

# Three Horizons

## A pathways practice for sustainability and transformative innovation



Fundació  
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Empresa  
de les Illes Balears



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de les Illes Balears



Artwork by Jennifer Williams

This course is for people who are concerned with enabling transformative change for sustainability, whatever type of organizational role they are in – businesses, community, governments, NGOs, professions, or social enterprise. It is about how we can improve the way we face the complexity and uncertainty of the future and come together to create pathways of change. It is both for those who hold a vision of the future, and those who keep things going today, who want to work together for long term flourishing of all humans on the planet.

We need to transform our ways of life to bring human civilization and planet Earth into a sustainable relationship. Regenerative resource management and regenerative development form life's basis for long term flourishing and the workshop will explore the implications of this transition at the local, regional, and global scale. Participants will learn the practice of Three Horizons for transformative innovation as a way to face the complexity and uncertainties of this transition in a practical way.

Three Horizons is a simple and intuitive tool for thinking about the future. At its simplest we can see it as describing three patterns of activity and how their interactions play out over time. The framework maps a shift from the established patterns of the first horizon to the emergence of new patterns in the third, via the transition activity of the second. It helps groups explore systemic patterns to identify which of the dominant patterns are no longer fit for purpose, how emerging trends can shape the future, and what visionary action is needed to collectively move us towards a viable future.

The central idea of Three Horizons, and what makes it so useful, is that it draws attention to the three horizons as three experiential qualities of the future in the present moment, and this allows us to see that we have evidence about the future in how people (including ourselves) are behaving now. The outcome of Three Horizons work is a map of transformational potential which enables us to act with more skill, freedom and creativity in the present, both individually and together. Thus we develop Three Horizons practice as the cultivation of our future consciousness – an awareness of the future potential of the present moment.

Three Horizons can be introduced into any strategic conversation with three main benefits:

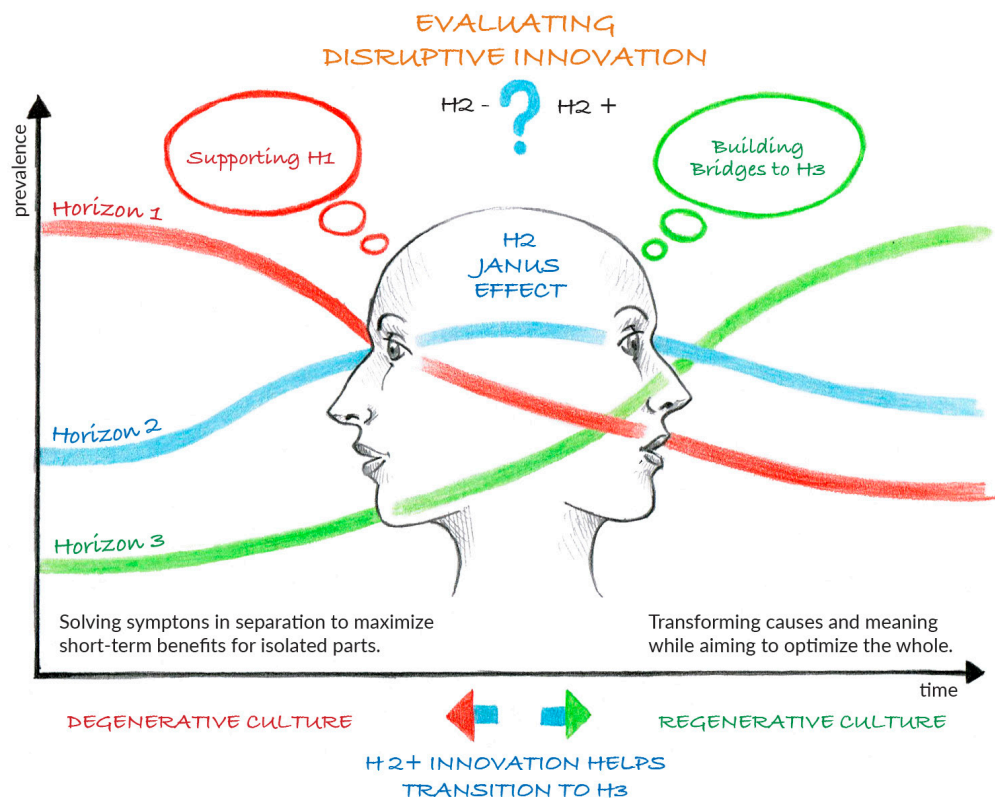
- it helps groups begin to make sense of complex situations in a way that supports visionary action and incremental learning pathways;
- it supports an exploration of how to connect people's inner values with the outer patterns of life that they are seeking to change, and
- it improves the dynamics of conversations by revealing the 'voices' (perspectives) of the three horizons as all having an important contribution.

# What will I learn from taking part in this workshop?

## After completing the course participants will:

- have an understanding of, and experience in, applying Three Horizons as a futures framework for navigating systemic change;
- be able to distinguish between sustaining, disruptive, and transformative innovation and have a framework for assessing what kind of disruptive innovation is more likely to offer stepping stones towards transformational change;
- have had the opportunity to individually and collectively reflect on societal innovation, patterns of renewal, and the dynamics of systemic change;
- be familiar with and have experienced the foundational practices of Three Horizons: seeing everything in patterns, putting ourselves in the picture, convening the future;
- have had an introduction to ecosystem thinking as a context for linking human and planetary system, and
- be familiar with methods aimed at dilemma resolution to navigate pathways between competing values and facilitate collaborative action through learning to disagree more intelligently.

The workshop will combine theory and practice sessions in Three Horizons and related thinking skills to develop your capacities in systemic and transformative innovation. Practice sessions will be organized around topics of shared interest to the participants (within the wider context of the transition to sustainable and regenerative societies).



Source: Designing Regenerative Cultures, 2016 - [www.danlechristianwahl.com](http://www.danlechristianwahl.com); Graphics: [www.flaviagargiulo.com](http://www.flaviagargiulo.com)

## Who is this workshop aimed at?

Anyone interested in learning a practical way to facilitate a more inclusive and systemic conversation about change and innovation within the context of an uncertain future and the need to transform societal patterns towards increased sustainability, regeneration and resilience.

Three Horizon thinking is useful for:

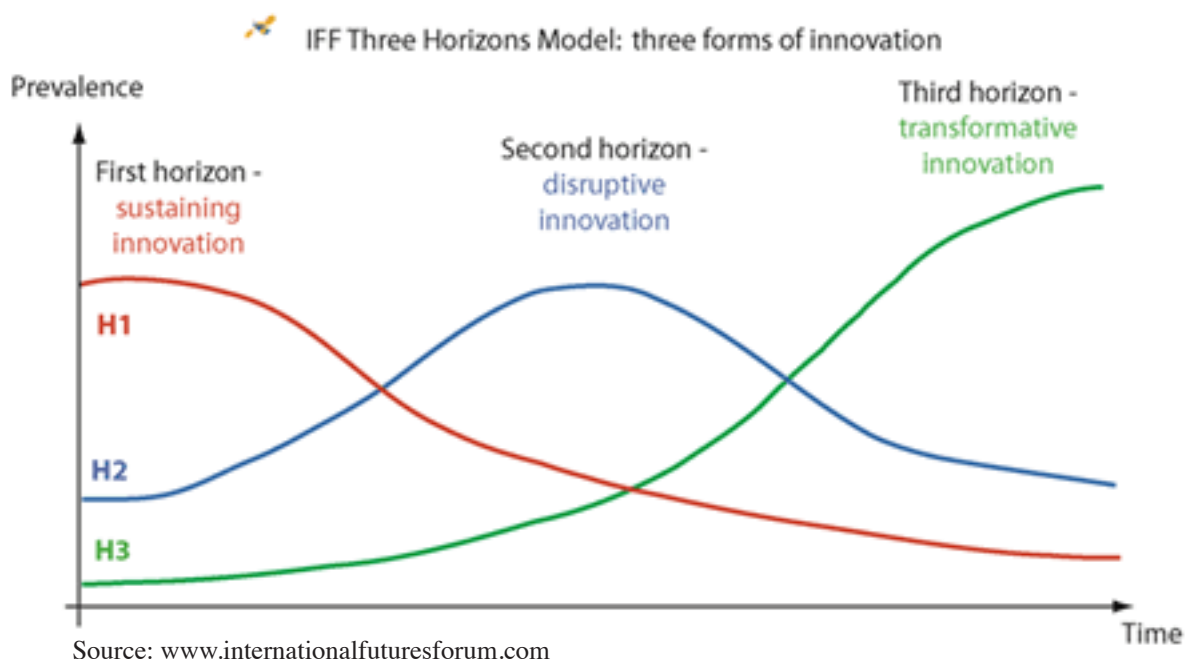
- innovators in business, public authority and civil society;
- people working in research and development on long-range innovation;
- civil servants, policy makers and community organisers;
- educators in secondary, university, or non-formal education;
- business strategists and business consultants;
- people in management and leadership positions challenged with having to make strategic decisions in the face of uncertainty, and
- social entrepreneurs, business mentors and start-up coaches.

## Where will the workshop take place?

The workshop is offered as part of the 'International Programme in Innovation, Sustainability and Design' of SmartUIB, a transformative innovation project within the University of the Balearic Islands. SmartUIB partners with the Fundación Universidad Empresa de las Islas Baleares (FUEIB) to organize the course.

The workshop sessions will take place at 'Edificio Sa Riera', a university building in the middle of the old town of Palma de Mallorca.

UIB SA RIERA, PALMA  
C/ de Miquel dels Sants Oliver, 2  
07122 Palma  
+34 971 17 30 14  
Please click [here](#) to know how to get there.



## Presenters Biographies

### Bill Sharpe

Is an independent futures practitioner and researcher in science, technology and society. He was a research lab director at Hewlett Packard for fifteen years, and pioneered new technologies in mobile and pervasive computing. On leaving HP, he co-founded a specialist innovation consultancy creating new digital products for international clients. Since then he has undertaken a wide range of technology strategy, research and innovation consulting for international clients in both the public and commercial sectors. Bill is an expert in futures techniques, and has edited a collection of the latest scenario-based methods from the work of the Oxford Futures Forum – Scenarios for Success. He is one of the originators of the Three Horizons approach to futures and author of Three Horizons: the patterning of hope. Bill is a Visiting Professor at the Digital Cultures Research Centre at the University of the West of England, where he researches ways to understand value and cultural innovation, and is author of Economies of Life: patterns of health and wealth.



### Dr. Daniel Christian Wahl

Works internationally as a consultant and educator in regenerative development, whole systems design, and transformative innovation. He holds degrees in biology (Univ. of Edinburgh and Univ. of California) and holistic science (Schumacher College) and his 2006 doctoral thesis (Univ. of Dundee) was on Design for Human and Planetary Health. He was director of Findhorn College between 2007 and 2010, and is a member of the International Futures Forum, a fellow of the RSA, a Findhorn Foundation Fellow and on the advisory council of the Ojai Foundation. His clients have included UNITAR (with CIFAL Scotland), UK Foresight (with Decision Integrity Ltd), Ecover (with Forum for the Future), Bioneers (with the Progression Foundation), the Dubai Futures Foundation (with Tellart), The Commonwealth (with Cloudburst Foundation), Gaia Education, the Global Ecovillage Network, the State of the World Forum, Balears.t, Camper, and many educational NGOs, universities, and design schools. He is co-founder of Biomimicry Iberia (2012), and has been collaborating with 'SmartUIB' at the University of the Balearic Islands since 2014. His recent book Designing Regenerative Cultures, published by Triarchy Press in the UK in May 2016, had already gained international acclaim.





## What is the workshop format?

February 21st

9:30-11:30 Introduction to the 3 Horizons  
11:30-12 Coffee break  
12-14 3 Horizons thinking part I  
14-15:30 lunch break  
15:30-18:30 3 Horizons thinking part II

February 22nd

9:30-11:30 Issues where to apply 3H  
11:30-12 coffee break  
12-14 How to apply 3H  
14-15:30 lunch break  
15:30-18:30 Group work

February 23rd

9:30-11:30 Short presentations of the outcomes of each practice groups  
11:30-12 coffee break  
12-14 Facilitated dialogue to answer remaining questions

If you feel like being the host of such a topic-focussed practice group, do get in touch with the organizers in advance with a short proposal of a topic you would like to convene a 3 Horizon practice group around.

## Language

Due to the international diversity of participants from all over Europe, the course will be held entirely in English

## What will the workshop costs & what is included in the price?

The price for the workshop is 460 Euros and includes the tuition, materials, tea breaks, and a copy of Bill Sharpe's book *Three Horizons: the patterning of hope*. Participants are asked to find their own accommodation at their convenience. We will go for lunch as a group, but participants are asked to settle the bills for their meals individually.

## How do I book the workshop?

Please click [here](#) to register your participation with the FUEIB and make your payment.

For any more questions, please contact us:  
[i.carbo@uib.cat](mailto:i.carbo@uib.cat) or +34 634594064  
Irene Carbó  
[www.smart.uib.es](http://www.smart.uib.es)

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## Where can I find out more about Three Horizons and Regenerative Culture?

Three Horizons came out of the practice of the International Futures Forum, and resources can be found at their practice site <http://www.iffpraxis.com/>. Further resources are available at the website of their educational partner H3Uni (A University for the Third Horizon) [http://www.h3uni.org/resource\\_library](http://www.h3uni.org/resource_library).

*Designing Regenerative Cultures* by Daniel Christian Wahl is an exploration of a particular view of the third horizon. It explores the vision of a viable future for humanity based on global-local collaboration and knowledge exchange among diverse regenerative cultures elegantly adapted to the bio-cultural uniqueness of the places they inhabit.