

SURVIVING THE FUTURE

What you might learn in this course — if you're not careful!

- 1) Profound socioeconomic and ecological changes are imminent.
- 2) Place and play matter.
- 3) Slack isn't taut, but it should be taught.

Why online?

Low-carbon education that allows course participants to remain rooted in their home communities makes perfect sense for individuals and communities looking for strategies that offer the promise of "Surviving the Future." Of course, none of us can go it alone, as individuals or communities, so the international online dialog offered by this course offers a unique opportunity to engage in solutions-oriented discussions, led by a diverse array of leading-edge thinkers from across the globe.



An Online Carnival

This online, interactive course is designed to create and foster an online community of citizens around the world who are committed to helping their local communities look for new insights that offer the promise of *Surviving the Future*. Some communities may choose to follow the possibilities unveiled in David Fleming's works on Lean Logic, Lean Economy, and Lean Culture, while others might use Fleming's work as a springboard for finding their own unique pathways to confronting what Fleming calls the Climacteric, "a stage in the life of a system in which it is especially exposed to a profound change in health or fortune."



Engaging in the future: How this course works...

Readings: Select readings from David Fleming's *Surviving the Future* and *Lean Logic* (provided)

Video Selects: Selected videos from Sterling College's 2018 "Surviving the Future Symposium" and other Fleming archives (provided)

Facilitated Discussion Forums: Participants will contribute to our written discussion forums based on the assigned readings

Discussion Forum Reflection & Response Webinars: Following each written discussion forum, facilitators will reflect upon the postings in an interactive webinar with course participants.

Roundtable Discussion

Webinars: Renowned special guests will be available for a moderated discussion with panelists and course participants.

Final Projects: Participants will be asked to share a creative project that represents a vision of their own communities in "the aftermath of the market economy" for our concluding Online Convivial Carnival.

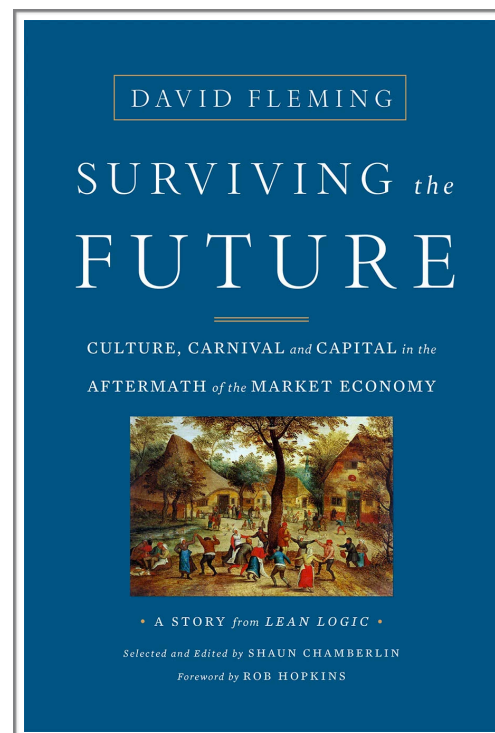
Online Convivial Carnival

Webinar: A BYOB online event, our celebratory wrap-up discussion will feature reflections on participants' creative submissions of how they see how their own communities might opt to survive the future.

As we generate dialog for and about communities facing profound change, we increase our capacity to create and share solutions between communities, making our individual communities more resilient as we pursue our specialized needs, but within the context of shared global community priorities.

"Most of human history was bred, fed and watered by another sort of economy. But the market has replaced, as far as possible, the social capital of reciprocal obligation, loyalties, culture and traditions with exchange, price and the impersonal principles of economics."

David Fleming



To Register:

Go to (Course Payment Website)

To order copies of *Surviving the Future* and *Lean Logic*, visit www.chelseagreen.com

Course Facilitators

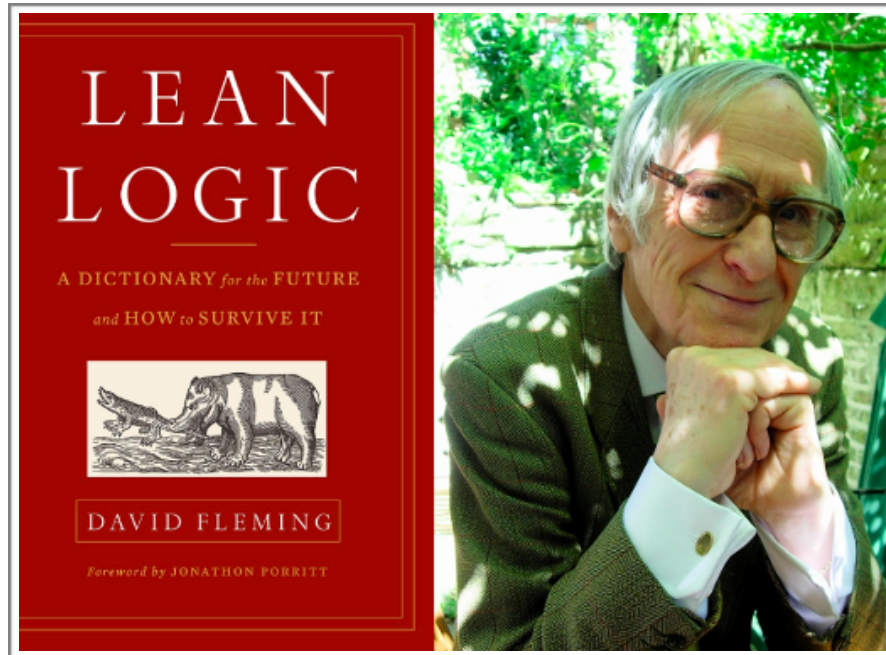
Philip Ackerman-Leist leads and teaches in Sterling's continuing education program, The School of the New American Farmstead, with its leading-edge short courses that inspire lifelong environmental stewardship for residential and non-residential adult students of all ages. Philip is also the author of *A Precautionary Tale*, *Rebuilding the Foodshed*, and *Up Tunket Road*, published by Chelsea Green Publishing. He farmed and taught at Brunnenburg Castle & Agricultural Museum in the Italian Alps before going to Green Mountain College in Vermont, where he was Professor of Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems at Green Mountain College and established the first online graduate program in Sustainable Food Systems in the U.S. He manages a grass-based herd of rare breed cattle, American Milking Devons, on his home farm in Pawlet, Vermont.

Shaun Chamberlin has been involved with the Transition Network since its inception, co-founding Transition Town Kingston and authoring the movement's second book, *The Transition Timeline*. He is managing director of the Fleming Policy Centre, former chair of the Ecological Land Co-operative, and has spoken at venues ranging from Occupy camps to parliaments. In exploring the cultural narratives charting society's course forward, he has written for or edited a diverse range of books, magazines, academic journals, and other publications, including co-authoring a significant UK All Party Parliamentary report with his close friend and regular collaborator, David Fleming. His website is www.darkoptimism.org.

Sterling College President Matthew Derr is nationally recognized in higher education for his expertise in leading institutional change and for strengthening mission-based focus. In 2011, He was awarded a Council for Advancement and Support of Education Chief Executive of the Year Award. Derr led the effort to divest the Sterling endowment from fossil fuels, founded the Fried Center for Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems, and recently launched an effort with *The Berry Center* to expand the reach of farmer education. Prior to Sterling, President Derr served as Interim President of Antioch College, where, he developed a concept for a new curriculum focused on issues related to environmental stewardship, inspired by Sterling. Unusually for a college president, Derr also fulfills a role as a faculty member and teaches community organizing.

Webinar Special Guests To Include Kate Raworth, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Martin Kirk, Richard Heinberg, Vandana Shiva, Rob Hopkins, Lucy Neal, Chuck Collins, Margo Baldwin, Majora Carter (confirmations pending)





Week 1: Communities in the Climacteric: What is a Citizen to Do?

Creating an Online Community: All students post bio of 250 words or less or video bio of no more than 3 minutes

Readings:

- “Introduction” from *Surviving the Future*
- “The Story” from *Surviving the Future*
- Entry from *Lean Logic*: “Expectations”

Video Selects from the 2018 “Surviving the Future Symposium” at Sterling College and other archives

Facilitated Discussion Forum (via Zoom): Bioregional Views on the Climacteric: In 250 words or less, describe your community to your colleagues in this course (how you define that community is up to you), and then, in 250-500 words, describe what you see to be current or forthcoming signs of the Climacteric in your community. (Video or Audio posting of 3 minutes or less is also an option).

90 minute Webinar: Forum Reflection & Response with Sterling President Matthew Derr, Shaun Chamberlin of www.darkoptimism.org, and School of the New American Farmstead Dean Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)



Weeks 2 & 3: Framework for Community

Readings:

Part I: “Framework for Community,” from *Surviving the Future*:

- Three Principles (Manners; Scale & Presence; Slack)
- The Lean Economy
- Lean Culture

Video Selects from the Surviving the Future Symposium and other archives

Facilitated Discussion Forum: Consider emergent signs of what might be the genesis of a Lean Economy in your community. Describe those signs and explain what you think is required to support further development of those early adaptations (500 words or less). Please comment on at least one other post (and seek out posts without any comments, when possible).

60 minute Webinar: Forum Reflection & Response with Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)

90 minute Webinar: Discussion with Shaun Chamberlin & Special Guests, moderated by Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)



Weeks 4 & 5: Rediscovering a Life of Place & Play

Readings:

Part 2: “Rediscovering a Life of Place and Play” from *Surviving the Future*

- Carnival (supplemented by 1m22 audio - interview clip #5 from David Fleming: <https://www.flemingpolicycentre.org.uk/flemingaudio/>)
- Slack Employment (supplemented by 4m00 audio - interview clip #2 from David Fleming: <https://www.flemingpolicycentre.org.uk/flemingaudio/>)
- Eroticism
- Needs & Wants
- Small Scale
- Intentional Waste
- Religion
- Utopia?

Video Selects from the Surviving the Future Symposium and other archives

Facilitated Discussion Forum: As you read the chapters in Part 2, where do you see the biggest potential for positive change in your community, based in one or more of the topics presented in the chapters of this part of the book? (500 words or less) Please comment on at least one other post (and seek out posts without any comments, when possible.)

60 minute Webinar: Forum Reflection & Response with Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)

90 minute Webinar: Roundtable Discussion with Shaun Chamberlin & Special Guests, moderated by Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)



Weeks 6 & 7: The Path from Here to There

Readings:

Part 3: “The Path from Here to There” from *Surviving the Future*

- Growth
- Population and Food
- The Wheel of Life
- Transition
- Ethics & Ecology
- Epilogue: Mourning the Market

Entries from *Lean Logic*: “Encounter,” “Ecology: Farmers and Hunters,” and “Success”

Video Selects from the Surviving the Future Symposium and other archives

Facilitated Discussion Forum: Describe what you think is Fleming’s most illuminating point for your community to consider in the chapters of Part 3. (500 words or less) Please comment on at least one other post (and seek out posts without any comments, when possible.)

60 minute Webinar: Forum Reflection & Response with Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)

90 minute Webinar: Roundtable Discussion with Shaun Chamberlin & Special Guests, moderated by Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)

Week 8: A Conclusion That Isn't Guaranteed

Final Project: Discussed in small groups: Culture, Carnival, & Capital - Create a diagram, artwork, poem, short essay, video, or audio journal depicting what culture, carnival, and capital might look like in your community in the aftermath of the market economy. Succinctness is to be celebrated in this context so that we can delve into points of inspiration in our final Online Convivial Carnival.

90 minute Webinar: Online Convivial Carnival (bring a beverage!)

Final Wrap-Up Discussion with Sterling President Matthew Derr, Shaun Chamberlin, & Margo Baldwin, moderated by Philip Ackerman-Leist (via Zoom, Synchronous & Recorded)



**School of the New
American Farmstead at
Sterling College**
Working Hands. Working Minds.