

# White supremacy, Climate crisis & human trauma

*Can we design to confront all three issues?*



(By Mexican artist Saner Edgar)

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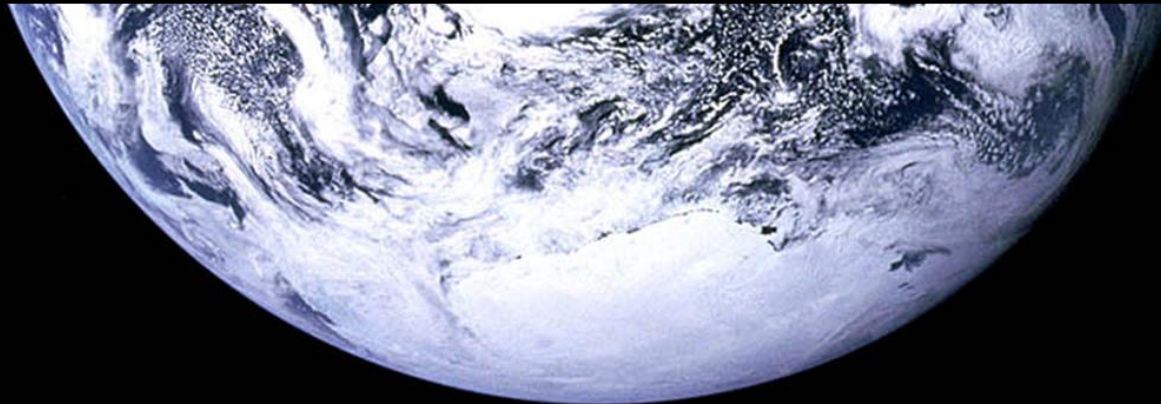
Twitter @KriteeKanko Website [boundlessinmotion.org](http://boundlessinmotion.org)



## **Challenge #1**

**Cumulative trauma**

*(Take a deep breath)*



# We need to compost trauma

In North America:

- 1 in 3 witness domestic violence
- 1 in 4 have alcoholic relatives
- 1 in 4 beaten with marks on the body
- 1 in 5 sexually molested as a child



**AND** there is **racial**, gender-based,  
economic, and climate trauma

# You & me. We are needed.



There is no group of non-traumatized people outside of us and our friends that is going to lead us.

We need to “see” other in our full humanity- full trauma.

1 to 1 professional psychotherapy isn't going to be enough to heal the scale of trauma we have.

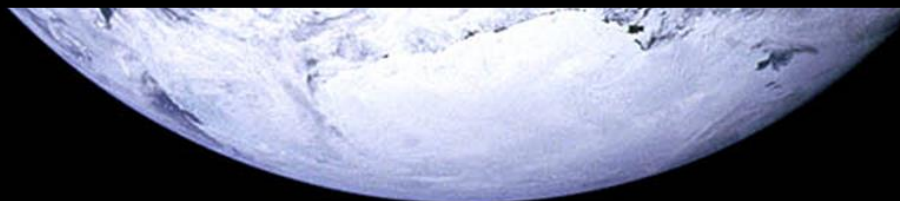




## **Challenge #2**

***Scale of climate crisis & our responsibility***

*(Take a deep breath)*



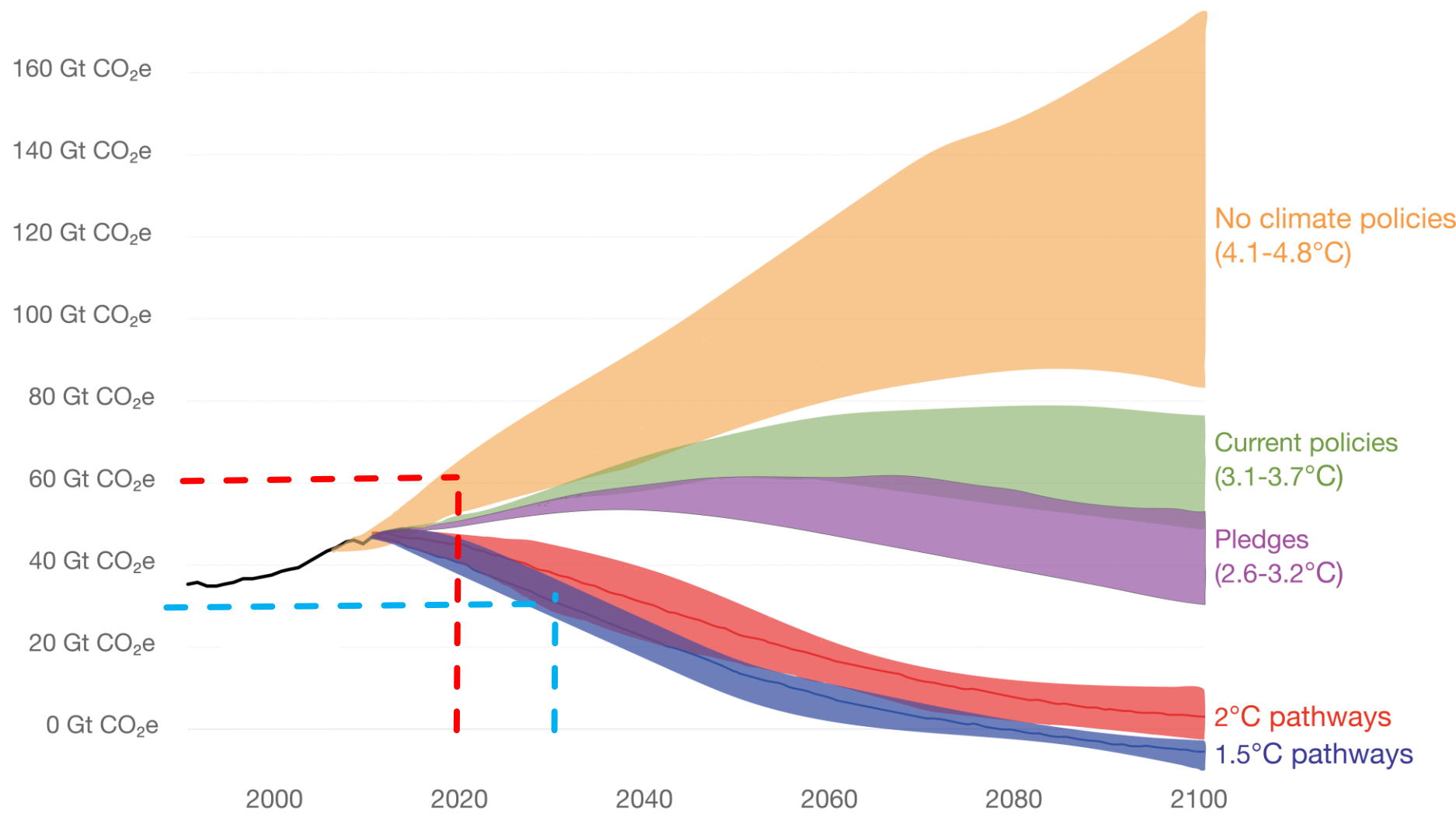
**In the US,  
we need to decrease average individual footprint  
from 65000 lbs to 5000 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>e  
within next 10 years.**

**(Will not happen without systemic work on 132  
trillion lbs of global annual emissions)**

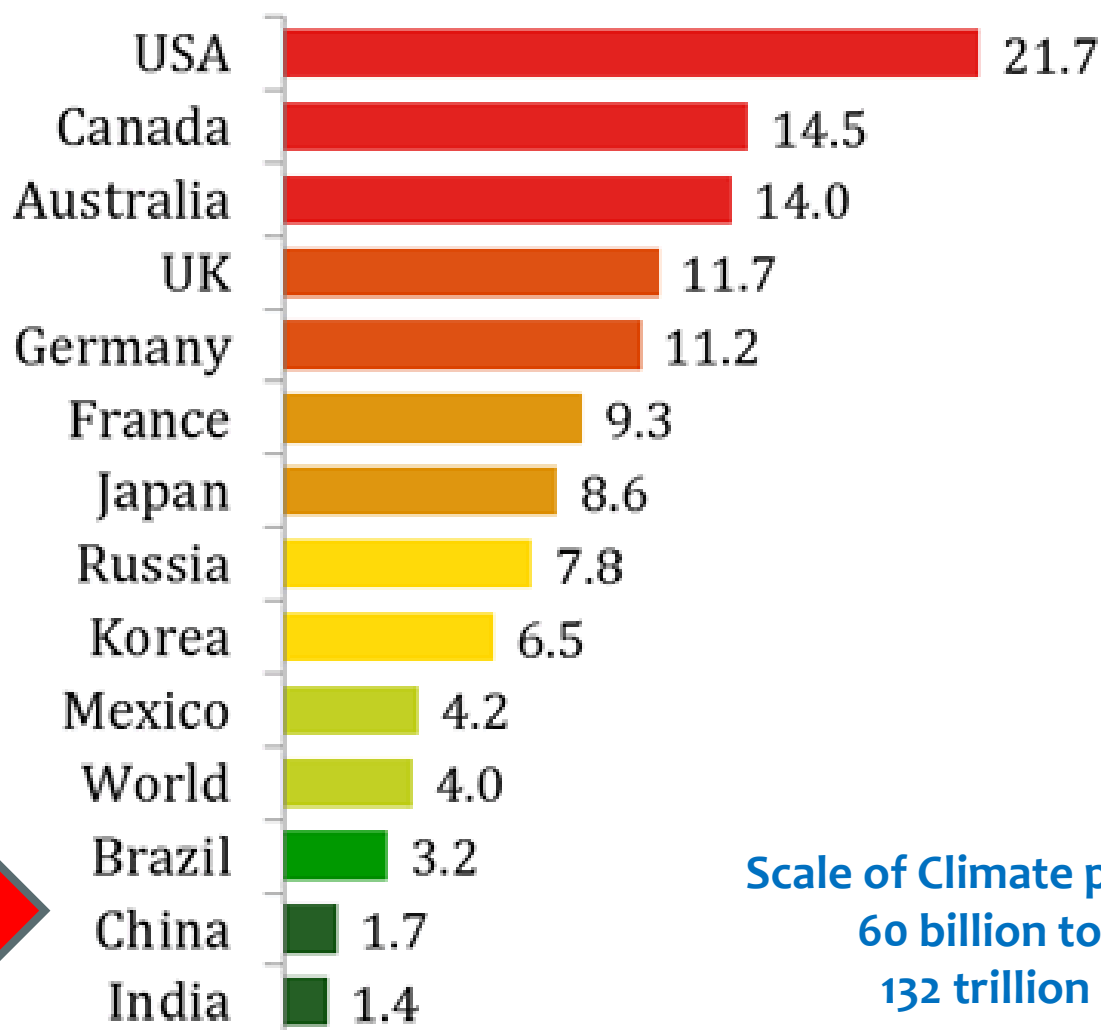
**See YouTube talk for explanation:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGmpHfTETTE>

# Global greenhouse gas emissions scenarios

it,



# Personal Carbon Footprints: t CO<sub>2</sub>e



Scale of Climate problem =  
60 billion tons =  
132 trillion lbs

Note: The personal carbon footprint represents the combined emissions from personal consumption, including housing, travel, food, product and service emissions. It excludes capital, government and land use emissions.

Sources: Hertwich & Peters 2009



# Keep it in the ground. Add it to the ground

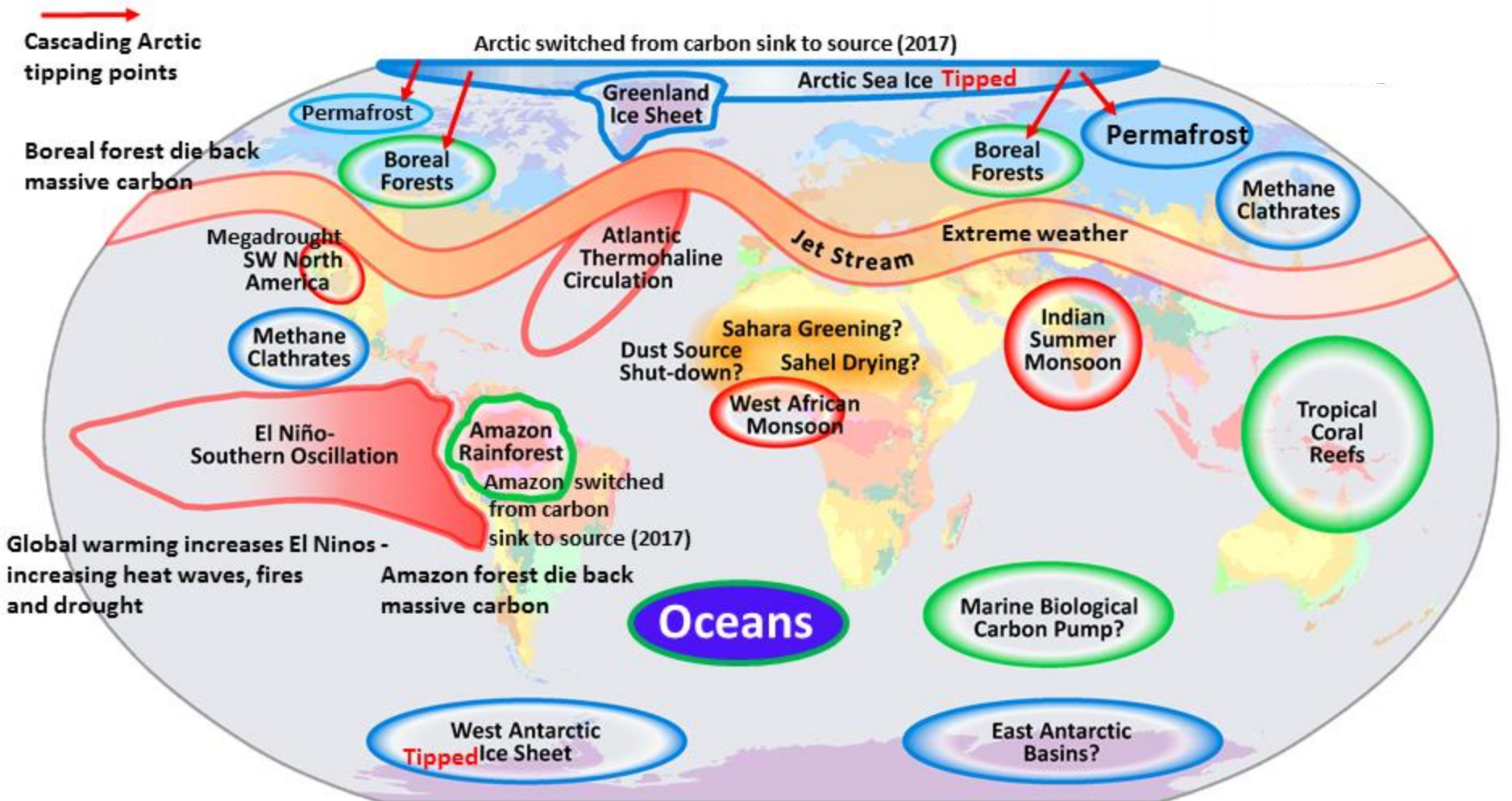
We can not allow any more fossil fuels to be dug out, any new coal, oil and gas infrastructure.

And we need to

- ration transport
- let go of meat industry
- invest in local soils & plant-based food
- adopt communal village life.

# Climate crisis: Tipping points

- Cryosphere Entities
- Circulation Patterns
- Biosphere Components



Adapted from Potsdam Climate Institute  
Tipping Elements the Achilles Heels  
of the Earth System

**Is it too late?**

**NO.**

We have crossed some tipping points.

Gaia's lungs and heart are hurting.

But there are many other tipping points.

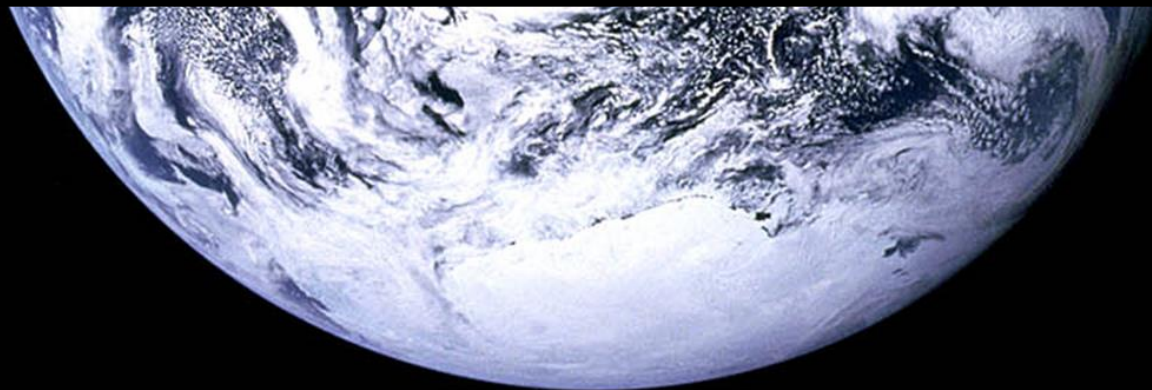
**We must create islands of sanity no matter what.**



## ***Challenge #3***

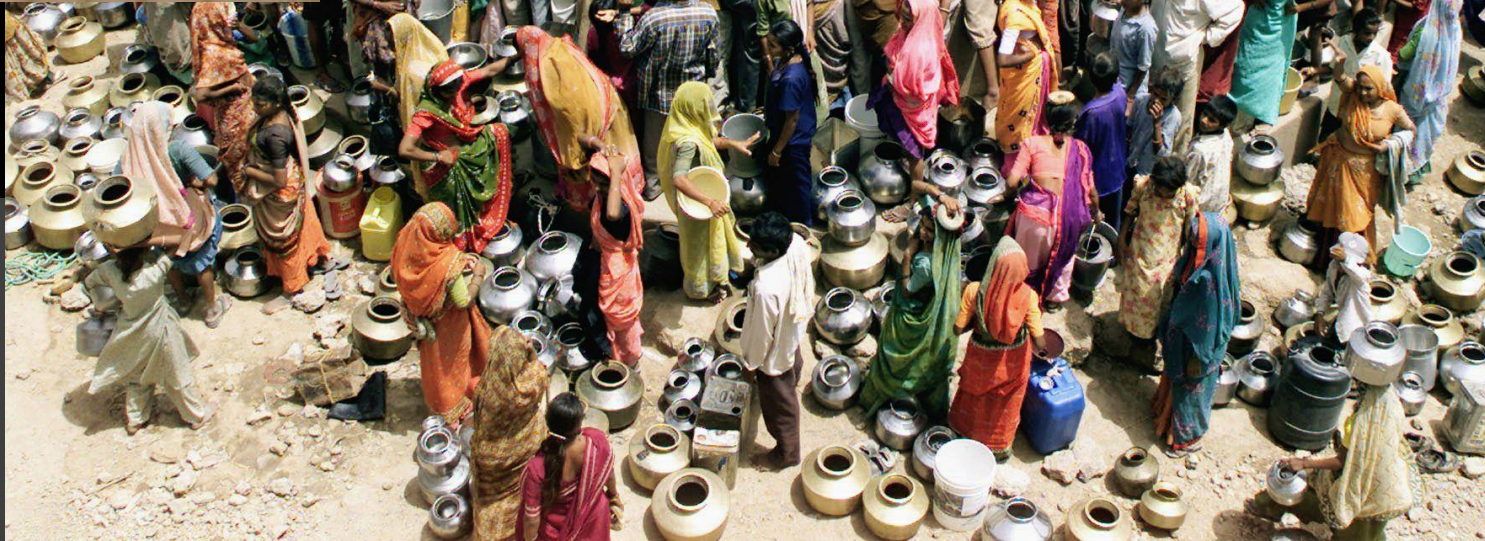
***Our participation in systems of oppression***

***(Take a deep breath)***





# WOMEN WALK FOR HOURS TO REACH A WELL

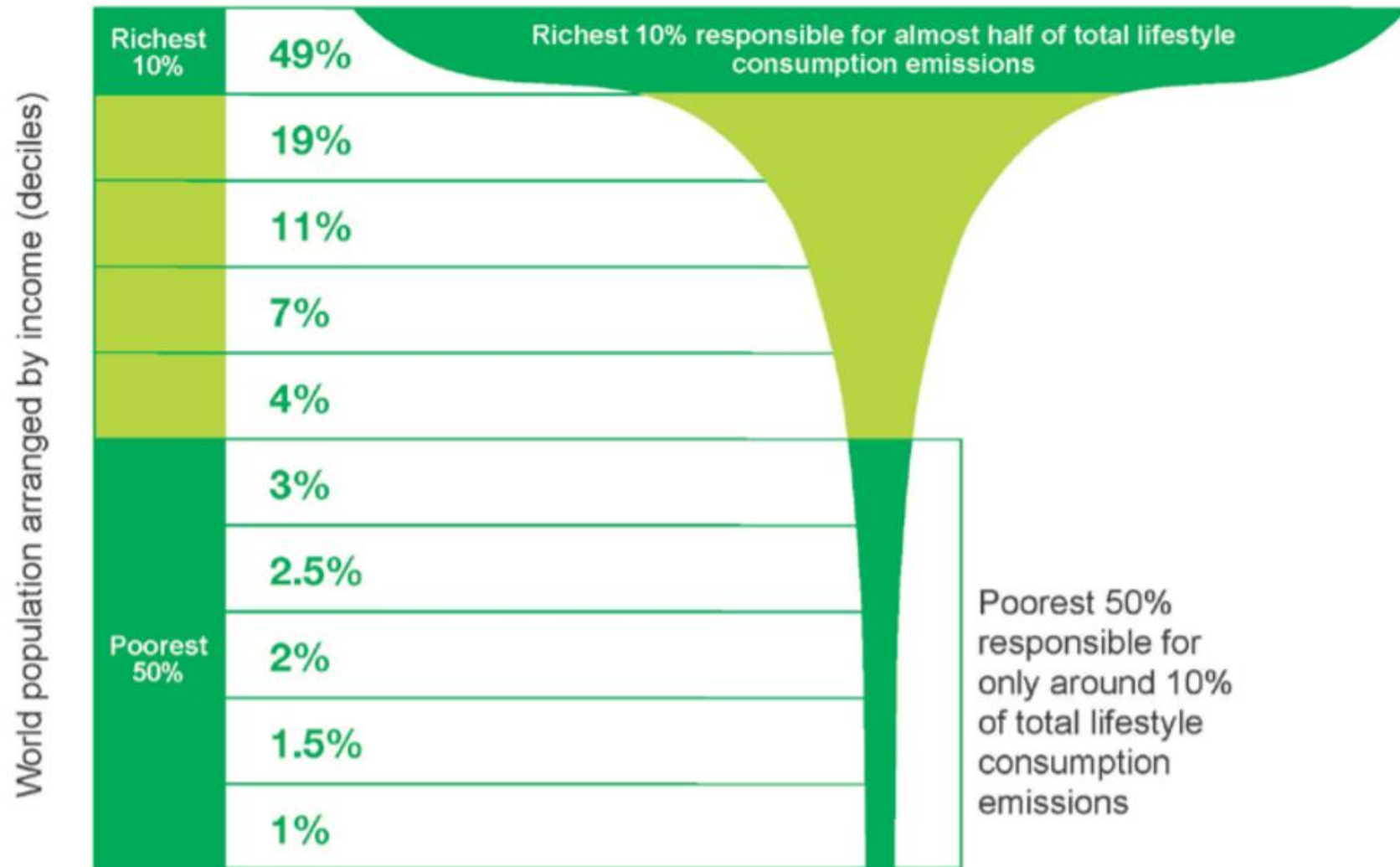


Why millennials are facing the scariest financial future of any generation since the Great Depression.

**BY MICHAEL HOBBS**



## Percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by world population



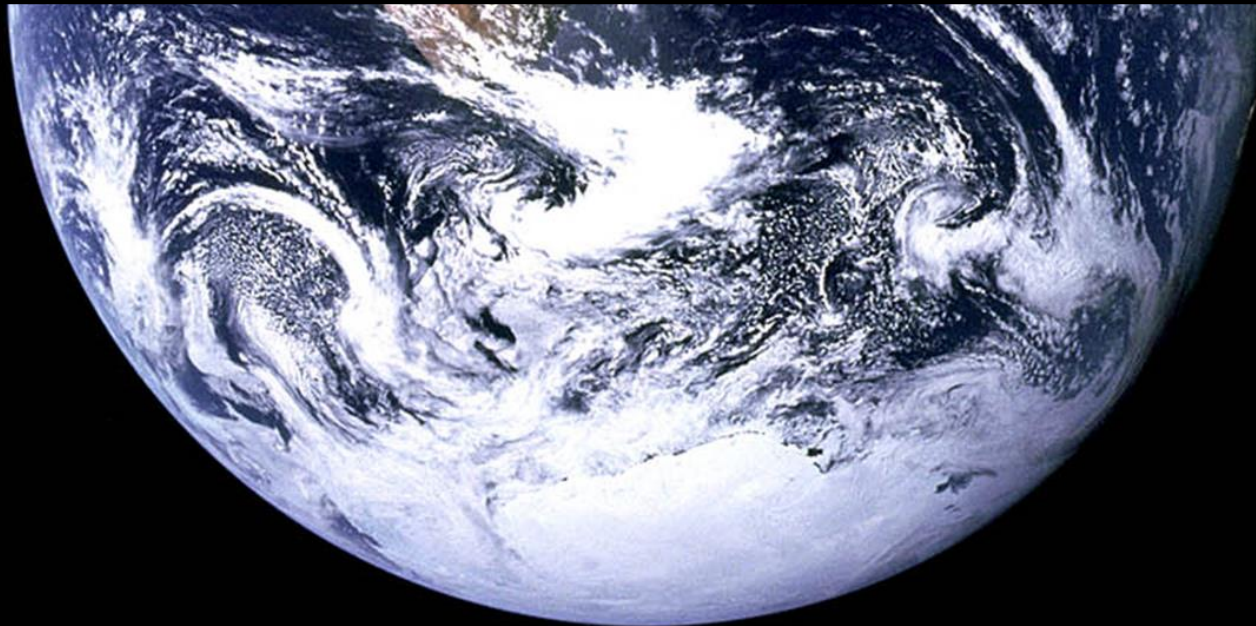
# White culture & white body supremacy

Black, indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC)

- Cause least harm
- (will) suffer the most
- “Side dish” in eNGOS (Who is we?)
- ***Have called for financial reparations***
- White folks also need atonement: Truth/Reconciliation circles
- Have teachings that white folks need to face chaos and collapse
- Their culture & ancestral knowledge subjugated – cultures that knew how to live in harmony with the living Earth



***Connections between challenges***



**White supremacy  
= Mother of climate crisis**

<http://boundlessinmotion.org/white-supremacy-mother-of-climate-crisis/>

We can't solve for climate now and then  
come to racial healing.

“The most important thing you can do to strengthen  
climate movement is to fight racism against black and  
brown people”..... within and outside you.

*Ian Haney Lopez, Berkeley Law Professor*

Lopez: Videos

[The first video](#) is a lecture basically presenting the thesis of his latest book “Merge Left”, and [the second](#) is an interview with Extinction Rebellion where Ian and [Dr. Adam Elliott-Cooper](#) together roast the notion that one can deal with the climate crisis without directly tackling racism. They make an extremely clear argument that however messy it is, white folks need to face racism within and around them. The content of the first video might be important to fully understand the second discussion.

**Trauma/shame + fear of uncertainty**

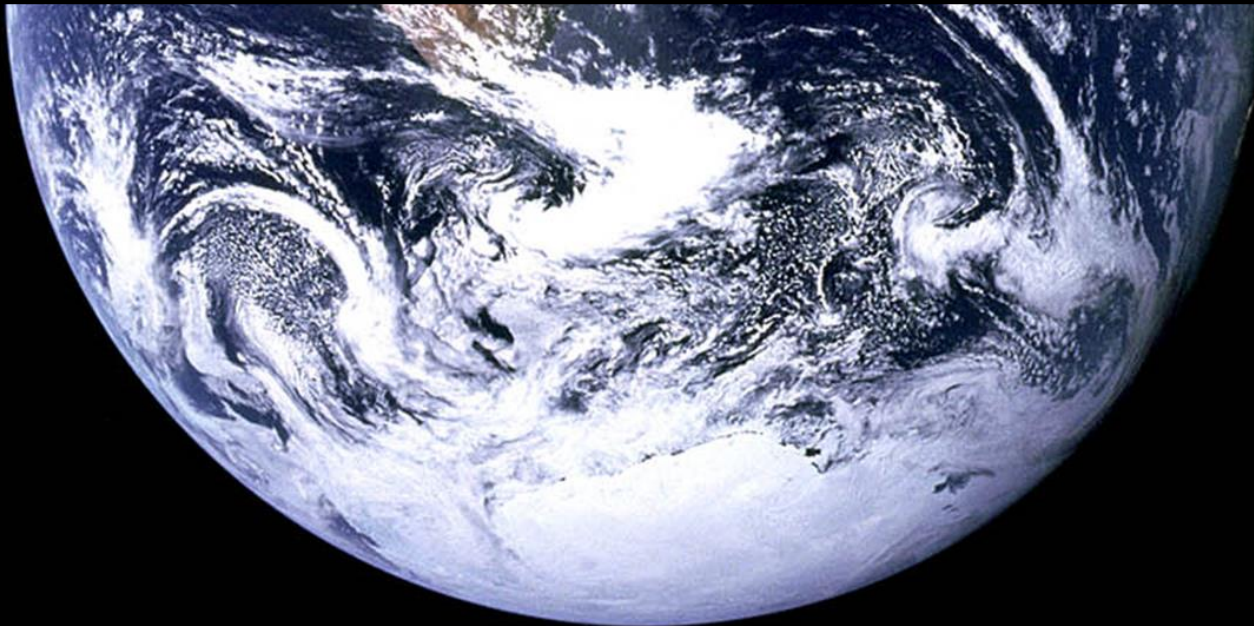
**= Fight, flight and freeze mind**

**= Engine of white supremacy....  
...that further traumatizes  
both white & non-white bodies**





***How do we deal with all three of them?***



# Three pillars of “Islands of Sanity”

Let our belonging empower each other



# Islands of sanity: How?

## With Belonging (6-8 friends)

- Regular meetings (>3 per month, 120-150 minutes each)
  - 20-25 min: Silence/somatic practices (to attune to each other)
  - 30-35 min: Check-ins with wholehearted listening without interruption
  - Discuss (or prepare for) “Third pillar” strategic actions or scheduled sharing circles on money, lifestyle, race/religion, gender
- Have transparent structure/format for
  - Grief/raze work for processing trauma
  - Action strategy and understanding of the movement ecosystem
  - Information flow (how many emails from whom?)
  - Decision-making (Consensus, majority, veto?)
  - Learning through feedback
  - Restoring conflict
  - Flow of money (if any)

# Islands of sanity: How?

With Belonging (6-8 friends)

Resources:

Three pillars of Sanity:

<http://boundlessinmotion.org/three-pillars-of-eco-dharma/>

Island of sanity friendships:

<http://boundlessinmotion.org/ecodharma-friendship/>

One movement:

<http://boundlessinmotion.org/one-movement/>

For more resources, articles and videos:

[http://boundlessinmotion.org/  
ecological-crisis-content](http://boundlessinmotion.org/ecological-crisis-content)