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Subject: Meta modern framework and policy ideas

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A Metamodern Framework for Human Futures with Jonathan Rowson | TGS 129
<https://youtu.be/XMZg7Nja2Pg?si=mm5qmZBqj8aDRnOO>

The video is a conversation between Nate Hagens and Jonathan Rowson, the co-founder and director of the UK-based research organization Perspectiva. Some key points from their discussion:

- Rowson discusses the difference between the terms "polycrisis" and "metacrisis" - polycrisis refers to multiple interconnected crises, while metacrisis gets at the deeper underlying worldview and consciousness issues driving these crises.
- Rowson sees the metacrisis as a "multifaceted delusion" that manifests in the economy, war, human relations, etc. Addressing it requires looking within at the human being and the meaning/purpose of life.
- Rowson advocates for "collective individuation" - the idea that individual self-actualization must be tied to responding to the larger social and ecological context we're embedded in.
- He sees metamodernism as a way to move beyond the critique of modernity (postmodernism) and towards a positive vision that integrates modernity's progress with postmodern perspectives.
- In terms of advice, Rowson emphasizes the importance of finding one's "calling" and doing the work you're uniquely suited for, rather than feeling responsible for "solving the metacrisis" as a whole.
- He also suggests practices like meditation/yoga and moving away from industrialized animal agriculture as potentially impactful shifts.

Policy ideas:

1. Shift the Framing from "Polycrisis" to "Metacrisis"
 - Recognize that the interconnected challenges facing the region (e.g. climate change, economic inequality, social fragmentation) are manifestations of deeper worldview and consciousness issues.
 - Adopt a "metacrisis" framing that emphasizes the need to address underlying mindsets, values, and relationships to reality.

2. Cultivate Collective Individuation

- Policies and programs that support residents in discovering their unique "calling" or purpose, while also connecting that to the larger social and ecological context.
- Encourage community-based projects and initiatives where individual self-actualization is tied to collective resilience and regeneration.

3. Integrate Metamodern Perspectives

- Avoid binary thinking of "modernity vs. postmodernity" and instead seek to integrate progress and innovation with more pluralistic, context-sensitive approaches.
- Support artistic, educational, and cultural initiatives that embody a metamodern sensibility - one that is both critically aware and constructively visionary.

4. Prioritize Inner Development and Consciousness Practices

- Incentivize or facilitate access to contemplative practices like meditation, yoga, etc. for residents of all ages and backgrounds.
- Recognize the role of inner development in cultivating the mindsets and behaviors needed to navigate the metacrisis.

5. Transition Towards Plant-Based, Regenerative Food Systems

- Implement policies and programs that support a shift away from industrialized animal agriculture towards more sustainable, plant-based food production.
- Encourage urban agriculture, community gardens, and other localized food initiatives.

The overarching aim would be to create an enabling environment for residents to engage the metacrisis through individual growth, collective action, and the integration of inner and outer transformation. The specific policy mechanisms would require further research and stakeholder engagement.

Rather than seeing progress and innovation as inherently at odds with more contextual, nuanced perspectives, the goal should be to find ways to synergize them. Some key principles I would suggest:

1. Acknowledge the value and insights of both modern/progressive and postmodern/pluralistic worldviews, rather than dismissing one in favor of the other. Each has something important to contribute.

2. Seek to combine the best elements - the drive for innovation and improvement from modernity, balanced with the contextual sensitivity and critique of blind spots from postmodernity.

3. Recognize that reality is multi-faceted - there is no single, universal "best" approach. Different contexts may call for different blends and emphases.

4. Cultivate an attitude of humility and openness to diverse perspectives. Avoid rigidly clinging to any one ideological position.

5. Focus on integrative, systemic thinking that can weave together seemingly contradictory elements in generative ways.

The goal would be a kind of "metamodern" sensibility that moves fluidly between modern and postmodern modes as appropriate, without getting stuck in unproductive either/or binaries.