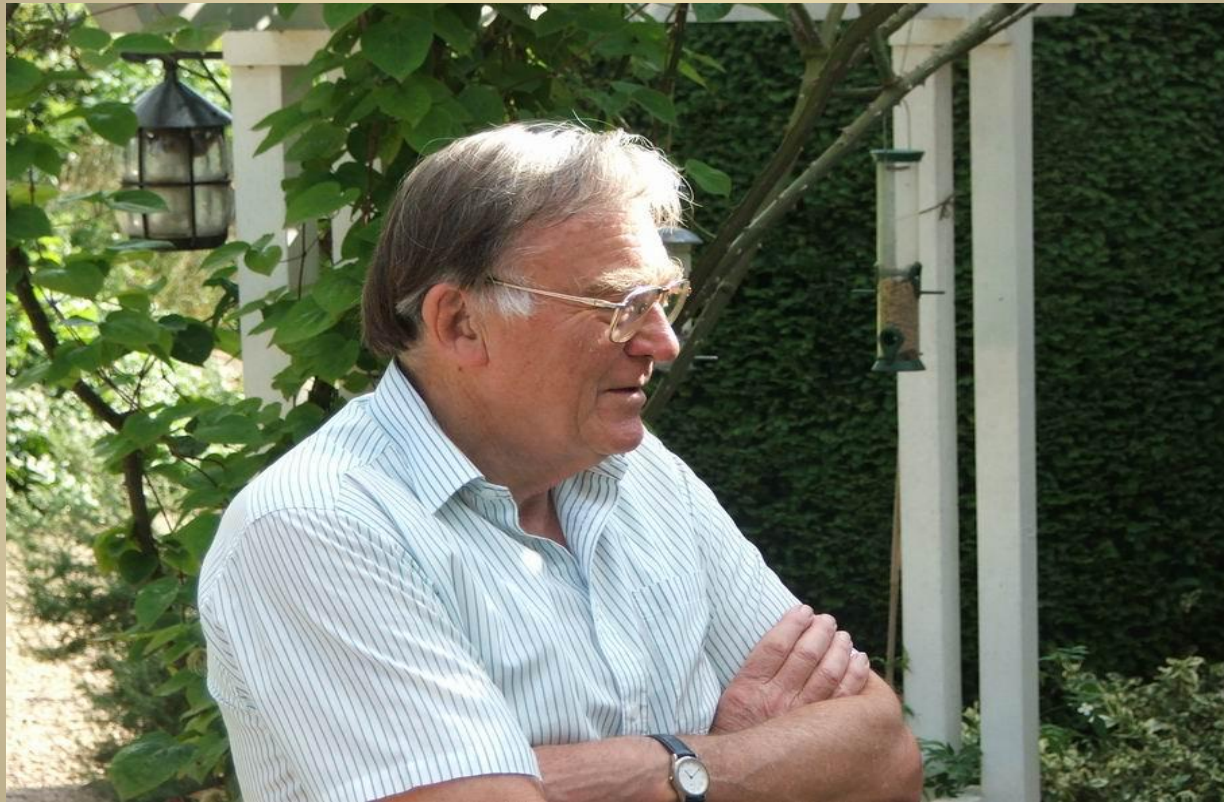


# Alanna Hartzok



- Founder and Co-Director, Earth Rights Institute
- General Secretary, International Union for Land Value Tax
- United Nations NGO Representative/consultative ECOSOC
- Author, The Earth Belongs to Everyone - recipient of the *Radical Middle Book Award*.
- In 2011 she received the International Earth Day Award from the Earth Society Foundation
- Alanna developed and administers Land Rights and Land Value Capture, a distance learning course that has nearly 900 people enrolled from 94 countries. Here: [course.earthrights.net](http://course.earthrights.net) (currently under revision)

# A Tribute to the New Economics of James Robertson



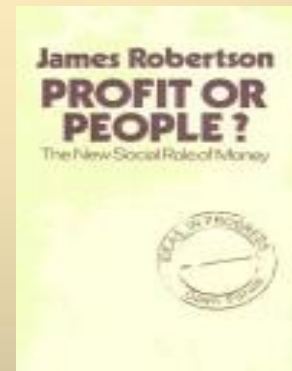
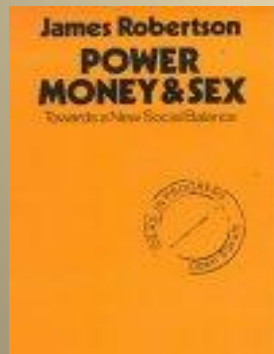
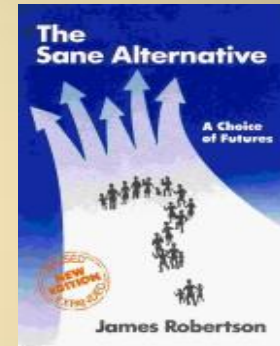
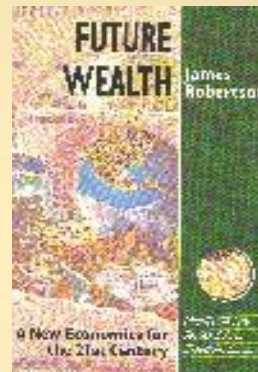
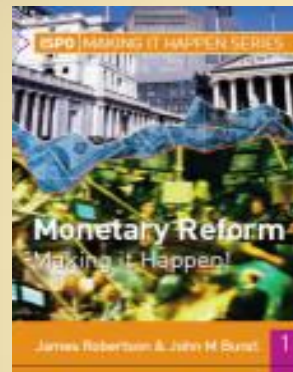
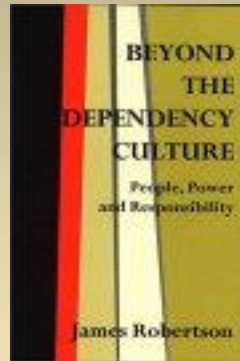
**[JamesRobertson.com](http://JamesRobertson.com)**



## James Robertson

Taking a clear-cut stance on issues involving moral choice, his books as an independent writer and lecturer - including "The Sane Alternative", a landmark study for the "new economics" movement - have supported practicable measures to promote economic justice, such as monetary reform, basic income and a shift of taxation on to the use of land and other resources.







After graduating from Oxford in 1950 James did national service in the artillery in Germany.

In the 1950s and 1960s he worked as a policy-making civil servant in British government.

First, in the years leading up to decolonisation, his work included development plans for Mauritius and Seychelles, visits with government ministers to those and other remaining territories in the British Empire, and especially with Prime Minister Harold Macmillan on what became known as his "Wind of Change" (James'phrase) tour of Africa in 1960.

Then three years in the Cabinet Office, working directly as 'private secretary' to the Secretary of the Cabinet.



In his own words: My last two years in Whitehall were in the **Ministry of Defence**. I had been posted there to help in the merger of the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry in a **single mega-ministry** for the Navy, Army and Air Force.

This led me to see - as I tried to show in my first book, *Reform of British Central Government* - that the time had come for **radical changes that would develop institutions and habits and skills of self-government**. It did not lead me to support the later Thatcherite philosophy that the power of big government and trade unions should be replaced by the power of big business and big finance!



So I left the Civil Service for management consultancy and systems analysis, and that led to my setting up and directing the Inter-Bank Research Organisation for the British banks (1968-1973). During that period I was also asked to take part in various enquiries into government, Civil Service, Parliament, and London's future as a world financial centre.

After leaving the banks, my next excursion was to stand for Parliament in 1974 against Tony Benn in Bristol South East.



- After working as an aide to Prime Minister Harold Macmillan on his "Wind of Change" African tour in 1960, and as a director of interbank research, James Robertson came to see that "decolonising" today's overpowerful institutions must be part of the transition to a democratic, environmentally benign post-modern world.





Looking back now, I can see more clearly **the formative impact of my early-1970s changes of career.** They made me learn and think more widely about things that were happening in the world. These included:

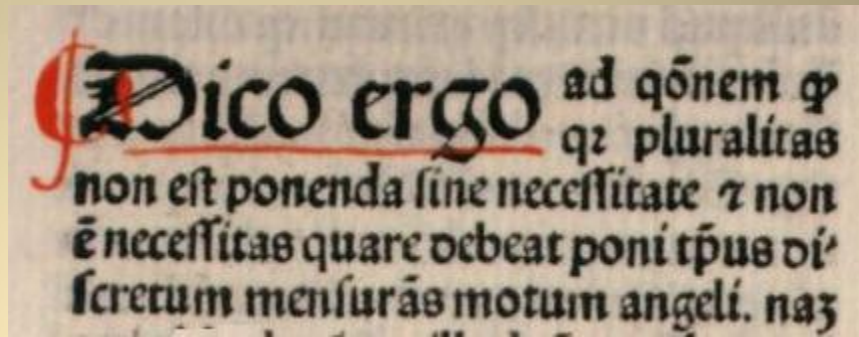
- the rise of feminist and ecological consciousness;
- the insights of systems studies and futures studies;
- the failure of traditional world faiths to stand up to the juggernaut of conventional economic development;
- the possibility that the modern age of Euro-American world domination - and its application of narrowly "scientific" thought to human affairs - might be coming towards an end;
- the possibility that both Marxist and conventional capitalist ideas would be less relevant in a post-modern age.



I found that, after twenty years among the centralised institutions and assumptions of Whitehall and the big banks, I was attracted by the small-is-beautiful and convivial-society teachings of thinkers like Fritz Schumacher and Ivan Illich.



I still am, but I have come to accept that localisation and personalisation must evolve together with globalisation as complementary parts of a new multi-level approach to the organisation of human affairs, and that we must reconstruct our institutions to allow people to live normal lives as active members of families, active residents of neighbourhoods and districts, active citizens of regions, nations, and the world, and as conscious participants in the evolution of the universe.



In the development of my thinking, I have tended to apply a version of Occam's razor- cut out reliance on any abstractions that have no clearly defined practical meaning (what does it mean we should do?).

“Capitalism”, “socialism”, “communism” have now become clear examples of that. So has “economic growth”.

***Future Money: Breakdown  
or Breakthrough? 2012.***  
Green Books, Totnes

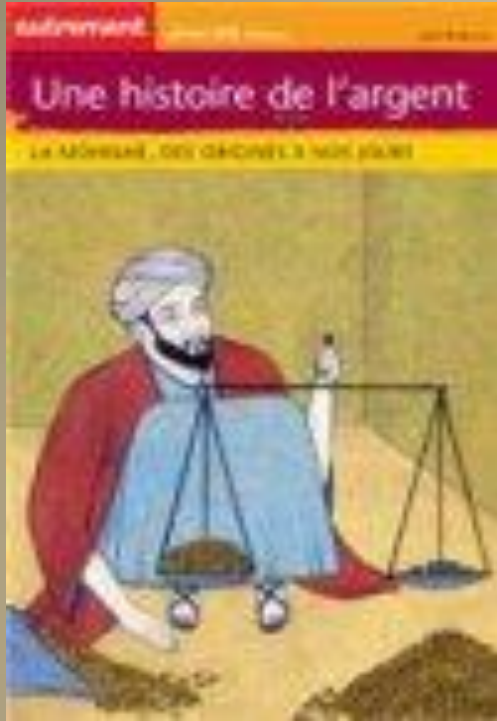


James writes:

My latest book explains how our money system is propelling us toward the self-destruction of our species.

It also shows clearly how our money system operates and how it could be reformed so that it acts for the benefit of people and society rather than the opposite, and describes the obstacles that currently prevent that reform.





***The History of Money:  
From Its Origins to Our  
Time*** - the English text of  
**"Une Histoire de l'Argent: des  
origines à nos jours"**, Paris  
2007.

This 12,000 word "Junior Histoire" from Autrement is about how money began, how it has evolved to the present day, what it has enabled humans to achieve, why so many people in the world today suffer from the way it works, how it may develop further, and how young people today might want it to develop.



***Monetary Reform - Making it Happen***, 2004 (with John Bunzl). International Simultaneous Policy Organisation. "Making it Happen" Briefing Series No 1.

*"A brilliant treatment of a question which has never been so urgent."*

- George Monbiot



***Creating New Money: A  
Monetary Reform for the  
Information Age, 2000*** (with  
Joseph Huber)

*"We look forward to monetary  
reform moving to the centre  
stage of public and policy  
debate"*

- Ed Mayo, then Director of NEF

*The book was launched in the first Alternative  
Mansion House Speech - on **Financial and  
Monetary Policies for an Enabling State** -  
on 15th June 2000.*

***The New Economics of  
Sustainable Development:  
A Briefing for Policy  
Makers, 1999***



Written for the European Commission's Cellule de Prospective (Forward Studies Unit), and published in paperback, by Kogan Page, London, Editions Apogée, Paris (as *Changer d'Économie: ou la Nouvelle Économie du Développement Durable*), and The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

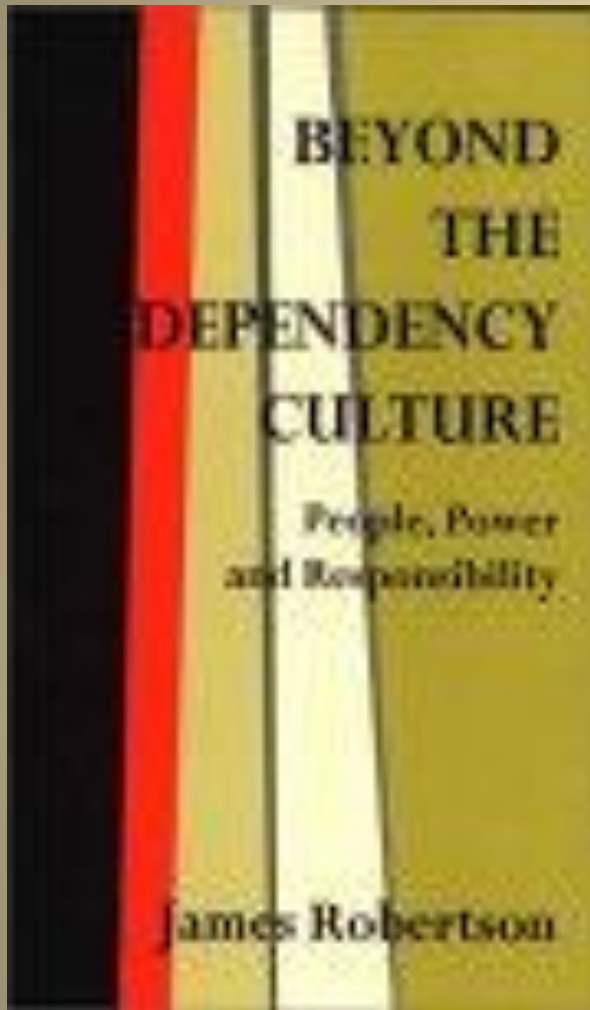


***Transforming Economic Life:  
A Millennial Challenge,  
1998***

Schumacher Briefing No 1

Written for the Schumacher  
Society (UK) and published  
by Green Books



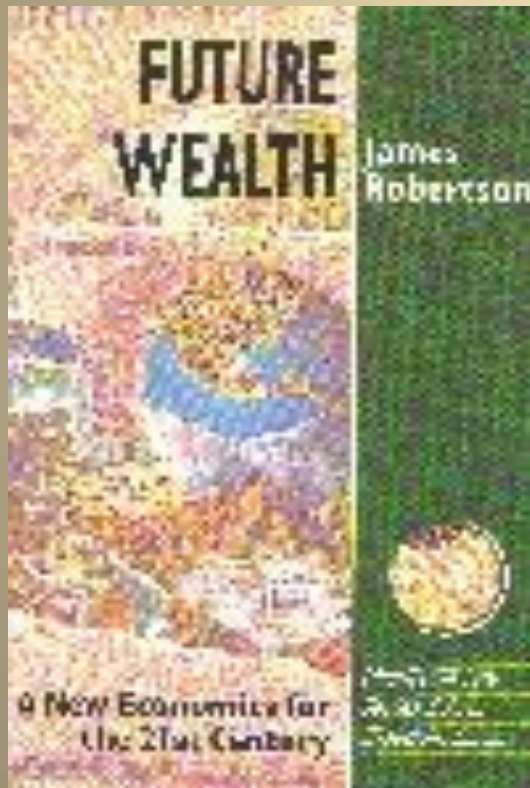


***Beyond The Dependency Culture:  
People, Power and Responsibility,***  
Adamantine Press, 234pp.  
Foreword by Ronald Higgins.

Sixteen papers and lectures dating from 1977 to 1996 on the need for a new path of progress based on co-operative self-reliance and not on the further growth of dependency.

**Topics include:** a conserving society, work, health, welfare, money, politics, energy (including nuclear power), a post-modern worldview, and a post-marxist strategy for change.

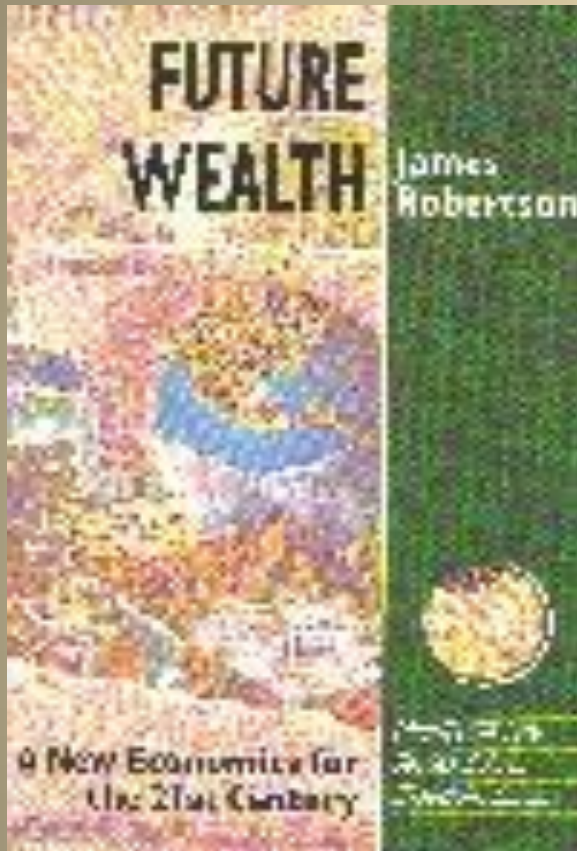
***Future Wealth: A  
New Economics for  
the 21st Century,***  
1990, Cassell, London



James said this in 2005:

“This is one of my more important books. It provides a framework of understanding for the new economic order which the world clearly needs.

An agenda for transition on the lines it put forward for the 1990s is now more obviously relevant than it was fifteen years ago.”



*"A New Economics for the 21st Century" is an exact description of this very remarkable book." - The Good Book Guide, 1990*

*"It could well be that Future Wealth will ultimately be required reading for economics students, alongside The Wealth of Nations and The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money." - Francis Kinsman, Management Today, May 1990*

*"With Future Wealth as our guide, we can describe the framework of the living economy... We can show how current initiatives can be enabled and encouraged, and we can show how that framework can be created out of our present, rather warped version." - Perry Walker, New Economics, Summer 1990*

***Future Work: Jobs, self-employment and leisure after the industrial age,***  
1985, Temple Smith/Gower



*"The best book of its kind so far, packed with ideas and one cannot but be affected by its enthusiasm and verve"* - Prof. Ray Pahl in the *Times Literary Supplement*, 14th March 1986.

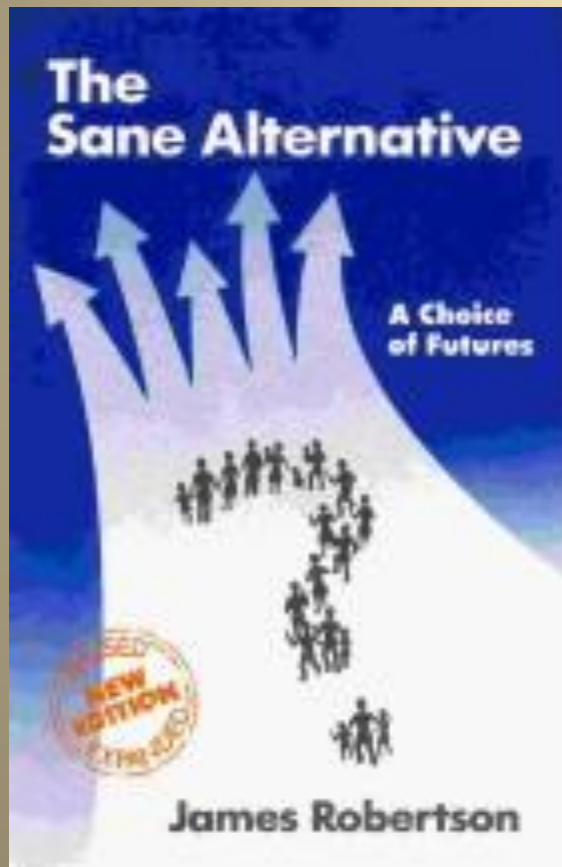
James writes: This was one of the books I most enjoyed researching and writing. I tried, but failed, to persuade the publisher we should call it 'The Ownwork Revolution'. He thought that title would be too far out to appeal to a mainstream readership. However, if and when the book is republished, I shall insist on it!

Its theme is that a possible future for work, and the one we should seek to create, is its liberation. In the age of slavery and the age of employment, most people have had to work for people and organisations richer and more powerful than themselves.

But in the age of ownwork it will be accepted as normal that most people will work independently for themselves and one another, and the institutions of society will enable them to do so instead of depending on employers for jobs.



James says: "probably my best known book. The gold medal awarded in 2003 by the [Pio Manzu Research Centre](#) is inscribed to "Creator of a Sane Alternative".



***The Sane Alternative***, 1983 "The best and most persuasive handbook I know to the 'alternative society'" - Michael Shanks in *The Director*.

"An essential book.... compelling reading" - Tom Hancock in *Town and Country Planning*

"The best futures books I've ever read.....People will read it, keep it and thank you for introducing them to it" - Prof. James E. Moore, University of Texas.

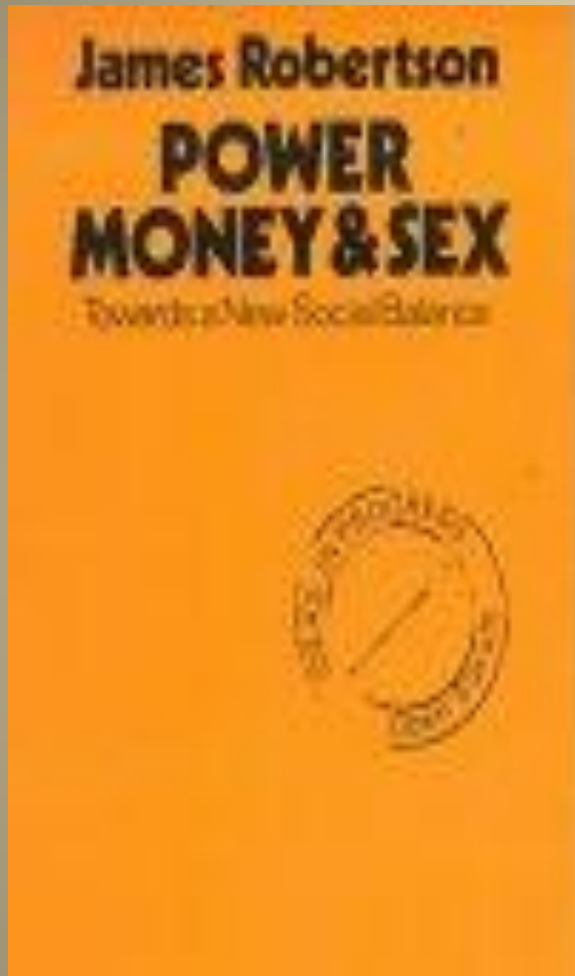
"This book is important. It seeks to get new ideas on the move" - Harford Thomas in *The Guardian*.

"The most practical book on futures that I know" - Prof. John Morris, Manchester Business School.

"Comprehensively considerate..... a very realistic future" - R. Buckminster Fuller.

"Indispensable. A rare combination of important new theory with practical guidance. An important map for the future of all industrial countries" - Hazel Henderson, author of *Beyond Globalization* and other books, from the Foreword to the US edition.

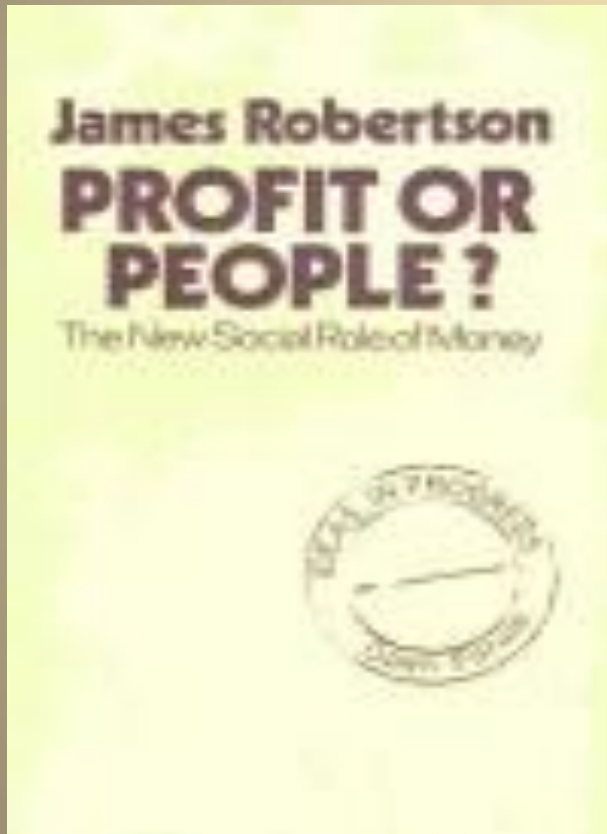




***Power, Money and Sex:  
Towards a New Social  
Balance***, 1976, Marion  
Boyars Publishers

*"A most searching, radical,  
even revolutionary book."* -  
Harford Thomas in the  
*Guardian*, 12th August 1976.

James says: This short book, in Marion Boyars' Ideas in Progress series, arose from my reflections after my few years working for the banks.



## Six Chapters:

Breakdown or Breakthrough; Socially Responsible Enterprise; Financially Responsible Government; Honest Money; Money Science and Money Metaphysics; and Whose Move?.

The final paragraph begins as follows:

"To transform the money system into a fair and efficient mechanism of collective choice, a value system of society... must be pioneered by those of us who can imagine what the new social role of money could be and how it may be achieved."

James says: "This, my first book, was the outcome of my experiences in Whitehall."



*"His book is of first-rate importance"*  
- Prof. Max Beloff in the *Daily Telegraph*, 22nd July 1972.

## ***Reform of British Central Government,*** 1971 Chatto & Windus/Charles Knight

In this book I was trying to set out, systematically and holistically - to use words unfamiliar to me then - how I thought the functions of government might be better organised as an intelligent whole.

I had learned that our institutionalised society, fragmented and dominated by specialist professions and interest groups each with its own separate 'territory', finds it almost impossible to deal sensibly with any situation as a whole. To this day, 'joined-up government' remains an elusive goal.



# Turning Point 2000

Following our involvement in the Campaign for Social Democracy and the experience of campaigning as a candidate in the first 1974 election, a **growing interest in decentralist, environmental, feminist and other "alternative" viewpoints** was stimulating me to think more radically. It was an exciting time.



We duly held **the first Turning Point meeting** in Conway Hall on **29 November 1975**. Over 200 people took part.





That set the tone for the thirty-five more big meetings and smaller seminars held by Turning Point/2000 from 1975 to 1996. Their subjects included:

- **The Politics of Tomorrow (1977)**
- **The Psychology of Social Change (1978)**
- **The Future of Health (1982)**
- **The Future of Money (1984)**
- **The Conscious Consumer (1987)**
- **Beyond Marx, Keynes and Thatcher (1993)**
- **Overcoming Obstacles to a New Path of Progress (1996), and many others.**




- The first **Turning Point newsletter** went out in June 1976, and from February 1977 we issued 16-page newsletters to a thousand or so recipients around the world regularly twice a year to September 1987. Then, after a two-year gap, we resumed the series under the heading Turning Point 2000. Links to copies of the five last issues, from September 1998 to January 2000

# 10 CHALLENGES

**The protagonists of the status quo compound their own incredibility by their refusal or their inability to confront 10 fundamental challenges:**

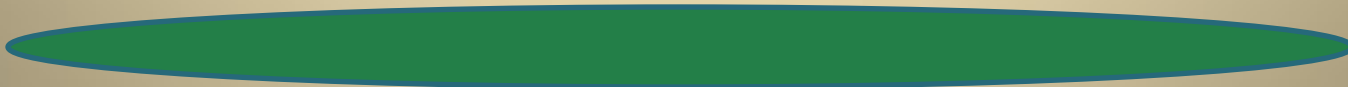
1. That specific increases in output in any economy no longer necessarily create corresponding increases in employment;
2. That in an age of permanently high unemployment, it is neither efficient nor equitable to attempt to distribute a nation's wealth predominantly through the labour market;
3. That our present standard of living can only be maintained at the expense of denying the basic necessities of life to millions in the Third World;
4. That our present standard of living can only be maintained through the continuing exploitation and degradation of the biosphere;
5. That the social, environmental and spiritual costs of pursuing a policy of permanent industrial expansionism already outweigh the advantages to be derived from it;

- 
6. That 'GNP', 'productivity', 'progress' and many other notional concepts of contemporary economics are incapable of evaluating or expressing real wealth or people's real standards of living;
  7. That neither laissez-faire market economics nor state-dominated socialism is capable of defining the appropriate balance between individual freedom and collective responsibility;
  8. That to think in terms of 'jobs at all costs' is quite inadequate, in as much as all work should be fulfilling both to the individual and to the community, and should not be destructive of the environment;
  9. That the international banking system is on the verge of collapse;
  10. That centralised top-down government spending,...has failed to create sustainable patterns of employment or to promote those structural changes in the economy that are so overdue.

# THE ALTERNATIVE

## Hence the need for an **Alternative Economic Summit**:

1. To counter the determinist 'inevitability' of today's industrial politics;
2. To establish the principles of sustainable, ecological, economics;
3. To articulate specific proposals of immediate relevance, particularly as regards the creation of opportunities for good, fulfilling work;
4. To affirm solidarity and identify specific areas of cooperation between the peoples of North and South;
5. To re-assert the primacy of harmonious interaction between ourselves and the biosphere as the source of all sustainable wealth;
6. To help redefine the language of contemporary economics.





# Jonathan Porritt, leader of UK Ecology Party, letter to James, 25/10/83:

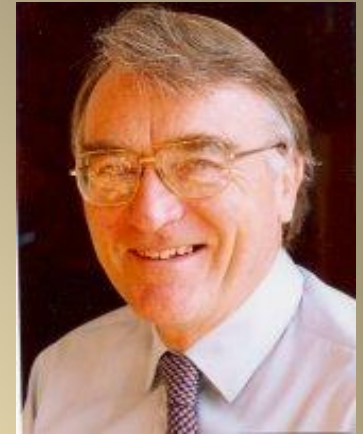


I'm writing to you to seek your involvement in a project that the Ecology Party has dreamed up, namely an "Alternative Economic Summit" to be held in London at the same time as the "official" Summit next year.

As you well know, there has been very little work done on this whole area in the UK; your contribution still stands as the most valuable.

James co-founded and  
was actively engaged in:

**The Other Economic Summit (TOES) and  
the New Economics Foundation - 1983-2000**



The first TOES meeting was held in London in parallel with the 1984 annual G7 meeting of the Group of Seven richest industrial countries. It attracted considerable attention at the time.

Looking back now, we can see it as a significant forerunner of the growing social justice and new economics movements which now campaign constructively around the world for socially and environmentally benign development, and which some people think of as part of the "anti-globalisation" movement.



Alison and I were involved in TOES from before the start, and then in the New Economics Foundation (NEF) which came out of it two years later. In its first ten years or so, NEF played an absorbing part in our life, and we have continued to be associated with it.



# THE NEW ECONOMICS OF INFORMATION

New Economics Foundation, 1989

**Recognising that money is information** will throw light on many of the issues concerning the future of the monetary and financial system that will have to be dealt with between now and the end of the century. These issues are conceptual, practical and political, short-term, medium-term and long-term.



## THE NEW ECONOMICS OF INFORMATION

New Economics Foundation, 1989

### They include:

- The differences between money and credit, and the implications of debt.
- Further development of international monetary institutions, and the need for a new international currency - or currencies - in place of the US dollar.
- A possible role for local currencies for use in local transactions,
- The case for competitive currencies issued by nongovernmental bodies, as a further development of the credit cards and cash cards now offered by financial and retail businesses.



## **THE NEW ECONOMICS OF INFORMATION**

**New Economics Foundation, 1989**

**Continued on the future of the monetary and financial system:**

- **The possible scope for local exchange trading systems (LET Systems) based on their own units of account, through which members can transact with other members without using currency.**
- **New procedures for making monetary authorities publicly accountable at international, national and local levels.**
- **New procedures for managing and regulating the activities of financial institutions in the public interest.**
- **These monetary and financial questions will play an important part in the development of a new economics for the 21st century and in the agenda of the New Economics Foundation in the coming years.**
- **Insights from the design, management and operation of information and communications systems must be brought to bear upon them.**

## 1994: Benefits and Taxes: A Radical Strategy.



This discussion paper proposes three years of preparation and then a ten-year programme for the introduction of a **Citizen's Income (basic income)**, combined with a **shift to taxing land values** and energy instead of taxing incomes, profits and value added.



For some years I had known there were good arguments for a basic income (or National Dividend) and for land-value taxation. More recently the case for energy and other environmental taxation had also grown stronger.

By 1994 I felt the time had come to explore how a combination of these reforms might be introduced. But, as more people continue to become aware of the practical, ethical and political arguments for these reforms, some of them may find the paper's approach helpful. – J.R.

# The New Economics of Sustainable Development: A Briefing for Policy Makers

Written for the European Commission's Cellule de Prospective, this briefing was published in paperback - by Kogan Page, London; Editions Apogée, Paris (as *Changer d'Économie: ou la Nouvelle Économie du Développement Durable*), and The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

“I presented this Briefing to the European Commission's Cellule de Prospective (Forward Studies Unit) in 1997. Opposition from some economists in the Commission delayed its publication until 1999,” says James.

In his published foreword (1999) to James Robertson's presentation Jean-Claude Thébault, Director, Forward Studies Unit European Commission wrote:



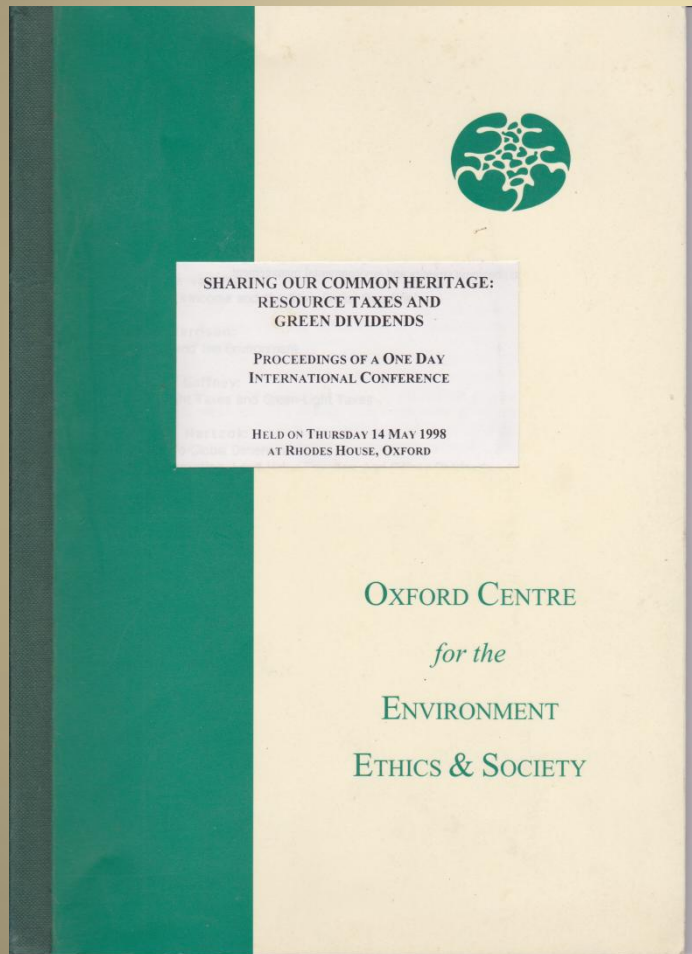
The 'new economics' is based on a vision which could be a source of inspiration for politicians: the systematic development of individual responsibility, the effective preservation of resources and the environment, respect for qualitative and not just quantitative values, respect for feminine values, and the need to place ethics at the heart of economic life.





It is for all these reasons that the Forward Studies Unit (of the European Commission) asked a well-known figure, James Robertson, to try to synthesise these movements favouring an 'alternative economics for sustainable development'. - Jean-Claude Thébault

# SHARING OUR COMMON HERITAGE: RESOURCE TAXES AND GREEN DIVIDENDS



Proceedings of a One-Day  
International Conference  
held by the Oxford Centre  
for the Environment,  
Ethics and Society at  
Rhodes House, Oxford on  
Thursday 14 May 1998

## SHARING OUR COMMON HERITAGE: RESOURCE TAXES AND GREEN DIVIDENDS

James wrote this about the Conference Proceedings:

We discussed specific possibilities for a long-term programme of economic reform under which **people would not be taxed on the values they add** by their skill, enterprise and work, **but on the values they subtract** by their use or monopolisation of natural and other common resources, and **all citizens would be entitled to share in the revenue.**

These principles will clearly contribute to an economically more just and efficient and sustainable way of economic life than the present one. The time has come to work them out in practice.

# SHARING OUR COMMON HERITAGE: RESOURCE TAXES AND GREEN DIVIDENDS

- **The proceedings include** summaries of *Questions Arising in Discussion* and *Items for a Follow-up Agenda*, and **papers by:**
- **Prof. Philippe van Parijs** - *Citizen's Income and the 'New Social Question'*
- **Fred Harrison** - *Ethics and Environment*
- **Prof. Mason Gaffney** - *Red-Light and Green-Light Taxes*
- **Alanna Hartzok** - *Local-To-Global Dimensions of Ecotaxation, Land Value Taxation And Citizen Dividends*
- **Dr.Tatiana Roskoshnaya** - *Russia: Sustainable Development and Rental Taxation*
- **Lucy de Silva** – *Spoke about Dominican Republic*
- **James Robertson** - *Resource Taxes and Green Dividends: A Combined Package?*
- **Prof. David Marquand** - *Concluding Remarks.*

## RESOURCE TAXES AND GREEN DIVIDENDS – A Combined Package?

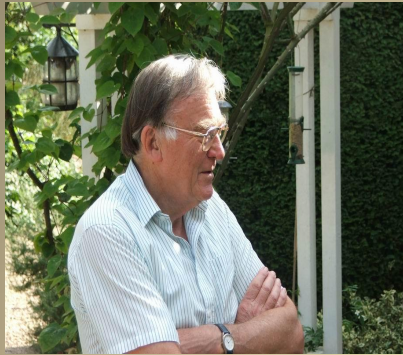
Here are the **Key Summary Points** from the presentation James gave at this One-Day International Conference:

- **Ecotax reform** (i.e. a shift of taxation away from employment, incomes and savings, on to resource-depleting and environmentally damaging activities),
- The further replacement of existing taxes by another resource tax - a **tax on land site-values**, and
- The introduction of a **Citizen's Income**.



This combination would be phased in over a period of years. It would embody a **new social compact** between citizen and society for a new era of equitable and sustainable development, in which full employment of the conventional kind, a welfare state of the conventional kind, and economic growth of the conventional kind, were increasingly seen as questionable goals.





- By the later 1990s I realised that there was also a strong case for monetary reform, not only on its own practical merits but also because it would reflect the same principle as the Benefits and Taxes reforms - that the value of 'common resources' should be a source of public revenue to be used on behalf of all citizens.
- That perception underlay the Alternative Mansion House Speech of June 2000 (see immediately below) and the paper for the Pio Manzu Conference in October 2003 on **The Role of Money and Finance: Changing a Central Part of the Problem into a Central Part of the Solution.**

2000: *Financial and Monetary Policies for an Enabling State*. This was the first Alternative Mansion House speech. I gave it at an event organised by the New Economics Foundation at the National Portrait Gallery, London on 15 June, to launch publication of **Creating New Money: A Monetary Reform for the Information Age**. – J.R.



# The Citation for the Award Gold Medal of the Pio Manzu Centre



Awarded by the International  
Scientific Committee of the  
Pio Manzu Centre to **James  
Robertson by Mikhaïl  
Gorbachev, President,**  
Rimini, 19 October 2003

“The Pio Manzu Centre pays  
homage to this 'reasonable  
revolutionary' and singles  
him out as an outstanding  
example of a modern thinker  
at the service of society.”

*James and Alison at home, 2012.*



We left London in 1979 to live in Ironbridge, Shropshire, thinking to set up a study centre there for the post-industrial revolution, but **decided to move to Oxfordshire in 1984** for family reasons. Since leaving London, we have been keeping a few **hens**, growing most of our **vegetables and fruit**, and in recent years getting a modest proportion of our **electricity from photovoltaic (PV) slates** on an outhouse roof.



*Alison and PV electricity slates  
(operating since January 2000).*





*Alison in “new” greenhouse; Forest School children in background.*



*Alison and James Robertson with ducks and chickens ,  
at home at the Old Bakehouse, about 1990.*

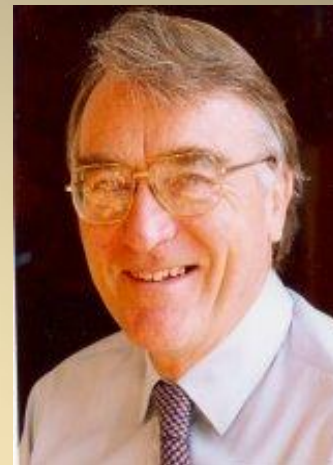






*Alison and James on holiday, 2012.*

# For more information about the New Economics Work of James Robertson:



His website:

<http://www.jamesrobertson.com>

His newsletter:

<http://www.jamesrobertson.com/newsletter.htm>

This video emphasizes monetary reform but also clearly  
brings in Land Value Tax and Citizen's Income, too:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHs9xnuxLhU>