internet teapot

A zine that sits uncomfortably at the intersection of digital technology, a global free-market economy, and popular culture.

ISSUE 10 - JUL 2023

ALGORITHMS OF LATE-CAPITALISM

Data Gardens

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Algorithms of Late-Capitalism Issue 10

DATA GARDENS

Immerse yourself in a garden of data.

A place where data is not immaterial bits aggregated and analyzed by automated systems, but rather nurtured and cared for as material and relational.

A place full of interesting flowers and fruits that make us think differently about how we interact with data, how we value data, both our own and that of others.

Historically, gardens have been privatized spaces seen more as elitist symbols of status. However, nowadays gardens come in many shapes and sizes, often serving as a place for community-building and care.

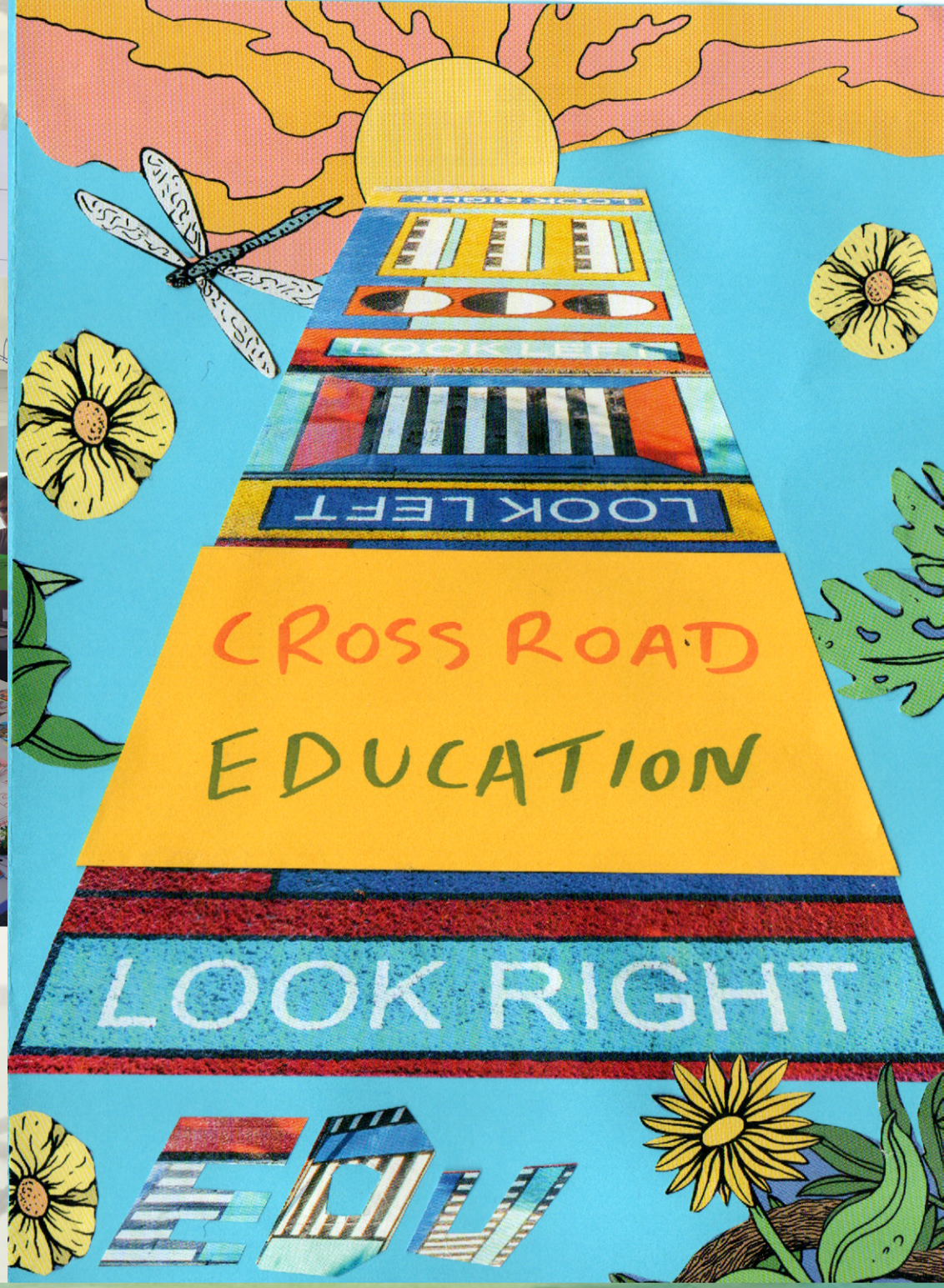
As you walk through this garden, you can ask: How did this garden come to be and who is tending to it? What kind of data is planted here, and what fruits do they bear? What is my place here, and what kind of future can I envision for myself in this data garden?

In this issue of ALC, we invite the participants to envision a data garden that defies current data related practices with radical concepts such as care, minimalism, community as we rethink data and its uses outside of models of extraction and instrumentalism.

This issue of Algorithms of Late-Capitalism was created by internet teapot (Karla Zavala Barreda and Adriaan Odendaal) and the participants NoBias Doctoral School 2023 in Hanover.

The editorial was written by Kristen Scott, Miriam Fahimi, Ioanna Papageorgiou, and Mayra Russo.

Place to sit in the sha
SUN
SCULPTED BUXUS
Butterflies
Place to sit in the shade
Weeping willow with a beach
FIGTREE


LOOK LEFT
CROSS ROAD
EDUCATION
LOOK RIGHT

TRUTH
Dream
Light
Joy
Shine
Love
41
8
26
20
17
7
9
19
63
LIGHTS ON

Raised Bed
a nice variety of cacti!
Raised Bed
SCULPTED BUXUS

PLANTING THE SEEDS

Big Data encompasses automated harvesting of massive amounts of information from various sources and pooling it into large data lakes. It’s about aggregation and analysis at scale as a way to create profit.

But making a garden is rarely about scale & profit. Perhaps you are simply growing some produce for yourself, or a local farmer’s market. Or your flower garden is meant as a space of reflection and rest - which is also a way of harvesting the labor of gardening. If we think of community gardens as a political space where citizenship and collaborative governance is fostered, what do we harvest then?

How can we rethink how we gather data, and how we measure the value or usefulness of data, in terms of gardening?

HARVESTING

Big Data relies on the automated gathering of massive amounts of information from various sources and pooling them into large data lakes. It’s all about aggregation and analysis at scale.

What would a different data infrastructure look like if we treated data like seeds planted in a garden? When gardening we select specific seeds for a reason, carefully plant them, nurture them throughout their lifespan. Perhaps we are planting seeds to produce sustenance for ourselves or our communities? Or perhaps they are flowers that beautify the neighborhood and provide nectar for bees?

Too Big for human comprehension
Big Data
creates a baren desert
Storm
Data-driven is machine driven
Extractivism
Lacking in human intuition, care and connection.

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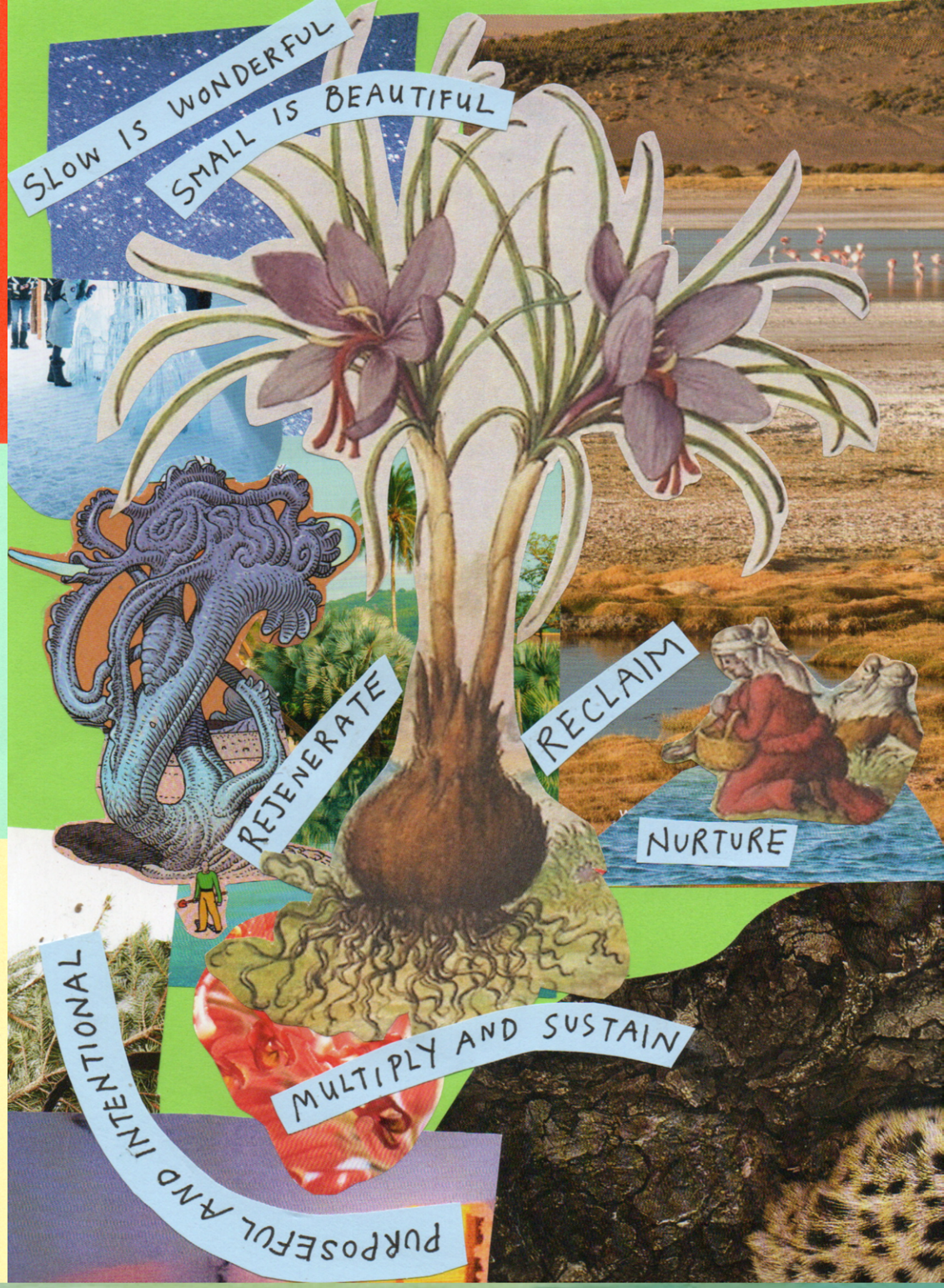
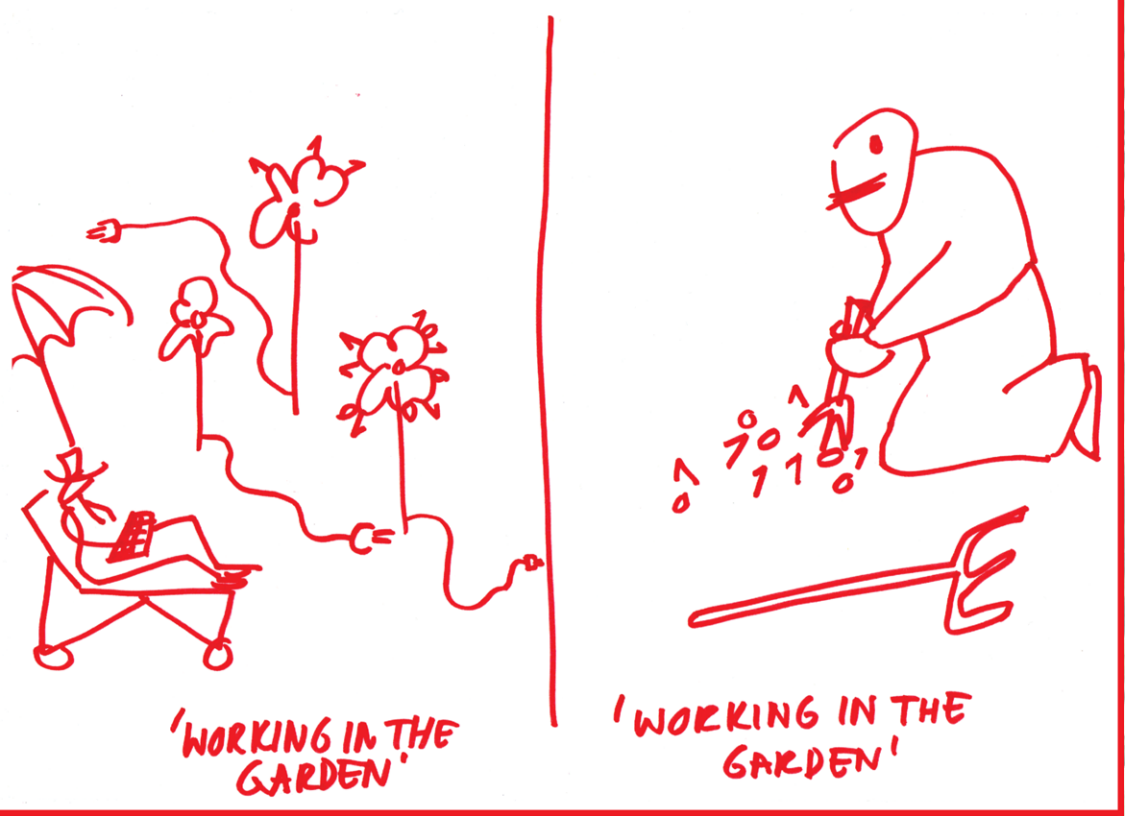
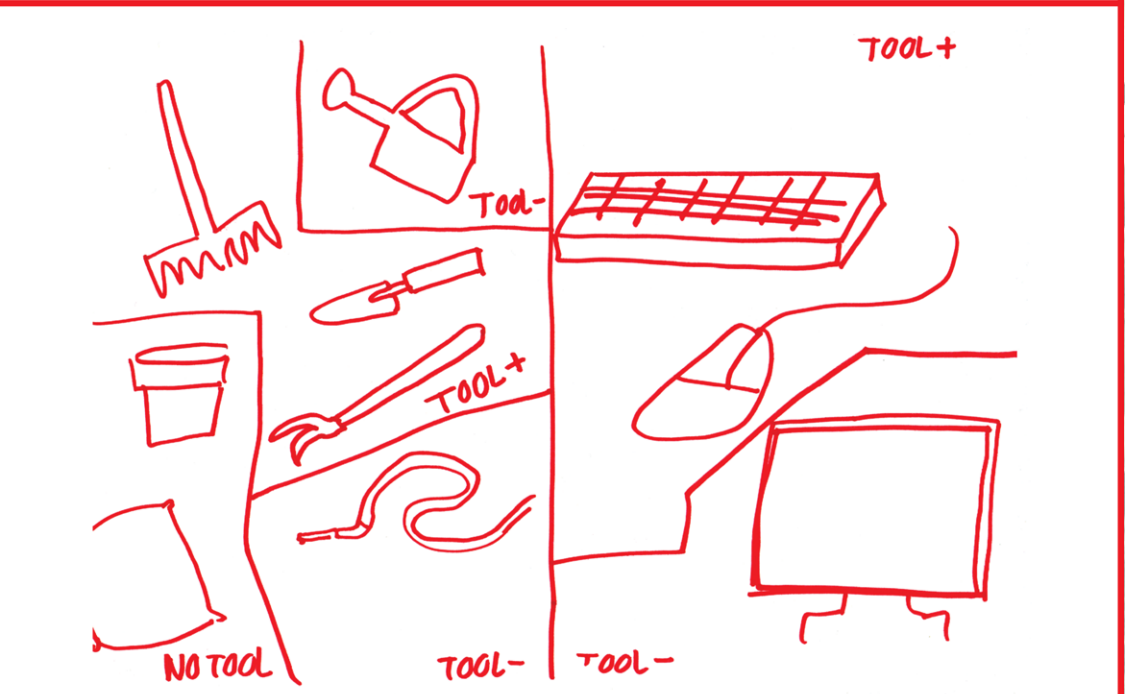

SLOW IS WONDERFUL
SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL
REGENERATE
RECLAIM
NURTURE
MULTIPLY AND SUSTAIN
PURPOSEFUL AND INTENTIONAL

A SEED AS A WORLD
PLANT IDEAS, CONCEPTS AND RIGHTS
ENCODED STORIES MEMORIES AND KNOWLEDGE
HARVEST COLLECTIVE FUTURES
react, nurture and care
STRINGS OF MEMORY

'WORKING IN THE GARDEN'

'WORKING IN THE GARDEN'


'WORKING IN THE GARDEN'
'WORKING IN THE GARDEN'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TOOL-
TOOL+
NO TOOL
TOOL-
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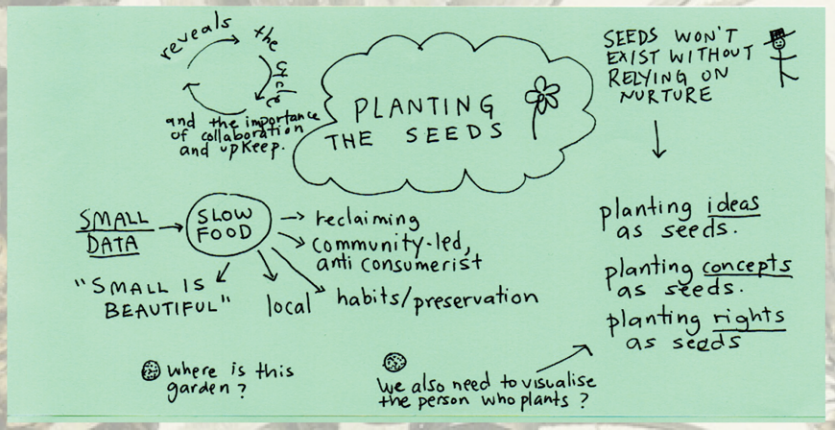
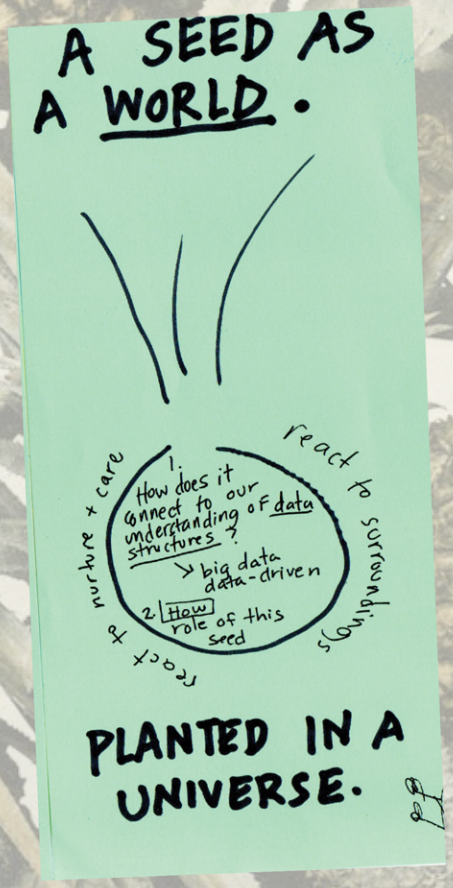
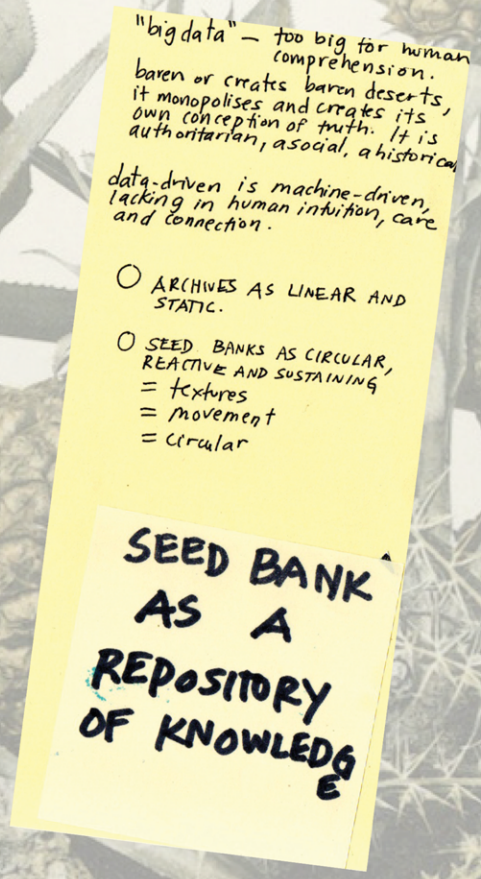
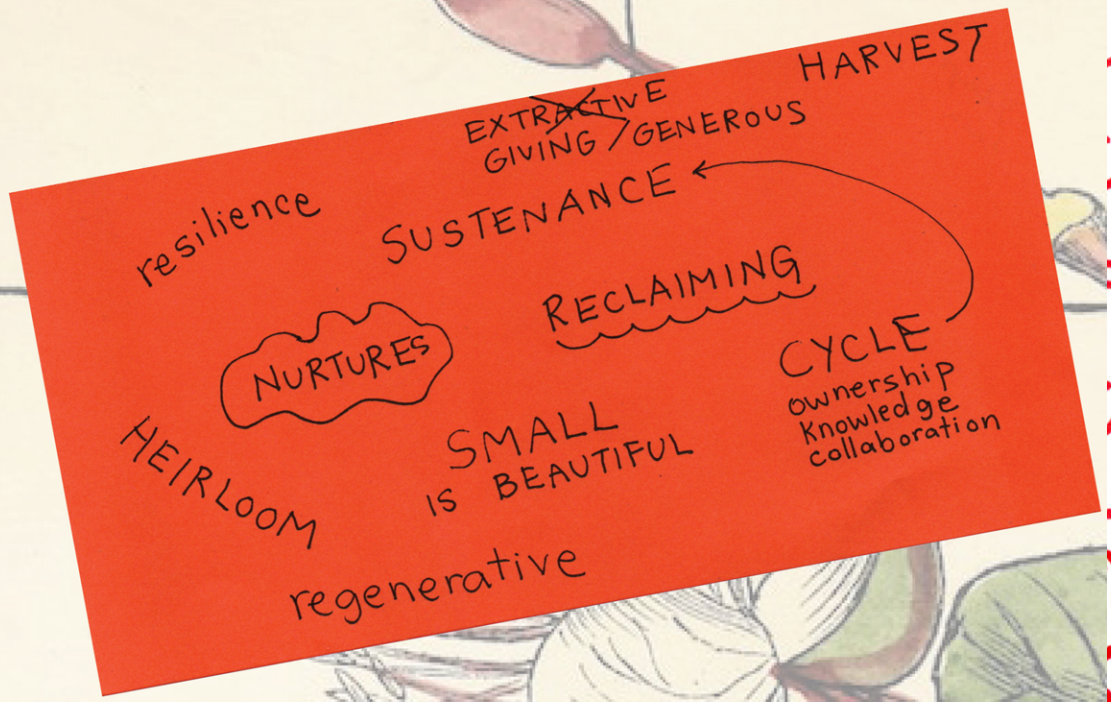
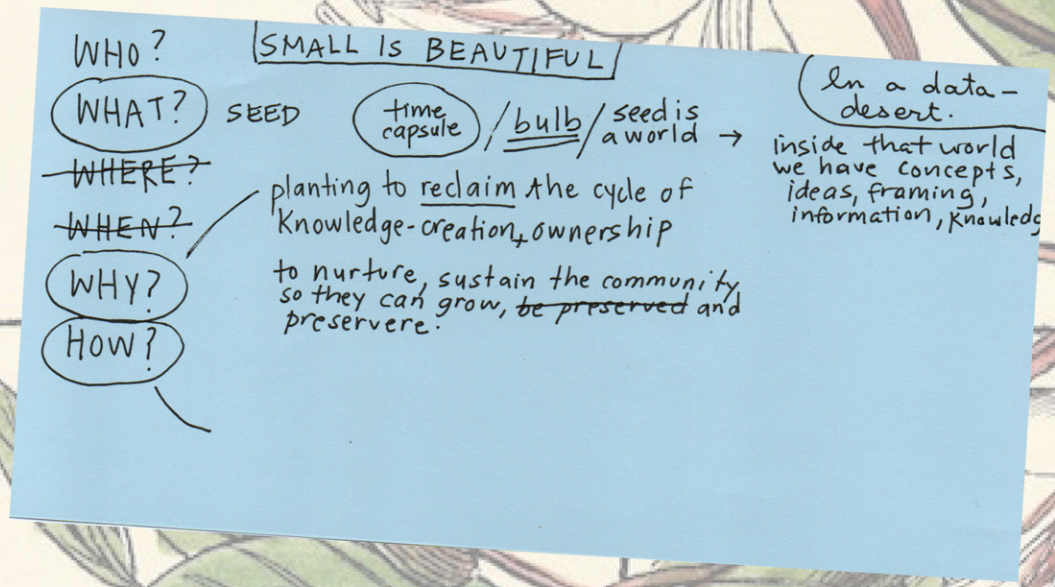

reveals the
and the importance of collaboration and upkeep.
PLANTING THE SEEDS
SEEDS WON'T EXIST WITHOUT RELYING ON NURTURE
SMALL DATA
SLOW FOOD
reclaiming
community-led, anti consumerist
"SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL"
local
habits/preservation
planting ideas as seeds.
planting concepts as seeds.
planting rights as seeds
where is this garden?
We also need to visualise the person who plants?


A SEED AS A WORLD.
react to surroundings
react to nurture + care
1. How does it connect to our understanding of data structures?
big data
data-driven
2. How role of this seed
PLANTED IN A UNIVERSE.


"big data" — too big for human comprehension.
baren or creates baren deserts, it monopolises and creates its own conception of truth. It is authoritarian, asocial, ahistorical
data-driven is machine-driven, lacking in human intuition, care and connection.
ARCHIVES AS LINEAR AND STATIC.
SEED BANKS AS CIRCULAR, REACTIVE AND SUSTAINING
= textures
= movement
= circular
SEED BANK AS A REPOSITORY OF KNOWLEDGE





LTURAL, ARBORICULTURAL
CTICE INVOLVING THE
CERTAIN PARTS OF A
CHES, BUDS OR ROOTS.

MPRESSION TECHNIQUE
AND SEARCH ALGORITHMS
E OF DECISION TREE BY
HE TREE ARE NON-CRITICAL
IFY INSTANCES.

COLLECTION, PREPROCESSING,
STORAGE, DELETION

PRUNING IS A HORTICUL
AND SILVICULTURAL PRAC
SELECTIVE REMOVAL OF
PLANT, SUCH AS BRANC

PRUNING IS A DATA CO
IN MACHINE LEARNING
THAT REDUCES THE SIZ
REMOVING SECTIONS OF T
AND REDUNDANT TO CLASS

LIFECYCL

PLANTING, NURTURING,
HARVESTING

1 big data + its problems extractivism

2 small data + slow movements
↳ reclaim
↳ regenerate
↳ sustain
↳ nurture

3 bulb : seeds as worlds

DATA
- CELLS of Human Stories
- Strings of memories
- Embedded Knowledge
- Cultural IMAGINARY

↓

SEEDS OF IDEAS

SEEDS of Future of COMUNITIES

DATA AGGregation is COMMUNITY GROWN int
The BulB : information that it's
necessary, purposeful and aimi
Multiplies
Roots → nurtures the present
Regenerate

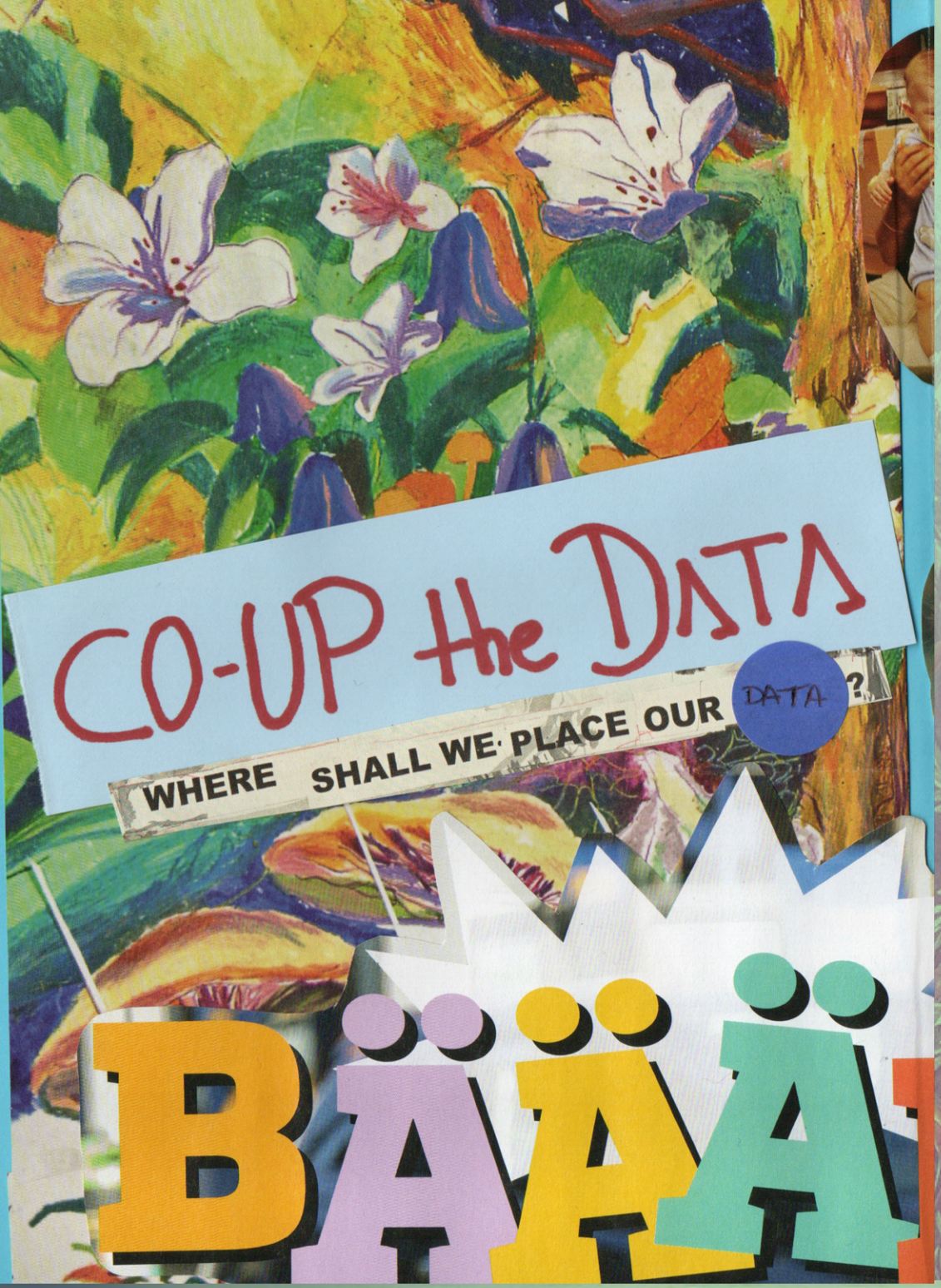
Data seeds of ideas
DATA i
Data
DATA is
DATA SEEDS of human Experience
Data as human experience
seeds of

GROW THE GARDEN

Growing a garden takes time, patience, and care. It can be therapeutic when done by yourself. It can be a source of community-building when done together. It can be a way to teach, learn, or pass down generational knowledge. It's often more than just about the plants and produce.

On the other hand, data-driven technologies are all too often about efficiency, speed, accuracy, and end-results. It's about optimizing for profit.

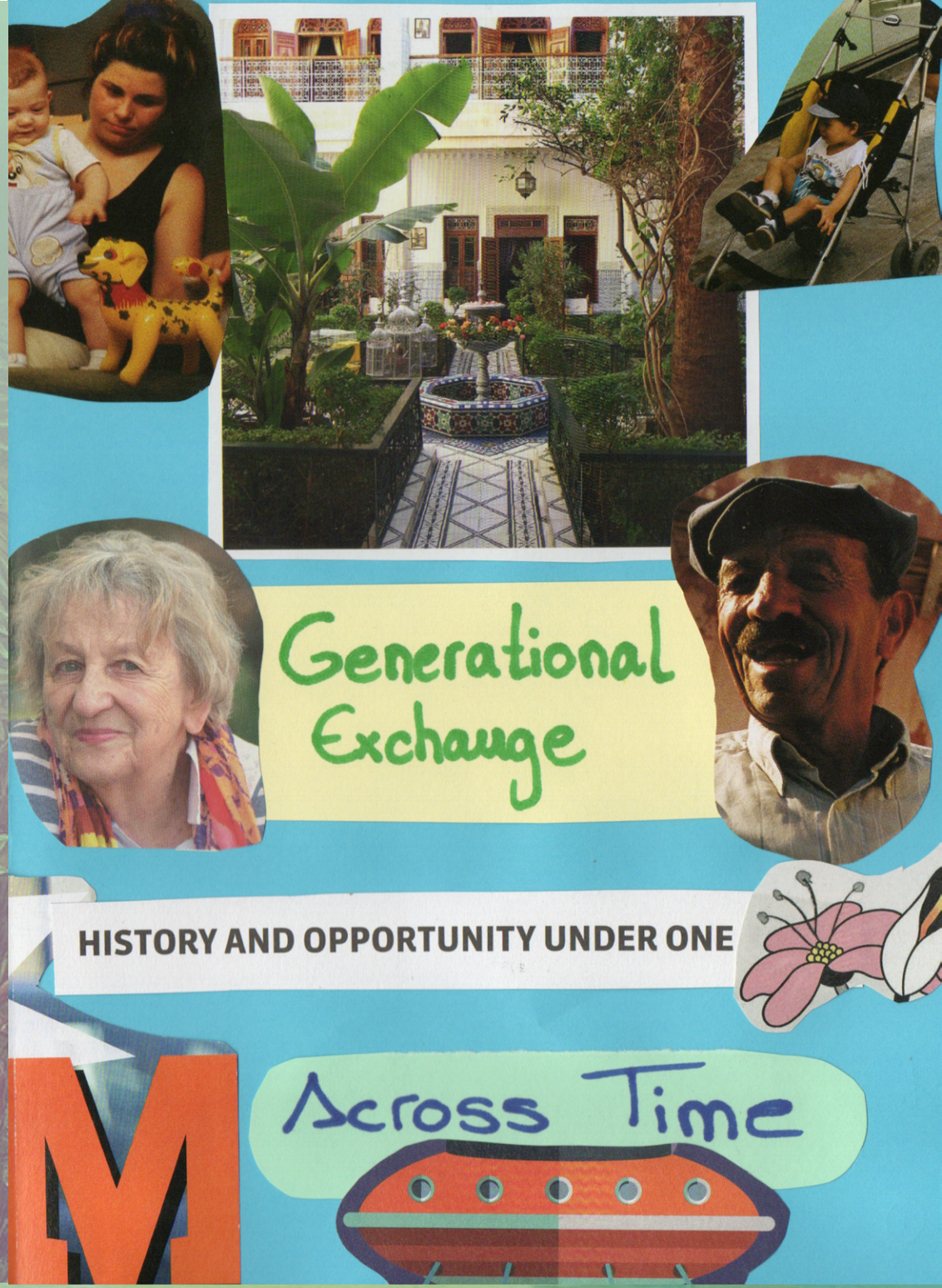
How can we rethink our data and digital technologies (and our relationship to them) in terms of gardening instead?



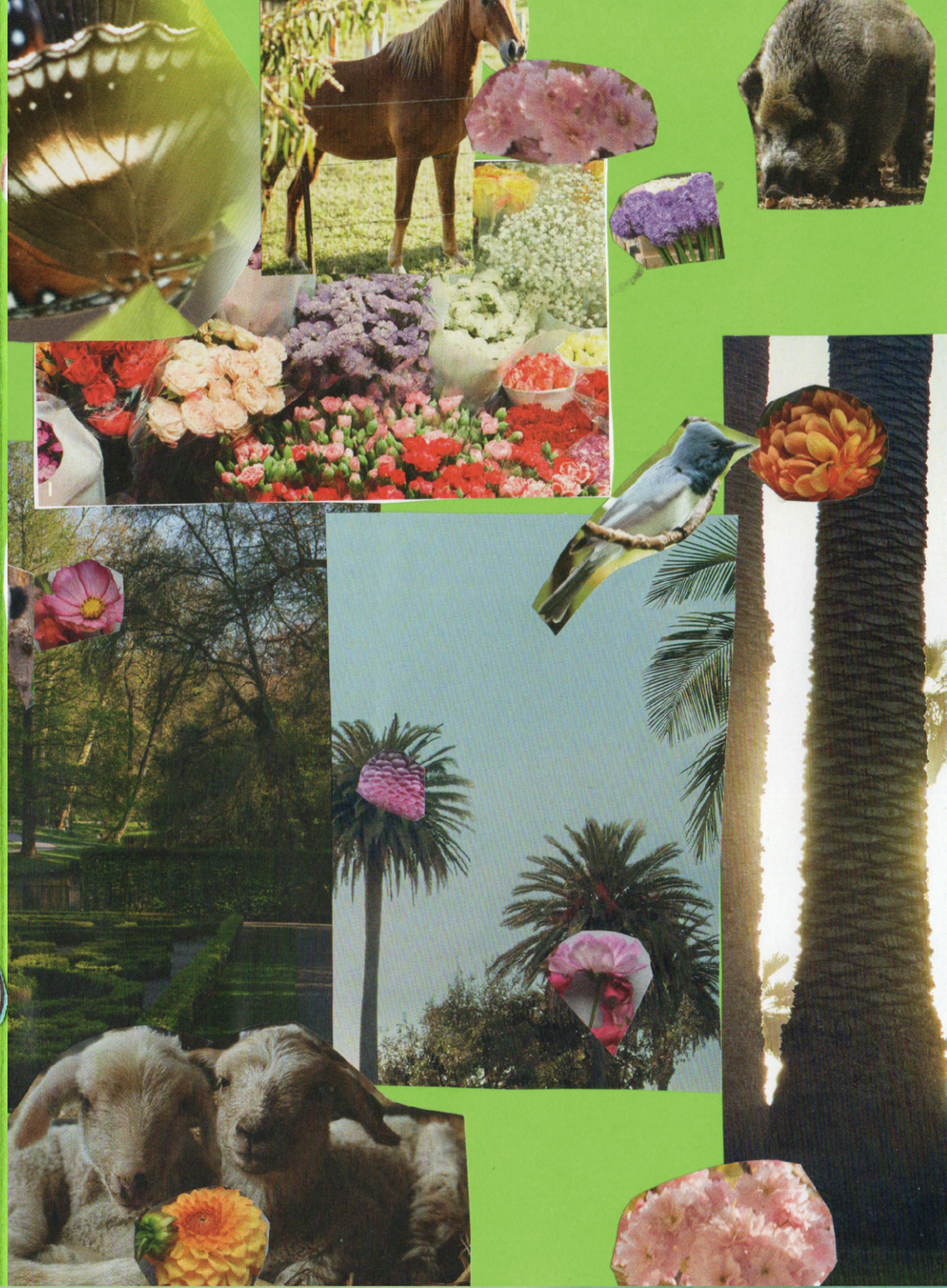
Big industrialized farming is very different from growing a garden. Instead of the large mechanical machines and automated irrigation systems of industrial farming, we use our hands, small shears, and perhaps a trowel, to tend to our gardens. The relationship is more tactile and intimate.

If we think about the infrastructures, tools, and systems used to generate, analyze, and use Big Data, what kind of different tools would a data garden inspire and require?

TOOLS TO TEND

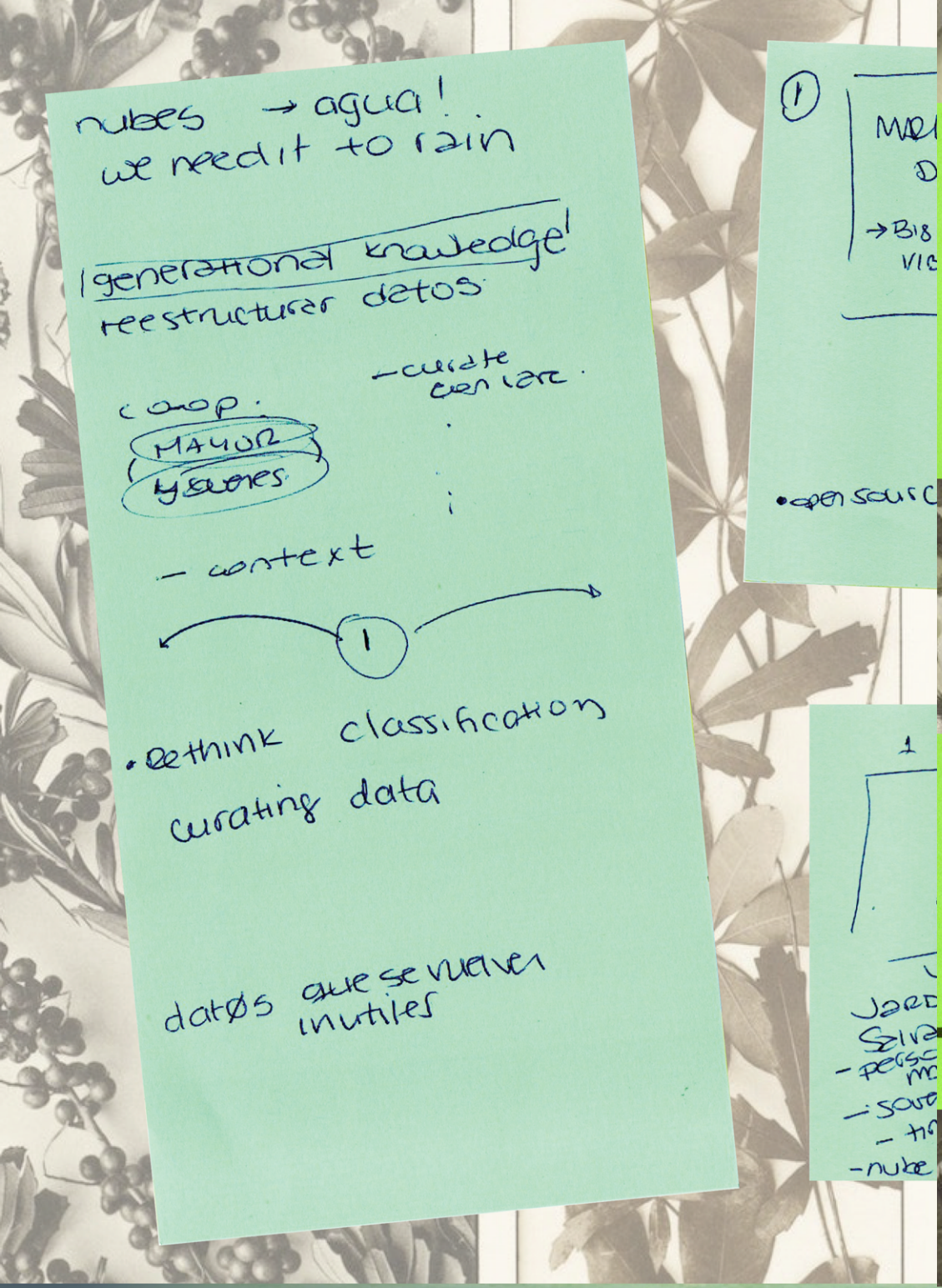


das Cloud



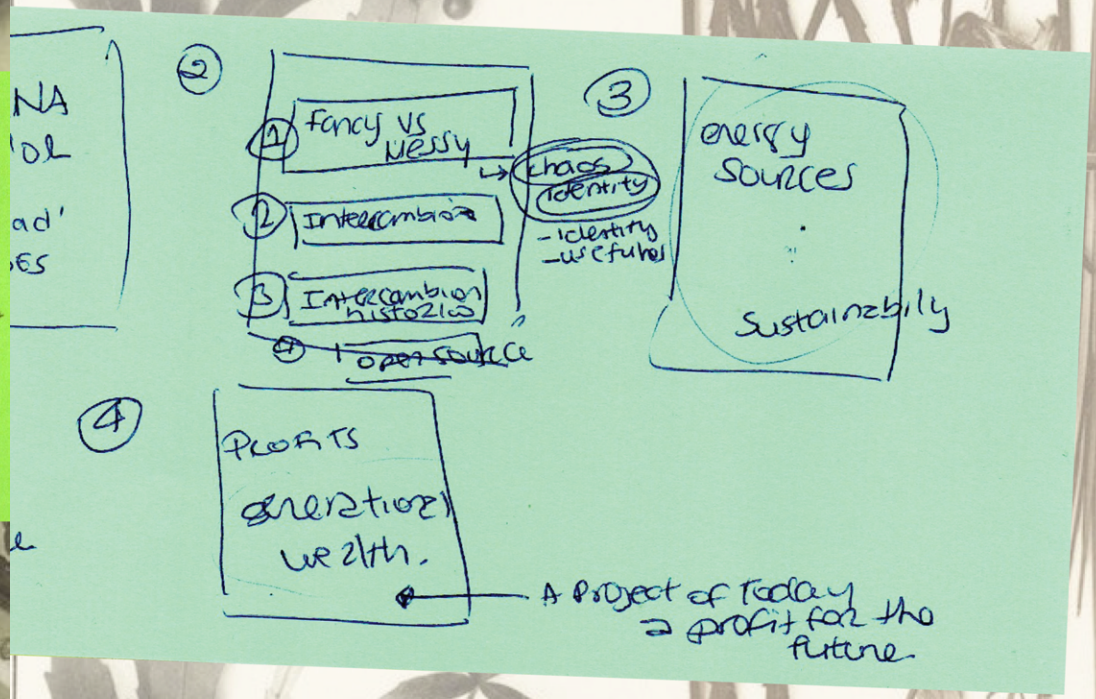
Data points
Adversarial attacks
You shall not pass!

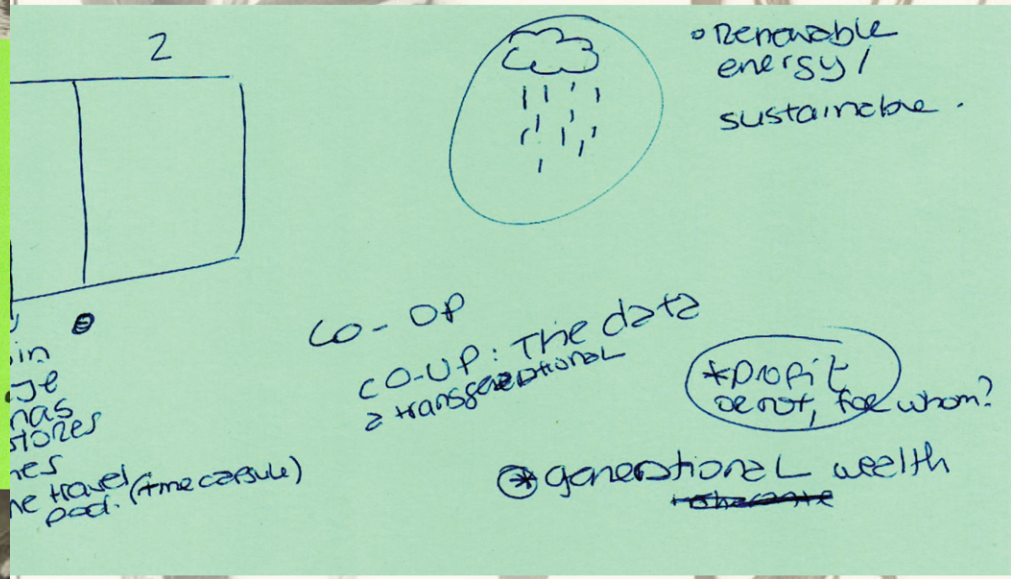
Occupy
A PROJECT OF TODAY → A PROFIT FOR THE FUTURE
AND THIS, YOU SAY, IS MY LIFE
So, are we all passive consumers, or covert revolutionaries?


nubes → agua!
we need it to rain
generational knowledge
reestructurar datos
- curate con care
coop:
MAYOR
y suenes
- context
1
• rethink classification
curating data
datos que se vuelven inutiles
1
→ Big
• open sourc
1
Jard
Salva
- perso
- sove
- nube

of
Den

Garden
Fair


2
1 Fancy vs Messy
chaos
identity
- identity
- usefulness
2 Intercambio
3 Intercambio historico
4 open source
3
energy sources
sustainability
4
PROFITS
generational wealth.
A project of today a profit for the future.


2
Renewable energy / sustainable.
co-op
co-up: The data
a transgenerational
*profit or not, for whom?
*generational wealth
the travel pod. (time capsule)

It's
Showtime
maschine
Einfach und praktisch
schnell
cut costs
Folks
Skalierung
GAS
1,5
2,5
1
Actual Production

gemeinsam