

A short detour as we think about making the case for Literature/Literary Arts Organizations & Presses
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From: Zugunruhe: The Inner Migration to Profound Environmental Change by Jason F. McLennan

Suddenly I realized, in a way I hadn't before, how closely interconnected we are in this new journey to a better world. We are each other's mentors. Regardless of where you are on your journey you have a dual role as mentor and mentee.

The most fundamental obstacles to transformation are never technological or financial – but attitudinal and barriers of our own making. Amazing things happen when we turn down our energy levels and do things more slowly and deliberately. Only by envisioning our hopes for the future can we build a path to get ourselves there.

To my mind, the trim tab is the most fantastic real-world example of how individuals and organizations can make change that is seemingly disproportionate to their own size and scale, and accomplish change by steering away from the mainstream. It shows that it is possible to be a lever acting upon another lever harnessing the efforts of much larger entities, so that even the smallest of us can create profound change... All around us are opportunities where small efforts can provide great results. Doing so only requires that we begin to see the world as full of such opportunities for leverage. Acting like a trim tab requires time to think and reflect, since intrinsically it has to be strategic and not merely reactive.

Regardless of how effective we are as individuals, we must become part of a larger, more orchestrated movement in order for our efforts to have wider-reaching impact that will affect change on the scale required. Great societal challenges are never solved by a single person, regardless of how important some individuals become... A movement, by definition, requires a community.

Transformational Thought: Radical Ideas to Remake the Build Environment by Jason F. McLennan

We have a choice. We can decide to wake up and make fundamental and transformative change, or we can resign our movement – as well intentioned as it may be – to being marginalized and irrelevant in a world that will struggle merely to survive.

The biggest barriers that remain are human-centered: what we value, our worldviews and the way we think – the cultural stories that keep us locked in the current paradigm. We have political processes that distract the public from any meaningful engagement on these issues, yet we are primarily an apolitical movement. We rarely band together as a unified movement to push for policy changes when there would be strength in our numbers...We need to prioritize the concept of citizen above that of consumer.

In many ways what we need to be working on is the idea of changing our stories – having people understand both the need for transformation to a restorative/regenerative future and the beauty and opportunities that could exist once we get there.

Experience has shown us that it is often the so-called “immeasurable” things that have the biggest impact and that it is folly to ignore something simply because we haven't figured out the best way to measure it... Inspiring people gets them interested ... As a movement, we need to captivate and inspire. We must collectively agree that beauty is absolutely necessary...I am a huge proponent of finding any initiative's 'right size, or sweet spot.' I believe that something is scaled properly when it serves its intended function as simply as possible with little to no waste. In the wise words of Antoine de Saint-Exupery, “Perfection is achieved not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.”