

**Introduction to Book launch event, September 13, 2016 in Berlin, from Douglas F. Williamson,
Managing Partner at the Collective Leadership Institute:**

“Good evening and welcome. I’m Douglas Williamson, a Managing Partner of the Collective Leadership Institute.

We’re honored to have you here with us this evening for this triple book launch and discussion. We’d also like to thank our co-hosts and co-organizers from the Wuppertal Institute for their efforts in putting this special event together.

Earlier today, the Club of Rome launched a new book here in Berlin, *Reinventing Prosperity*, one of the authors of which is Jorgen Randers, a co-author of the seminal Club of Rome book, *Limits to Growth* from 1972. We also have two members of the Club of Rome here this evening on stage.

The Club of Rome formed in 1968 to address “the predicament of mankind”. One of the central questions that the project addressed was, “What methods does mankind have for solving global problems?” That same year, humans walked on the moon and provided us with the image of Earthrise, our half illuminated home floating amidst an infinity of darkness. This literal view of our world coincided with the emergence of the global environmental movement, the first Earth Day, the development of the Gaia Theory, and the beginnings of the modern sustainability movement, among others.

The authors here this evening sharing their significant perspectives on large systems change and transformation to sustainability use several words that have a similar intention that signify a central challenge that our species faces. These are words like paradigm, meta-narrative, mindset, visions, and worldview, a translation of the German word, which is commonly used in English as well, *Weltanschauung*.

Over these last five decades, we have experienced tremendous advances in thought, technology, and social organization. We’re also experiencing grave challenges that these advances have not solved including widening gaps in wealth, continued starvation and hunger, ecological devastation, and climate change, to name a few. We live in what we call a globalized world. We refer to the geological era as the Anthropocene, indicating that humans are the dominant geological force on the planet. We are *now* in the process of emerging from a fragmented past, a past of many nations, ethnicities, and cultures into a future that is ever-more heavily influenced by a unified *Weltanschauung* and realization that we are one human family and one earth community with a common destiny.

It is clear that complex systems govern much of our existence, and that their imbalances, provoked by human activity or mismanagement, endanger peace, ecological health, and the continuity of the success of our and other species on planet Earth.

We have a limited understanding of natural and social systems, and an even more limited understanding of how these systems interact with each other. However, it is these social systems that we can adjust to add balance and stability, foster peace, security, prosperity, and ecological health. That is the central

theme of all three books that are being launched here this evening. How can we manifest large systems change to ensure a sustainable future that works for 100% of humanity and the planet as a whole?

The intention behind our three authors' books works to support the growth of our collective understanding of our interconnectedness and interdependence, as well as offering many concrete approaches to demonstrate our sense of responsibility to all people and all species for all time. Each of these books takes a different approach towards addressing the Club of Rome question from 1968: What methods does mankind have for solving global problems? Further, they each look from different perspectives at how influencing our complex social systems may lead to large systems change and radical transformation towards sustainability and a flourishing earth community.

With that, it's my pleasure to introduce our three authors this evening:

- Dr. Maja Goepel is a specialist in global political economy and media and communication. After helping to set up the World Future Council between 2006 and 2012, Maja returned to the research field with the Wuppertal Institut where her work focuses on the role of mind and paradigm shifts in transformation processes and the translation of large system change analysis into local change maker strategies. Maja is presently the head of the Wuppertal Institute's German office here in Berlin, is a full member of the Club of Rome and the Balaton Group, and currently serves on the steering committee of the German Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the scientific advisory boards of terre des hommes – Germany, and the Development and Peace Foundation.
- Petra Künkel is the founder and Executive Director of the Collective Leadership Institute and a full member of Club of Rome. She has a 20 plus year track record of building competence for multi-stakeholder processes and dialogues all over the world. She is a pioneer in guiding complex multi-stakeholder initiatives and has guided sector transformation processes including the Common Code for the Coffee Community and the German Textile Alliance, among others. Presently, she is leading collaboration effectiveness platforms with the German Ministry for International Cooperation and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands within the Global Programme for Effective Development Cooperation. Her mission is to find solutions to complex challenges by increasing capacities for collaboration and co-creation.
- Dr. Steve Waddell is a thought leader and change agent who has been working for more than 30 years on responding to global, regional, and local challenges. His focus is on fostering intersectoral, inter-organizational collaboration and networks to produce innovation, enhance impact, and develop new capacity. He is the founder of "Golden Ecosystem Labs" and the founding Executive Director of "Global Action Network-Net", as well as the co-founder of "The Change Alliance/Ethical Funds" and "Global Finance Initiative", among others. At present, Steve serves as Principal for NetworkingAction and has worked in the past with the UN Global Compact, the Gates Foundation, the World Bank, and GRI, to name only a few."

