

# **Atlas of the Long Tomorrow: Radical Engineers, a Forgotten Journey, and Our Quest for a Better World**

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At the RCC, I will continue work on a research-saturated literary nonfiction book called *Atlas of the Long Tomorrow: Radical Engineers, a Forgotten Journey, and Our Quest for a Better World*. The book will examine the promise and perils of large-scale and divisive environmental technologies, including nuclear power, climate engineering, and GMOs/synthetic biology. More speculative technologies that I will examine include human enhancement, de-extinction, and terraforming. Throughout, I will weave in an historical braid that focuses on—and moves beyond—an obscure and colorful 1930s US social movement called Technocracy, which split into two rival factions and eventually faded from the scene. But the questions the 1930s technocrats were asking are still our questions: How do we value the objects of our labor? Is capitalism and democracy too corrupt for saving? How do we make energy and production more efficient, and society more socially just? What of technological unemployment? And what is the role of expertise in governance, especially now that we live in an often post-fact world?

Combining contemporary reportage, lyrical reflection, and historical narrative, I will move among these technologies, real-life characters, stories, and questions as I bring them into focus through today's controversial ecomodernist movement and consider both the challenges and opportunities of the Anthropocene.

I have received prior support for this project from the Udall Center for Environmental Policy at the University of Arizona, the University of Missouri (for a nuclear-energy reporting seminar) and UCL's Institute for Environment and Sustainability, where I was a Journalism and Media Fellow.