

Almanac of the Future

A STORY OF SUCCESS

How did the Almanac of the Future come to my life?

From my work on climate change I experienced a very strong feeling within me, demanding harmony and balance. These two elements were lost to the extent that I devoted myself to the topics of climate change, adaptation and mitigation. My reaction to this situation has been to carry out a very critical analysis of the dominant concept of development and our civilizational model. A timid approach to climate negotiations, convened annually by the United Nations gave me the push that was missing to find ways that in my opinion would be useful to open the way to ways of life, looking after the future: radiographs with the sensitivity of paradigmatic transformations in local processes. The participatory documentation of these processes, called motivating experiences, pursues two purposes: first the generation of motivation, secondly, showing what reasons, motives or triggers may be in each one's life to enter into transition towards friendly paradigms with the future. The protagonists of the motivating experiences, achieved transformations, pushed by their own motivation are irrefutable proof that other life forms are possible. The Futuro2 foundation with its Zukunfts-almanach had already shown how to make this kind of transformation journalism.

The motivation from which I started the trip to the future, with the motivational work from com-

munication was born from my conviction that the change of paradigms, if it is achieved, is at the base of society, generating from these transforming focuses concentric circles towards their societal environments. Motivating experiences can open eyes to their surroundings, sow hope that changes are possible and show that it depends on each person to live in a greater coherence between their convictions and their daily life, starting to move towards the future: from their consumption, their diet, their mobility, their travels, their economic rationality and others.

The question often arises if the motivating experiences are not too small to promote the "great transformation". The accelerated pace of our time does not make it easy to be modest, whether in consumption, growth and, above all, in what we do. Paradigmatic transformations resemble landing strips, which must first be located by people

«Paradigmatic transformations resemble landing strips, which must first be located by people to start acting differently.»

to start acting differently. Transformations of paradigms and transitions to them emerge from the base of society and then ascend, not vice versa; contradictorily there are

many people who seem to expect transformations to come from the top down: an obvious fallacy. This personal reading translates in my case into action, making it more attractive to accompany and push for social change, instead of concentrating exclusively on political-public advocacy

work, regardless of the level or sphere. If, in the beginning, they are smaller critical mass of actors that replace schemes of thought for others, thus creating new paradigms, it is the normativity, as long as we abide by the rules of the game, moderately democratic, that will conform to these new realities.

Reviewing my own biography, I have to confess that I have achieved internal harmony in complex situations as long as I find light at the end of the tunnel. The crisis of our civilizatory model and the ravages, product of the dominant concept of development, increasingly obsolete have led me to seek this light. The almanac of the future generates in my optics, purely subjective, sparks of light and motivation. So that these sparks do not end up like a flare light, I get involved in training processes in order to generate motivation to look for the landing strips of the future in our lives. Working with and in networks, with different social collectivities and with the academy increases the intensity of the light at the end of the tunnel.

The search for motivating experiences, but above all contact with people and groups that have already begun to build a future, is immensely enriching. I feel these moments again and again as a privilege. The changes come from people - each documented motivating experience underscores this fact. With several of the people whom I met as protagonists in the framework of the motivating experiences, ties of complicity were born, we shared spaces for analysis and reflection, and we organized joint actions. I perceive this circle bubble, slowly growing as a small part of the aforementioned critical mass. All these people gen-

erously share their lives and, particularly, their transformation processes. Without a doubt, they give much more than they receive in the form of modest social and journalistic recognition.

Someone, referring to the almanac of the future, spoke of transformative journalism. From there, the question arose: How do I come from my professional career, closely related to cooperation, to work in transformative journalism? Having worked with projects, planning methods and evaluation of processes and programs, with networks, are certainly important stations that have made me sensitive to socially relevant paradigm transformations. At the same time, I consider it a great challenge to design projects in such a way that they are capable of strengthening people's will to change; processes, unlike projects, fortunately are not previously conceived, they simply arise. Projects and their design need to be thought without contaminated baggage, overcoming habitual patterns of thought and, above all, with the firm will of each one, to leave their comfort zone. A basic requirement is to be ready to question things that until now have been taken as general understanding or that serve as reference points of our logic. Systemic analysis and a gradual overcoming of anthropocentric, patriarchal and development-contaminated thought patterns are required. That this is not a small challenge, I experience it at work with each motivating experience again.

For those who feel like knowing the future from up close, here is the path to the almanac of the future:

www.almanaquedelfuturo.wordpress.com