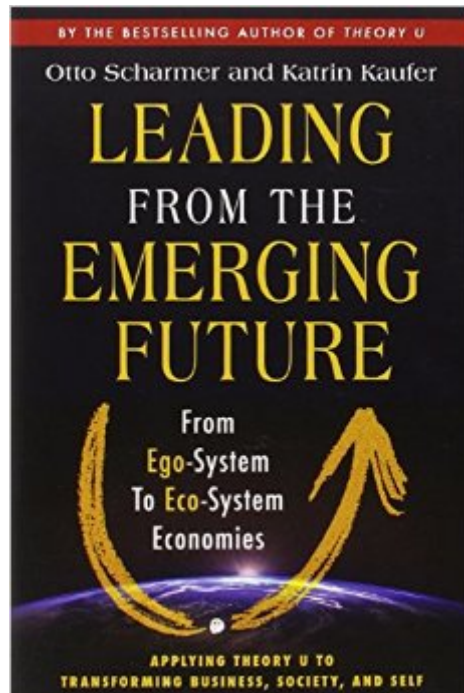


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# Leading From The Emerging Future: From Ego-System To Eco-System Economies



## Synopsis

**Our Time Is Now** We have entered an age of disruption. Financial collapse, climate change, resource depletion, and a growing gap between rich and poor are but a few of the signs. Otto Scharmer and Katrin Kaufer ask, why do we collectively create results nobody wants? Meeting the challenges of this century requires updating our economic logic and operating system from an obsolete 'ego-system' focused entirely on the well-being of oneself to an eco-system awareness that emphasizes the well-being of the whole. Filled with real-world examples, this thought-provoking guide presents proven practices for building a new economy that is more resilient, intentional, inclusive, and aware.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have just finished reading the new book "Leading from the Emerging Future: From Ego-System to Eco-System Economies" by Otto Scharmer and Katrin Kuafer and the following are my reflections. The authors have blown me away by how they have presented - with utter simplicity and utmost clarity - a compelling and revolutionary 'manifesto' for transforming society, organisations, and our own individual lives. I use the term 'revolution' because the book is a game changer. Those that might have found Otto's earlier book, Theory U, hard to follow will pleasantly discover that the contents of Leading from the Emerging Future: From Ego-System to Eco-System Economies can be easily accessed by both ordinary readers and scholars. Otto and Katrin point out that as the human race we are generating results that we do not want. This is true whether we are talking about

our economic, political, health, or education systems. The authors present irrefutable evidence of how we (and our institutions) have, by predominantly pursuing narrow sectoral and individual interests, trapped ourselves into a zero sum game where we are faced with "crumbling walls" and can only emerge as losers unless we begin to think and act differently. I am in awe of the authors' courage to name systems and world-views that are in the forefront of preaching and practicing approaches to life that initially look attractive and yet in the long term can only bring more of the same - massive institutional and system failure and collapse. Some of these 'systems' exist and are hard-wired within each one of us. However, this is not who we truly are as humans. Otto and Katrin do not simply offer reasons for institution and system failure, they also convincingly present alternative approaches.

As the Byrds declare in their classic 60's tune, 'Turn, Turn, Turn,' for everything there is a season. Today society is going through a season of disruption. The question is, 'what will come out of these disruptive changes confronting us?' According to Otto Scharmer and Katrin Kaufer, the authors of 'Leading from the Emerging future,' this disruptive period is a precursor to a new society that will rise up out of the ashes of our current destitution like the phoenix of ancient Greek myth. Society is moving from an ego-centric to an eco-centric worldview, which is reshaping everything from the economy to how we relate to one another. This new 'eco-centric' awareness is based on perceiving and acting from a systemic point of view. It derives from the prefix eco which comes from the greek word 'oikos' meaning 'the whole house,' and it places the system before the individuals that are a part of it. Scharmer and Kaufer feel that leaders should respond to the directions shaping society. Effective leadership is perceiving social trends and responding to them to help shape this eco-centric world which we are about to enter. Forces of disruption are dictating the evolution of this new eco-centric worldview. These forces are symptoms of several key disconnects. These include the disconnect of finance from the real economy, ecology, institutions, consumerism, governance, and ownership and they derive from three basic divides 1) the ecological divide, 2) the social divide, and 3) the spiritual-cultural divide. We see the results of the disconnect of finance from the real economy around us as we are still recovering from the 'Great Recession.

What is your transformative purpose? We recently started to use 'Exponential organisations' with our clients. One of the key points of the book is about businesses finding their 'Transformative purpose'. It really resonates with our clients. When you get involved in staff engagement, it eventually always boils down to why you matter and why the company you work for

matters.4.0 economicsThat is how we came across â œLeading from the emerging futureâ •. Most books we cover take an individual and organisational perspective. This book takes a macro perspective and then brings it back. It is about 4.0 economics or a 4.0 society.Why is 4.0 economics important?Here are some really frightening statistics:We leave an ecologic footprint of 1.5 planetsFood prices are expected to double by 2030In USA 1% owns more that the entire bottom 90%25% of kids in the USA live in povertyIn 2000 twice of many people died of suicide as died in warsThere are 200 million people unemployed going to 600,000, most of them youthEvery one in five people lacks access to safe drinking waterOne third of our soil has eroded and have become unproductive90% of industrial production in health sector concentrate on diseases that are lifestyle drivenBubble economicsIn 1995 the 6 largest banks held 17.1% of the USA GDP in assets. By 2010 that has risen to 64%The value of global foreign exchange transactions in 2010 was 1.5 quadrillion (one quadrillion is a 1,000 trillion). What do you think the value of foreign trade is? It is 20 trillion. 1.4% of the transactions. No wonder we have economic bubbles.System break downThe system is failing us.

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