USER DATA TO TRAIN/BENCHMARK ALGORITHMS AND INFORM PRODUCT STRATEGY, WHICH REINFORCES OR CHALLENGES EXISTING CULTURAL/STRUCTURAL NORMS

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF HARMFUL TECHNOLOGIES?



DETERMINES MATERIAL CONDITIONS OF LIFE ("YOU'RE TOO HIGH RISK FOR THIS LOAN")

NUDGES TO MAKE DECISIONS THROUGH DECEPTIVE DESIGN, RECOMMENDER ALGORITHMS, MARKETING, ETC.

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU BEEN HARMED BY TECHNOLOGIES?



LIVES LIFE WITHIN CONDITIONS SHAPED BY TECHNOLOGIES

CREATES DATA THAT CONSTRUCTS DIGITAL PROFILE BASED ON BEHAVIORS

DESIGNS FEATURES/ALGORITHMS/TECHNOLOGIES INFORMED BY OWN WORLDVIEW, EXPERIENCES, AND INTERPRETATION OF AVAILABLE DATA

SELECTS CONTEXTS TECHNOLOGIES ARE DEPLOYED (TO WHOM, WHERE, FOR WHAT PURPOSE, WHEN)

TECHNOLOGISTS MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROLIFERATION OF TODAY'S HARMFUL TECHNOLOGIES

HOW MIGHT WE...



DISRUPT THE PRODUCTION,
DEPLOYMENT, AND
PROLIFERATION OF
OPPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGIES?



(RE)HUMANIZE THE
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES,
AND TECHNOLOGY ITSELF?

① SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND CREATIVE POWER

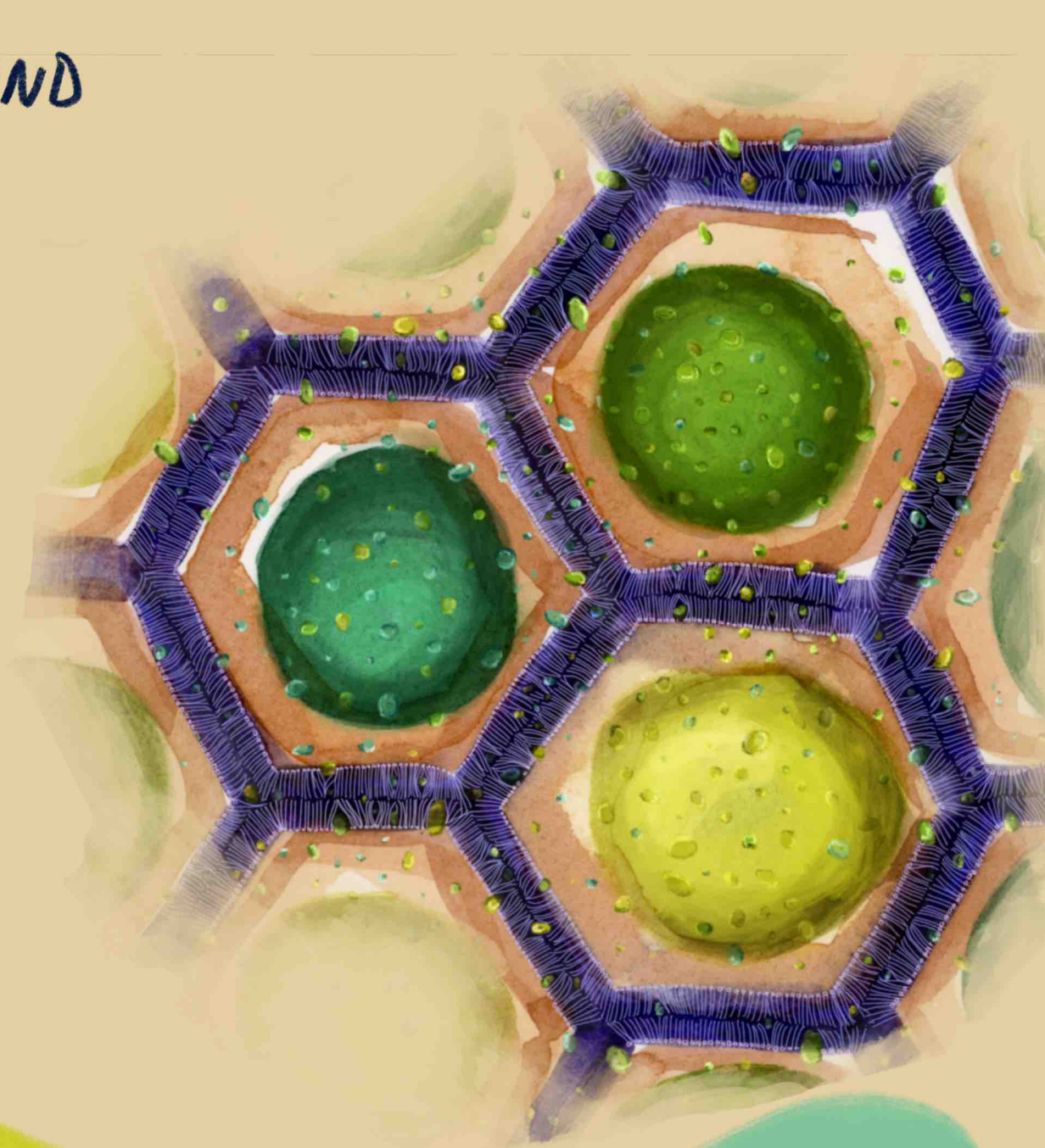
TECHNOLOGISTS MUST SHARE INFORMATION WITH NON-TECHNOLOGISTS (ACCESSIBLY, AND FOR FREE), DISSOLVING THE BLACK BOX OBSCURING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ECOSYSTEM THAT SURVIVES ON DATA IT EXTRACTS FROM ITS USERS.

TECHNOLOGISTS MUST ALSO BE WILLING TO CENTER AND TAKE LEAD FROM PEOPLE MOST HARMED BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF DATA-DRIVEN TECHNOLOGIES.

ARMED WITH A COMBINATION OF DIVERSE EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SYSTEM AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT DATA TECHNOLOGIES, PROCESSES, ENTITIES, AND RIGHTS (OR LACK THEREOF), PEOPLE THAT FEEL DISEMPOWERED IN THIS SYSTEM WOULD BE BETTER-EQUIPPED TO DEMAND JUSTICE AND TRANSFORM THE ECOSYSTEM.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN YOU TAKE NOW TO MAKE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TECHNOLOGICAL WORK MORE ACCESSIBLE?

WHAT WOULD TECHNOLOGY LOOK LIKE IF ITS DEVELOPMENT WERE LED BY THE PEOPLE MOST HARMED BY IT?



2

HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE!

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERVENING IN THE PRODUCTION OF HARMFUL TECHNOLOGY. INTERRUPT WITH THE HARD QUESTIONS EARLY ON - "SHOULD WE EVEN BUILD THIS TECHNOLOGY?" HELP OTHER TECHNOLOGISTS UNDERSTAND THE URGENCY OF PREVENTING AND MAKING REPARATIONS FOR HARM THEY CAUSED OR ENABLED. CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT LONG TERM CHANGE. DISRUPT THE STATUS QUO.





NURTURE NEW ECOSYSTEMS OF CARE

3

ULTIMATELY, CHANGING OUR TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT COLLECTIVELY DISPOSING OF OUR CURRENT PROFIT OVER PEOPLE MENTALITY WILL SIMPLY REPRODUCE THE SAME HARMS IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF TECHNOLOGIES.

IN AN ALIGNED AND COORDINATED EFFORT ACROSS ALL ROLES, COMMUNITIES, AND INDUSTRIES, WE MUST BUILD NEW SYSTEMS OF RELATIONSHIP BASED IN CARE AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS THAT REFLECT A FOUNDATIONAL VALUE OF PEOPLE OVER PROFIT AND GREED.

RESOURCES

- 1 "BUILDING CONSENTFUL TECH", AND ALSO TOO.
(<https://www.andalsooto.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Building-Consentful-Tech-Zine-SPREADS.pdf>)
- 2 DESIGN JUSTICE NETWORK PRINCIPLES
(<https://designjustice.org/readtheprinciples>)
- 3 DIGITAL DEFENSE PLAYBOOK: COMMUNITY POWER TOOLS FOR RECLAIMING DATA
(<https://odbproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ODB-DDP-HighRes-Spreads.pdf>)
- 4 PARABLE OF THE SOWER (1993) - OCTAVIA BUTLER

WHO MADE THIS ZINE?

This zine was written and illustrated by Cassia Artanegara, an artist and designer based in Oakland, California. She uses art to ground abstract, technical ideas in accessible, human terms.

This zine was initially created as a provocation for the 2022 Prefiguring and Resisting Tech: Towards Just Transitions workshop, hosted by the Just Transitions Initiative (UC San Diego).

FEEDBACK

I invite questions, comments, or dialogue in response to this zine. Please visit <https://forms.gle/ZginBhDskwBXdkJKA> to leave feedback.